

IRAQ

ETC Situation Report # 23

Reporting period 15/05/15 – 28/05/15

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Highlights

- The security of NGOs in Erbil has increased through ETC's installation of the NGO/UN Ch 3 analogue repeater in the UNAMI compound.
- The repeater coverage area in the Domiz camp has been improved after a mission to Dahuk.

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

- The security of NGOs in Erbil has increased through ETC's installation of the the NGO/UN Ch 3 analogue repeater in the UNAMI compound. This has provided coverage for NGO staff in Erbil; this channel provides linkage between the UN and NGO community and is monitored in EJ Base.
- A mission to Dahuk has deployed the Domiz camp radio equipment to the recently installed 100 ft tower to improve repeater coverage in the area.
- Staff has now a wider security blanket for their Radio-checks in Domiz and its environs, which are monitored from Dahuk.
- There are ongoing discussions on the possible move of the Dahuk COMCEN.

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- The ETC is finalizing their submission for the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which will be launched on 4 June. As the humanitarian crisis escalates, the new HRP will provide humanitarian partners with a framework for continuing assistance.
 - The Erbil COMCEN continues providing 24/7 radio room.
 - The distribution of the final version of the country-wide VHF codeplug is on-going.
 - 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. In addition, the VHF base in UNAMI interagency COMCEN is now monitoring both camps from Erbil.
 - ETC runs a 24/7 radio room in Sulaymaniyah; Arbat camp is now monitored from this radio room.
 - ETC runs 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 364 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 135 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.
 - 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.

Planned Activities

- Continue reprogramming 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.
- 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 16/06/15.

Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 16/06/15.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website:
<http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictopr/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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Information Management • ICT Helpdesk • Logistics Hub • Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage
Sulaymaniyah	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage • 24/7 Radio Room
Arbat Camp	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet connectivity • Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage • 24/7 monitored from Sulaymaniyah radio room
Dahuk	WFP/UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Programming • Training • VHF radio coverage • Radio Room
Domiz Camp	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet connectivity • VHF radio coverage • Radio Programming • Training • Monitored from Dahuk Radio Room
Basra	WFP/UNAMI	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Programming • VHF radio coverage • 24/7 Radio Room
Baghdad	WFP/UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHF radio coverage • 24/7 Radio Room
Kirkuk	UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHF radio coverage • 24/7 Radio Room

ETC Iraq Focal Points

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Acronyms

DMR	Digital Mobile Network
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology



IT	Information Technology
KR-I	Kurdistan Region- Iraq
OPSCEN	Operations Centre
SAIT	Security Awareness and Induction Training
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme
WIDER	Wireless LAN In Disaster and Emergency Response