

YEMEN – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #52

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

ETC Yemen Situation Reports are issued monthly.

Highlights

- The ETC continues to provide critical Internet connectivity to 645 humanitarians across 11 sites in Yemen, and communications services, including security telecommunications to a total of 2,259 responders from eight Security Operations Centres managed by UNDSS across the country.
- In January, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 1,013 issues from responders.



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 is now providing Internet connectivity services in the dedicated COVID-19 UN isolation centres in Sana'a, Al Hodeidah and Aden. Preventative maintenance work was also carried out at the UN clinic to ensure connectivity services are fully operable.
- 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 being signed.
- Most ETC staff, including all national staff, used to work from home following the COVID-19 lockdown but , they are beginning to gradually report to the office as part of a re-entry exercise.

ETC activities

- The ETC's plans together with the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MoTIT) and Aden Net ISP to provide Internet connectivity services at Aden International Airport have been delayed due to the recent attack at the airport.
- The ETC set up connectivity services in a new Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on Socotra island. The ETC plans to provide services in an additional four new sites in 2021, including Marib, Ibb, Sa'ada and Tourba.

- The ETC conducted the monthly preventive and corrective maintenance of equipment and services in the Security Operations Centre (SOC) in Aden in cooperation with UNDSS.
- The ETC team is currently setting up a dedicated server room at the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a.
- VHF radio and Thuraya telecommunications equipment has been provided to the area office in Al Hodeidah to be used in emergencies.
- On 10 January, the Supreme Council for Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and International Cooperation (SCMCHA) banned UN and NGO staff from organizing or participating in any type of online/virtual studies, workshops, monitoring and other activities without pre-approval from SCMCHA.
- The ETC in Aden is still waiting for approval from MoTIT and national security to move security telecommunications equipment to the UN hub in Marib.
- 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.
- The ETC held a virtual workplan plenary session with all partners in Sana'a on 20 January.

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

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