

Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #59

Reporting period 01/08/2021 to 31/08/2021

ETC Yemen Situation Reports are issued monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 30/09/2021.

Highlights

- In August, the ETC provided critical Internet connectivity to 687 humanitarian across 15 sites in Yemen, and communications services – including security telecommunications – to a total of 2,395 responders supported by eight UNDSS-managed Security Operation Centres (SOCs) across the country.
- ETC Internet connectivity services have been activated in the newly-opened INGO site hosted by Islamic Relief in Hodeidah, as well as in the new UN site hosted by WFP in Ibb.
- The ETC upgraded data connectivity bandwidth services at the WFP-hosted UN site in Al-Mokha in response to the scale-up of humanitarian operations.



The ETC oversees implementation of three WHO-funded IT projects in Aden, which the cluster will support with communications services.

Photo: WFP/ETC

ETC Activities

Internet connectivity

- The ETC has established data connectivity services in the INGO site hosted by Islamic Relief in Hodeidah.
- Data connectivity and user support services set up by the ETC in the new UN site in Ibb, hosted by WFP, are operational.
- The ETC upgraded data connectivity bandwidth services at the WFP-hosted UN site in Al-Mokha in response to the scale-up of humanitarian operations.
- The ETC, in coordination with a supplier, provided technical support to stabilize the Internet service in the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on the island of Socotra.

- The ETC team installed a network management device in the UN site in Al Mukalla to enable remote monitoring and management of the network.
- In response to a request from WHO, the ETC provided technical advice on extending Internet connectivity to the new WHO guesthouse in Aden.
- On 3 August, the ETC team in Hodeidah conducted a field mission to Hajjah, where ETC data connectivity is provided, to assess and improve the service.
- The ETC conducted a mission to Aden on 24 August to oversee the implementation of the three IT projects in Aden's Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ameen Nasher Institute for Health Sciences, and Aden University. The ETC is providing technical support for the WHO-funded project. The equipment to be installed has been cleared from customs and arrived in Aden, to be delivered to the three sites soon.
- The ETC Coordinator went on mission to Hodeidah and Hajjah from 29 August to 1 September to meet with partners on the ground, assess the performance of ETC services and identify areas of improvement and engagement, where applicable.
- Since April, the ETC is providing data connectivity services in Aden International Airport to all passengers, including humanitarian responders and commercial passengers. In the next step of the project, the airport authority has agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and will soon confirm the opening day to officially launch and receive handover of the service.

Capacity building

- An ETC staff member based in Aden is taking part in the Global ETC Let's Comm training course, launched on 17 August in collaboration with partner, Government of Luxembourg. The course teaches staff how to install, maintain, troubleshoot, and administer a radio-based Security Communication System (SCS) in compliance with UN standards.

User support

- In August, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 1,474 user requests.

Communications equipment

- The ETC shipment from Djibouti to Aden containing equipment to install in the new UNDSS-managed Security Operations Centre (SOC) in Marib is in progress, awaiting approval from the national authorities to use UNHAS facilities for the shipment.

Planned activities

Internet connectivity

- Following a request from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the ETC conducted a technical assessment and provided a proposal to upgrade the solar power system supporting connectivity services at the UN hub in Marib.

- The ETC is planning to conduct preventive maintenance activities on ETC connectivity infrastructure in sites in Hodeidah and Aden.
- The ETC project proposal that was requested by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to improve connectivity services in the '90 district' in Aden, where NRC is based, has been approved. The ETC will now proceed with procuring the required equipment and services. The project will benefit four INGOs – Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), CARE International, NRC, and ZOA International – and may enable other organizations to move into the area.
- The ETC continues to assess the feasibility of supporting the opening of a new site for UN agencies based in Sa'ada, North-Western Yemen.

Security communications

- The ETC is planning to assist NYCMedics in Aden to set up VHF network communications for 20 ambulances and four hospitals. The project will be funded by NYCMedics. The ETC has requested a technical review and set of recommendations from WFP's Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team (FITTEST) as part of the project.

COVID-19 response

- The ETC is engaging with WHO and the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) to assist in setting up two COVID-19 hotlines in the North and South of the country – in Aden and Sana'a. The MoU and agreement have been finalized.

Capacity building

- In coordination with partners, the ETC is exploring training opportunities to be delivered by a local training provider.

Funding

- In 2021, the ETC has received a total of US\$2,717,994 out of the required US\$3.3 million. The ETC in Yemen is therefore 82.4% funded to carry out activities in 2021.
- Out of the total funds received, US\$848,021 was received from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), US\$1,021,952 from the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), and US\$848,021 from the Government of Canada.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **8 September 2021**.



Information

- All information on the ETC response in Yemen, including the latest infographic can be found [here](#).
- For further information or to contact the team on the ground, please email Yemen.ETC@wfp.org

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