

Central African Republic - Conflict

ETC Situation Report #20

Reporting period 02/05/2018 to 30/06/2018

These Situation Reports will now be distributed approximately every two months. The next report will be issued on or around 01/09/18.

Highlights

- The ETC continues to provide shared internet connectivity services and security telecommunications to the response community in 9x sites across the country.
- The equipment required to start the deployment of security telecommunications and Internet services is now on the ground in Alindao.
- The deteriorating security situation is hampering ETC response efforts in CAR.
- The ETC has received just 10 per cent of the US\$1.5 million required to cover its activities in 2018.



ETC Internet connectivity services are now operational in Bria

Photo credit : ETC CAR.

Situation Overview

Violence continues across most of the country with relative calm in the capital, Bangui. Due to increased fighting and volatility, approximately 687,000 Central Africans remain displaced either within the country or as refugees in neighbouring countries.

As stated in the CAR Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2018, the total funding requirements to support the response are US\$515.6 million. However, only 22.5 per cent of this has been received to date. With the project now at the mid-year point, the ETC has received just 10 per cent of the US\$1.5 million required to cover its activities until the end of 2018.

Response

- As the ETC project in CAR nears its mid-year point, it continues to focus on its priority activities: provide common services and gradually plan and implement the long-term management of its site services to partners on the ground. Secondly, to increase capacity, part of the ETC's plan was to equip additional hubs with Internet connectivity and Very High Frequency (VHF) and High Frequency (HF) radios in at least three areas. Its third priority is to migrate the existing network to digital mobile radio (DMR) to improve secure communications and strengthen the safety of responders.
 - The ETC continues to develop a transition plan for the Internet and security telecommunications services in the country.
- The current ETC project expires at the end of June. There is an urgent need to maintain an ETC coordinator, Internet connectivity services and the ETC security telecommunications network in CAR.
 - The ETC plans to send an official request to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to extend the grant until the end of the year.
 - However, planned Internet connectivity services in Alindao and Bangassou are already funded by the ETC.
- The equipment needed to deploy ETC Internet connectivity services is now in Alindao, managed by Cordaid, a Non-Government Organisation (NGO). An ETC mission will install the VSAT and set up a local network in early July with the support of Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF).
 - ETC Internet connectivity services are now operational in Bria.
 - ETC Internet connectivity services cannot be provided in Bangassou until the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) provides a basic power supply.
- The ETC provides shared internet connectivity services to the response community in 9x sites across the country: **Bangui**, **Bambari**, **Paoua** and **Bouar** managed by the World Food Programme (WFP); **Kaga-Bandoro** and **Bossangoa** managed by UN Children's Fund (UNICEF); **Zemio** [*including ETC security telecommunications services*] managed by UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); **N'Dele** managed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM); and **Bria** managed by the International Medical Corps (IMC) and OCHA.
- ETC security telecommunications services are managed by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in all sites except Zemio as highlighted above.

Planned Response

- The planned upgrade of the security telecommunications network to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) in the country has stalled due to a lack of funds and technical staff to configure the equipment. The plan involved deploying additional repeaters in the capital to increase the current network coverage and later expand to 11 remote sites.



Challenges

- The security situation in the country continues to deteriorate and remains a challenge for all humanitarians, including the ETC.
- Funding shortfalls and low staff capacity continue to impact ETC activities.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on Wednesday 11 July.

Information

- ICT responders operating on the ground in C.A.R. 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
Bambari	WFP sub-office	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security telecommunications (radio)• ICT Helpdesk• Internet		Humanitarian community
Bangui	WFP sub-office	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security telecommunications (radio)• Radio programming• Coordination		Humanitarian community
Bouar	WFP compound	UNDSS, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security telecommunications (radio)• Internet• ICT Helpdesk		Humanitarian community
Bossangoa	UNICEF Compound	UNICEF, UNDSS, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security telecommunications (radio)• Internet• Radio programming• ICT Helpdesk		Humanitarian community
Bria	IMC OCHA OXFAM	UNDSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet• Security telecommunications (radio)		Humanitarian community
Kaga-Bandoro	UNICEF Compound	UNICEF, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security telecommunications (radio)• ICT helpdesk• Internet		Humanitarian community
N'Dele	IOM Compound	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security telecommunications (radio)• Internet		Humanitarian community
Paoua	WFP compound	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security telecommunications (radio)• Internet• ICT Helpdesk		Humanitarian community



Zemio	UNHCR compound	UNHCR, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security telecommunications (radio)• Internet• ICT Helpdesk		Humanitarian community
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ETC Services Map: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-car-services-map-may-2018>



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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
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal – satellite equipment to provide internet connectivity
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 590,000 people are still displaced across the country and the number of refugees outside the C.A.R. is over 480,000.

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 eight common operational areas, namely: Bangui, Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, Bossangoa, Zemio, N'Dele, Paoua and Bouar.

Sources: IOM, OCHA, and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)