

Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.) – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #2

Reporting period 29/11/17 to 23/01/17

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in the Democratic Republic of Congo was activated on 20 November 2017. Under the global leadership of the World Food Programme (WFP), the ETC is coordinating the ICT response with government, the private sector and humanitarian partners on the ground. ETC SitReps are issued every month.

Highlights

- The ETC Coordinator has left D.R.C. on 19 January 2018 and a new coordinator will be confirmed soon.
- A funding application has been made to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to further upgrade security telecommunications in Kasai, Sud-Kivu and Tanganyika provinces and will be forwarded to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in New York for final approval.



UNHAS jet in Kananga transferring passengers to a smaller UNHAS aircraft that covers the humanitarian hubs in Kasai.
Photo: Neil Murphy-Dewar/WFP

Situation Overview

Since April 2016, the conflict in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.) has been escalating, causing widespread displacements and the loss of livelihoods. An estimated 3.2 million people are severely food insecure in the Kasai region and 762,000 people are internally displaced. Due to the conflict in Kasai, 33,500 people have fled to neighboring Angola and Zambia as refugees, and an estimated 2 million people are internally displaced in the South Kivu and Tanganyika regions.

ETC Response

- The ETC conducted an initial rapid ICT assessment in **Kananga**, **Tshikapa** and **Mbuji-Mayi** in Kasai province and in **Kalemie** in Tanganyika province to assess any gaps in security telecommunications and Internet services.
 - In **Kananga**, **Tshikapa** and **Kalemie**, the assessment indicates the presence of good ISP and 3G networks in urban locations.
 - In **Mbuji-Mayi**, the ETC has identified a need for security telecommunications as the infrastructure needs to be upgraded.



Planned Response

- The ETC is planning to conduct missions to Mbuji-Mayi to assist UNDSS in the upgrade of security telecommunications. This upgrade was planned by the ICT Working Group before the activation of the ETC and is due to take place during January 2018.
- Neil Murphy-Dewar concluded his role as ETC Coordinator on 19 January. More information about the next Coordinator will be confirmed soon.
- A stand-by partner from MSB will be arriving at the end of January to provide technical advisory and telecommunications support.

Challenges

- Unstable security conditions are an ongoing challenge to access several key areas for the ETC team as they conduct ICT needs assessments.
- No funding has yet been received for ETC activities in D.R.C. The ETC is continuing to work on obtaining the necessary funds to cover its operations in Kasai, Tanganyika, and South Kivu.

Funding

- A funding application has been made to the Central Emergency Response Fund - Rapid Response (CERF RR) to further upgrade security telecommunications in Kasai, Sud-Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. This project was approved by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and will be forwarded to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in New York for final approval.
- An estimated USD\$1.4 million is required to enable the ETC to provide coordination, information management and delivery of shared ICT services for 6 months in the common operational areas identified.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC teleconference is scheduled for 30 January 2018.

Information

- ETC D.R.C. information can be found at <https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/democratic-republic-congo-drc-complex-emergencys>.

Key ETC Contacts

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Acronyms

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
DMR	Digital Mobile Radio
D.R.C.	Democratic Republic of Congo
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
IT	Information Technology
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ISP	Internet Service Providers
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PTT	Push-to-talk
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
UN	United Nations
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
VHF	Very High Frequency
WFP	UN World Food Programme

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

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