

Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #61

Reporting period 01/10/2021 to 31/10/2021

ETC Yemen Situation Reports are issued monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 30/11/2021.

Highlights

- In October, the ETC provided data connectivity to 776 humanitarians across 16 sites in Yemen.
- ETC security communications services were provided to a total of 2,568 responders supported by eight UNDSS-managed Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the country.
- The ETC upgraded the bandwidth to expand data connectivity services at the WFP-hosted UN guesthouse site in Aden in response to the scale-up of humanitarian operations.



The ETC met with partners in Sana'a on 13 October for the first time in person since COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

Photo: WFP/ETC

ETC Activities

Internet connectivity

- In response to increased connectivity needs in the UN guesthouse in Aden, the ETC upgraded connectivity services via fibre access solutions, which connect residential locations to the ETC network.
- The ETC is finalizing a technical assessment to expand its connectivity services to the new UN common accommodation facility – consisting of three villas – hosted by WFP in Sana'a.
- The ETC is funding and supporting the five kilometres extension of a fibre link in 90 District in Aden to provide stable connectivity services to INGOs based in the area – namely Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), CARE International and ZOA International.
- The ETC conducted a technical assessment across all 16 sites where it provides connectivity services. Improvement plans have been submitted for the sites in Hodaydah and Aden, to be reviewed by the ETC and included in the 2021 budgeting plan.

- Since April 2021, the ETC has provided data connectivity services in Aden International Airport to all passengers, including humanitarian responders and commercial passengers. In October, the ETC implemented a new login page for users to access its connectivity services in the airport.
- Following the closure of the UN common guesthouse in Hodaydah, the ETC dismantled the satellite connectivity stations and will move the equipment to a new common UN workplace, when confirmed.
- The ETC received three sets of video conferencing equipment that will be used to replace the existing equipment at common meeting rooms in the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a.

Capacity building

- The ETC Coordinator attended a Business Strategy training course from 18-20 October in Amman, delivered by UNDP. The course objective is to assist the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) implementation in Yemen by sharing of common services, quality of service improvement and avoiding duplication of services among the agencies.

User support

- Following an inter-agency request, the ETC developed and is piloting a cloud-based visitor access system in the UNCAF in Sana'a to facilitate the process of obtaining visitor permissions to access the compound. The new system will reduce the approvals processing time to access the site and will enhance record-keeping of visitors to the compound.
- In October, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 1,294 user requests.

Communications equipment

- Following two years of correspondence, the ETC has obtained approval from the national security authority in Sana'a to bring satellite connectivity equipment – two VSATs – into Hodaydah and Hajjah in northern Yemen. The VSAT station will be provided by a local supplier and installed in early November.
- Two shipments of ETC equipment remain in Djibouti pending pre-importation approval. One of these shipments includes equipment to expand security communications services in Aden city, which will be supported by Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS). The office of the Resident Coordinator (RC) is assisting the ETC with this pending issue.

Planned activities

Internet connectivity

- In response to a request from the Supreme Council for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (SCMCHA) in Sana'a, OCHA is coordinating with the ETC to assess the feasibility of setting up IT network infrastructure and providing video conferencing equipment in the new SCMCHA offices in northern Yemen. This will support cluster coordination with the national authorities.

- As requested by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the ETC conducted a site visit to assess the feasibility of extending internet connectivity to the UNFPA guesthouse in Aden. The ETC is preparing the proposal.
- The ETC in Aden received a request from the INGO ZOA to relocate their VSAT station in Aden to their new office. The ETC is planning this activity with the service provider.
- The ETC is planning to conduct a technical assessment, following a request received from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Hodaydah to extend their internet connectivity services.

Security communications

- The project for NYC Medics in Aden city, to establish a VHF communications network for 20 ambulances, is facing a 48 percent funding shortfall. The ETC is exploring different options, including with OCHA, to secure funding for the project, which will have a huge impact on communities in Yemen during the pandemic.

Funding

- In 2021, the ETC has received a total of US\$2,717,994 out of the required US\$3.3 million. The ETC in Yemen is therefore 82.4 percent funded to carry out activities in 2021.
- Out of the total funds received, US\$848,021 was received 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.
- The ETC has engaged with the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) preparations and submitted its needs-based budget projection of US\$3.8 million for 2022. The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) process will take place in mid-November.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **17 November 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



Key Contacts

Title	Agency	Name	Duty Station	Email
ETC Coordinator	WFP	Wali Noor	Sana'a, Yemen	wali.noor@wfp.org
ETC Information Management Associate	WFP	Sarah Eshaq	Sana'a, Yemen	sarah.eshaq@wfp.org