

## Central African Republic

### ETC Situation Report #9

Reporting period 31/03/14 to 18/05/14

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#### Highlights

- Three COMCENs were established or upgraded in Bossangoa, Bouar and Paoua which will improve the safety of humanitarian staff in those locations.
- NetHope have offered to provide assistance to the ETC in extending NGO VHF radio networks in seven locations. This would improve the safety of humanitarian staff and coordination capability of humanitarian organizations.
- The primary radio repeaters in Bangui have been fixed and two channels have been re-established. One more channel still needs to be connected.

#### Cluster Responsibilities

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

#### Achievements

- Three COMCENs were established or upgraded in Bossangoa, Bouar and Paoua which will improve the safety of humanitarian staff in those locations.
- NetHope have offered to provide assistance to the ETC in extending NGO VHF radio networks in seven locations. This would improve the safety of humanitarian staff and coordination capability of humanitarian organizations.
- The primary radio repeaters in Bangui have been fixed and two channels have been re-established. One more channel still needs to be connected.
  - Solar panels and battery packs have been installed to ensure continuous operation.
- Sylvain Tiako, Senior FITTEST Specialist, was deployed on 07/04/14. This brings ETC staffing levels up to four, which means two deployment teams can be dispatched simultaneously.

## Challenges and Gaps

- The volatile security situation prevents deployment to certain locations.
- The funding situation remains critical, however US\$346,816 has been received from the CHF and the government of Luxembourg. Additional funding is required to maintain operations at their current level.
  - This is impeding a number of aspects of the operation including deployment of radio trainers.
  - US\$500,000 is expected from USAID.
- Attendance at ETC coordination meetings remains low. Consequently knowledge of NGO activities on the ground is limited.
  - A dedicated NGO Coordinator is required to ensure that humanitarian actors on the ground collaborate and share information, however lack of funding prevents this.
- There are issues with power in some sub-offices. The mains power supply is non-operational so generators are being used. However, there is no maintenance plan for these generators.
  - A staff member dedicated to the establishment and maintenance of power supply systems, possibly hybrid ones, is required. This could be discussed with NetHope. Discussions with MSB regarding support in this area are ongoing.
- Flights within the country are severely restricted due to a lack of fuel. This makes it hard to deploy and preposition equipment.
  - All UNHAS flights from 25/04/14 to 09/05/2014 were cancelled.
- Limited office space remains a challenge. Discussions are ongoing about how the ETC can best provide services in locations in which there is no permanent office.

## Planned Activities

- EMC VSATs will be deployed in two sites. One in Bambari and another in N'Délé. This will improve internet access in those locations.
- Ekue Ayih, the current ETC Coordinator is due to go on leave on 23/05/14 for seven weeks. A replacement has been identified.
- Sylvain Tiako, Senior FITTEST Specialist, is due to go on leave on 30/05/14. A replacement is being identified.

## Meetings

### Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 22 May 2014 at 13:00 Bangui time.

### Local ETC meeting



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The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 21 May 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://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](mailto:CAR.ETC@wfp.org)



## Services Available

CITY	LEAD AGENCY	ETC SERVICES
Bangui	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination &amp; Information Management</li> <li>• VHF Radio communications, programming and basic training</li> <li>• Internet connectivity (individual organizations)</li> </ul>
Paoua	OCHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet connectivity</li> <li>• VHF radio communications</li> <li>• ICT Helpdesk</li> <li>• <i>Planned: VHF radio programming and training</i></li> </ul>
Bouar	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet connectivity</li> <li>• VHF radio communications</li> <li>• <i>Planned: Basic ICT helpdesk, VHF radio programming and training</i></li> </ul>
Zemio	UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet connectivity</li> <li>• VHF radio communications</li> <li>• <i>Planned: VHF radio programming and training and ICT helpdesk</i></li> </ul>
Bossangoa	UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet connectivity</li> <li>• VHF radio communications</li> <li>• ICT Helpdesk</li> <li>• <i>Planned: VHF radio programming and training</i></li> </ul>
Bambari	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Planned: Internet connectivity</i></li> <li>• <i>Planned: ICT Helpdesk</i></li> <li>• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training</i></li> </ul>
Kaga-Bandoro	UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet connectivity</li> <li>• ICT Helpdesk</li> <li>• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training</i></li> </ul>
N'Délé	OCHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Planned: Internet connectivity</i></li> <li>• <i>Planned: ICT Helpdesk</i></li> <li>• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training</i></li> </ul>



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## ETC CAR Focal Points

TITLE	AGENCY	NAME	EMAIL	MOBILE PHONE
ETC Coordinator	WFP FITTEST	Ekue Ayih	<a href="mailto:Ekue.ayih@wfp.org">Ekue.ayih@wfp.org</a>	+236 7218 7430

## Acronyms

C.A.R.	Central African Republic
CHF	Common Humanitarian Fund
COMCEN	Communications Centre
EMC	Emerging Markets Communications satellite company
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
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme