

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #28

Reporting period 01/10/18 to 31/10/18

These ETC Situation Reports are issued monthly. The next report will be published on or around 01/12/18.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is preparing to conduct a second inter-agency ICT capacity building exercise in Sana'a in November.
- The ETC has revised the proposal for its planned Services for Communities (S4C) project in Sana'a University. Once the ETC S4C Officer has approved the revised proposal, will be forwarded to the Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen for funding.
- ETC equipment required to support World Health Organisation (WHO) cholera response at the Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) has now arrived in Aden.



Participants at the ETC inter-agency ICT capacity building training in Aden practice using radios and callsigns.
Photo: WFP/Suzanne Fenton

Situation Overview

Armed conflict continues to intensify, particularly in Al Hudaydah resulting in numerous civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure.

The UN has warned that Yemen will be pushed to the brink of the world's worst famine for 100 years if the war continues. If the conflict does continue, 12 to 13 million Yemenis are at risk of starvation.

Over the last few weeks, the value of the Yemeni Rial has sharply declined with OXFAM reporting that some food prices have increased 20-23 per cent as a result. Shortages of fuel supplies and cooking gas persist in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Raymah and Al Mahwit governorates.

In response to a spike in reported suspected cholera cases, UNICEF and WHO, working with local health authorities, launched a second oral vaccination campaign in Al Hali and Al Marawi'ah districts in Al Hudaydah, and in Hazm Al Udayn District in Ibb Governorate.



Response

- The ETC equipment order needed to upgrade ETC services at UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) Communications Centres (COMCENs) is being shipped from WFP warehouse in Dubai.
 - ETC equipment required to support the World Health Organisation (WHO) cholera response as part of its Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) has already arrived in Aden.
- The ETC plans to open 3x new hubs: one in Aden and 2x in Al Hudaydah.
 - The ETC will provide Internet connectivity in the 2x new hubs in Al Hudaydah (international guesthouse and national staff accommodation) to meet the needs of the increasing number of humanitarian workers on the ground.
 - The ETC has agreed to upgrade the Internet connectivity at PU'AMA hub in Al Hudaydah in response to increased user demands.
- The ETC continues to upgrade its infrastructure and services in existing hubs in 3x governorates: Al Hudaydah, Sa'ada and Ibb.
 - In Al Hudaydah, the ETC has completed the infrastructure upgrade in the existing hub hosted by WHO.
 - The MoU for the upgrade of the hub in Sa'ada has been signed with UNICEF who is the host of that hub. UNICEF will upgrade the link and the ETC team are planning a joint mission to assess the performance of the connection after the upgrade.
 - The ETC plans to upgrade both the UN hub and NGO hubs in Ibb.
- The ETC has revised the Sana'a University proposal and once the ETC S4C Officer has finalised it, the ETC team will forward it to the Humanitarian Coordinator for funding.
- 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. Procurement of equipment is underway.

Planned Response

- The ETC is planning to conduct a second inter-agency IT, security telecommunications and soft skills (coordination, budget management, information management and IT Emergency Management Training [ITEMT]) capacity building training in Sana'a in November.



- The ETC will host a Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) mission in Aden between 19-26 November where the team will assess the feasibility and options of replacing the current VHF system in place.

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) • Internet Hotspot in international staff guesthouse • Internet Hotspot in national staff accommodation
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-november-2018>



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