

Palestine – Gaza Strip

Conflict

Urgent funding requirements and activities

Armed conflict between Palestinian militant groups and Israeli military forces began on 07 October 2023. The conflict has resulted in a dire and devastating humanitarian crisis including civilian casualties, displacement and destruction of houses and civilian infrastructure across Gaza, significantly disrupting communication networks and impeding life-saving humanitarian operations. The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) was activated on 31 October 2023 to meet the urgent need to support access to reliable shared communications services for humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza.



Security Communications Systems (SCS)

Needed in **5** operational areas

20 satellite phones procured and in use in Gaza.

30 VHF radios procured and yet to be programmed.

20 satellite phones under procurement



ICT assessments

22 assessments in **15** locations, supporting **18** partners



US\$1.8 million URGENTLY REQUIRED to implement **INDEPENDENT** communications services until December 2024



Shared Communications Services

The ETC continues to collect humanitarian Information and Communications Technology (ICT) needs and engage local and regional actors to fast-track the telecommunications equipment importation process for Gaza and set up shared data connectivity services for the humanitarian response in key operational locations.

In March 2024, the ETC successfully implemented a solar-powered solution and internet connectivity of the Very High Frequency (VHF) radio repeater site in Rafah with the UNDSS server in Jerusalem, ensuring the repeater site is fully operational 24/7.

The Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) approved 30 VHF digital radios arrived, which are being donated by the ETC to UNDSS in Jerusalem for configuration and further distribution to international humanitarian staff in Gaza.

There is an urgent requirement to expand the VHF radio coverage, equipped with solar-powered solutions and internet connectivity in Deir Al Balah, Khan Yunis, Jabalia and Gaza City as the humanitarian response expands with the population movements.

Satellite telephony is the only reliable means of voice and SMS communication that is currently authorized for use by international humanitarian staff in Gaza. The ETC procured 20 satellite phones, SIM cards and airtime approved by COGAT in December 2023, and plans to procure an additional 20 satellite phones approved by COGAT in March to be managed by UNDSS for humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza.

Funding Requirements

The ETC requires **US\$1.8 million** to address critical shared communication needs in Gaza in 2024, facilitate the coordination of humanitarian efforts by providing independent and reliable communication services and undertake core Information Management activities.

ETC Services in Gaza (Ongoing/Planned*)



Further information related to the ETC operation can be found on the website:

www.etcluster.org/emergency/palestine-conflict

For more information or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact:

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