Ukraine, conflict

Global ETC Teleconference #12
Date: 14/07/2022 Time: 13:00 UTC

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

https://www.etcluster.org/emergency/ukraine-conflict

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

Ukraine.ETC@wfp.org

Attendance

Chair	**Prakash Muniandy**	**Global ETC**	
Cisco Crisis Response	Matt Runyan	WFP	Abdul Halim Yousufzai
UNHCR RETS	Ekue Ayih		Ahmad Al-Mehdi
UN OICT	Andrew Linehan		Amirullah Syarif
US State Dept	Paul Fishbein		Angel Leon
	Issac Kwamy		Aramais Alojants
			Beryl Lo
			Brent Carbno
			David Pickering
			Mohammad Ameen
			Omar Namaoui

Agenda

1. ETC Ukraine update
2. Partner updates
3. AOB

Minutes

1. ETC Ukraine update

Security situation & general update

- Shelling and military movements are ongoing in the Eastern and Southern parts of the country. A few weeks ago, two incidents of shelling were reported in Donetsk. The team continues to follow up with UNDSS and WFP security operatives on the security situation updates.

Data Connectivity

- The ETC is continuing to provide secure connectivity to two interagency hubs, one in Dnipro and one in Lviv at the Dnister Hotel, hosting OCHA, UNICEF, and UNDP Backup SOC. OCHA is expected to provide an update on the relocation plan from Dnister Hotel to a new location in Lviv by the end of July. UNICEF already moved but still has a limited presence on the 6th floor while UNDSS Backup Security Operation Centre (SOC) is on the 8th floor. Similarly, the desire to extend the ETC connectivity to the bunker is being restrained by the hotel IT infrastructure limitation. Hence other alternatives are being explored.
- The ETC connectivity network in Dnipro may be relocated if the plan to move the hub to another location happens. The situation is closely being monitored.
- The ETC connectivity infrastructure has been put in place in Odesa at the current WFP field office location encouraging other interagency to join, after which the service will be activated.

Security Communications

- The ETC coordinator and the Senior Telecommunications officer were in Kyiv to request translation support for the VHF license application from UNRCO. The team also seeks UNRCO support in providing a link with the staff of the Ministry of Digital Transformation.
- There is an ongoing conversation on the creation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for security communications operations in Ukraine.
- Similarly ongoing conversation with UNDSS on the establishment of a Security Operations Centre (SOC) in Ukraine. with the plan for the main SOC in Mokachevo, back up in Lviv as well as remote sites in the Dnipro, Odesa, and Kyiv.
- Compliance checks for inter-agency vehicles are ongoing. About 55 UN soft-skin vehicles have been checked.

Services for Communities (S4C)

- While the Services for Communities Advisor from the Global ETC team was on a mission to Ukraine, there was a lot of positive engagement in terms of collaboration with UN inter- agencies, clusters and working groups for the rollout of the ETC Chatbot.
- The ETC continues its campaign and advertisement for Chatbox visibility. So far about 7,851 registered users already using ETC Chatbox.
- Other discussions beyond UN interagency were ongoing on possible opportunities for ETC project expansion with a couple of partners with the government and NGOs in Ukraine in terms of telecommunications infrastructure. Some of them include the Ministry of Social Protection, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Ukraine Red Cross Society, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), etc

Staff

- Three local vacancies are currently going through the recruitment process, at the stage of shortlisting, and an interview is expected next week. The three national positions comprise of two telecommunications associates and one national officer for service for the community project. They are expected to join the team by the next month August.

- The ETC staff capacity comprises three telecommunications specialists, one IT specialist, one Information Management (IM) officer as well as remote support for services for communities projects from the Global ETC

Funding

- The current CERF funding expires by 24 August. The ETC is in discussion with OCHA on the no-cost extension for ETC funding beyond August.

2. Partner updates

Cisco

- Cisco confirms the approval to send equipment to Ukraine via the Netherlands. The details of the equipment will be shared in a couple of days.

3. AOB

The next teleconference will be held on Thursday 25 August 2022 at 13:00 UTC

13:00	UTC
15:00	Rome/Cairo
16:00	Kyiv
17:00	Dubai

Acronyms

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IM	Information Management
SOC	Security Operations Centre
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRCO	UN Resident Coordinator's Office
WFP	World Food Programme

Minutes: Kehinde Adewara, ETC Ukraine Information Management Officer