Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #66
Reporting period: 01/03/2022 to 31/03/2022

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

Highlights

- The ETC, in coordination with WHO, is developing a technical proposal to set up a dedicated COVID-19 hotline in Aden's Ameen Nasher Institute, as requested and agreed with WHO and the Ministry of Health.

- In March, the ETC provided data connectivity services to 1,068 humanitarians and security communications services to a total of 2,540 responders across Yemen.

- The ETC coordinator conducted a field mission to Aden from 27 March to 3 April to follow up on ETC activities and assess the performance and effectiveness of ETC service provision.

The ETC coordinator visits Aden University on 30 March to assess the readiness and effectiveness of ETC service provision. 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 48 percent funded out of a required US$3.4 million in 2022.

Internet connectivity

In March, the ETC provided data connectivity to 1,068 humanitarians across 17 sites in Yemen.

The ETC, in coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO), is developing a technical proposal 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.

The ETC coordinator in Hodeidah went on a field mission to Hajjah from 27–30 March. He met with partners there who emphasized the need for a dedicated INGO site. The site host and location will be agreed by all partners on the ground.

The ETC team conducted preventive maintenance of ETC infrastructure and services in 7 sites in Aden and Hodeidah to identify areas of concerns and further improvement.

The ETC in Aden doubled the bandwidth of internet connectivity in the UN hub in Turba to improve services for responders there.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Aden requested the ETC set up internet connectivity services in their new guesthouse. The ETC is coordinating with the internet service provider (ISP) to activate ETC connectivity services once the network is set up.

The ETC worked with a national service provider to assess IT infrastructure in the UN Common Accommodation Facility (UNCAF) in Sana'a. Based on the assessment, the cluster is developing a workplan to improve the infrastructure and connectivity services in the UNCAF in Sana'a.

Security communications

ETC security communications services were provided to a total of 2,540 responders using the eight UNDSS-managed Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the country.

The ETC in Aden configured eight VHF radios for the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPs) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

User support

In March, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 1,438 user requests.

Capacity building

iMMAP conducted a virtual training course on GIS mapping and systems from 16-17 March for 20 participants from the ETC and partners to enhance information management services in Yemen.

Planning

Internet connectivity

In response to increasing humanitarian operational needs, the ETC is coordinating with partners to set up new sites for INGOs and UN agencies in Sa'ada, Hajjah and Ibb.

The ETC technical proposal to upgrade internet connectivity services in the UN hub in Al Mokha is under management review.

Security communications

The ETC team in Aden is awaiting the shipment of VHF radio communications network equipment to install in 20 ambulances in Aden. The project is initiated and funded by NYC Medics.

Capacity building

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

Challenges

At just 48 percent funded to carry out activities in 2022, the ETC is fundraising to ensure lifesaving communications services continue to be delivered to humanitarians responding in Yemen.

Restrictions on the importation of telecommunications equipment remains a key challenge.

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 48 percent funded out of a required US$3.4 million in 2022. The cluster has allocated US$858,000 of its funding to activities in Q2 2022. Fundraising activities will continue for the remaining 52 percent.

The ETC has submitted two funding proposals. The first was submitted to the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) to cover the cost of connectivity services for six months, until August 2022. The second is a Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) proposal for funding to set up services in the new humanitarian site in Marib.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **13 April 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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