Central African Republic
ETC Situation Report #5
Reporting period 07/01/14 to 15/01/14

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Highlights

- ETC is supporting radio programming for the Humanitarian Organizations operating in Bangui. NGOs are encouraged to contact the ETC team or UNDSS to request assistance in using the dedicated NGO radio channel now operational.

- The security situation in Bangui appears to have temporarily improved since the resignation of the country's President on 10/01/14. However, the security situation is still hampering the ETC activities.

Cluster Responsibilities

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

Achievements

- A dedicated repeater channel for the use of NGOs is now operational in Bangui.

- ETC has supported Humanitarian Organizations with installation and programming of VHF radios for vehicles and handsets in Bangui.

- Ten VHF radio handsets were programmed for OCHA and four VHF radio handsets were programmed for Save the Children.

Challenges and Gaps

- The ETC is unable to deploy common ICT services due to the security situation and lack of secure compounds in some common operational field locations.

- COMCENs are not operational 24/7 in the seven common operational areas identified due to lack of radio operators and the current security situation.

- The 2014 ETC project in CAR requires USD 1.9M.

Planned Activities

- ETC is refurbishing the repeater (UN talking and UN calling channel) at the hill in Bangui. Once operational, this will improve the radio communication network in the capital. Backup repeaters are currently in place at the BINUCA compound.

- More radio handsets are being programmed for UNHAS.

- ETC and UNDSS are working on the process to recruit additional radio operators with UNDP to ensure fully staffed COMCENs capable to operate 24/7 in all common operational areas in the field.

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

    o Phase 1: Deployment of fully operational COMCENs and data connectivity in Bambari, Kaga Bandoro and Bossangoa.

    o Phase 2: Deployment of fully operational COMCENs and data connectivity in Zemio, Ndele, Paoua, and Bouar.

    o Enhance security telecommunications in Bangui.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 17 January 2014 at 13:00 Bangui time.

Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 22 January 2013 at 10:00 in the WFP Conference Room.

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 - ICT Helpdesk - VHF Radio communications, programming and basic training - Internet connectivity (individual organizations)
Paoua	OCHA	- Internet connectivity *Planned: Basic ICT helpdesk, VHF radio communications, programming and training*
Bouar	WFP	- Internet connectivity *Planned: Basic ICT helpdesk, VHF radio communications, programming and training*
Zemio	UNHCR	*Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk*
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	*Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk*
Ndele	OCHA	*Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk*

ETC CAR Focal Points

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Acronyms

BINUCA	Bureau intégré des Nations Unies pour la consolidation de la paix en République Centrafricaine
CAR	Central African Republic
COMCEN	Communications Centre
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 High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization