

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (C.A.R.)

OPERATION OVERVIEW



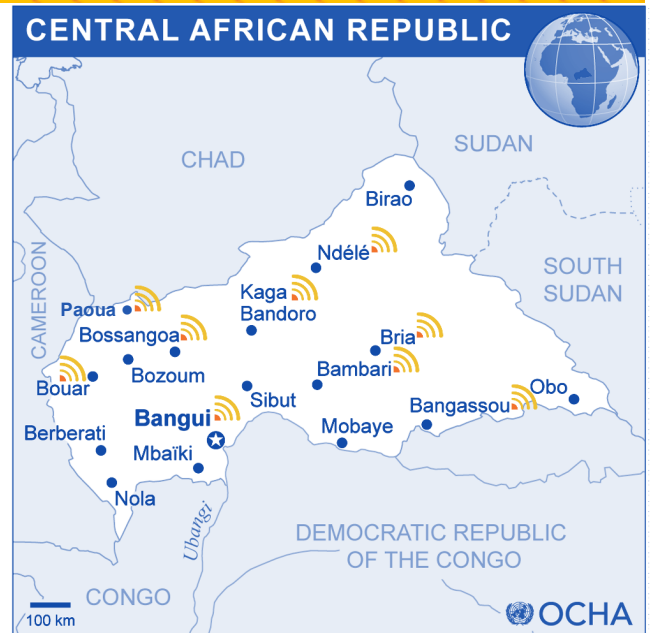
TYPE OF EMERGENCY:

CONFLICT

ETC ACTIVE SINCE:

2013

SITUATION OVERVIEW:



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 and public services further exacerbated the situation. Since then, the country has remained extremely volatile. An escalation of violence in C.A.R. during 2017 has brought the country towards the brink of a new, large-scale humanitarian crisis, increasing the protection risks in multiple new hotspots across the country. Almost five years after the beginning of the conflict, the humanitarian situation remains critical leaving 2.5 million people (over half the population), in urgent need of assistance. The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has been activated since December 2013 in response to the escalating crisis.

KEY DATA



NUMBER OF SITES

9



SERVICES PROVIDED

- Internet connectivity
- Security telecommunications
- Coordination
- Technical training for local staff
- Radio programming
- Liaison with Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
- Information Management



TRAININGS CONDUCTED

- Radio training for users
- ICT Emergency Management for Governments and Partners



FUNDING STATUS

- The ETC is 10% funded of US\$1.1 million required
- A request of \$400,000 was sent to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) managed by OCHA.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Extend ICT services in Bangassou
- Preposition equipment for one more site



CHALLENGES

- Security situation remains unpredictable
- Critical funding situation
- Staff capacity
- Electricity



NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS SERVED

55

RESPONSE

- The ETC is providing shared Internet connectivity and security telecommunications services to the response community in nine sites across the country: Alindao, Bambari, Bangui, Bouar, Bossangoa, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, N'dele and Paoua.
- ETC confirmed there were no more requirements for common ICT services in Zemio, so when the host United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) office closed, the services were discontinued.
- In line with evolving needs on the ground, the ETC was requested in 2018 to deploy its shared communications services in three new locations, Bria, Alindao and Bangassou, to support humanitarian operations. These activities are being implemented with the funds received from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). ETC services were successfully setup in Bria by the end of March. In Alindao, the ETC is finalizing the set-up of wireless access to the ETC internet connectivity services. The equipment and services are kindly hosted at the Cordaid premises.
- As part of the exit strategy to ensure the provision of shared ICT services in the long term, the ETC continues to support the transition of ICT services in C.A.R. To date, the security communications network management has been transferred to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). The ETC team continues to support humanitarian organizations with radio programming and radio usage training on demand, and provide Internet connectivity in all nine locations.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- In Bangassou, the ETC is waiting for the premises of the hosting agency, International Organization for Migration (IOM), to establish the services.
- The ETC plan to extend the provision of ETC Internet connectivity services in Bria, Alindao and Bangassou with the requested US\$400,00 to the Common Humanitarian Funds (CHF) managed by OCHA. In addition, ETC is planning to use these funds to procure extra equipment to support ETC services provision in one more location (to be determined by the humanitarian community).
- Training sessions on radio usage for the wider humanitarian community are planned to be delivered in September and October.
- The ETC Coordinator is engaging with local GSM providers to explore ways of extending their services in locations with no coverage and where humanitarians are operating.

CHALLENGES:

- The security situation in the country continues to be unstable and remains a challenge for all humanitarians, including the ETC.
- Extended CERF funding ended in August 2018. Funding remains critical, impacting on planning, provision of critical services and staffing capacity.

THE GLOBAL ETC IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF KEY PARTNERS, INCLUDING:



OCHA



Sida



unicef



World Food Programme

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF



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