Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #87
Reporting period: 01/12/2023 to 31/12/2023

The ETC was activated in Yemen in April 2015 in response to the conflict crisis. Situation Reports are issued monthly.

Highlight

- In December, the ETC provided data connectivity services to 1,714 humanitarians and security communications services to a total of 2,435 responders across 20 sites in Yemen.

- The ETC conducted a mission to Aden on 21 December to complete the configuration of ETC dedicated Wi-Fi services for the heads of agencies in the United Nations (UN) guesthouses.

- The ETC supported the completion of the ICT project in the University of Aden by expanding the LAN network and setting up the power supply. Through the project, over 2,600 students at the university have access to internet services and IT facilities since 2022.

The ETC extends and configures data connectivity at the UN guesthouse in Aden. Photo: WFP/ETC

Activities

Coordination

The WFP-led ETC continues to collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) in providing IT services including connectivity to 29 Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) across Yemen and supporting humanitarian operations in response to the ongoing cholera outbreak through access to internet and IT facilities.

The ETC is facing funding shortages to adequately respond to the ICT needs of humanitarian operations in Yemen. To maximize its existing resources, the cluster conducted a capacity assessment of ETC infrastructure and services—mainly internet connectivity—from November to December to identify the ongoing needs and reduce its service coverage where feasible, without compromising the quality of the services. The ETC infrastructure assessment resulted in a significant cost reduction of approximately US$500,000 while maintaining service quality. The report was presented to the Operations Management Team (OMT) on 05 December.

Internet connectivity

In December, the ETC provided data connectivity to 1,714 humanitarians in 20 sites across 10 common operational areas in Yemen.

The ETC conducted a mission to Aden on 21 December to complete the configuration of ETC dedicated Wi-Fi services for the heads of agencies in the United Nations (UN) guesthouses.

The ETC supported the completion of the ICT project in the University of Aden by expanding the LAN network and setting up the power supply. Through the project, over 2,600 students at the university have access to internet services and IT facilities since 2022.

In Sana'a and Hajjah, the ETC carried out routine preventative maintenance of ETC network infrastructure in both the UN hub and the I/NGO hub for enhanced services.

Security communications

In December, a total of 2,435 users utilized the ETC security communications services (SCS) through the nine United Nations Department of safety and Security (UNDSS)-managed Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the country.

The ETC conducted a technical mission to the UN hub in Turbah to reprogramme the Very High Frequency (VHF) repeater for better performance on 20 December.

In coordination with UNDSS, the ETC programmed two VHF radios for United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Aden, according to the UN standard callsign structure.

User support

In December, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 1,141 user requests.

Challenges

Since July 2023, limited financial resources has been one of the major challenges for the ETC due to a lack of donor funding allocation for Yemen. The ETC is currently looking at alternative funding options in coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) and the OMT.

The ETC continues to face difficulties in the importation of IT and telecommunications equipment. The pre-import certificate for the shipment of two consignments from Djibouti to Aden is still pending approval from the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) WFP in Aden met with the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MTIT) to expedite the ETC shipment approval process in Djibouti on 16 December.

Funding

The ETC ended 2023 at 58 percent funded out of the required US$3.6 million.

In March 2023, the ETC received US$794,000 from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), and US$500,000 from WFP.

In July 2023, a US$219,000 cost-shared allocation was received from participating UN agencies to cover the ETC network upgrade costs in the south of Yemen.

The ETC funding proposal for Q4 was US$622,845. In December, the ETC received US$416,202 out of US$622,845. The remainder is expected to be received in January 2024.

For 2024 funding, the ETC presented its proposal of US$2.7 million at the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meeting on 05 December, where the UNRC approved 20% of the ETC projected funding from the YHF while the remaining 80% must be covered through cost-recovery from UN agencies.

Additional Information

See the ETC Yemen Dashboard for an overview of planned and existing service locations.

Meetings

The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will take place on **24 January 2024**.

Contacts

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All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website:

www.etcluster.org/emergencies/yemen-conflict

For more information or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact:

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