CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

etc
EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS
— CLUSTER —

OPERATION OVERVIEW

TYPE OF EMERGENCY:

CONFLICT

ETC ACTIVE SINCE:

2013

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
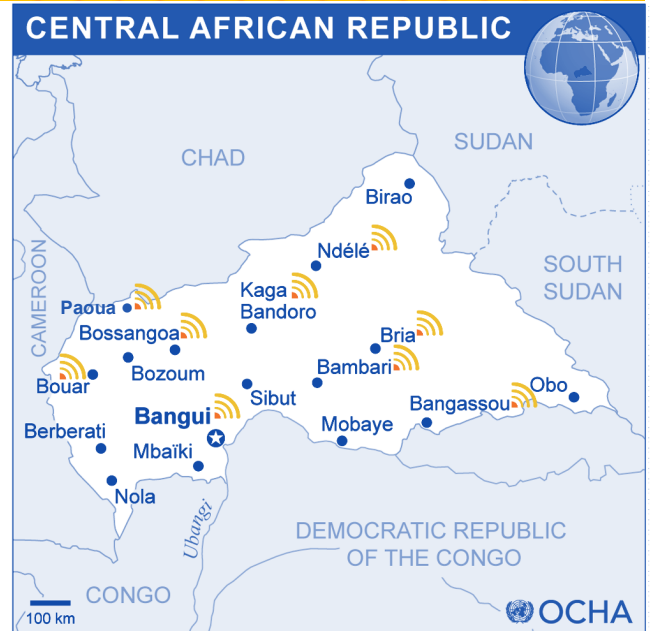
A protection crisis erupted in the Central African Republic (C.A.R.) at the end of 2013 resulting in severe violence and widespread displacement. The collapse of state, law and order and public services further exacerbated the situation. Since then, the country has remained extremely volatile. Almost 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 91% funded, out of US$1.1 million required.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Deploy Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) network in Bangui and in Bambari.
- Transition services.
- Provide services in 3x new sites

CHALLENGES

- The ongoing volatile security

25 October 2017

RESPONSE

- The ETC continues to provide shared Internet connectivity services and security telecommunications to the response community in eight sites across the country: Kaga-Bandoro and Bossangoa, managed by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); N'Dele, managed by International Organisation of Migration (IOM); and Bambari, Bangui, Bouar and Paoua, managed by WFP. Security telecommunications services in Bossangoa and Bouar have already been handed over to UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

- As part of the exit strategy, the ETC continues to develop a transition plan in these eight sites to ensure the provision of shared ICT services in the long term by December 2017.

- Given the pressing needs in the South-East of the country, the ETC plans to deploy common Internet and security telecommunications services in three additional operational areas to support humanitarian operations. A contribution of US$530,000 from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was received to carry out this project.

- In Zemio, Internet connectivity services and security telecommunications have been managed by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); however, increasing security incidents in Zemio have forced the humanitarian responders to evacuate this location and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services have been disrupted.

- Over 400 humanitarian personnel have received radio user training since the beginning of the operation, supporting their safety while carrying out their lifesaving work in this complex and insecure environment.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- The ETC still plans to deploy a DMR network in the capital, Bangui and in Bambari for UN agencies once funding has been secured.

- The ETC is working on developing a transition plan to ensure provision of longer-term shared ICT services as the current project runs until the end of December 2017.

- The ETC is working on the deployment of common ICT services three new sites by the end of November to support humanitarian operations, if the security situation allows.

CHALLENGES:

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

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

ERICSSON RESPONSE

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs

Sida

WFP
wfp.org

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF