Central African Republic - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #13

Reporting period 01/08/2016 to 31/01/2017

These Situation Reports will now be distributed every two months. The next report will be issued on or around 31/03/17.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to provide vital security telecommunications and data services to the humanitarian community in 8x operational areas across Central African Republic (C.A.R.): Bangui, Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, Bossangoa, Zemio, N'Dele, Paoua and Bouar.

- A new ETC Coordinator joined the operation in mid-January 2017.

- The ETC has requested US$885,765 to carry out its activities to support humanitarian responders until the end of June 2017.

- The ETC is planning for the transition of long-term shared Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services from the end of June this year.

Fred, ETC focal point in Bambari, checking the telecommunications equipment.

Photo credit: ETC CAR

Situation Overview

The complex humanitarian and protection crisis affecting Central African Republic since 2012 shows no sign of abating.

The country continues to suffer from instability and an estimated 2.2 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2017, including 1.1 million children. By the end of 2016, an estimated 420,000 people were internally displaced due to the ongoing conflict, with an additional 453,000 having sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

The ETC is a global network of organizations that work together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies

Response

- The ETC is providing shared internet connectivity services and security telecommunications to the response community in 8x sites across the country: Kaga-Bandoro and Bossangoa, managed by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Zemio, managed by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); N'Dele, managed by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); and Bambari, Bangui, Bouar and Paoua, managed by the World Food Programme (WFP).

- The ETC held the first joint local cluster meeting with the Logistics Cluster where plans and issues, including the frequency allocation to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), were discussed with partners. It was agreed to hold these meetings once a week with the Logistics Cluster.

- UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) have said they will deploy two radio operators in the Communications Centres (COMCEN) in Kaga Bandoro which was installed by the ETC last year.

- A new ETC Coordinator joined the operation in January 2017 based in Bangui.

- The ETC is working on developing a transition plan to ensure the provision of long-term shared ICT services as the current project runs until the end of June 2017.

Planned Response

- The ETC plans to deploy the Digital Mobile Network (DMR) in the capital, Bangui, as well as two other operational sites together with UNDSS.

Challenges

- Funding remains critical for the ETC operation in C.A.R.

Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference will take place on Wednesday 15 February.

Information

- ICT responders operating on the ground in Central African Republic are encouraged to share their contact details with CAR.ETC@wfp.org to facilitate local coordination.

- A dedicated information-sharing space has been created on the ETC website https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/central-african-republic-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
Bangui	WFP sub-office	WFP	• Security telecommunications • Radio training • Radio programming • Information Management • Internet • Coordination		Humanitarian community
Bambari	WFP sub-office	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • ICT Helpdesk • Internet		Humanitarian community
Kaga-Bandoro	UNICEF Compound	UNICEF, WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Radio training • ICT helpdesk • Internet		Humanitarian community
Bossangoa	UNICEF Compound	UNICEF,WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet • Radio training • ICT Helpdesk		Humanitarian community
Zemio	HCR compound	HCR ,WFP	• Internet • ICT Helpdesk • Security telecommunications (radio)		Humanitarian community
N'Dele	IOM Compound	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet • Radio training		Humanitarian community
Paoua	WFP compound	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet • Radio programming • ICT Helpdesk		Humanitarian community

Bouar	WFP compound	WFP	• Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet • Radio programming • ICT Helpdesk		Humanitarian community

ETC Services Map: https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-car-services-map-210316

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Acronyms

C.A.R.	Central African Republic
COMCEN	Communications Centre
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	WFP Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal – *satellite equipment to provide internet connectivity*
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: CAR.ETC@wfp.org

Background on the emergency:

A protection crisis erupted in the Central African Republic (C.A.R.) at the end of 2013 resulting in severe violence and widespread displacement. The collapse of state, law and order and public services further exacerbated the situation. Since then, the country has remained extremely volatile. Almost three years after the beggining of the conflict, the humanitarian situation remains critical leaving 2.3 million people, over half the population, in urgent need of assistance. Since December 2013, over 420,000 people are still displaced across the country and the number of refugees outside the C.A.R. is over 450,000.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) was activated in December 2013 in response to the escalating crisis. Led by the World Food Programme (WFP), the ETC in C.A.R. is focusing on enhancing security telecommunications in Bangui and supporting the establishment of common ICT services in seven common operational areas, namely: Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, Bossangoa, Zemio, N'Dele, Paoua and Bouar.

Sources: IOM, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)