

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #47

Reporting period 01/08/2020 to 31/08/2020

ETC Yemen Situation Reports are issued monthly.

Highlights

- The ETC in Yemen has revised its contingency plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ETC continues to provide critical Internet connectivity to 661 humanitarians across 11 sites in Yemen, and communications services, including security telecommunications to a total of 2,452 responders from eight Security Operations Centres managed by UNDSS across the country.
- Since 1 January 2020, the ETC Helpdesk has received and resolved 10,905 issues from responders.



The ETC continues to provide critical communications services to the response community across Yemen, including in UNCAF, Sana'a.
Photo: ETC Yemen

ETC Activities

COVID-19 response

- As part of the response to COVID-19, ETC internet connectivity services are now available in isolation centres in Aden and Al Hudaydah.
- The ETC has received the necessary funding to proceed with the upgrade of a COVID-19 hotline in Sana'a for the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) and the establishment of a new hotline in Aden. The Memorandum of Understanding between the World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP) and the MoPHP is pending signature.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) has approved the upgrade of the existing 26 Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) in response to the COVID-19 response. The ETC is waiting to receive the required funding from WHO.
- Most ETC staff, including all national staff, continue to work from home as part of social distancing efforts to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

ETC activities

- The funding allocated to the ETC from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) has been officially extended from September to the end of December. With this extension, the ETC does not foresee any funding gap for the rest of the year.
- The ETC team conducted preventive maintenance of ETC infrastructure in the UN guesthouse in Al Hudaydah, as well as regular maintenance visits to all ETC sites to ensure they are operational/accessible by humanitarian responders.
- The ETC received approval from OCHA to ship the Al Hudaydah scale-up equipment to Aden from Dubai where it has been on hold since February 2019.
- The ETC is coordinating with WFP's Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) in Dubai on shipping the equipment required for three projects funded by WHO in the south of Yemen at the University of Aden, the Ministry of Public Health in Aden and the Ameen Nasheer Medical Institute.
- The ETC, in line with its partners' capacity building plan, continues to arrange an online training exercise covering both technical and soft skills for partners.
- The ETC has been requested to technically support WFP, the Ministry of Education, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in exploring ways to establish a digital platform to conduct online distance learning for Yemeni students. Discussions are ongoing.
- The ETC together with the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MoTIT) and Aden Net ISP has been requested to provide Internet connectivity services at Aden International Airport. The ETC in coordination with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is reviewing the request to ensure it is in line with its mandate.

ETC Planned Activities

- The ETC will provide communications services in two new sites, Taizz and Socotra, which will be operational soon. However, the team is facing logistical constraints due to restrictions on movement because of COVID-19.
- The ETC still has plans to collaborate with the Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) team on the expansion of the VHF coverage in Aden city to strengthen the safety and security of responders.

Funding

- The ETC in Yemen is funded to maintain its current service provision and implement its agreed activities in Yemen until the end of 2020.

Key Information

- All information on the ETC response in Yemen can be found [here](#).
- The latest ETC Dashboard and [infographic](#) are also available on the www.etcluster.org website.
- The next Global ETC Joint Teleconference will be held on Wednesday 16 September.
- For further information or to contact the team on the ground, please email Yemen.ETC@wfp.org

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