

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #26

Reporting period 02/08/18 to 31/08/18

These ETC Situation Reports are issued every two weeks. The next report will be published on or around 30/09/18.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Coordinator conducted a mission to Aden to assess the ICT needs of the humanitarian community ahead of activating a new ETC hub in that location.
- The ETC has recruited a second IT assistant to be based in the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a to cope with the increasing demand for ETC Internet connectivity services and support.
- The ETC continues to develop a project proposal for an additional Services for Communities (S4C) project in Sana'a University, which would involve the ETC rehabilitating the IT infrastructure at the university to allow students to continue their studies.



The ETC and UNDSS conduct a maintenance check of the equipment on the roof of the UN compound in Sana'a.
Photo: ETC Yemen

Situation Overview

The security situation in general remains tense and unpredictable, particularly in Al Hudaydah Governorate. Around 75 per cent of the population in Yemen requires humanitarian assistance and protection.

In August, heavy clashes continued to be reported in Ad Durayhimi District, south of Al Hudaydah City, with families fleeing to nearby areas or to neighbouring Al Mansuriyah District. Clashes were also reported in parts of At Tuhayat District, in the south of Al Hudaydah Governorate. Some civilians are reportedly trapped in areas where fighting is ongoing because they do not have the funds to travel, others remain because they fear further hardship in areas of displacement. Dozens of civilians have died in the fighting.

At the same time, humanitarian partners are preparing to respond to a possible third wave of cholera. The current rains have increased the risk. WHO reports increased presentations at health facilities, including severe cases that require further observation, and some deaths. Since April 2017, more than 1.1 million suspected cholera cases and 2,310 associated deaths have been reported in Yemen.



Response

- The ETC Coordinator conducted an assessment mission to Aden at the beginning of August to assess the ICT needs of the humanitarian community in collaboration with UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and heads of humanitarian organisations. This mission evaluated the need to provide vital ETC communications services, including establishing a new ETC hub in Aden.
- The ETC has recruited a national staff member to support the provision of ETC services e.g. Internet connectivity, help desk and user support at the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a and the planned upgrade of the UNDSS Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Aden and the establishment of a new COMCEN in Mukallah.
- The IT and telecommunications equipment that the ETC ordered to set up three concurrent Communications Centres (COMCEN) in emergency sites is in Djibouti until the approval to ship it to Aden, is received.
- The ETC has completed the IT setup of the remaining 16 EOCs Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) and is waiting for the World Health Organisation to confirm when the official handover will take place. The ETC will continue to provide maintenance and support for another year.
- The ETC continues to provide shared communications services in five operational areas across Yemen, namely Sana'a, Sa'ada, Ibb, Aden and Al Hudaydah. Given the pressing needs on the ground, the ETC has decided to extend the provision of vital Internet and security telecommunications services in those operational areas until the end of 2018 to support the humanitarian response.
- The ETC in Yemen is currently 35% funded/pledged. Of the US\$2.2 million requested to cover activities for 2018, the cluster has received US\$929,597, including funds carried over from 2017.

Planned Response

- The ETC is planning to conduct an inter-agency IT, security telecommunications and soft skills (coordination, budget management, IM and reporting) capacity building training in Aden in mid-September.
- The ETC plans to open a new ETC hub in Aden once equipment has been received.

Challenges

- The security situation remains increasingly volatile across the country, especially in Al Hudaydah. Humanitarians face insecurity and movement restrictions.
- The difficulties in obtaining visas for staff deployments to Yemen is hampering the ETC response on the ground.



-
- Import restrictions related to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment, especially security telecommunications, are having an impact on the ETC operational plans.
 - Frequent cancellations and changes of schedule of UNHAS flights and the WFP-chartered ship, VOS Apollo, are impacting operations.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference:

Global ETC Joint teleconferences are held monthly. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 September at 1200 UTC.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ETC website: www.ETCluster.org. For security reasons, most information is kept private, and logging in is required to access them.

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: Yemen.ETC@wfp.org

Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
DTF	Diplomatic Transit Facility
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	WFP's Fast IT, Telecommunications and Coordination Support Services Team
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WFP	World Food Programme



Shared ICT Services

CITY	LEAD AGENCY	ETC SERVICES
Sana'a	WFP/UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination hub• Customer support• Radio user training• Radio programming• VHF radio coverage• HF radio coverage• 24/7 COMCEN• Internet Hotspot in DTF• Internet Hotspot in INGO
Al Hudaydah	WFP/UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VHF Radio Coverage• Radio user training• 24/7 COMCEN• Internet Hotspot in UN hub (WHO premises)• Internet Hotspot in INGO hub (PU-AMA)
Aden	WFP/UNDSS/UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VHF Radio Coverage• Radio user training• 24/7 COMCEN• Internet Hotspot at the common UN building (WHO premises)
Ibb	WFP/UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COMCEN operating during office hours• Satellite base station• Internet Hotspot in UN hub (UNICEF premises)• Internet Hotspot in INGO (ACTED premises)
Sa'ada	UNICEF/UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VHF base radio• VHF radio coverage• Satellite phone

ETC Yemen Dashboard: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-yemen-dashboard-july-2018>



ETC Yemen Focal Points

TITLE	AGENCY	NAME	EMAIL	MOBILE PHONE
ETC Coordinator	WFP	Wali Noor	Wali.Noor@wfp.org	+967 73 955 5104
Information Management Officer (Remote, from United Arab Emirates)	WFP	Suzanne Fenton	Suzanne.fenton@wfp.org	+971 56 6529 560