

## Central African Republic - Conflict

### ETC Situation Report #15

Reporting period 18/04/2017 to 01/06/2017

These Situation Reports will now be distributed every six months. The next report will be issued on or around 13/07/17.

### Highlights

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to provide vital security telecommunications and Internet connectivity services to the humanitarian community in 8x operational areas across Central African Republic (C.A.R.).
- The ETC is planning for the transition of long-term shared Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services from the end of June this year.
- The ETC is preparing to address the communications needs emerging in two new hotspots where violence is escalating in the southwest of the country: Bria and Bangassou. Assessment missions will be carried out.

### Situation Overview

The complex humanitarian and protection crisis affecting Central African Republic (C.A.R.) since 2012 shows no sign of abating.

The recent escalation of violence in C.A.R. has brought the country towards the brink of a new, large-scale humanitarian crisis. Due to this resurgence of violence in 2017, humanitarian needs and serious protection risks have dramatically increased in multiple new hotspots across the country.

In May 2017 alone, more than 100,000 people were displaced and 19,000 sought refuge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), bringing the total displaced population close to one million, a quarter of the population.



*Sylvain Tiako, ETC Coordinator, at work in Bangui.*

*Photo credit: ETC CAR*

## 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 the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and Bangui, Bouar and Paoua, managed by the World Food Programme (WFP).
- An assessment mission for the planned Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) network in Bangui was successfully carried out, including an assessment of all radio repeater sites in Bangui. The team is waiting to receive the full report before proceeding with the project.
- NetHope has agreed to hand over all of its remaining equipment to the ETC and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been prepared.
- The ETC team has enhanced the security telecommunications coverage in Bossangoa and transferred base radios and High Frequency (HF) radios to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) base.
- The ETC team also went on mission to Paoua to recable the Communications Centre (COMCEN) as the COMCEN had previously had to be moved due to renovation work.

## Planned Response

- The ETC plans to deploy the Digital Mobile Network (DMR) in the capital, Bangui, as well as two other operational sites together with UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS).
- The ETC plans to carry out missions to two new hotspot sites, Bria and Bangassou, to identify possible communications needs of humanitarians in those areas.
  - The ETC has completed a budget revision and included the two new sites. There may be a need to provide Internet connectivity services in these areas.

## Challenges

- The ongoing escalation of violence in the country remains a challenge for all humanitarians, including the ETC.

## Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on Wednesday 14 June.



## Information

- ICT responders operating on the ground in Central African Republic are encouraged to share their contact details with [CAR.ETC@wfp.org](mailto: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
Bangui	WFP sub-office	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security telecommunications</li> <li>• Radio training</li> <li>• Radio programming</li> <li>• Information Management</li> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• Coordination</li> </ul>		Humanitarian community
Bambari	WFP sub-office	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security telecommunications (radio)</li> <li>• ICT Helpdesk</li> <li>• Internet</li> </ul>		Humanitarian community
Kaga-Bandoro	UNICEF Compound	UNICEF, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security telecommunications (radio)</li> <li>• Radio training</li> <li>• ICT helpdesk</li> <li>• Internet</li> </ul>		Humanitarian community
Bossangoa	UNICEF Compound	UNICEF,WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security telecommunications (radio)</li> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• Radio training</li> <li>• ICT Helpdesk</li> </ul>		Humanitarian community
Zemio	HCR compound	HCR ,WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• ICT Helpdesk</li> <li>• Security telecommunications (radio)</li> </ul>		Humanitarian community
N'Dele	IOM Compound	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security telecommunications (radio)</li> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• Radio training</li> </ul>		Humanitarian community
Paoua	WFP compound	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security telecommunications (radio)</li> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• Radio programming</li> <li>• ICT Helpdesk</li> </ul>		Humanitarian community



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Bouar	WFP compound	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Security telecommunications (radio)</li><li>• Internet</li><li>• Radio programming</li><li>• ICT Helpdesk</li></ul>		Humanitarian community
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**ETC Services Map:** <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-car-services-map-march-2017>



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## Contacts

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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
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal – <i>satellite equipment to provide internet connectivity</i>
WFP	World Food Programme

**All information related to ETC operations can be found on the ICT Emergency website: [www.ETCluster.org](http://www.ETCluster.org)**

**For more information, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: [CAR.ETC@wfp.org](mailto: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 420,000 people are still displaced across the country and the number of refugees outside the C.A.R. is over 450,000.

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

Sources: IOM, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)