Central African Republic

ETC Situation Report #3

Reporting period 22/12/13 to 31/12/13

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Highlights

- Since the declaration of the humanitarian system-wide emergency in the Central African Republic, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has gearing up its capacity with the deployment of additional staff and equipment.

- ETC and UNDSS are working together to improve and extend radio communications systems in Bangui.

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

- In addition to the ETC Coordinator and the Information Management Officer, the FITTEST ICT Technician is now arrived in Bangui.

- 6 Tons of ETC equipment was received on 27/12/2013 and delivered on 28/12/2013. The inventory of all items was completed.

- ETC and UNDSS met on 25/12/2013 to discuss ways of improving the security communications systems in Bangui and recruiting additional radio operators for the radio rooms in the field.

Challenges and Gaps

- 1 Tons of ETC equipment is still due to arrive, however due to the closure of the Bangui airport on 31/12/2013, no arrival date is yet confirmed.

- The C-MOSS requirements state that COMCENs need to be 24/7 operational in all common operational areas. However besides Bangui, requirements are not met due to lack of radio operators and the current security situation.

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

The ETC provides timely, predictable and effective Information Communications Technology services to support the humanitarian community in carrying-out their work efficiently, effectively and safely.

Planned Activities

- ETC will request additional funding to CERF as planned to support the CAR Humanitarian 100-day plan.

- ETC and UNDSS will look at starting process of recruitment of additional radio operators with UNDP to ensure full 24/7 operational COMCENs in all common operational areas in the field.

- ETC is working on strengthening and extending the radio communications network in Bangui and deploying a dedicated channel for the NGOs operating in Bangui.

- 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 03 January 2014 at 13:00 Bangui time.

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	• *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk*
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