

## Palestine, conflict

Global ETC Teleconference #03

Date: 09/11/2023 Time: 12:00 UTC

Further information related to the ETC Palestine operation can be found on the website:

[www.etcluster.org/emergency/palestine-conflict](http://www.etcluster.org/emergency/palestine-conflict)

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact:

[Palestine.ETC@wfp.org](mailto:Palestine.ETC@wfp.org)

## Attendance

### Chair (ETC)

ACF  
Cisco Crisis Response  
Government of Luxembourg

FAO

GSMA  
ICRC

IOM

InterNews  
NetHope

Red Cross (Palestine)  
Search For Common Ground

TSF  
UNESCO  
UNHCR

UNICEF

UNOPS  
UNRWA

### Brent Carbno

Olivier Herrmann  
Matt Altman  
Alain Lang  
Roland Nurenberg  
Ayman Barakat  
Henry Sameh  
Dulip Tillekeratne  
Claudiu Mateescu  
Anne Melotte  
Alan Mooney  
Moayyed Fares  
Emily Cowlick  
Dagbjartur Brynjarsson  
Anja Delaquis  
Wael Misk  
Rami Assali  
Clement Bruguera  
Jackson Krainer  
Andrew Sentamu  
Massoumeh Farman Farmaian  
Mohamed Abdel Wahab  
Marc Dieng  
Kamal Kamaledine  
Cherine Kotb  
Christopher Fabian  
Nasri Sidawi  
Kristoffer Nørkjær Randsløv Jepsen  
Kaan Cetinturk

UNWOMEN  
USAID  
US State Department  
Global ETC

WFP

WHO

Nabeel Al Garawy  
Katie Robinson  
Joseph Burton  
Brent Carbo  
Caroline Teyssier  
Komi Amedjonekou  
Phyza Jameel  
Mufaro Masuka  
Maria Gonzales  
David Pickering  
Hossam Metwally  
Marie Elena Bock  
Jay Mahanand  
Moussa Sana  
Dane Novarlic  
Areen Roman  
Dalia Mansour  
Diyar Faris  
Halim Yousufzai  
Hikmat Akad  
Waleed Salah  
Michael Dirksen  
Elizabeth Bourke  
Sami Alio  
Amirullah Syarif  
Moaied Altai  
Ossama Khattab  
Hassan Akil  
Hani Dodin

## Agenda

1. Situation update
2. Global ETC update
3. Partner updates
4. AOB

## Minutes

### 1. Situation update

- The daily volume of humanitarian assistance entering Gaza through the Rafah Border Crossing with Egypt meets a fraction of people's needs while desperately needed fuel remains excluded from humanitarian cargo.

### 2. Global ETC update

#### Coordination

- The ETC continues to provide coordination of ICT activities and planning for partners involved in the Gaza response. ETC coordination is currently based in Cairo with participation in the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and chairing of the UN ICT Working Group.
- From 10 November onwards, ETC coordination will be handed over to Hossam Metwally as David Pickering is leaving the operation. The ETC team for the operation can be contacted on [Palestine.ETC@wfp.org](mailto:Palestine.ETC@wfp.org).
- The ETC has appealed for US\$800,000 through the revised Flash Appeal. No funding has been allocated for the cluster to date—these funds are urgently needed to continue to carry out activities.

#### Equipment

- ETC coordination activities include leading on efforts to liaise with and coordinate all actors involved in importing telecommunications equipment and to facilitate access to transport routes and clearance processes. The ETC will send out a communication to partners today, 09 November, on the importation of equipment into Gaza and next steps. Prioritization of ICT equipment will also be key in this process.
- All items entering Gaza must be approved by the Israeli authorities. Any items brought to Gaza via Egypt also needs to have importation permits from the Egyptian authorities as well as agreement with the Egyptian Red Crescent, who are the sole consignee of goods for the Rafah Border Crossing. The Logistics Cluster is also supporting with transportation options into Gaza in alignment with the humanitarian priorities (primarily food, water, shelter, medicine).
- The ETC awaits the response via OCHA from the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) on if and which telecommunications equipment items can enter Gaza through Israel, following the submission of the equipment list on 01 November. The essential equipment is pre-configured for radio communications and satellite connectivity with solar power solutions that would be made available to all humanitarians in up to three locations in Gaza (tentatively identified as Kahn Yunis and two sites in Rafah). Further specifications on each item were submitted on 03 November.
- The Government of Luxembourg is ready to provide VSAT equipment and free bandwidth services as part of the identified list of equipment submitted to OCHA, and

Ericsson Response is ready to support with equipment if a second wave of equipment becomes possible. The services will be offered as in-kind donation.

- The ETC is diversifying its satellite connectivity options to ensure that a solution reaches Gaza in the case that some equipment is not granted authorization to be used there.

#### Access to information

- The ETC and the Palestinian Regulatory Telecommunications Authority (RTA) held a meeting on 08 November. The RTA reports that only 55 percent of the mobile networks in Gaza are operable with those remaining lacking fuel for the generators.
- Following the consolidation of key messages from humanitarian partners, OCHA worked with the Mobile Network Operator (MNO)—Ooredoo—to send out an SMS with humanitarian messages on 09 November to 300,000 people in Gaza. It is still being established how many people were able to receive these messages—initial estimations are low at less than 20%.
- One challenge is that people are not able to charge their phones due to the electricity blackout. The ETC is working with OCHA and other agencies on key messages to be included in a physical leaflet that can inform the affected populations.
- Alternative communications channels are needed to disseminate humanitarian messages to the population in Gaza. An informal group for community/FM radio is conducting a rapid assessment on which radio stations are operational and listened to. At least five FM radio stations are working. An initial indication from the assessment shows that 1 in 6 people in Gaza are listening to radio. A BBC World News Arabic service has started broadcasting on Friday evenings from their transmitter in Cyprus, aimed at the population in Gaza.

### 3. Partner Updates

#### NetHope

- Three NetHope members have expressed interest to participate in a trial shipment of Starlink devices into Gaza. The route is not yet clear yet and no authorization has been received.

#### UNICEF

- UNICEF is exploring channels to access Gaza to support colleagues, such as providing power banks and e-SIMs.
- A request was sent by UNICEF to the government of Egypt to allow service providers to strengthen their networks at the border with Gaza, to be able to provide services to colleagues.
- Further, UNICEF is exploring the importation of equipment from Jordan.

#### 4. AOB

- N/a

**The next teleconference will be held on Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 13:00 UTC**

13:00 UTC  
14:00 Rome  
15:00 Cairo/Jerusalem  
17:00 Dubai

## Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
COGAT	Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
DCM	Disaster Connectivity Maps
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOHCA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

**Minutes:** Marie Elena Bock, Global ETC Partnerships Officer.