

Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #67

Reporting period: 01/04/2022 to 30/04/2022

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

Highlights

- In April, the ETC provided data connectivity services to 961 humanitarians and security communications services to a total of 2,496 responders across 17 sites in Yemen.
- The ETC installed and programmed 10 (revised from 20) VHF radios in 10 ambulances as part of the NYCmedics project to improve the communications network of the emergency services in Aden.
- The ETC programmed a total of 16 VHF handheld radios together with UNDSS on behalf of UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to strengthen the communications network between humanitarian responders in country.



The ETC team in Aden provided technical support for NYCmedics by programming 10 ambulances in Aden. Photo: WFP/ETC

Activities

Coordination

The ETC presented its funding requirement for 2022 to donors during the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) submission on 21 March. The ETC is currently just 51 percent funded out of a required US\$3.4 million in 2022 to deliver critical communications services.

Internet connectivity

In April, the ETC provided data connectivity to 961 humanitarians across 17 sites in Yemen.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Aden requested the ETC to extend internet connectivity services to their new guesthouse. The supplier has extended the network cables and is waiting for the access point to be installed.

The Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MoTIT) has introduced the local supplier—TeleYemen—as the sole provider of VSAT satellite connectivity services in the south of Yemen. All humanitarian agencies in the south of Yemen are encouraged to commission TeleYemen to provide VSAT satellite services as soon as possible.

The ETC placed order for additional four VSAT stations to open the ETC new sites for the INGOs; two will be hosted by Save the Children in Ibb and Sa'ada, one by Action Contre La Faim (ACF) in Sana'a and one the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Hajjah.

The ETC is funding and supporting the five kilometres extension of a fibre link in 90 District in Aden to provide stable connectivity services to INGOs based in the area – namely Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), CARE International and ZOA International. The purchase request has been created and is under the procurement process.

The ETC, in coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO), developed a technical proposal and Bill of Quantities (BoQ) to set up a dedicated COVID-19 hotline in Aden’s Ameen Nasher Institute. The initial project was proposed in 2021 and a new location was recently agreed between WHO and the Ministry of Health (MoPHP). The MoPHP national hotline will build the capacity of the government to respond to the current as well as future pandemics.

Security communications

ETC security communications services were provided to a total of 2,496 responders using the eight UNDSS-managed Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the country.

The ETC installed and programmed 10 (revised from 20) VHF radios in 10 ambulances as part of the NYC Medics project to improve the communications network of the emergency services in Aden. For the next phase of the project, a shipment of additional communications equipment—a repeater and radio base stations—is being received in Aden seaport to be installed in an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Aden and five central public hospitals. The ETC will install the equipment as well as provide technical support and training to connect the EOC to the ambulance service and hospitals. These upgrades will further facilitate the life-saving work of the emergency services in Aden, which currently relies on limited access to VHF communication channels. The project is initiated and funded by NYC Medics.

The ETC team assisted the UNDSS-managed SOC in programming four VHF radios for UNICEF Sana’a and 12 VHF radios for FAO in Aden.

Preventive maintenance work was completed for three WFP ‘safe rooms’ in Aden. The safe rooms are equipped with mobile satellite communications equipment, HF and VHF radio networks, as well as a phone landline.

User support

In April, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 1,154 user requests.

Planning

Internet connectivity

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for opening a new ETC site for the INGOs hosted by Save the Children in Ibb and Sa’ada is finalised.

Following the Hajjah field mission in March, the team conducted a technical assessment of the potential partners who is willing to host the ETC new site dedicated for the INGOs.

Capacity building

The ETC—in coordination with Learning Tree—is planning to organize leadership and project management training for 12 ETC staff members.

iMMAP offered to conduct virtual training courses on data collection and data visualization from 17-18 May. 20 participants from the ETC and partner organizations will attend the training. The acquired skills will enhance information management services in Yemen.

Challenges

The ETC, with just 51 percent funding allocation, is carrying out its activities in 2022. The ETC will continue its fundraising efforts to ensure lifesaving communications services is provided around the clock to humanitarian aid responders in Yemen.

The ETC continues to face difficulties in obtaining pre-import approval for the shipment of its two consignees from Djibouti to Aden. The equipment, when received, will be used to expand security communications services in Aden city, supported by Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS). The Resident Coordinator's Office (RC) has escalated the issue with Yemen's authorities. The ETC continues to await their formal approval, before initiating the procedure.

Funding

The ETC is 51 percent funded out of a required US\$3.4 million in 2022. The cluster has allocated US\$951,000 of its funding to activities in Q2 2022. Fundraising activities will continue for the remaining 49 percent.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **18 May 2022**.

Contacts

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

<https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/yemen-conflict>

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