

Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #29

Reporting period 21/10/2015 to 10/03/2016

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 13/04/16.

Highlights

- The ETC is currently providing services to the humanitarian community in five sites across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).
- The ETC is also partnering with UNAMI to extend UNAMI's network to UN agencies in Basra, Baghdad and Kirkuk.
- Over 100 humanitarians from 39 different response organisations have registered to use ETC Internet connectivity services.
- A technician from World Food Programme (WFP) Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) successfully relocated the Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Dohuk to the new site of the WFP office.

Situation Overview

At the beginning of March, Rami Shakra from FITTEST, WFP's IT emergency response team, arrived in Iraq to take up the position of ETC Coordinator. He will now concentrate on carrying out the work plan for 2016 and strengthening coordination efforts with local partners, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

Michael Ngisiro, a FITTEST specialist, is also in Iraq carrying out a number of field missions, including the successful relocation of the COMCEN in Dohuk.



WFP's Christer Wessberg fixing the VHF antenna, Dohuk
Photo: ETC Iraq

Response

- With equipment from ETC members emergency.lu and Ericsson Response, shared Internet connectivity services are now being provided at Arbat camp and Domiz camp.
 - 2x Ericsson Response WIDER kits, for the distribution and management of internet connectivity, are installed in both camps.
- Security telecommunications services (radio) are being provided at three sites: the United Nations (UN) compound in Erbil, the WFP office in Dohuk and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Sulaymaniyah.
- The ETC is also supporting the expansion of security telecommunications services in Baghdad, Basra, Ashti camp and Kirkuk in collaboration with UNAMI.

Planned Response

- The ETC will carry out an assessment of the Internet connectivity service in Domiz to determine whether it is still required as commercial services are available.
- The ETC will also carry out an assessment to determine whether to deploy an analogue repeater in Dohuk for the use of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in that area. This will enhance the security telecommunications coverage, significantly improving the safety and security of staff.

Challenges

- The lack of an additional telecommunications specialist to support existing ETC security telecommunications services is a challenge.

Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference will take place on Thursday 17 March.

Information

- ICT responders operating on the ground in Iraq are encouraged to share their contact details with Iraq.ETC@wfp.org to facilitate local coordination.
- A dedicated information-sharing space has been created on the ETC website <https://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.

Shared ICT Services

DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	CUSTOMER
Dohuk	Domiz camp	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
		UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) 		Humanitarian community
	WFP sub-office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications Radio programming Radio training ICT helpdesk Assessments 		Humanitarian community
Sulaymaniyah	Arbat camp	emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 	VSAT, WIDER	Humanitarian community
		WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) ICT helpdesk 		Humanitarian community
	WFP sub-office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) Radio programming Radio training Assessments 		Humanitarian community
Erbil	WFP Country Office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications Radio programming Radio training Coordination ICT helpdesk Assessments 		Humanitarian community

ETC Services Map: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/iraq-etc-service-map-1>



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Acronyms

BGAN	Broadband Global Area Network – <i>portable global satellite internet network with telephony</i>
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
GSM	Global System for Mobile communications
HSA	Humanitarian Staging Area
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ISP	Internet Services Provider
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
UN	United Nations
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal – <i>satellite equipment to provide internet connectivity</i>
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



Background on the emergency:

On 7 June 2014, heavy fighting between the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the Armed Opposition Groups erupted in Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq. The violence resulted in numerous casualties and the takeover of the entire city by Armed Opposition Groups, including government buildings, Mosul International Airport, and all police and military bases. Tikrit was seized on 11 June by the Armed Opposition Groups. An estimated 500,000 Iraqis had been displaced in northern Iraq within the first week. With violence and conflict raging across much of Iraq, the humanitarian situation continues to worsen. Relief organisations are deploying emergency response teams and mobilizing resources to meet the urgent needs of the affected people.

WFP is leading ETC activities in Iraq in collaboration with UNAMI.

Sources: IOM, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)