YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #25

Reporting period 01/07/18 to 01/08/18

These ETC Situation Reports are issued monthly. The next report will be published on or around 02/09/18.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Information Management and Communications mission was conducted to Sana'a.

- The ETC is recruiting a second IT assistant to be based in the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a to cope with the increasing demand for the ETC Internet connectivity service 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/ICT Working Group take part in a teambuilding activity in UNCAF, Sana'a.
Photo: ETC Yemen

Situation Overview

The security situation in general remains tense and unpredictable, particularly in Al Hudaydah. The Humanitarian Coordinator has said that civilians in Al Hudaydah are at extreme risk.

Despite a difficult operating environment, between January and May 2018, some 169 international and national partners actively coordinated to assist people with the most acute needs in priority districts across Yemen's 22 governorates. Together they have assisted over 7.5 million people monthly with some form of humanitarian assistance.

Between 27 April 2017 and 15 July 2018, there have been 1,121,143 reported cases of cholera with 2,215 associated deaths. Al Hudaydah governorate has the highest number of suspected cholera cases since January.

Response

- The ETC is finalising the recruitment of a second IT assistant to be based in UNCAF in Sana'a, to support the increasing demand from UN agencies.

- The IT and telecommunications equipment the ETC ordered to set up three concurrent offices in emergency sites around Al Hudaydah is in Djibouti until approval to ship it to Aden is received.

- The ETC Information Management Officer (IMO) travelled on mission to Sana'a to meet with partners, streamline reporting efforts, provide reporting training to local staff and write stories to increase visibility of the operation. The second part of the mission to Aden was postponed as the WFP-chartered boat VOS Apollo was not permitted to enter Djiboutian waters and the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) aircraft was damaged delaying any access to Aden beyond the planned mission dates.

- The ETC/ICT Working Group convened to review the ETC workplan 2018 as requested by the Operations Management Team (OMT) to only focus on priority areas.

- The ETC has submitted the S4C Sana'a University financial proposal to the office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for funding. The proposal includes the ETC rehabilitating the IT infrastructure at the university to allow students to continue their studies.

- The ETC has completed the remaining 14 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 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 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 Amman.

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 7 August 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

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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	• 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	• 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	• VHF Radio Coverage • Radio user training • 24/7 COMCEN • Internet Hotspot at the common UN building (WHO premises)
Ibb	WFP/UNICEF	• 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	• VHF base radio • VHF radio coverage • Satellite phone

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

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)
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