IRAQ

ETC Situation Report # 19

Reporting period 20/03/15 – 02/04/15

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Highlights

- Upgrade works on the UNAMI Interagency COMCEN at the compound in Erbil have been completed.

- A combined ETC/UNAMI mission to Sarah mountain to repair the UNAMI links was conducted. The PTP link and repeater are now operational.

Cluster Responsibilities

- WFP is leading ETC activities in Iraq. The ETC is responsible for providing emergency telecommunications support to humanitarian organisations on the ground.

Achievements

- Upgrade works on the UNAMI Interagency COMCEN at the compound in Erbil have been completed. New HF broadband and VHF SMD antennae installed, earthing/lightning protection fitted and a BGAN satellite terminal external antenna mounted. Additional VHF, BGAN and Codan HF bases have also been installed to monitor the expanded UN/NGO/UNAMI networks.

- An additional 6 pairs of VHF repeater frequencies have been received from the Ministry of Transport and Communications to expand the capacity of the digital network in Erbil. Five pairs will be used by the Humanitarian Agencies and the other reserved for UNAMI use.

- The procurement process to install a 100 ft. guyed tower to improve local area repeater coverage in Domiz camp is being finalised.

- The Sulaimaniya to Arbat PTP repeater link faults have been resolved and is now operational.

- The ETC has established analogue and digital radio services for NGOs and UN agencies in Dahuk, Domiz camp, Sulaymaniyah and Arbat camp to support the safety and security of the humanitarian community.

    o ETC has established a 24/7 radio room in Sulaymaniyah; Arbat camp is now monitored from this radio room.

- ETC has established a 12/7 radio room in Dahuk; Domiz camp is also monitored from this radio room.

- The ETC continues to configure radios for UN agencies and NGOs with a standard codeplug compatible with both digital and analogue radio networks. To date, over 357 individual radios have been configured.

- Radio training is being delivered by the ETC and UNAMI to UN and NGO staff on an ongoing basis. This is to ensure that correct radio protocol is consistently followed by all humanitarian organizations to facilitate the safety of staff. To date, the ETC has trained approximately 130 staff from various humanitarian organizations. In addition, training of staff in the use of radios is ongoing.

- ETC wireless internet connectivity is available to all humanitarian organizations in three key operational areas: Domiz and Arbat camps, as well as a transit camp 7 kms from Arbat.

- In the Domiz camp ETC distributes 4 MB bandwidth via multiple access points.

- In the Arbat camp there are 70 confirmed and 91 accumulated users registered on the Ericsson WIDER network.

- All UN agencies are encouraged to compile call-sign lists according to the common ETC format. This will ensure radio rooms can track staff more effectively and improve overall security.

- All Humanitarian agencies and NGO's are also encouraged to use the standard ETC provided codeplug to ensure overall compatibility country-wide between radios to facilitate security of staff.

Challenges and Gaps

• Flight options for the importation of equipment remain limited. This can delay the deployment of humanitarian ICT services.

• All staff wishing to travel outside of Erbil must attend SAIT training, which takes four days. In addition, several days may be needed to apply and receive residency status thus delaying further deployment to the field.

• Funding for the cluster is available till the end of March, further ETC support post March is dependent on further donor funding.

Planned Activities

- A combined ETC/UNAMI mission will be deployed to resolve additional problems with the UNAMI links between Sarah and Korek mountain.

- Installation of a 100 ft guyed towen in Domiz and Sulaimaniya to improve repeater coverage.

- Continue reprograming of VHF radios with the new DMR standards and radio training in all locations.

• Enhance inter-agency radio services in Erbil in order to provide better security for staff and vehicle movement, ETC will be providing additional staffing and equipment to the UNAMI radio room.

- Continue the integration of humanitarian radios into the UNAMI digital dispatcher radio tracking service and establish the system in Sulaymaniya and Dahuk COMCEN's.

- Finalise Mission/Country-wide codeplugs together with UNAMI CITS.

- Procure a suitable power solution for the wide-area repeater sites in KR-I.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 21/04/15.

Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 21/04/15.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website:
http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictepr/emergencies2014/iraq

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

Services Available

CITY	LEAD AGENCY	ETC SERVICES
Erbil	WFP/UNAMI	• Coordination • Information Management • ICT Helpdesk • Logistics Hub • Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage
Sulaymaniyah	WFP	• Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage • 24/7 Radio Room
Arbat Camp	WFP	• Internet connectivity • Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage • 24/7 monitored from Sulaymaniyah radio room
Dahuk	WFP/UNHCR	• Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage • Radio Room
Domiz Camp	WFP	• Internet connectivity • VHF radio coverage • Radio Programming • Training • Monitored from Dahuk Radio Room
Basra	WFP	• Assessment

		• Radio Programming
Baghdad	WFP/UNAMI	• Assessment

ETC Iraq Focal Points

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Acronyms

CITS	Communications and Information Technology Services
DMR	Digital Mobile Network
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ISP	Internet Service Provider

IT	Information Technology
JCMC	Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre
KR-I	Kurdistan Region- Iraq
OPSCEN	Operations Centre
POE	Power Over Ethernet
SAIT	Security Awareness and Induction Training
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary General
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme
WG	Working Group
WIDER	Wireless LAN In Disaster and Emergency Response