

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (C.A.R.)

OPERATION OVERVIEW



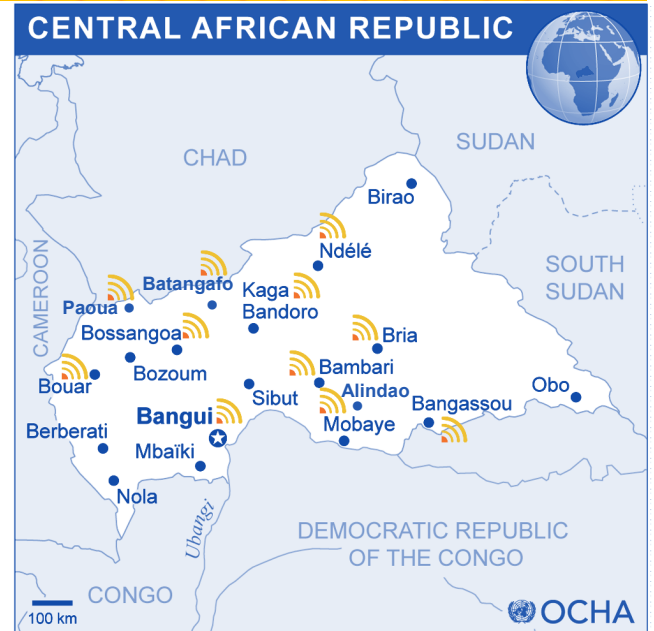
TYPE OF EMERGENCY:

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. A recent escalation of violence in C.A.R. since October 2018 has brought the country towards the brink of a new humanitarian crisis, increasing the protection risks in multiple new hotspots across the country. Over five years after the beginning of the conflict, the humanitarian situation remains critical leaving 2.9 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

11



SERVICES PROVIDED

- Internet connectivity
- Security telecommunications
- Coordination
- Technical training for local staff
- Radio programming
- Customer support
- Information Management



TRAININGS CONDUCTED

- Radio training
- ICT 4Gov



FUNDING STATUS

- The ETC is 27% funded of US\$1.5 million required
- The ETC received US\$400,000 from the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)



PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Extend ICT services in Batangafo, Bangassou, Bria and Alindao



CHALLENGES

- The ongoing security situation remains unpredictable
- Lack of funding
- Staff capacity



NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS SERVED

55

RESPONSE

- The ETC provides shared Internet connectivity services and/or security telecommunications to the response community in nine sites across the country: Alindao, Bambari, Bangassou, Bangui, Batangafo, Bossangoa, Bria, Bouar, Kaga-Bandoro, N'Dele and Paoua.
- Following the escalating security situation in Batangafo, Internet services and an ICT helpdesk are now being provided temporarily at the OCHA compound.
- Alindao and Bria are now providing Internet services. In addition, security telecommunications services for UN agencies are also now operational in Bria.
- In Bangassou, the ETC deployed a satellite terminal at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) offices to provide Internet connectivity services to the entire humanitarian community.
- The critical US\$400,00 funding provided by CHF to the ETC is being used to extend the provision of ETC Internet connectivity services in Bria, Alindao and Bangassou in addition to the procurement of equipment to support ETC services provision in one more location (yet to be defined).
- Three Services for Communities (S4C) assessment missions were carried out in Bangassou, Bria and Kaga-Bandoro in January 2019 to identify improvements in communication systems for affected communities. Recommendations are to be issued to the CAR Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- The ETC plans to extend Internet connectivity services to the church in Bangassou which is hosting a guesthouse for humanitarians.
- The ETC will conduct assessment missions in Amada-Gaza, Berberati and Gamboula in 2019 to map the communication gaps in these locations.
- Ericsson Response and Luxembourg equipment is planned to be set up in Batangafo in early 2019. The data connectivity solutions will manage, distribute and upgrade Internet services across the city.
- A Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) mission is planned in January 2019 to make recommendations to improve the security communications network for the humanitarian community.

CHALLENGES:

- The security situation in the country remains unstable and presents a consistent challenge for all humanitarians.
- Funding remains critical and impacts on planning, provision of critical ETC services and staffing capacity.

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



THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
Directorate for Development Cooperation
and Humanitarian Affairs



UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF



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