

Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #55

Reporting period 01/10/2018 to 20/11/2018

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 30/12/18.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) conducted an assessment to the Community Resource Centres (CRCs) in West Mosul and Fallujah as a part of the Services for Communities (S4C) project.
- Funding remains critical for the ETC as it is operating on carry over funds from 2017.
- The ETC met with Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) in Baghdad and Department of Foreign Relations in Erbil in preparation for the ICT Emergency Management for Governments and Partners (ICT4Gov) training in December.



The ETC conducting an assessment in the CRC in Fallujah

Photo: ETC Iraq

Situation Overview

Although 3.8 million Iraqis have returned to their homes since the start of the crisis, more than two million Iraqi people remain displaced and a total of 8.7 million are still in need.

Protection challenges continue to be the primary focus, particularly due to the presence of armed actors in camps across the country.

However, the overall funding for the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) remains low with only 28 percent of the required US\$569 million funding received, which is severely impacting response activities. This is also true at the cluster level, as the ETC is operating on carryover funds from 2017 with no new funds received so far this year.

Response

- The ETC team met with the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCCC) in Erbil and the JCMC in Baghdad to finalize the ICT4Gov training agenda and participants list. The ICT4Gov training will be conducted the week of 16-20 December.
- 42 handheld radios and two base stations were programmed in preparation of the Logistics Response Training (LRT) that took place in the second week of November. The ETC also participated in the training as facilitator as well as part of the Communications Centre (COMCEN) scenario.
- The ETC has programmed a total of 91 radios for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and for the LRT training) in October. Radio programming ensures humanitarian staff can access the security communications network in place and can communicate safely with colleagues, the COMCEN and receive security broadcasted messages.
- The ETC is exploring additional options to improve its Internet connectivity in 18x camps around Mosul. A vendor was successfully identified to create a registration page for users in camps where ETC provides internet services. This will enhance secure access to the network as well as enable the team to track number of users and manage the Internet traffic in a better way, ultimately offering a better experience to users.
- The humanitarian community has worked on the 2019 plan. The ETC is working on priority activities for next year considering locations where gaps are filled and ongoing needs. The ETC is planning on transitioning its activities by the end of March 2019.

Services for Communities (S4C)

- The ETC team visited the CRCs in West Mosul and Fallujah to assess the technical needs of the centres and to conduct communications activities about the CRCs impact on affected communities. Three generators were donated by ETC to IOM to be used in these CRCs. CRCs will be used by affected communities to find out information about what assistance is available to them and attend awareness sessions and workshops about CV writing, job opportunities, English classes and web design.
- As part of the S4C project and in coordination with WFP's Tech for Food project, the ETC team visited Mosul University to assess the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) needs of the University's College of Electronic Engineering. The ETC is exploring the rehabilitation of the college by possibly providing laptops and software for the use of Tech for Food students.

Planned Response

- The ETC plans to conduct an ICT4Gov training exercise in Erbil from 16-20 December.



Challenges

- The security situation remains volatile across the country. Movements of humanitarian aid workers are heavily restricted.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on 19 December.
- The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will take place on 23 December.

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. For ETC support, please call +964 782 780 6767.
- A dedicated information-sharing space has been created on the ETC website 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. All documents related to the ETC operation in Iraq are available on the ETC portal.
- **ETC Iraq Dashboard**
www.etcluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/IRQ_ETC_Dashboard_A3L_20181022_1.pdf

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Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
CRC	Community Resource Centres
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
JCCC	Joint Crisis Coordination Centre
JCMC	Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre
LRT	Logistic Response Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
S4C	Services for Communities
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
WFP	World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ETC website www.ETCluster.org.

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: Iraq.ETC@wfp.org