Central African Republic
ETC Situation Report #8
Reporting period 17/02/14 to 31/03/14

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Highlights

- A COMCEN has been installed in the UNICEF compound in Bossangoa, improving coordination and the safety and security of humanitarian workers operating there.

- A mission was deployed to Bouar on 25/03/14 to upgrade a COMCEN.

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

- Ekue Ayih, Senior FITTEST Specialist, has replaced Ivan Thomas as ETC Coordinator.

- A COMCEN has been installed in the UNICEF compound in Bossangoa, improving coordination and the safety and security of humanitarian workers operating there.

- Equipment has been prepositioned in Paoua and Bouar in preparation for deployment.

- A mission was deployed to Bouar on 25/03/14 to upgrade a COMCEN.

- An agreement with Orange, a mobile service provider operating in the country, has been reached in which the ETC will be granted use of a tower in Kaga-Bandoro for a discounted rate.

- Two additional staff members joined the operation from DRC on 24/03/14.

- The ETC team continues supporting radio programming for humanitarian organizations operating in Bangui. To date the ETC has programmed radios for 10 humanitarian organisations.

Challenges and Gaps

- The volatile security situation prevents deployment to certain locations.

- The funding situation remains critical, however around US$300,000 is expected within the coming days. Additional funding is required to maintain operations at their current level.

Planned Activities

- Deployment to Bouar is planned before the end of the month, security permitting.

- Deployments to Kaga-Bandoro, Paoua, Bambari, N'Délé and Zemio are planned for April.

- Recruitment of additional radio operators to ensure radio rooms in operational areas are active 24/7.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 03 April 2014 at 13:00 Bangui time.

Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 02 April 2014 at 10:00 Bangui time 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 • VHF Radio communications, programming and basic training • Internet connectivity (individual organizations)
Paoua	OCHA	• Internet connectivity • *Planned: ICT Helpdesk* • *Planned: Basic ICT helpdesk, VHF radio communications, programming and training*
Bouar	WFP	• Internet connectivity • *Planned: ICT Helpdesk* • *Planned: Basic ICT helpdesk, VHF radio communications, programming and training*
Zemio	UNHCR	• Internet connectivity • *Planned: ICT Helpdesk* • *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training and ICT helpdesk*
Bossangoa	UNICEF	• Internet connectivity • VHF radio communications, programming and training • *Planned: ICT Helpdesk*
Bambari	WFP	• *Planned: Internet connectivity* • *Planned: ICT Helpdesk* • *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk*
Kaga-Bandoro	UNICEF	• Internet connectivity • *Planned: ICT Helpdesk* • *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training*
N'Délé	OCHA	• *Planned: Internet connectivity* • *Planned: ICT Helpdesk* • *Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training; Internet Connectivity and ICT helpdesk*

ETC CAR Focal Points

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Acronyms

CAR	Central African Republic
COMCEN	Communications Centre
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	World Food Programme