

Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #36

Reporting period 30/09/2016 to 03/11/2016

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 01/12/16.

Highlights

- For the first time in its history, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is now providing Internet connectivity services to the affected community in Iraq.
- The ETC has preconfigured security telecommunications and Internet connectivity equipment, ready to support the humanitarian response to the Mosul operation.
- A total of 197 humanitarians have registered to access ETC Internet connectivity services since the beginning of the operation.

Situation Overview

The military operation to retake Mosul has so far displaced almost 18,000 people who are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The majority of these people have fled towards Qayyarah where the ETC plans to carry out an assessment mission pending security approval.

As the front line continues to advance towards Mosul city, the extent of humanitarian needs will continue to increase. The ETC remains ready to support with vital analogue/digital security telecommunications (radio), distributed Internet connectivity, generators, satellite phones, handheld radios, laptops and mobile satellite internet devices already prepared and prepositioned.

The ETC successfully announced its Connectivity for Communities project to provide Internet connectivity to communities in United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Youth Centre in Domiz camp and in a UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) site.



ETC's Michael Ngisiro goes online with young Syrians in the UNFPA Youth Centre, Domiz camp.

Photo credit: WFP/ Ahmed Abdullah



Response

- The ETC held an event on 1 November to mark its Connectivity for Communities project in Domiz camp, Dohuk. The event was attended by WFP Iraq Country Director, the Country Representative of UNFPA, the Assistant Governor of Dohuk, and a number of humanitarian staff from UN agencies and local Non-Government Organisations.
 - As part of this project, the ETC is providing Internet services in two sites: the UNFPA Youth Centre and the UNHCR Internet café in Domiz camp.
 - A total of 500x vouchers have been distributed to the community so that they can access the ETC Internet services in the UNFPA Youth Centre since the project began. This access to the Internet is allowing young Syrians to improve their English and continue their education online, share their stories on social media, find out humanitarian distribution schedules, and keep in touch with their families.
- The ETC continues to provide security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services to the response community in 5x sites in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI): Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah.

Planned Response

- The ETC plans to carry out assessment missions to the emergency camps that have been established to host the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) fleeing Mosul. The plan is to start with Qayarah, about 60km south of Mosul, to determine what ETC services are required.

Challenges

- The length of time it takes to deploy staff due to cumbersome visa process is the main challenge.
- As the Mosul operation continues to evolve, the security situation remains volatile across the country.

Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference will take place on 23 November.
- The next Local ETC meeting will take place TBC.

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.
- 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-october-2016>



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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
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
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 the operation to liberate Mosul escalating, 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)