

Central African Republic

ETC Situation Report #10

Reporting period 12/05/14 to 23/06/14

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Highlights

- In Bangui, the radio room was upgraded and VHF handsets were deployed. This has stabilised radio coverage in the Capital.
- Radio frequencies have been compiled in preparation for the planned expansion of radio coverage in the border regions of C.A.R. and Cameroon. This will improve the coordination and security of humanitarian staff working on cross-border operations such as the refugee crisis.

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

- Nyanaprakash Muniandy, Senior FITTEST Specialist, has been deployed as the ETC Coordinator.
- The security situation has improved slightly which has allowed the resumption of certain ETC activities in the field.
- In Bangui, the radio room was upgraded and VHF handsets were deployed. This has stabilised radio coverage in the Capital.
- Repeater sites in Bangui have also been upgraded. Solar panels have been installed to ensure continuous operation.
- Radio frequencies have been compiled in preparation for the planned expansion of radio coverage in the border regions of C.A.R. and Cameroon. This will improve the coordination and security of humanitarian staff working on cross-border operations such as the refugee crisis.
- Discussions are being held with the mobile operator Orange regarding the use of their tower in Kaga-Bandoro. It is possible they will allow the ETC use of this tower once staff are deployed to the town.
- A budget revision is ongoing.



Challenges and Gaps

- Additional staff are urgently required, particularly with telecommunications expertise and VSAT certification.
- The volatile security situation prevents deployment to certain locations.
- The funding situation remains critical, and is preventing the deployment of additional staff.
- Flights within the country are severely restricted due to a lack of fuel. This makes it hard to deploy and preposition equipment.
- 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

- Deployment is planned in a number of locations including Kaga-Bandoro, Bossangoa, N'Délé and Bouar.

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on 26 June 2014 at 13:00 Bangui time.

Local ETC meeting

The next Local ETC meeting will be held on 10 July 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination & Information Management• VHF Radio communications, programming and basic training• Internet connectivity (individual organizations) |
| Paoua | OCHA | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• VHF radio communications• ICT Helpdesk• <i>Planned: VHF radio programming and training</i> |
| Bouar | WFP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• VHF radio communications• <i>Planned: Basic ICT helpdesk, VHF radio programming and training</i> |
| Zemio | UNHCR | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• VHF radio communications• <i>Planned: VHF radio programming and training and ICT helpdesk</i> |
| Bossangoa | UNICEF | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• VHF radio communications• ICT Helpdesk• <i>Planned: VHF radio programming and training</i> |
| Bambari | WFP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Planned: Internet connectivity</i>• <i>Planned: ICT Helpdesk</i>• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training</i> |
| Kaga-Bandoro | UNICEF | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• ICT Helpdesk• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training</i> |
| N'Délé | OCHA | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Planned: Internet connectivity</i>• <i>Planned: ICT Helpdesk</i>• <i>Planned: VHF radio communications, programming and training</i> |



ETC CAR Focal Points

| TITLE | AGENCY | NAME | EMAIL | MOBILE PHONE |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| ETC Coordinator | WFP FITTEST | Nyanaprakash Muniandy | nyanaprakash.muniandy@wfp.org | +236 7218 7430 |

Acronyms

| | |
|---------|---|
| C.A.R. | Central African Republic |
| 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 |
| VHF | Very High Frequency |
| VSAT | Very Small Aperture Terminal |
| WFP | World Food Programme |