Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #54

Reporting period 06/07/2018 to 30/09/2018

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 31/10/18.

Highlights

- The recruitment of an Information Management Associate and an Services for Communities (S4C) specialist was finalized, and both staff are now on board.

- The ETC continues to explore funding options as it is operating on carry over funds from 2017.

- Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) donated satellite equipment left in-country to the ETC Iraq team. This equipment will be used to support ETC response activities as needed.

The ETC addressing Internet connectivity issues in As Salamiyah camp
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 are still in need.

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

However, the 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

- As the ETC seeks to bolster national capacity, an Information Management specialist and one S4C specialist are now onboard. The current ETC IMO in Dubai plans to travel to Erbil in October to provide training and handover.

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) requested the ETC to provide Internet connectivity to support their registration activities in As Salamiyah camp in September.

- The ETC conducted a Let's Comm Digital training exercise in Erbil between 9 and 13 September. A total of nine participants from five organisations attended the training.

- The ETC team conducted a mission to As Salamiyah camp to relocate the main Internet service connection to a new location as requested by UNHCR and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) teams so both organizations can maintain a database registration for all IDP families that are resident in the camps.

Services for Communities (S4C)

- The ETC attended the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Community Resource Centre (CRC) steering committee meeting to discuss the status of the CRC project. IOM confirmed that it plans to open CRCs in 13 camps, while exploring the possibility of opening CRCs in 10 other camps.

- The ETC demobilized its Internet connectivity services provided to the affected community in Domiz camp, Duhok and Arbat camp, Sulaymaniyah on 1 September as the local Internet Service Providers and mobile network operators are now stable and reliable. ETC Internet connectivity is therefore no longer required as the gap has been fulfilled.

Planned Response

- The ETC plans to conduct an ICT4Gov training exercise in Iraq towards mid- November.

- The ETC is also planning to launch a User Satisfaction Survey in November to assess the satisfaction rate among users and to identify any gaps and potential areas for improvement.

Challenges

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

- It has been confirmed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) that there is no second allocation foreseen and ETC is in a very critical funding situation.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on Wednesday 10 October

- The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will take place on 14 October.

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
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		Humanitarian community
Hassan Sham (Mosul response)	Hassan Sham camps I, U2, U3 Khazer camp M1	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity		Humanitarian community

ETC Iraq Dashboard: https://www.etcluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/IRQ_ETC_Dashboard_A3L_20180903_0.pdf

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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