

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #53

Reporting period 01/02/2021 to 28/02/2021

ETC Yemen Situation Reports are issued monthly.

Highlights

- The ETC continues to provide critical Internet connectivity to 686 humanitarians across 12 sites in Yemen, and communications services, including security telecommunications to a total of 2,608 responders from eight Security Operations Centres managed by UNDSS across the country.
- In February, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 1,020 issues from responders.
- The ETC is engaged in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2021 discussions including the final budget required.



The ETC continues to provide critical communications services to the response community across Yemen.

Photo: ETC Yemen

ETC Activities

COVID-19 response

- To support the response to COVID-19, the ETC continues to provide Internet connectivity services in the dedicated COVID-19 UN isolation centres in Sana'a, Al Hodeidah and Aden.
- Most UN staff, including ETC, are gradually returning to the office as part of a re-entry exercise.

ETC activities

- The ETC continues to wait for approval from the authorities to start the project to implement a new dedicated COVID-19 hotline for the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) in Aden and upgrade an existing hotline in Sana'a. It has already received the required funding. The Memorandum of Understanding between the World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP) and the MoPHP is being signed.
- The ETC is engaged in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2021 discussions and has presented its final submission and budget to the Resident Coordinator.

- The new UN hubs in Marib and Hajjah are now ready with ETC connectivity services operational. However, the team is waiting to receive approval to ship the necessary security communications equipment to Marib from Aden.
- WFP Country Director paid a visit to ETC site in Hajjah, he appreciated the team's efforts and arrangements made by the ETC related to connectivity despite some technical challenges due to external factors.
- The planned project with the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MoTIT) and Aden Net ISP to provide connectivity services for passengers at Aden airport has started with the renovation of the IT infrastructure.
- In response to feedback received in the user satisfaction survey, the ETC is assessing the performance of all connectivity services and infrastructure to identify areas of improvement.
- The 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.

ETC Planned Activities

- The ETC will conduct the plenary virtual workshop on 10 March.
- 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 team in Aden 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. The required equipment is in the pipeline waiting pre-import certificate from the Aden authorities.

Funding

- The allocation of US\$850,000 from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) is in progress. This will fund ETC activities in Q1. The ETC is exploring additional opportunities to secure funding for the rest of 2021.

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 24 March**.

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

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