Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #56

Reporting period 20/11/2018 to 31/12/2018

Highlights

- The ETC will be phasing out of Iraq completely by 31 March 2019 and is therefore planning to transition all its services.

- The ETC conducted two missions to Domiz and Arbat camps to demobilize the Ericsson Response equipment.

- The ETC will stop providing Internet connectivity in all the hubs by 31 December 2018 as part of the ETC phase out and closure.

The ETC programming handheld radios for humanitarian agencies from the ETC office in Erbil
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 ETC received US$137,000 approved from the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2019. The ETC will use all the funds received on the phase out and closure process up until 31 March 2019.

Response

- The ETC conducted missions to both Domiz and Arbat camps to demobilise and uninstall Ericsson Response equipment to return it to the company's headquarters in Sweden. This equipment has previously been used by the ETC to provide Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services in both camps. However, these services were demobilized due to the existence of reliable local Internet Service Providers and mobile network operators.

- The ETC has programmed a total of 9 radios for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UN Development Programme (UNDP) staff during the reporting period. Radio programming ensures humanitarian staff can access the security communications network in place and can communicate safely with colleagues, the Communications Centres (COMCEN) and receive security broadcast messages.

- As the ETC prepares to transition its services by the end of March 2019, the ETC is in the process of handing over the provision and services of security telecommunications to the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) as the lead agency in Iraq.

Services for Communities (S4C)

- The ETC team held a meeting with IOM to further discuss in detail the gaps and needs of IOM's ticketing system for the three Community Response Centres (CRCs) in West Mosul, East Mosul and Fallujah. CRCs will be used by affected communities to find out information about what assistance is available to them and attend awareness sessions and workshops about CV writing, job opportunities, English classes and web design.

- The ETC will complete the installation of equipment in these three CRCs before it phases out of Iraq at the end of March.

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 17 January 2019.

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.

Contacts

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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
JCMC	Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
LRT	Logistic Response Training
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