![etc Emergency Telecommunications Cluster logo]

Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #51

Reporting period 28/03/2018 to 30/04/2018

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 31/05/18.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is refocusing its activities in Iraq to Services for Communities (S4C) projects.

- Shortlisted candidates for the two positions of IT assistant and Information Management associate have been interviewed and awaiting final selection.

- The ETC transferred management of the three Communications Centres (COMCEN) to the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) as of 1 April.

The ETC deploys security telecommunications equipment in As Salamiyah camp as part of the Mosul response.
Photo: WFP

Situation Overview

According to reports, around 34 percent of the 2.14 million internally displaced people (IDPs) are currently displaced in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). The KR-I has two out the three governorates (Dohuk and Erbil; the third is Baghdad) in the country where IDPs still exceed the number of returnees. Some 99 percent of returns are taking place to areas of origin in governorates in the centre and south of Iraq and the total number of IDPs in Iraq decreased by approximately 5 percent (112,446 individuals) during March.

Displaced families and people returning to their areas of origin continue to face a number of critical protection issues.

The ETC will continue to support the overall humanitarian response and focusing its activities on S4C projects to ensure affected communities are at the centre of response and rehabilitation efforts.

The ETC is a global network of organizations that work together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies.

Response

- The ETC is refocusing its activities in Iraq, focusing much more on S4C projects and hiring local staff. In line with this, the ETC will scale down its provision of Internet connectivity services in sites where local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are present, such as Dohuk and Arbat, by 31 July. However, the cluster will continue to provide Internet connectivity in all other camps as part of the Mosul response.

- The transfer of the ETC COMCEN operations in Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah to UNDSS was finalised on 1 April.

- The ETC has appealed for US$1.9 million in 2018 to ensure humanitarians in Iraq have access to reliable Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services to enable their response. Although no new funds have been received, the ETC has US$1.2 million in carry over from last year.

- To ensure the provision of vital communications services in the long term, the ETC interviewed shortlisted candidates for two positions: 1x Information Technology (IT) assistant and 1x Information Management associate.

Services for Communities (S4C)

- The ETC continues to run its S4C project in Domiz camp, Dohuk and supports World Food Programme (WFP)'s Tech for Food project in Arbat camp by providing Internet connectivity to 100 refugees who are students there. However, in line with its plans the ETC will stop providing Internet connectivity in both sites by 31 July.

- The ETC is currently working on finalising two possible S4C project proposals:
  - A collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education to rehabilitate Mosul University's Technical Department.
  - Working with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on the Community Response Centre project to equip these centres with hardware (ticketing and monitoring systems) and Internet connectivity. The ETC is working with IOM to finalise the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
    - These centres will be for IDPs who have returned to their homes to visit and find out the latest information about available and planned assistance in their area.
    - The project will be implemented in three locations first: East Mosul, West Mosul and Fallujah.

Planned Response

- The ETC will soon start the recruitment of a local S4C focal point.

- The team conducted a technical assessment of Mosul University's Technical Department to develop a proposal for its rehabilitation.

- The ETC is continuing to engage with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and WFP on funding.

Challenges

- The security situation remains volatile across the country. Movements of humanitarian aid workers are heavily restricted.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on 20 June.
- The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will take place on 25 June.

Information

- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) responders operating on the ground in Iraq are encouraged to share their contact details with Iraq.ETC@wfp.org to facilitate local coordination. For ETC support, please call +964 782 780 6767.
- A dedicated information-sharing space has been created on the ETC website www.etcluster.org/emergencies/iraq-conflict. Organisations involved in the ICT response are encouraged to share updates with the ETC community to support the overall humanitarian response. All documents related to the ETC operation in Iraq are available on the ETC portal.

Shared ICT Services

DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	USER
Dohuk	Domiz camp	WFP, Ericsson Response	• Internet connectivity	WIDER	Humanitarian community
		UNHCR	• Security telecommunications (radio)		
		WFP, UNFPA, Ericsson Response	• Internet - UNFPA Youth Centre (Domiz)		Affected community
		WFP, UNHCR, Ericsson Response	• Internet café		
	WFP sub-office (shared with UNHCR)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	• Security telecommunications • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training • ICT helpdesk		Humanitarian community
Sulaymaniyah	Arbat camp (UNHCR office, WFP Food Distribution Centre, CDO Community Centre)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	• Security telecommunications (radio) • ICT helpdesk		Humanitarian community
		WFP, Ericsson Response, CDO	• Internet connectivity	WIDER	
	WFP sub-office	WFP, UNAMI	• Security telecommunications (radio) • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training		Humanitarian community

	Ashti camp (LINK)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	• Security telecommunications (radio)		Humanitarian community
Erbil	WFP Country Office	WFP, UNAMI	• Security telecommunications (radio) • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training • Coordination • ICT helpdesk		Humanitarian community
Qayyarah (Mosul response)	Haj Ali IOM office (link)	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity		Humanitarian community
	Qayyarah Jad'ah 1, 3-6	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity		
	Qayyarah Airstrip: IOM office (link) DRC office (link)	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity		
As Salamiyah (Mosul response)	As Salamiyah camp Hammam al Alil 1 &2 (link)	WFP, UNAMI	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Security telecommunications (radio)		Humanitarian community
Hassan Sham (Mosul response)	Hassan Sham camps I, U2, U3 Khazer camp M1	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity		Humanitarian community

ETC Services Map: https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-iraq-services-map-may-2018

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Acronyms

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
CDO	Community Development Organization
COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HF	High Frequency
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
S4C	Services for Communities
UN	United Nations
UNAMI	UN Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website: www.ETCluster.org. For more

information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: Iraq.ETC@wfp.org