Iraq - Conflict
ETC Situation Report #40
Reporting period 24/02/2017 to 23/03/2017

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 20/04/17.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to provide Internet connectivity services for humanitarians 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.
- The ETC together with its partner on the ground, Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) carried out a needs assessment mission to Hammam Al Alil camp.
- A total of 120 humanitarians have registered to access ETC Internet connectivity services since the beginning of 2017.
- More than 1,275 vouchers have been used by the affected population at United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Youth Centre and Internet cafe in Domiz camp since the project started in June 2016.

Situation Overview

During the reporting period, the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) fleeing Mosul continued to increase. The total number of IDPs who have fled Western Mosul alone since the end of February is now 153,000. Since the beginning of the operation in October 2016, the number of IDPs who have fled Mosul is 330,000 (around 55,000 families). Though 72,000 people are thought to have returned to the places of origin, 260,000 people are still displaced.

Camp construction and site expansion are accelerating to meet the rapidly increasing needs on the ground.

A 50-bed field hospital comprising two operating theatres and postoperative care was opened in Hammam Al Alil to receive and treat cases from Mosul. The hospital also has a 10-bed emergency department to cater to serious injuries and trauma cases.

The ETC will continue to provide services at new sites where needed.
Response

- The ETC continues to provide security telecommunications services to the response community in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI): Erbil, Dohuk, Domiz camp, Sulaymaniyah, Arbat camp and Ashti camp. Internet connectivity is provided at Arbat camp and Domiz camp.

- To support the humanitarian response to the Mosul operation, the ETC is providing Internet connectivity at the Mercy Hands office in Qayyarah town, and IOM and DRC offices in Qayyarah Airstrip camp together with TSF. The team went on mission to Qayyarah to improve the Internet connectivity service there.
  - Security telecommunications (radio) services cover Qayyarah town, Qayyarah Airstrip camp, Qayyarah Jad’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 (S4C) project.

- The ETC carried out joint needs assessment missions with TSF to Hammam Al Alil and Hassansham camps. A maintenance mission was also carried out to Qayyarah to check the Internet connectivity services.

- Local ETC Working Group continue to be held regularly to ensure a collaborative and effective response, and to avoid duplication of efforts.

- The ETC team added Dohuk to the codeplug as humanitarians using the United Nations (UN) zone were unable to access the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) network.

Planned Response

- The cluster plans to roll out more S4C projects in additional refugee and IDP camps.

- The ETC is involved with providing Internet connectivity, security telecommunications and electrical support for the planned International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) hub in Hamam al Alil.

Challenges

- The lack of funding remains a challenge for the ETC. The cluster has appealed for US$2.7 million to carry out its activities in 2017.

- 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 10 April.

- The next Local ETC meeting will take place on 29 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.

- Members of the Local Telecommunications Working Group are encouraged to share information by emailing Iraq.TWG.User.List@wfp.org. All documents related to the ETC operation in Iraq are available on the ETC portal.
### Shared ICT Services

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<th>DISTRICT, TOWN</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PROVIDED BY</th>
<th>SERVICES</th>
<th>EQUIPMENT</th>
<th>CUSTOMER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dohuk</td>
<td>Domiz camp</td>
<td>Ericsson Response, WFP</td>
<td>Internet connectivity</td>
<td>WIDER</td>
<td>Humanitarian community</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Security telecommunications (radio)</td>
<td>WIDER</td>
<td>Humanitarian community</td>
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<td>WFP, UNFPA, Ericsson Response</td>
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<td>WFP, UNHCR, Ericsson Response</td>
<td>Internet café - UNHCR</td>
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<td>WFP sub-office (shared with UNHCR)</td>
<td>WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR</td>
<td>Security telecommunications</td>
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<td>Assessments</td>
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<td>Sulaymaniayah</td>
<td>UNHCR office, Arbat camp</td>
<td>Ericsson Response, WFP</td>
<td>Internet connectivity</td>
<td>WIDER</td>
<td>Humanitarian community</td>
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<td>WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR</td>
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<td>Ashti camp (LINK)</td>
<td>WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR</td>
<td>Security telecommunications (radio)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
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</table>
| Erbil             | WFP Country Office, WFP, UNAMI | - Security telecommunications (radio)  
                     - COMCEN  
                     - Radio programming  
                     - Radio training  
                     - Coordination  
                     - ICT helpdesk  
                     - Assessments  

|                     |                                | Humanitarian community                                                            |

| Qayyarah           | Mercy Hands office (town)      | WFP, TSF - Security telecommunications (radio)  
                     - Internet connectivity  
                     - Assessments  

|                     | Haj Ali                        | WFP - Security telecommunications  

|                     | Qayyarah Jad'ah                | WFP - Security telecommunications  

|                     | Qayyarah Airstrip:             | WFP, TSF - Security telecommunications (radio)  
                     - Internet connectivity  
                     - Assessments  

Contacts

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Acronyms

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>COMCEN</td>
<td>Communications Centre</td>
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<td>ETC</td>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Cluster</td>
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<td>FITTEST</td>
<td>WFP Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team</td>
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<td>HNO</td>
<td>Humanitarian Needs Overview</td>
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<td>HRP</td>
<td>Humanitarian Response Plan</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
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<td>IHP</td>
<td>International Humanitarian Partnership</td>
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<td>KRI</td>
<td>Kurdistan Region of Iraq</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Government Organisation</td>
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<td>OCHA</td>
<td>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<td>TSF</td>
<td>Telecoms Sans Frontieries</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNAMI</td>
<td>United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
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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)