

Iraq - Conflict

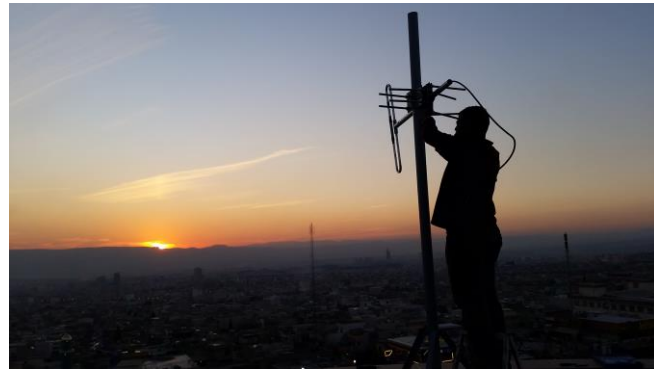
ETC Situation Report #39

Reporting period 20/01/2017 to 23/02/2017

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 23/03/17.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is carrying out user support for the Internet connectivity services it is providing to humanitarian in Qayyarah: at the Mercy Hands office in town, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) office in Qayyarah Airstrip camp.
- A total of 120 humanitarians have registered to access ETC Internet connectivity services since the beginning of 2017.
- The ETC has distributed 1,203 vouchers to the affected population at United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Youth Centre and Internet cafe in Domiz camp since the project started in June 2016.



The ETC relocates the COMCEN in Sulaymaniyah.

Photo credit: WFP/Lasse Axelsson

Situation Overview

In mid-February, humanitarians mobilized to respond to increasing humanitarian needs as military operations in West Mosul escalated.

A variety of possible scenarios are being considered by humanitarian partners, including an estimated 250,000 people who are expected to flee the western part of the city. Due to narrow streets, civilians are in danger of being caught in crossfire while infrastructure is likely to be damaged.

Efforts are therefore being made to expand the capacity at existing camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Hammam Al Ali, Qayyarah, and Haj Ali.

The ETC will continue to focus its response efforts on the Mosul operation in 2017 by providing lifesaving communications services to humanitarians as needed in common operational areas.

Response

- The ETC continues to provide security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services to the response community in 6x sites in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI): Erbil, Dohuk, Domiz camp, Sulaymaniyah, Arbat camp and Ashti camp.
- To support the humanitarian response to the Mosul offensive, the ETC is providing Internet connectivity in 3x sites around Qayyarah: Mercy Hands office in the town, and IOM and DRC offices in Qayyarah Airstrip camp together with ETC member, Telecoms Sans Frontiere (TSF).
 - Security telecommunications (radio) services cover Zummar, Qayyarah town, Qayyarah Airstrip camp, Qayyarah Jada'ah camp and Haj Ali.
- The ETC continues to provide Internet connectivity to the affected community in the UNFPA Youth Centre and Internet café in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) pre-fab in Domiz camp, Dohuk as part of the ETC Services for Communities project.
- The new ETC Coordinator arrived in Iraq on 16 February.

Planned Response

- World Health Organisation (WHO) has requested that the ETC provide Internet connectivity for 130x staff in three field hospitals around Erbil. The ETC Coordinator met with WHO suggesting the option of using a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) satellite solution combined with Ericsson Response (ETC member) access points and WIDER to provide the WiFi network for their first hospital to be deployed in Athbah. [WIDER is an Ericsson Response tool used to manage and distribute Internet connectivity.]
- The ETC Coordinator met with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to coordinate the electrical support needed for the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) IDP registration site in Qayyarah. The ETC will loan a generator to MoMD. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being drafted and the generator will be shipped by the Logistics Cluster.
- Now that the new ETC Coordinator has arrived in the country, he will focus on revising the staffing plan and budget due to a reduction in planned activities and a lack of funding. The ETC is appealing for US\$2.7 million but no funding has yet been received.

Challenges

- The lack of funding remains a challenge for the ETC.
- 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 15 March.
- The next Local ETC meeting will take place on 2 March.



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
		UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) 		
		WFP, UNFPA, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNFPA Youth Centre (Domiz) 		Affected community
		WFP, UNHCR, Ericsson Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet café - UNHCR 		
	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 		
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 		
	WFP sub-office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) Radio programming Radio training Assessments 		
	Ashti camp (LINK)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) 		



Erbil	WFP Country Office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training • Coordination • ICT helpdesk • Assessments 		-Humanitarian community
Zummar	LINK (Dohuk)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Assessments 		MOSUL OPERATION -Humanitarian community
Qayyarah	Mercy Hands office (town)	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Assessments 		
	Haj Ali	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications 		
	IOM office, Qayyarah Airstrip (LINK)	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Assessments 		
	DRC office, Qayyarah Airstrip (LINK)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Assessments 		

ETC Services Map: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-iraq-services-map-january-2017>



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Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	WFP Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
TSF	Telecoms Sans Frontiere
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)