

Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #79

Reporting period: 01/04/2023 to 30/04/2023

The ETC was activated in Yemen in April 2015 in response to the conflict crisis. Situation Reports are issued monthly.

Highlight

- In April, the ETC provided data connectivity services to 1,298 humanitarian and security communications services to a total of 2,396 responders across 20 sites in Yemen.
- A telecommunications specialist and former WFP staff member, sponsored by the ETC, arrived in Aden on 27 April to provide telecommunications training to UNDSS Security Operations Centre (SOC) Operators in Aden, Marib, and Al Mokha from 29 April to 15 May.
- The ETC set up dedicated bandwidth and Wi-Fi connectivity for the UN Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA) in Al-Mokha in response to their request and needs.



The skills of UNDSS SOC operators in south Yemen are boosted from 29 April to 15 May during a HF/VHF radio capacity building session. Photo: WFP/ETC

Activities

Coordination

WFP, as the ETC leading agency, continues to support the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide IT services including connectivity to 29 Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) across Yemen, supporting the humanitarian operations and response to Cholera through access to internet and IT facilities.

Internet connectivity

In April, the ETC provided data connectivity to 1,298 humanitarians from 20 sites across 10 common operational areas in Yemen.

The UN Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA) requested the ETC for dedicated bandwidth at the UN hub in Al-Mokha in response to their increased demand. The ETC is expanding its services on demand to adequately support individual agencies in need. Consequently, the ETC set up a dedicated bandwidth via Wi-Fi services to UNMHA.

The ETC upgraded its network devices software to enhance the connectivity performance in the UNHCR guesthouse. The ETC assessed the UN hub infrastructure in Al Mokha to further improve the internet performance.

To ensure a stable supply of electricity for connectivity services, the ETC installed an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) device in the UN hubs in Ibb, Hajjah, and Sa'ada.

As requested by INTERSOS in Aden, the ETC conducted a technical assessment of their IT infrastructure to determine and recommend the best feasible solutions.

The ETC conducted preventative activities for the maintenance of the network in the UN guesthouses in Hajjah, used by UN agencies and INGOs.

The ETC in Hodeidah provided connectivity support to the UN high delegation—including the WFP Director of Emergency Operations Division (EME) from Rome Headquarters—by providing stable and secure connectivity and IT support.

Security communications

In April, ETC security communications services were provided to a total of 2,396 responders using the nine UNDSS-managed Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the country.

The ETC installed a satellite phone in the safe room at the WFP office in Aden, as requested by WFP.

In coordination with UNDSS, the ETC team in Aden programmed two VHF radios for WFP according to the UN standard callsign structure.

User support

In April, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 500 user requests.

Capacity Building

A telecommunications specialist and WFP former employee, sponsored by the ETC, arrived in Aden on 27 April to provide telecommunications training to UNDSS SOC operators in Aden, Marib, and Al Mokha from 29 April to 15 May.

Planning

Internet connectivity

The VHF radio network expansion in Aden city is pending the importation of the required equipment from Djibouti. The implementation of this project will be coordinated with {TESS+} which will plan for a technical mission to extend the coverage of the VHF radio network in Aden.

The ETC is supporting the University of Aden to expand their IT services. The proposal for this project is approved by WHO and the Purchase Order (PO) for the required equipment is being prepared and shared with the Procurement unit.

Services for communities

The ETC is finalizing its technical assessment for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp solar project in Al Mokha. This project will be funded by WFP Yemen and will be implemented by the ETC. The project will provide solar powered lights in 21 locations where the IDPs receive drinking water that will benefit up to 6,100 IDPs.

The ETC is reviewing the proposal submitted by the All Girls Foundation (AGF) under services for communities' activities to assist in IT rehabilitation of their training center in Al-Mukalla city.

Capacity building

The ETC is coordinating the provision of a series of technical and managerial training courses for the ETC interagency working group in Yemen.

As part of its continued support to build the Information Management (IM) capacity of ETC partners in Yemen, iMMAP, in coordination with the ETC IM Officer, is planning to organize a training session on Tableau in May.

Challenges

The ETC continues to face difficulties in the importation of IT and telecommunications equipment. The pre-import certificate for the shipment of two consignments from Djibouti to Aden is still pending approval from the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG). The UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) has escalated the issue with Yemen's authorities. The ETC is on stand-by awaiting the formal approval before initiating the shipment procedure.

Funding

The ETC funding appeal for 2023 is US\$3.6 million. WFP is exploring various options that will be proposed to UNRCO that will also include 30% of funding allocation through WFP fundraising efforts.

The ETC is 54 percent funded in 2023. The ETC received US\$794,000 from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF). This will secure cluster funding until the end of June.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **Thursday 25 May 2023**.

Contacts

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All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website:

www.etcluster.org/emergencies/yemen-conflict

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