

Central African Republic

ETC Situation Report #6

Reporting period 16/01/14 to 29/01/14

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Highlights

- ETC has strengthened the radio communications network in Bangui. Additional repeaters are now operational extending coverage and dedicated usage for UN agencies and NGOs.
- The ETC has started to preposition equipment in the field.
- The security situation is relatively calm since the election of the interim President of the Central African Republic on 20/01/2014. However, the security situation is still unpredictable especially in the field locations such as Bouar where violent incidents have been reported.

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

- The ETC team continues supporting radio programming for the Humanitarian Organizations operating in Bangui. Radios were programmed for DRC, FAO, Mercy Corp, Merlin, OCHA, Save the Children, UNDP and UNHAS.
- NGOs shall contact ETC or UNDSS to be able to use the dedicated NGO repeater channel now operational in Bangui for a month.
- Repeaters at the hill in Bangui are now operational. Installation of solar panel, backup power and switch over is complete.
- ETC is currently attempting to preposition heavy equipment such as solar panels in locations where access is possible and secure. The team is using UNHAS as overland transport is not possible due to insecurity on the roads. The first batch of equipment has been shipped to Paoua.



Challenges and Gaps

- COMCENs are not operational 24/7 in the seven common operational areas identified due to lack of radio operators and the current security situation. Common operational field locations lack secure compounds hampering the ETC to deploy critical ICT services to the field.
- The 2014 ETC project in CAR requires USD 1.9M.

Planned Activities

- 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.
- Assessment missions to Paoua, Zemio, Kaga-Bandoro and Bossangoa are scheduled to take place from 31/01/2014 pending security access and availability of UNHAS flights.
- ETC plans to preposition equipment to Bossangoa, Zemio and Bouar in the coming weeks.
- The ETC plans to support the establishment of common ICT services in seven field locations and the capital as follow:
 - Phase 1: Deployment of fully operational COMCENs and data connectivity in Bambari, Kaga Bandoro and Bossangoa.
 - Phase 2: Deployment of fully operational COMCENs and data connectivity in Zemio, Ndele, Paoua, and Bouar.
 - Enhance security telecommunications in Bangui.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 04 February 2014 at 11:00 Bangui time.

The next Local ETC meeting will be on 12 February 2014 at 10:00 in the WFP Conference Room.

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website:

<http://icteemergency.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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination & Information Management• ICT Helpdesk• VHF Radio communications, programming and basic training• Internet connectivity (individual organizations)
Paoua	OCHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• <i>Planned: Basic ICT helpdesk, VHF radio communications, programming and training</i>
Bouar	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• <i>Planned: Basic ICT helpdesk, VHF radio communications, programming and training</i>
Zemio	UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk</i>
Bossangoa	UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk</i>
Bambari	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk</i>
Kaga Bandoro	UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk</i>
Ndele	OCHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk</i>

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
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
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
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
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