

Iraq - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #38

Reporting period 14/12/2016 to 19/01/2017

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 16/02/17.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) successfully relocated the Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Sulaymaniyah to the new World Food Programme (WFP) premises.
- A total of 246 humanitarian workers have registered to access ETC Internet connectivity services since the beginning of the operation.
- The ETC is working on the development of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for 2017 with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Situation Overview

On 29 December 2016, military operations in Mosul intensified, causing a massive increase in the number of people fleeing the city. Since 3 January 2017, displacement numbers have averaged about 1,000 people per day. These Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are generally moving to the south and east to camps being run by humanitarian organisations and the government.

A key part of ETC's response in 2017 is to continue to support the Mosul operation by providing lifesaving communications services as needed in common operational areas. The ETC plans to conduct further assessment missions to new camps to determine the need for its services.

Security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services are being provided in the Mercy Hands office in Qayyarah town and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) office in Qayyarah Airstrip camp, together with Telecoms Sans Frontiere (TSF), member of the ETC. The radio services cover three camps: Jad'ah, Airstrip and Hajj Ali.



TSF technicians check the ETC's Internet connectivity services in the IOM office, Qayyarah Airstrip camp as part of the humanitarian response to the Mosul operation.

Photo credit: WFP/Suzanne Fenton



Response

- The ETC continues to provide security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services to the response community in 6x sites in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), and in 2x additional sites as part of the humanitarian response.
- The ETC continues to provide Internet connectivity to the affected community in Domiz camp, Dohuk.
- The ETC is heavily involved in finalising its inputs for the HRP and HNO for 2017. The ETC Coordinator is preparing to present the cluster's final strategy to the HRP Review Panel.

Planned Response

- The ETC plans to carry out a deployment mission to Hassansham/Khazer to deploy security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services for humanitarians in those camps.
- Further assessment missions are planned in Zelikan and Nargzlia in 2017.
- The ETC is preparing to donate three generators to humanitarian partners in Jad'ah and Airstrip camps. Final discussions over how to transport the generators are taking place.
- The ETC plans to roll out its Services for Communities project in 6x more camps to provide Internet connectivity services to the affected communities.

Challenges

- The limited number of armoured WFP vehicles means that missions to the field are done on a priority basis.
- As the Mosul operation continues to evolve, the security situation remains volatile across the country.

Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference will take place on 15 February.
- The next Local ETC meeting will take place TBC.

Information

- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) responders operating on the ground in Iraq are encouraged to share their contact details with Iraq.ETC@wfp.org to facilitate local coordination.
- A dedicated information-sharing space has been created on the ETC website <https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/iraq-conflict>. Organisations involved in the ICT response are encouraged to share updates with the ETC community to support the overall humanitarian response.



Shared ICT Services

DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	CUSTOMER
Dohuk	Domiz camp	Ericsson Response, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 	WIDER	Humanitarian community
		UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) 		
	WFP sub-office (shared with UNHCR)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications COMCEN Radio programming Radio training ICT helpdesk Assessments 		
	UNFPA Youth Centre (Domiz)	Ericsson Response, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 		Affected community
	UNHCR Internet café (Domiz)	Ericsson Response, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 		
Sulaymaniyah	UNHCR office, Arbat camp	Ericsson Response, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet connectivity 	WIDER	-Humanitarian community
		WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) COMCEN ICT helpdesk 		
	WFP sub-office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) Radio programming Radio training Assessments 		
	Ashti camp (LINK)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security telecommunications (radio) 		



Erbil	WFP Country Office	WFP, UNAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • COMCEN • Radio programming • Radio training • Coordination • ICT helpdesk • Assessments 		-Humanitarian community
Zummar	LINK (Dohuk)	WFP, UNAMI, UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Assessments 		-Humanitarian community MOSUL OPERATION
Qayyarah	Mercy Hands office (town)	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Assessments 		
	Haj Ali	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications 		
	IOM office, Qayyarah Airstrip (LINK)	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Assessments 		
	DRC office, Qayyarah Airstrip (LINK)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet connectivity • Assessments 		

ETC Services Map: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-iraq-services-map-december-2016>



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Acronyms

COMCEN	Communications Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	WFP Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
TSF	Telecoms Sans Frontiere
UN	United Nations
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website: www.ETCluster.org

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: Iraq.ETC@wfp.org



Background on the emergency:

On 7 June 2014, heavy fighting between the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the Armed Opposition Groups erupted in Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq. The violence resulted in numerous casualties and the takeover of the entire city by Armed Opposition Groups, including government buildings, Mosul International Airport, and all police and military bases. Tikrit was seized on 11 June by the Armed Opposition Groups. An estimated 500,000 Iraqis had been displaced in northern Iraq within the first week.

With the operation to liberate Mosul escalating, the humanitarian situation continues to worsen. Relief organisations are deploying emergency response teams and mobilizing resources to meet the urgent needs of the affected people.

WFP is leading ETC activities in Iraq in collaboration with UNAMI.

Sources: IOM, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)