

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #27

Reporting period 01/09/18 to 30/09/18

These ETC Situation Reports are issued monthly. The next report will be published on or around 31/10/18.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) conducted a successful inter-agency ICT capacity building training in Aden.
- 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 its efforts to finalize the project proposal for a Services for Communities (S4C) project for Sana'a University. This project involves the rehabilitation of the IT infrastructure at the university to improve the quality of education for students.



Participants pose at the end of a successful inter-agency ICT capacity building training in the WFP office compound, Aden.
Photo: ETC Yemen

Situation Overview

The rapid depreciation of the Yemeni Rial has further exacerbated the food insecurity situation across Yemen, driving millions of people towards famine.

Fighting continues in Al Hudaydah with civilian casualties reported. Humanitarian partners continue to seek the most reliable and safest routes to assist people in need. As the eastern entrance to Al Hudaydah City remains inaccessible because of fighting along the Al Hudaydah-Sana'a road, partners are now generally using alternative routes to the north to access Al Hudaydah City. Aid operations, responders and cargo continue to travel in and out of the city. Humanitarian organisations continue to call for all ports and access routes including the main Sana'a-Al Hudaydah road to remain open and safe.

To compound the situation, the volume of suspected cholera cases has also increased with around 10,000 cases reported each week.

Response

- The ETC delivered an ICT capacity-building training to 19 IT personnel from eight humanitarian organisations in Aden. The training focused on extensive technical training (both data and security telecommunications) with practical exercises, Training of Trainers, Information Management and IT Emergency Management.
- Following an ICT needs assessment of the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) Communications Centres (COMCEN), the ETC is placing an order for the equipment needed to improve provision of ETC services at these COMCENS.
 - Equipment that had been stuck in Djibouti and was due to be used to upgrade UNDSS radios and establish a UNDSS COMCEN is now on the way to Aden.
- The ETC team has also completed assessments of the existing ETC hubs and will proceed with upgrading the bandwidth in some hubs, especially in Al Hudaydah, where an increasing number of humanitarians need access to reliable Internet connectivity.
 - Following assessments, the ETC plans to open four new hubs (Aden, Sa'ada and 2x in Al Hudaydah) to address the increasing need for Internet connectivity. The ETC hub in Aden is due to open shortly.
- The ETC is finalizing the project plan for the planned Services for Communities (S4C) project in Sana'a University.
- The ETC has completed the IT setup of the remaining 16 EOCs Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) and is waiting for the World Health Organisation (WHO) to confirm when the official handover will take place. The ETC will continue to provide maintenance and support for another year.
 - WHO has requested for the ETC to help set up a new EOC in Aden which would also cover installing IT infrastructure for the entire Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPH) building that will host the EOC.

Planned Response

- The ETC is planning to conduct a second inter-agency IT, security telecommunications and soft skills (coordination, budget management, IM and reporting) capacity building training in Sana'a in November.
- The ETC will host a Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) mission in Aden between 18-24 November where the team will assess the feasibility of deploying a Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) network in Yemen.



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 14 November 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