CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

etc
EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS
— C L U S T E R —

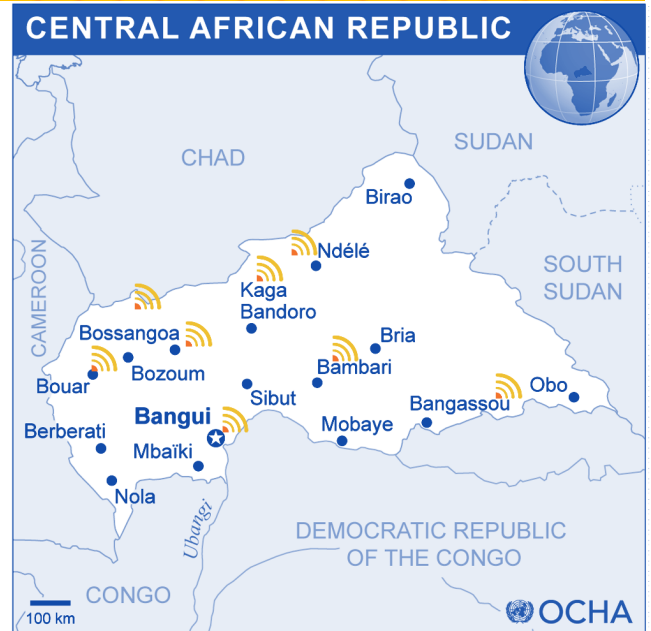## OPERATION OVERVIEW

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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. 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. 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.

KEY DATA

NUMBER OF SITES
8

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

TRAININGS CONDUCTED
- Radio training

NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS SERVED
55

FUNDING STATUS
- The ETC is 10% funded of US$1.5 million required to provide life-saving communications services to humanitarians in 2018.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
- Maintenance of Very High Frequency (VHF) coverage in Bangui
- Provide services in 2x new sites

CHALLENGES
- The deteriorating security situation
- Limited funding.
- Lack of staffing

7 May 2018

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 International Organisation of Migration (IOM); and Bambari, Bangui, Bouar and Paoua, managed by WFP.

- In line with the CAR Humanitarian Response Plan 2018, the ETC will continue to maintain its services while gradually ensuring the transfer of the long-term management of sites to agencies on the ground, and management of Communications Centres (COMCEN) to the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- The ETC will deploy services for humanitarians in two new hotspot locations, Bria and Bangassou, once the situation allows.

- Due to the deteriorating security situation, the ETC plans to extend the VHF network in Bangui to ensure the safety and security of responders.

- The ETC plans to establish a Digital Mobile Radio network to enhance the security telecommunications services.

CHALLENGES:

- Given the escalating situation in the southwest of the country, requirements for continuing provision of shared ICT services is high. However, the funding situation remains a challenge.

- The volatile situation in the southwest is impacting ETC plans for assessments and deployments of vital services.

- Lack of staff on the ground is impacting ETC plans.

- Limited international attention on the operation in CAR impacts ETC activities in the country.