![ETC – Emergency Telecommunications Cluster logo]

Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #78
Reporting period: 01/03/2023 to 31/03/2023

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

Highlight

- In March, the ETC provided data connectivity services to 1,351 humanitarians and security communications services to a total of 2,397 responders across 20 sites in Yemen.

- The ETC joined UNDSS on a technical mission to the UN hub in Al-Mukalla on 04 March to review internet bandwidth management tools and to carry out maintenance on the Security Operations Centre (SOC) equipment.

- The ETC upgraded the internet connectivity in the WFP-hosted hub in Al-Mokha to provide faster services for the humanitarians operating there.

The ETC provided technical support to the newly established INGO site in Hajjah, hosted by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Photo: WFP/ETC

Activities

Coordination

The ETC continues to support the World Health Organization (WHO) response to the widespread cholera outbreaks in Yemen by supporting the ICT infrastructure in 29 Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) in northern and southern Yemen.

Internet connectivity

In March, the ETC provided data connectivity to 1,351 humanitarians from 20 sites across 10 common operational areas in Yemen.

The ETC conducted a joint technical mission with UNDSS to the UN hub in Al-Mukalla on 04 March. The purpose of the mission was to review management of the internet bandwidth utilization and also to conduct preventive maintenance on the communications equipment in the UNDSS Security Operations Centre (SOC). The ETC will extend and improve the Wi-Fi coverage in the WFP guesthouse in Al-Mukalla—the Bill of Quantity (BoQ) for the required equipment is being developed.

The ETC upgraded the internet connectivity in the WFP-hosted hub in Al-Mokha to provide faster services for the humanitarians operating there.

The ETC team in Aden provided Wi-Fi access services for the European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) mission to Aden from 28 February to 2 March.

The ETC team provided connectivity support to the UNCHR mission to Hodaidah and the UNICEF mission to Hajjah, enabling these agencies to fulfil their tasks.

The ETC in Aden conducted preventive maintenance on the connectivity network in the UN guesthouses which accommodate humanitarians in Aden, Hodeidah, and Hajjah.

As requested by UNHCR in Aden, the ETC provided three access points to the UNHCR guesthouse in Aden to improve the ETC network coverage.

The delivery of ETC internet connectivity services has been extended for all 20 sites until the end of June 2023.

Security communications

In March, ETC security communications services were provided to a total of 2,397 responders using the nine UNDSS-managed SOCs across the country.

In coordination with UNDSS, the ETC team in Aden programmed three VHF radios for WFP and four for UNDP according to the UN standard callsign structure.

User support

In March, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 700 user requests.

Capacity Building

As part of capacity building, iMMAP organized a training session from 8 to 9 March on Advance Excel. The training will further improve the ETC's Information Management (IM) activities in Yemen. The number of participants was 43.

Planning

Internet connectivity

The UN Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA) requested a dedicated bandwidth in the UN hub in Al-Mokha to accommodate an increase in users. The ETC upgraded the link temporarily while looking at alternative long-term options.

The ETC is supporting the University of Aden to expand their IT services. The proposal for this project is approved by WHO—the Purchase Order (PO) for the required equipment is being prepared.

Following a request from INTERSOS, the ETC will conduct a technical assessment of their IT infrastructure and provide guidance on the best solutions.

Security communications

The ETC is planning to install a satellite phone in the safe room at the WFP office in Aden, as requested by WFP.

Services for communities

The ETC is reviewing a support request received from the All Girls Foundation (AGF) in Mukalla to rennovate the IT infrastructure of their training centre. The ETC will explore options for potential support with its partners, including WFP.

Capacity building

As part of its continued support to build the IM capacity of ETC partners in Yemen, iMMAP, in coordination with the ETC IM Officer, is planning to organize a training session on Tableau in April.

Challenges

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). The UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) has escalated the issue with Yemen's authorities. The ETC is on stand-by awaiting the formal approval before initiating the shipment procedure.

Funding

The ETC funding appeal for 2023 is US$3.6 million. WFP is exploring various options that will be proposed to UNRCO that will also include 30% of funding allocation through WFP fundraising efforts.

The ETC is 54% funded in 2023. The allocation of the extended contribution of US$794,000 from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) was received in March. This will secure cluster funding until the end of May.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **Thursday 27 April 2023.**

Contacts

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

www.etcluster.org/emergencies/yemen-conflict

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