Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #53

Reporting period 01/06/2018 to 05/07/2018

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 01/08/18.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to develop a Services for Communities (S4C) project through collaborating with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on its Community Resource Centres (CRC) project.

- The ETC team is in the process of recruiting an Information Management Associate and an S4C specialist.

- To enable it to continue its planned activities in 2018, the ETC has requested an extension to its grant under the Iraq Humanitarian Fund.

ETC Coordinator, Prakash Muniandy, conducts an S4C assessment mission to Mosul.
Photo: ETC Iraq

Situation Overview

Although 3.8 million Iraqis have returned to their homes since the start of the crisis, more than two million Iraqi people remain displaced and a total of 8.7 million still in need.

Protection challenges are the focus, particularly due to the presence of armed actors in camps across the country.

However, overall funding for the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) remains low with only 28 per cent of the required US$569 million funding received, which is severely impacting response activities. This is also true at the cluster level, as the ETC is operating on carry over funds from 2017 with no new funds received so far this year.

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

Response

- The recruitment process for an ETC Information Management specialist and an S4C specialist is underway.

- Ericsson Response's equipment has been shipped back to Sweden.

- The ETC has awarded local Internet Service Providers (ISP) FastIraq to provide Internet connectivity for 8x hubs around Mosul: Hassan Sham (four camps); As Salamiyah (two camps); Hajj Ali (9 camps); Mosul University (planned); ETC office in UN compound, Erbil; Community Resource Centre (CRC) office in Tahrer (planned); CRC office in Fallujah (planned); and CRC office in Al Jadeda, Mosul (planned).

- The ETC is appealing for US$1.96 million in 2018 to ensure humanitarians in Iraq have access to reliable Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services to help support their response. No new funds have been received and the ETC is operating on US$1.2 million carry over from last year's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Iraq Humanitarian Fund and the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) funding.

    o The ETC successfully applied for an extension to the OFDA funding until the end of 2018.

    o The ETC has requested an extension to the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (formerly known as the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund) to 31 December.

Services for Communities (S4C)

- The ETC continues to run its S4C project in Domiz camp, Dohuk and supports 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 finalizing an S4C project with IOM on its Community Resource Centres (CRC) project in three centres: two in Mosul and one in Fallujah. The ETC conducted an assessment mission to Mosul and an assessment mission in planned to Fallujah.

- The ETC has shared the concept note with the CRC Steering Committee and is working on drafting the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

    o Phase 1: equip the centres with a 33Kva generator, queue management system, Internet connectivity and multimedia system.

    o Phase 2: (if funding permits), will involve potentially developing a customer feedback mechanism.

    - These centres will provide the latest information on available and planned assistance for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who have returned to their homes.

    o IOM has requested the ETC conduct assessment missions in several locations in Mosul to determine where the ETC can install the necessary equipment to provide Internet connectivity and power solutions.

Planned Response

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

- Two training exercises are planned in Iraq, including Let's Comm Digital and ICT4Gov.

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 18 July.

- The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will take place on 25 July.

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

Contacts

Iraq.ETC@wfp.org

Prakash Muniandy, ETC Coordinator

Prakash.muniandy@wfp.org

Suzanne Fenton, ETC Information Management Officer

suzanne.fenton@wfp.org

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