Yemen – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #73
Reporting period: 01/10/2022 to 31/10/2022

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

Highlights

- In October, the ETC provided data connectivity services to 1,000 humanitarians and security communications services to a total of 2,594 responders across 17 sites in Yemen.

- In response to the increased demand of humanitarian operations, the ETC installed a VSAT satellite terminal to provide back-up connectivity in two INGO sites hosted by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in Sana'a and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Hajjah.

- The ETC in Aden conducted a technical mission to Al Turba from 02 to 06 October. The team assessed the performance of the ETC services and consequently installed additional connectivity network equipment in the UN hub and guesthouse for improved service provision.

The ETC team in Aden provided technical support to the UN hub in Turba. Photo: WFP/ETC

Activities

Coordination

The ETC Coordinator and an OCHA representative conducted a site visit to the office of the Supreme Council for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (SCMCHA) in Sana'a on 12 October. The objective of this joint visit was to officially handover the completion of the IT infrastructure project, funded by OCHA.

From 12-13 October, the ETC team in Hodeidah supported a high-level mission of the OCHA delegation in Hodeidah by providing stable and secure connectivity services, including IT helpdesk support.

The ETC has completed the transition of seven VSAT stations from TelYemen, a local satellite service provider, to comply with the local regulations. Nine additional stations will be migrated before the end of 2022.

Internet connectivity

In October, the ETC provided data connectivity to 1,000 humanitarians across 17 sites in Yemen.

The ETC installed a VSAT satellite terminal to provide back-up connectivity in two INGO sites hosted by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in Sana'a and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Hajjah.

The ETC in Aden conducted a technical mission to Turba from 02 to 06 October to install new connectivity network equipment in the UN hub and guesthouse to improve services there.

In response to the increased demand for humanitarian operations in Al Mukallah, the ETC supported the activation of a dedicated data connection link in addition to a dedicated high-capacity VSAT to expand connectivity services. The Al Mukallah site is hosted and managed by UNDP.

Following a request from OCHA, the ETC team in Hodeidah extended its internet connectivity services to UNOPS in Hodeidah.

ETC internet connectivity has been extended to the new UNDSS office and UN Clinic building in Aden.

The ETC in Aden supported UNHCR to extend the ETC Wi-Fi connection coverage in their guesthouse by providing the required access point.

Security communications

In October, ETC security communications services were provided to a total of 2,594 responders using the eight UNDSS-managed Security Operations Centres (SOCs) across the country.

The ETC team, in coordination with UNDSS, relocated the UNDSS SOC from the UNDP compound to the UN clinic in Aden.

In coordination with UNDSS, the ETC team in Aden programmed five VHF radios for WFP staff as per the UN standard callsign structure.

User support

In October, the ETC helpdesk received and resolved 836 user requests.

Planning

Coordination

The ETC in Aden is working on a joint connectivity plan for 2023 in coordination with the Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) and WFP.

The ETC Coordinator is planning an oversight mission to Marib and Al-Mukalla to assess the performance of ETC services provision in response to humanitarian operational needs.

Internet connectivity

Since 2017, the ETC has supported the WHO-funded IT infrastructure renovation project of the University of Aden in four phases. Recently, the University has requested a proposal for the expansion of their IT serivces to other departments. The ETC is supporting the proposal and has received approval from WHO for potential funding of the project. The ETC is awaiting funding to start project implementation.

The ETC will provide services for the new INGO site hosted by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Hajjah while waiting for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed.

Capacity Building

As part of the plan to build ICT capacity in Yemen, the ETC is planning to sign a Long-Term Agreement (LTA) with a local training service provider.

Challenges

The ETC continues to face difficulties in the importation of IT and telecommunications equipment. The pre-import certificate for the shipment of its two consignees 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 continues to await their formal approval, before initiating the procedure.

Funding

As of October, the ETC in Yemen is 72 percent funded. The ETC received USD 900,000 from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF). An additional allocation of USD 219,000 is expected from the cost-shared agreement with other operational partners—mainly UN agencies—to cover the ETC network upgrade cost in the South of Yemen.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **09 November 2022**.

Contacts

LOCATION	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
Sana'a, Yemen	Wali Noor	ETC Coordinator	Wali.noor@wfp.org
Sana'a, Yemen	Sarah Eshaq	ETC Information Management Associate	Sarah.eshaq@wfp.org

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

www.etcluster.org/emergencies/yemen-conflict

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

yemen.etc@wfp.org