

Yemen: Conflict

ETC Situation Report #95

Reporting period: 01/08/2024 to 31/08/2024

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

Highlight

- In August, the ETC provided data connectivity services to 1,459 humanitarians and security communications services to a total of 2,617 responders across 19 sites in Yemen.
- On 05 August, the ETC received US\$167,107 from UNCLINIC, WHO, and UNICEF as part of the cost recovery agreement. The ETC is now 50% funded out of the required US\$2.7 million in 2024. A further 50% pledged will cover the ETC funding requirement from July to December.
- Since 2019, the ETC has bolstered the medical faculty of Aden University with renovation of IT infrastructure including connectivity, funded by the World Health Organization (WHO). The project is serving over 2,600 humanitarians in Yemen with communications services—the ETC stepped up to reconnect students and support their learning in a digital age. In recognition of this support, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Aden held a ceremony on 08 August to celebrate this technical infrastructure development project.



Inauguration ceremony for the Technical Infrastructure Development Project by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Aden. Photo: WFP/ETC

Activities

Coordination

The ETC met with 15 local partners during the coordination meeting on 28 August to discuss the emerging challenges including the recent heavy rainfall in Al Hudaydah that caused a power outage for several hours. The meeting also discussed the partners' training needs and updates.

The WFP-led ETC continues its long-term collaboration with WHO in providing IT services including connectivity to 29 Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) across Yemen and supporting humanitarian operations in response to the ongoing cholera outbreak through access to internet and IT facilities.

Since 2019, the ETC has bolstered the medical faculty at the University of Aden with connectivity services and renovations to the university's IT infrastructure, funded by WHO. Over 2,600 students have access to internet facilities since 2022, which has been further expanded since then. In recognition of this support, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Aden held a ceremony on 08 August to celebrate this technical infrastructure development project (see picture above).

Internet connectivity

In August, the ETC provided data connectivity to 1,459 humanitarians in 19 sites across nine common operational areas in Yemen.

The ETC is assisting the relocation of UNDP Aden ICT and network equipment to their new compound. The completion of the project is awaiting new equipment from the local suppliers.

In 2022, the ETC provided technical support to NYC Medics by installing and programming radios, which facilitated the connection between the EOC in Aden and local ambulance services and hospitals. Now, NYC Medics in Aden—in collaboration with the WHO and the Ministry of Health—is seeking additional technical assistance from the ETC to install VHF radios in their remaining vehicles in Aden as part of their efforts to enhance emergency medical services in the region.

According to the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MTIT), Internet Service Provider (ISP)—AdenNet—plans to officially launch the deployment of Starlink services by mid-September. It will be a good opportunity for the ETC to expand its pool of suppliers by assessing the feasibility of Starlink service deployment, aiming to reduce operational costs effectively.

The ETC continued to provide its technical support and secure connectivity in Aden during the visit of a high-level OCHA delegation on 18 August.

The ETC received a request from the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) to extend ETC connectivity services in their Mokha office—the ETC in Aden has assessed their requirement as per the ETC's current capacity and shared its technical advice, now awaiting IOM's final decision.

The ETC team in Hajjah conducted preventive maintenance of the ETC infrastructure at the WFP-managed UN hub and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)-managed INGO hub.

Security communications

In August, a total of 2,617 users utilized ETC security communications services through the nine United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)-managed Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the country.

In coordination with UNDSS, the ETC programmed three VHF mobile radio antennas on WFP Armoured Vehicles (AVs) in Aden on 25 August.

On 20 August, the ETC carried out maintenance activities on two VHF radios for WFP in Turbah.

User support

In August, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 1,357 user requests.

Capacity Building

The ETC shared the outcome of the training survey launched on 01 August with its partners for their review and to reconfirm their needs that will help the ETC to adequately address their capacity building needs.

Challenges

The ETC continues to face difficulties in the importation of IT and telecommunications equipment, which has been awaiting shipment since 2019. The pre-import certificate for the shipment of two consignments from Djibouti to Aden is still pending approval from the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG). In September, the ETC coordinator plans to travel to Djibouti to help expedite and finalize the pending shipment.

Funding

The ETC funding appeal for 2024 is US\$2.7 million.

On 05 August, the ETC received US\$157,107 from UNCLINIC and WHO as part of the cost recovery agreement. With this new funding, the ETC is now 50% funded out of the required US\$2.7 million in 2024.

In the face of long-term funding challenges, since mid-2023 the ETC has adapted an alternative model to combine funding received from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) as well as from the inter-agency cost sharing agreement in coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) and the Operations Management Team (OMT) to ensure the cluster can carry out its planned activities.

With further expected funding in October, the ETC is predicted to be 80% funded. Fund-raising efforts are in progress to fill the remaining 20% funding gap to support essential shared communication needs in Yemen for the rest of 2024.

Additional Information

See the [ETC Yemen Dashboard](#) for an overview of planned and existing service locations.

Meetings

The next Local ETC Working Group meeting will be held on **28 September 2024**.

Contacts

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

www.etcluster.org/emergencies/yemen-conflict

For more information or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact:

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