

Syria – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #52

Reporting period: 01/02/2022 to 31/03/2022

The ETC was activated in Syria in January 2013 in response to the conflict crisis. Situation Reports are distributed every two months.

Highlights

- Due to a new funding contribution of US\$250,000 from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), the ETC in Syria is 100 percent funded out a required US\$550,000 in 2022.
- The ETC has completed maintenance activities in four out of five UN hubs as part of a large infrastructure project to maintain and upgrade all ETC communications equipment to improve services for humanitarian responders.
- The ETC received approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to expand VHF radio coverage in Al Hol Camp in Al-Hasakah governate. The expansion is in response to the latest security assessment in the camp.



The ETC is carrying out maintenance and improvement activities across five UN hubs in Syria. Photo: WFP/ETC

Activities

Coordination

Due to a new funding contribution of US\$250,000 from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), the ETC in Syria is 100 percent funded out a required US\$550,000 in 2022 to conduct maintenance, improvement, and expansion activities in Syria and the surrounding countries.

Internet connectivity

The ETC has completed maintenance activities in four UN hubs as part of a large infrastructure project ongoing across five UN hubs to maintain and upgrade all ETC communications equipment to improve services for humanitarian responders. Deployments included Aleppo from 21-24 February, Homs and Tartous from 5-10 March, and Deir Ez-Zor from 14-17 March. While in Deir Ez-Zor, the ETC also upgraded the capacity of the solar power system installed in the Security Operations Centre (SOC) to support security communications services. Maintenance activities in the remaining UN hub in Qamishli is planned to take place in May.

The ETC is sourcing back-up power equipment in the local market in Qamishli. Once acquired, the equipment will be installed in the humanitarian hub in Qamishli to support ETC connectivity services. The volatile security situation in Syria is preventing the shipment of existing equipment to Qamishli from Damascus.

Security communications

The ETC requested and received approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to expand the VHF radio coverage in Al Hol Camp in Al-Hasakah governate. The expansion is in response to the latest security assessment in the camp. The request was developed with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who will support implementation of the VHF radio equipment, including a repeater.

The shipment of 20 VHF devices for the UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) held at the border since July 2021 has received approval for onward journey to Damascus. Once received in Damascus, the radio devices will be installed in the six SOCs to enhance security communications services in Aleppo, Damascus, Deir Ez-Zor, Homs, Qamishli, and Tartous.

After being held in customs at the Lebanon-Syria border since April 2021, the shipment of push-to-talk (PTT) satellite phones has not been approved for onward journey to Damascus. The ETC is seeking to establish next steps.

The ETC is identifying equipment available on the local market to equip UNDSS-supported inter-agency field missions with a portable power solution.

Funding

The ETC in Syria is full funded out of a required US\$550,000 in 2022 to carry out planned maintenance, improvement, and expansion activities in Syria and the surrounding countries.

A contributions of US\$250,000 was received from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and US\$300,000 has been carried over from 2021.

Challenges

Syria is facing a country-wide power crisis which impacts on ETC connectivity services.

The importation of equipment, lack of access to operational areas and lengthy deployment authorisations from relevant authorities frequently affects the timely implementation of ETC activities across Syria.

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 is restricting staff movement and causing delays in the delivery of critical equipment.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **13 April 2022**.

Contacts

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www.etcluster.org/emergencies/syria-conflict

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