

## **YEMEN – Conflict**

### **ETC Situation Report #22**

**Reporting period 16/03/18 to 15/04/18**

These ETC Situation Reports are issued every monthly. The next report will be published on or around 16/05/18.

### **Highlights**

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has signed a Service Lease Agreement (SLA) to extend its support of the World Health Organisation (WHO) cholera project.
- The ETC Coordinator went on mission to the World Food Programme (WFP) office in Dubai where he presented an overview of the ETC operation in Yemen.
- The ETC has opened a new ETC hub in Al Hudaydah.



Community Engagement WG workshop, 15 Apr 18  
Sana'a, Yemen



The ETC, OCHA and UNICEF hold a workshop to explore community feedback mechanism modalities.  
Photo: ETC Yemen

### **Situation Overview**

The humanitarian situation in Yemen continues to deteriorate. It is reported that more than 1.2 million people in need are located in the most inaccessible areas of the country with access restraints in 90% of districts. An additional 8 million people in need are in areas where humanitarian responders face regular obstacles.

To compound the already dire situation, a fire in a World Food Programme (WFP) warehouse in Al Hudaydah destroyed thousands of tonnes of relief food items destined for people in need while a sharp escalation in aerial attacks was reported in Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates.

On 3 April, donors at a high-level pledging conference in Geneva pledged US\$2.01 billion to support the delivery of critical humanitarian aid to millions of people in Yemen. Pledges were made by 40 Member States and organisations, including the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), significantly bolstering the funding levels of the 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). This plans requires US\$2.96 billion to provide lifesaving assistance to 13 million Yemenis.

### **Response**

- Following a request from International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), the ETC opened a new hub at the Première Urgence – Aide Medicale Internationale (PU-AMA) office in Al Hudaydah.

- The ETC Coordinator conducted a mission to WFP IT's Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch in Dubai to present an overview of the ETC operation in Yemen, meet the team who support the response remotely, and to discuss future activities and plans.
- The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) together with the ETC and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) organised a half-day workshop to explore ways to establish a Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). A total of 20 staff from UNICEF, OCHA, UN Women, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Medical Corps (IMC), Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA), Intersos, Child and Youth Protection Organisation (CYPO), Islamic Relief and the Yemen Red Crescent Society participated in this event.
- To continue its support of the implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) EOC project as part of the cholera response in Yemen, the ETC has signed an SLA to extend its support for another six months. So far, the team has completed the deployment of a solar power solution, Internet connectivity and cabling at 6x EOCs (Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Amran, Hajjah and Sana'a Governorate).
  - 2x more EOCs are ready for handover and a further 17x are planned in the coming months. As the ETC team cannot access the 17x sites due to security restrictions, it has outsourced the work to a local company.
  - The ETC was invited to the launch of the EOC in Amran governorate. WHO staff and local authorities in Amran are satisfied with the ETC services provided.
- The ETC continues to provide shared Internet connectivity and security telecommunications 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 42% funded. 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 capacity building training in Sana'a in mid-April.
- The ETC is planning an Information Management and Communications mission to Aden and Sana'a in early May, pending visa approvals.
- The ETC is exploring potential Services for Communities (S4C) activities in Yemen. The team has received an official request to conduct S4C activities in the University of Sana'a which is open to the public during the day.

## Challenges

- The security situation remains unpredictable across the country. Humanitarians face insecurity and movement restrictions.



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- 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.

## Meetings

### Global ETC teleconference:

Global ETC Joint teleconferences are held monthly. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 April at 1200 UTC.

**All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ETC website: [www.ETCluster.org](http://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](mailto: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"><li>• Coordination hub</li><li>• Customer support</li><li>• Radio user training</li><li>• Radio programming</li><li>• VHF radio coverage</li><li>• HF radio coverage</li><li>• 24/7 COMCEN</li><li>• Internet Hotspot in DTF</li><li>• Internet Hotspot in INGO</li></ul>
Al Hudaydah	WFP/UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VHF Radio Coverage</li><li>• Radio user training</li><li>• 24/7 COMCEN</li></ul>
Aden	WFP/UNDSS/UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VHF Radio Coverage</li><li>• Radio user training</li><li>• 24/7 COMCEN</li><li>• Internet Hotspot at the common UN building (WHO premises)</li></ul>
Ibb	WFP/UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• COMCEN operating during office hours</li><li>• Satellite base station</li><li>• Internet Hotspot in UN hub (UNICEF premises)</li><li>• Internet Hotspot in INGO (ACTED premises)</li></ul>
Sa'ada	UNICEF/UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VHF base radio</li><li>• VHF radio coverage</li><li>• Satellite phone</li></ul>

ETC Services Map: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-yemen-service-map-november-2017>



## ETC Yemen Focal Points

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