

Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #82

Reporting period: 01/07/2023 to 31/07/2023

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

Highlight

- In July, the ETC provided data connectivity services to 1,535 humanitarians and security communications services to a total of 2,502 responders across 20 sites in Yemen.
- The ETC conducted a mission in Turba from 12 to 17 July to assess the performance of IT services and provide HF and VHF radio training for Security Operations Centre (SOC) staff.
- The ETC completed the upgrade of its VSAT station in the UN hub in Mokha that provides a dedicated connectivity link to the UN Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) in response to their operational needs.



The ETC team in Aden provides security communications services for UNMHA in Aden.

Photo: WFP/ETC

Activities

Coordination

The ETC conducted a mission to the UN hub in Turba from 12 to 17 July to assess the performance of IT services and provide HF and VHF radio training for Security Operations Centre (SOC) staff.

The ETC—led by WFP—continues its collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide IT services including connectivity to 29 Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) across Yemen, supporting humanitarian operations in response to Cholera through access to internet and IT facilities.

Internet connectivity

In July, the ETC provided data connectivity to 1,535 humanitarians in 20 sites across 10 common operational areas in Yemen.

In Hajjah, the ETC carried out routine preventative maintenance of ETC network infrastructure in the two sites—the UN hub and the I/NGO hub—from 10 to 14 July.

The ETC completed the upgrade of its VSAT station in the UN hub in Mokha that provides a dedicated connectivity link to the UN Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) in response to their operational needs.

On 24 July, a severe storm brought heavy rainfall and winds, causing infrastructural damage to Aden International Airport, where the ETC provides Wi-Fi services for humanitarians and other transiting passengers. The ETC confirmed that its equipment there remains safe and operational.

Security communications

In July, ETC security communications services were provided to a total of 2,502 responders through the nine UNDSS-managed Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the country.

The ETC conducted an assessment on 23 July to install a VHF radio base station for the WFP office in Aden.

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

User support

In July, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 802 user requests.

Capacity Building

The ETC interagency working group delivered an IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL) training from 08-13 July. The number of participants was 10.

Planning

Internet connectivity

The ETC will extend the fibre optic cable to the UN hub in Al Mokha. The technical assessment is completed and shared for review.

The ETC is planning to conduct a mission to the UN hub in Marib to check the VHF mobile radios there.

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

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 and will benefit up to 6,100 IDPs. Procurement of the required equipment is in progress.

The ETC is reviewing a proposal submitted by the All-Girls Foundation (AGF) to assist in rehabilitation of their training centre in Al-Mukalla city. The training centre will provide training to up to 10,500 students in various fields, including in ICT.

Capacity building

The ETC is preparing to support the University of Aden to expand their IT services and will provide IT capacity building training for the technical staff in the college of medicine on 12 August.

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 conduct a training session on Advance Tableau on 07 August.

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. Partner WFP met with Yemen's Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MITT) to seek formal approval to ship the ETC telecommunications equipment that has been stocked in Djibouti since 2020.

Funding

The ETC funding appeal for 2023 is US\$3.6 million. Due to limited resources in 2023, WFP is exploring various cluster funding options for discussion with the UNRCO.

The ETC is 58 percent funded in 2023. The ETC received US\$794,000 from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), US\$500,000 from WFP.

An additional cost-shared allocation of US\$219,000 from the UN agencies has been received by the RCO to cover the ETC network upgrade costs in the South of Yemen.

Meetings

The next Local ETC Working Group will take place on 15 August.

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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