

Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #80

Reporting period: 01/05/2023 to 31/05/2023

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

Highlight

- In May, the ETC provided data connectivity services to 1,500 humanitarians and security communications services to a total of 2,411 responders across 20 sites in Yemen.
- An oversight mission by the ETC Coordinator from 08 to 15 May determined that ETC service provision in the six humanitarian hubs hosted by UN and I/NGO agencies in Hajjah and Hodeidah are performing well. Areas of further improvement were agreed with the partner focal points.
- The ETC consultant conducted three sets of security communications training for 15 UNDSS staff in Al Mokha, Aden, and Ibb to aid capacity building efforts across these locations. Planning for the same sessions is forthcoming in Marib, Hodeidah, Turba, and Mukalla.



The ETC Coordinator assessed cluster services at the hub hosted by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Hajjah on 8 May.
Photo: WFP/ETC

Activities

Coordination

An oversight mission by the ETC Coordinator from 08 to 15 May determined that ETC services in the six humanitarian hubs hosted by UN and I/NGO agencies in Hajjah and Hodeidah are performing well. Areas of further improvement were agreed with the partner focal points.

The ETC—led by WFP—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 May, the ETC provided data connectivity to 1,500 humanitarians from 20 sites across 10 common operational areas in Yemen.

The ETC supported the UN high level delegation mission to Sana'a, Hudaydah, and Aden on 02 May by providing secure connectivity and IT services on demand.

On 23 May, the ETC and UNDSS conducted a joint visit to Sana'a to assess the performance of the VHF repeater. The plan is to upgrade the solar power supply for the repeater as part of the mission's recommendation.

The ETC resolved the connectivity service outages in the UN hubs in Aden and Al Tourba.

The ETC in Aden conducted network preventive maintenance in the UN guesthouse hub.

Security communications

In May, ETC security communications services were provided to a total of 2,411 responders using the nine UNDSS-managed Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the country.

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 May, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 693 user requests.

Capacity Building

The ETC consultant conducted three sets of security communications training for 15 UNDSS staff in Al Mokha, Aden, and Ibb to aid capacity building efforts across these locations. Planning for the same sessions is forthcoming in Marib, Hodeidah, Turba, and Mukalla.

The ETC is coordinating the provision of a series of technical and managerial training courses for the ETC interagency working group that started on 6 May.

Planning

Internet connectivity

The ETC is working with its partner to extend the fiber optic cable to the UN hub in Al Mokha. The technical assessment is completed and shared for review.

The ETC has received a request from UNDP in Hodeidah to extend the ETC VSAT service through a point-to-point link to the UN clinic. The ETC is assessing the feasibility of the request.

The extension of internet connectivity at the WFP guesthouse in the UN hub in Al Mukalla is under procurement process.

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.

Security communications

A set of batteries replacement for the SOCs in Aden, Ibb, Sa'ada, and Marib is under procurement process.

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) 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.

As part of the ETC's services for communities initiative, the cluster was requested to support a summer sports program for marginalized children in Sana'a to create a safe and supportive environment for the children to engage in healthy activities during school holidays. The request is under review.

Capacity building

The ETC supported the University of Aden to expand their IT services and provide IT capacity building training for the technical staff in college of medicine.

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 on 12 June.

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. Due to limited resources in 2023, WFP is looking at various funding options and scenarios that will be discussed 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 and US\$110,00 from inter-agency cost sharing. This will secure cluster funding until the end of June.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on a **date TBC**.

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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