CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Internet and security telecommunications services established by the ETC allow the response community to operate in eight common operational areas.

A protection crisis erupted in the Central African Republic (C.A.R.) at the end of 2013 resulting in severe violence and widespread displacement. The collapse of state, law and order as well as public services further exacerbated the situation. Since then, the country has remained extremely volatile with over 2.3 million people, over half of the population, in urgent need of assistance.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) was re-activated in C.A.R. in December 2013 in response to the escalating crisis, with the World Food Programme (WFP) as lead agency.

Urgent Communications for the Response Community

The ETC is providing shared **internet connectivity** services and **security telecommunications** to the response community in 8x sites across the country:

- Kaga-Bandoro and Bossangoa, managed by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Zemio, managed by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- N'Dele, managed by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Bambari, Bangui, Bouar and Paoua, managed by WFP.

Over 300 humanitarian personnel have received radio user training, supporting their safety while carrying out their life-saving work in this complex and insecure environment.

The ETC provides regular radio training to humanitarian responders and radio programming services as required.

Challenges

Despite limited international attention and low visibility of the protection crisis, through its network of partners the ETC was able to continue providing shared internet connectivity and radio communications services in eight sites across the country in 2015.

Although requirements for continuing provision of shared ICT services is high, the **funding situation has forced the ETC to scale down** its services. Security communications and internet connectivity services are to be provided until the end of 2016 however there is no longer a dedicated ETC coordinator.

WFP, Global ETC lead agency, is supporting the coordination and maintenance of services established.

Plans & Funding

The ETC is appealing for US$1.6 Million to provide:

1. Internet connectivity in hubs and operational areas.
2. Security communications in remote areas.
3. Technical training for local humanitarian staff.
4. Local dedicated cluster coordination and maintenance of services.

ETC C.A.R. is grateful for the support of key partners, including:

For more information about the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in C.A.R. visit: www.ETCluster.org or contact: CAR.ETC@wfp.org

By 2020, the ETC will create an emergency response environment that provides humanitarians, citizens and governments with a seamless, resilient and principled communications experience.

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