

Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #35

Reporting period 26/08/2016 to 29/09/2016

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 25/10/16.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to provide vital security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services to the humanitarian community in five sites across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).
- A total of 152 humanitarians have registered to access ETC Internet connectivity services since the beginning of the operation.
- An inter-agency Intermediate Data Training, based on Let's Net, was carried out in Dohuk between 18-22 September. 12x inter-agency participants gained practical skills in the deployment and maintenance of the ETC Internet solution.
- During the reporting period, the ETC has distributed more than 200 vouchers to the local community so that they can access the ETC Internet service in Domiz camp, Dohuk.

Situation Overview

Military operations along the Mosul corridor have intensified, leaving more than 100,000 Internal Displaced People (IDP) since mid-June.

As a result of the ongoing Mosul operation in the KRI, the number of incidents in Erbil and other locations is expected to increase.

The ETC is planning to support humanitarian operations related to the Mosul operation by deploying shared services at common operational areas, namely Tikrit in the south of Mosul and Zummar in the north part of Mosul.

The ETC is now more than halfway into Phase 1 of its three-month Connectivity for Communities pilot project to provide Internet connectivity to communities in United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Youth Centre in Domiz camp.



Participants of the Intermediate Data Training in Dohuk deploying the data solution.

Photo credits: WFP/ Rob Buurveld

Response

- The ETC team in Iraq worked with World Food Programme's (WFP), global lead of the ETC, Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) Training Services in Dubai to deliver a bespoke Intermediate Data Training course, based on Let's Net, to WFP and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) staff in Dohuk.
- The equipment that the ETC preconfigured, initially to be deployed in Ameriyat Al Fallujah, is waiting to be shipped to Baghdad with United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).
 - This is part of the ETC's preparations for the escalating situation in Mosul. Four corridors have been identified where displacement is expected to take place: North, South, East and West. The ETC has ordered additional equipment to support the operation in 2x operational areas in these corridors – Tikrit and Zummar.
- An ETC team member from FITTEST deployed to Dohuk in late August as ETC Coordinator in that area. From there, he will coordinate Information and Communications Technology (ICT) activities needed to support a potential common operational area in Zummar, and will continue to support the Connectivity for Communities project.

Planned Response

- The ETC is planning the phase 2 of the Connectivity for Communities pilot project. Internet services have been set up in the café and computers have been connected. The ETC is working closely with UNHCR on engaging with the community on how to use this Internet Café.

Challenges

- A main challenge is the length of time it takes to import equipment due to customs clearance processes which can take up to three weeks.
- The length of time it takes to deploy staff due to medical clearance procedures and the visa process is another challenge.
- The security situation remains volatile across the country.

Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference will take place in November, date to be confirmed.
- The next Local ETC meeting will take place on 05 October at 11:00 Baghdad time.

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.



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- 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	Ericsson Response, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 	WIDER	-Humanitarian community -Community
		UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) 		-Humanitarian community
	WFP sub-office (shared with UNHCR)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications COMCEN Radio programming Radio training ICT helpdesk Assessments 		-Humanitarian community
Sulaymaniyah	UNHCR office, Arbat camp	Ericsson Response, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 	WIDER	-Humanitarian community
		WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) COMCEN 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 COMCEN Radio programming Radio training Coordination ICT helpdesk Assessments 		-Humanitarian community

ETC Services Map: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-iraq-services-map-27-july>



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Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	WFP Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
UN	United Nations
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
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)