Central African Republic
ETC Situation Report #2
Reporting period 21/12/13

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Highlights

- Over the past weeks, there has been an intensification of violence and a shift to a more sectarian and communal conflict in greater Bangui and other major towns, such as Bossangoa. This culminated on 05 December with coordinated attacks of anti-Balaka elements in Bangui and Bossangoa. As of 10 December, the situation in Bangui remains volatile, characterized by sudden but brief outbursts of sectarian violence between ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka fighters. The situation has disrupted humanitarian activities and increased humanitarian assistance needs.

- On 11/12/2013, the IASC principals declared the humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic a Level-3 emergency and activated system-wide L3 response for three months.

Cluster Responsibilities

- WFP is leading the ETC is CAR. The ETC is responsible for providing emergency telecommunications support to humanitarian organizations on the ground.

Achievements

- An ETC Coordinator and Information Management Officer were deployed to Bangui on 17/12/2013 in support of the local inter-agency ICT team.

- An ICT specialist was deployed on 14/12/2013 to Douala to support the arrival of equipment and shipment to Bangui.

- 7 Tons of ETC equipment including radio communications items, VSAT and power supply, was shipped on 16/12/2013.

- The ETC team met with the local ETC working group members on 18/12/2013. All confirmed requirements identified in the 2013 and 2014 ETC projects remain unchanged.

- Data connectivity continues to be provided at the WFP office in Bouar, OCHA office in Paoua, UNICEF office in Bossangoa and UNHCR office in Zemio.

Challenges and Gaps

- Critical security communications is required in the field. COMCENs are not operating 24/7 except in Bangui due to lack of Radio Operators.

- Transportation and customs clearance of equipment are taking time which is challenging the deployment plan.

- The security situation remains incredibly volatile and is delaying deployment in the seven planned locations.

- The ETC is only 35% funded which is only enough for deployment to four locations.

Planned Activities

- The ETC plans to support the establishment of common ICT services in seven field locations and the capital as follow:

    o Deployment of fully operational COMCENs and data connectivity in Bambari, Kaga Bandoro and Bossangoa as part of phase 1.

    o Deployment of fully operational COMCENs and data connectivity in Zemio, Ndele, Paoua, and Bouar as part of phase 2.

    o Enhance security telecommunications in Bangui.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 27 December 2013.

Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 7 January 2013 at 10:00 in the WFP Conference Room (tbc).

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website:
http://ictemergency.wfp.org/web/ictepr/countries-car

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

Services available

CITY	LEAD AGENCY	ETC SERVICES
Bangui	WFP	• Coordination & Information Management • VHF Radio communications, programming and basic training • Internet connectivity (individual organizations)
Paoua	OCHA	• Internet connectivity • Basic ICT helpdesk • *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training*
Bouar	WFP	• *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk*
Zemio	UNHCR	• Internet connectivity • Basic ICT helpdesk • *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training*
Bossangoa	UNICEF	• Internet connectivity • Basic ICT helpdesk • Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training
Bambari	WFP	• *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk*
Kaga Bandoro	UNICEF	• Internet connectivity (BGAN) • Basic ICT helpdesk • *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training*
Ndele	OCHA	• *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk*

ETC CAR Focal Points

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Acronyms

BINUCA	UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic
CAR	Central African Republic
COMCEN	Communications Centre
EMC	Emerging Markets Communications (satellite company)
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization