

Central African Republic - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #14

Reporting period 01/02/2016 to 17/04/2017

These Situation Reports will now be distributed every two months. The next report will be issued on or around 31/05/17.

Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to provide vital security telecommunications and data services to the humanitarian community in 8x operational areas across Central African Republic (C.A.R.): Bangui, Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, Bossangoa, Zemio, N'Dele, Paoua and Bouar.
- The ETC is planning for the transition of long-term shared Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services from the end of June this year.
- Full inventories of ETC equipment at each of the 7x field sites is being carried out.
- Equipment installations are being checked and maintenance carried out in Kaga-Bandoro, Bambari, Bossangoa, Paoua and Bouar.

Situation Overview

The complex humanitarian and protection crisis affecting Central African Republic since 2012 shows no sign of abating.

The country continues to suffer from instability and an estimated 2.2 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2017, including 1.1 million children. By the end of 2016, an estimated 420,000 people were internally displaced due to the ongoing conflict, with an additional 453,000 having sought refuge in neighbouring countries.



The ETC carrying out radio training for UN and NGO staff in Bambari.

Photo credit: ETC CAR

Response

- 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 the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and Bambari, Bangui, Bouar and Paoua, managed by the World Food Programme (WFP).
- The ETC Coordinator conducted a mission to Bambari to continue the equipment inventory. During the mission, he checked the services and installation there. During the mission in Bambari, the ETC team:
 - enhanced the VHF coverage by installing two repeater antennas on the new tower;
 - provided radio training to NGOs including Acted, Triangle and Mercy Corps;
 - completed the ETC inventory; and
 - assisted NGOs with radio programming to use the NGO channel.

So far, the inventory of ETC equipment and assessments of the installations has been conducted in Bangui and Bambari.

- As funding was received from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the ETC will extend Internet connectivity services until the end of December 2017. This gives Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and UN agencies time to prepare for the transition of shared ICT services.
- NGOs are encouraged to contact the ETC Coordinator if they are interested in the remaining NetHope equipment. The Global ETC is coordinating with NetHope on a solution for the equipment left.
- The ETC continues to carry out radio programming for UN agencies and NGOs and to provide support to UN/NGOs regarding radio electric frequency issues in Central African Republic. Training has been provided to 38 staff from UN and NGO agencies in Bambari, and 70 staff from Premiere Urgence and Plan International in Bangui.

Planned Response

- The ETC plans to deploy the Digital Mobile Network (DMR) in the capital, Bangui, as well as two other operational sites together with UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS). An assessment will be conducted before the deployment takes place.
- The ETC plans to carry out a full inventory of equipment and assets in the remaining 6x remote ETC sites.

Challenges

- Funding remains critical for the ETC operation in C.A.R.



Meetings

- The next Joint Global ETC teleconference will take place on Wednesday 10 May.

Information

- ICT responders operating on the ground in Central African Republic are encouraged to share their contact details with CAR.ETC@wfp.org to facilitate local coordination.
- A dedicated information-sharing space has been created on the ETC website <https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/central-african-republic-conflict>. Organisations involved in the ICT response are encouraged to share updates with the ETC community to support the overall humanitarian response.



Shared ICT Services

DISTRICT, TOWN	LOCATION	PROVIDED BY	SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	CUSTOMER
Bangui	WFP sub-office	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications • Radio training • Radio programming • Information Management • Internet • Coordination 		Humanitarian community
Bambari	WFP sub-office	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • ICT Helpdesk • Internet 		Humanitarian community
Kaga-Bandoro	UNICEF Compound	UNICEF, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Radio training • ICT helpdesk • Internet 		Humanitarian community
Bossangoa	UNICEF Compound	UNICEF,WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet • Radio training • ICT Helpdesk 		Humanitarian community
Zemio	HCR compound	HCR ,WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet • ICT Helpdesk • Security telecommunications (radio) 		Humanitarian community
N'Dele	IOM Compound	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet • Radio training 		Humanitarian community
Paoua	WFP compound	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security telecommunications (radio) • Internet • Radio programming • ICT Helpdesk 		Humanitarian community



Bouar	WFP compound	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security telecommunications (radio)• Internet• Radio programming• ICT Helpdesk		Humanitarian community
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ETC Services Map: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-car-services-map-march-2017>



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Acronyms

C.A.R.	Central African Republic
COMCEN	Communications Centre
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FITTEST	WFP Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal – <i>satellite equipment to provide internet connectivity</i>
WFP	World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website: www.ETCluster.org

For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: CAR.ETC@wfp.org



Background on the emergency:

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. Almost three years after the beginning of the conflict, the humanitarian situation remains critical leaving 2.3 million people, over half the population, in urgent need of assistance. Since December 2013, over 420,000 people are still displaced across the country and the number of refugees outside the C.A.R. is over 450,000.

The [Emergency Telecommunications Cluster](#) (ETC) was activated in December 2013 in response to the escalating crisis. Led by the World Food Programme (WFP), the ETC in C.A.R. is focusing on enhancing security telecommunications in Bangui and supporting the establishment of common ICT services in seven common operational areas, namely: Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, Bossangoa, Zemio, N'Dele, Paoua and Bouar.

Sources: IOM, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)