YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #49

Reporting period 01/10/2020 to 31/10/2020

ETC Yemen Situation Reports are issued monthly.

Highlights

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

- The ETC continues to provide critical Internet connectivity to 640 humanitarians across 11 sites in Yemen, and communications services, including security telecommunications to a total of 2,045 responders from eight Security Operations Centres managed by UNDSS across the country.

- Since 1 January 2020, the ETC helpdesk has received and resolved 15,800 issues from responders.

ETC Activities

COVID-19 response

- As part of the response to COVID-19, ETC internet connectivity services continue to be provided 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 ETC has installed and tested its Internet connectivity services in the new UN hub in Hajjah, managed by WFP. The Internet connectivity services will become operational when the hub is officially opened.

- The ETC team in Aden completed the extension of ETC Internet connectivity services to the new offices/guesthouses of UNDP and UNDSS.

- Monthly maintenance activities for the Security Operation Centre (SOC) in Aden were carried out by the ETC.

- The ETC team visited the guesthouse of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Aden and identified the requirements needed to extend ETC connectivity to the site.

- The ETC has reactivated data connectivity services at the PUAMI site in Al Hudaydah.

- The ETC team in Aden conducted a visit to WHO implementing partner NYCMedics following a request to activate ETC Internet connectivity in their guesthouse.

- The ETC team in Aden is supporting the implementation of three WHO-funded connectivity projects, including the rehabilitation of IT infrastructure in Aden University and Ameen Nasher Higher Institute for Health Sciences to encourage online learning and interaction with global institutions. The third project will be at the Ministry of Health to enable the humanitarian community to enhance public awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic, engage with the community and spread prevention messages.

- The ETC in Aden is working with UNDSS to install a dedicated VHF repeater for INGOs. This will be the first dedicated repeater for INGOs in Yemen. The ETC has received approval and is now waiting to obtain the necessary frequency from the Ministry of Telecommunications.

- The ETC continues to plan for the deployment of fibre Internet connectivity for the UN hub in Al Mukalla, managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to improve connectivity services.

- The ETC is upgrading data connectivity services in the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a.

- Participants for the ETC's virtual training course to build national IT capacity have been finalized. The training will focus on key technical areas of expertise, including cyber security and network security and will take place around the first week of December.

ETC Planned Activities

- 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.

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

- The ETC successfully submitted a request to extend the Yemen Humanitarian Funding from 30 September to 31 December 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 18 November.

- For further information or to contact the team on the ground, please email Yemen.ETC@wfp.org

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