

Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #57

Reporting period 01/06/2021 to 30/06/2021

ETC Yemen Situation Reports are issued monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 31/07/2021.

Highlights

- The ETC continues to provide critical Internet connectivity to 612 humanitarian across 12 sites in Yemen, and communications services – including security telecommunications – to a total of 2,349 responders supported by eight UNDSS-managed Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the country.
- The ETC and UNDSS deployed on a joint mission to the UN site in Al Mukalla on 26 June to build the technical capacity of radio operators to support the safety and security of assets and personnel.
- In response to increased user demand in the UN site in Al Mukalla, the ETC has upgraded the connectivity bandwidth to ensure services are optimized for the increased number of humanitarian users.



The ETC and UNDSS work to expand critical connectivity services in the UN site in Al Mukalla.

Photo: WFP/ETC

ETC Activities

Internet connectivity

- The ETC has completed setting up Internet connectivity services at Aden International Airport in coordination with the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MoTIT) and Airport Aviation. The services will provide connectivity to humanitarian and commercial passengers. The authorities are revising the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) while an official project launch date is being agreed.
- In response to increased user demand in the UNDP-hosted UN site in Al Mukalla, the ETC has upgraded the connectivity bandwidth to ensure services are optimized for the increased number of humanitarians accessing them. Options to further improve the service are being explored.

- The expansion of ETC Internet connectivity services to the new World Health Organization (WHO) guesthouse in Aden is almost completed. The team is using a local supplier to carry out the installation.
- The ETC is supporting the opening of a new site for INGOs in Al Hudaydah, hosted by Islamic Relief. The set-up of ETC services is in progress.
- In response to increased user demand, work is in progress to re-establish ETC connectivity services in the INGO site in Sana'a, which will be hosted by Action Contre la Faim (ACF).
- The ETC is also supporting the opening of a new UN site in Ibb with connectivity services and infrastructure.
- The team conducted maintenance activities in the ETC server room and systems in the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a.

Security communications

- The ETC and UNDSS deployed on a joint mission to the UN site in Al Mukalla in south-east Yemen on 26 June. The mission objective is to build the technical capacity of the radio operators to support the safety and security of assets and personnel.

Capacity building

- Training was conducted on 24 June to demonstrate to UN partner agencies how to use the common document depository platform developed by the ETC.
- The ETC is engaging with partners on the ground to identify training needs.

User support

- A new user guide has been shared on the use of ETC services at the UNCAF in Sana'a and other guides will be developed across all ETC sites in Yemen.
- In June, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 1,162 issues from responders.

Communications equipment

- The Logistics Cluster is assisting the ETC to ship three consignments of communications equipment from Djibouti to Aden, following the receipt of security clearance. The equipment will be used for three IT projects funded by WHO. The ETC will support the implementation of these projects, which include rehabilitation of IT infrastructure in Aden University and Ameen Nasher Higher Institute for Health Sciences to enable online learning and interaction with global institutions. The third project will be hosted by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and will help the humanitarian community to enhance public awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic, engage with communities and spread prevention messages.
- Two ETC shipments from Djibouti to Aden containing equipment for the new UNDSS-managed Security Operations Centre (SOC) in Marib are in progress, awaiting approval from the national authorities to use UNHAS facilities for the shipment. Three additional shipments remain in Djibouti, including equipment for the Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) project to extend the VHF radio network in Aden city.

Planned activities

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) requested an upgrade to the solar power equipment installed in the UN common hub in Aden. The ETC team and Administration unit in Aden are planning to send a technician to assess the project.
- The ETC is engaging with WHO and the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP) to assist in setting up two COVID-19 hotlines in the north and south of the country – in Aden and Sana'a. This request had been on hold since August 2020 and can now go ahead, following the allocation of the required funding confirmed by WHO.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has requested assistance to improve connectivity services in the district in Aden where they are based. The ETC is assessing options, including extending the fibre link. This project would immediately benefit four INGOs – Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), CARE International, NRC, and ZOA International – and may enable other organizations to move into the area.
- NYCMedics in Aden has requested assistance in setting up VHF network communications for 20 ambulances and four hospitals. The ETC is exploring options to provide technical assistance for this project, which would be funded by the NGO.
- The ETC is assessing options to support the opening of a new UN site in Sa'ada, north-western Yemen.

Funding

- In 2021, the ETC has received a total of US\$2,717,994 out of a required US\$3.3 million. The ETC in Yemen is therefore 82.4% funded to carry out activities in 2021.
- Out of the total funds received, US\$848,021 was from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), US\$1,021,952 from the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), and US\$848,021 from the Government of Canada.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **21 July 2021**.

Information

- All information on the ETC response in Yemen, including the latest infographic can be found [here](#).
- For further information or to contact the team on the ground, please email Yemen.ETC@wfp.org



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