



OPERATION OVERVIEW

The conflict crisis in CAR has forced a million people to flee their homes and left over half the population in need of humanitarian assistance. ETC communication services support **3,000 responders** from **97 humanitarian agencies** across the country to assist the humanitarian response.



ETC was activated in
DECEMBER 2013



ETC services
provided in
13 COMMON



10
SECURITY
OPERATION
CENTRES (SOC)



37% funded out of
US\$870,000
required in 2021.
US\$550,000
still required.



ETC activities in CAR

COMMUNICATION NEEDS

Humanitarians work in unstable and insecure areas throughout CAR. To assist affected communities, responders require reliable and effective means of communication to work, stay safe and communicate with colleagues. The ETC in CAR responds to severe gaps in the country's data and security telecommunications infrastructure caused by the conflict. Across 13 common operational areas of the country – Alindao, Bambari, Bangassou, Bangui, Batangafo, Birao, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, N'Dele, Paoua and Zemio – the ETC provides communication services to over 3,000 humanitarian workers from 97 partner organizations across different sectors.

AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

COVID-19 response — In CAR, free and rapid access to information on COVID-19 could mean the difference between life and death. The ETC has supported the Ministry of Health to re-open a dedicated COVID-19 call centre in Bangui, where operators take calls from the population on symptoms, vaccines, national health guidelines and referrals through the short code helpline number '1212'.

Communication services in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps — Communication is a basic human need. For over half a million people displaced within CAR, access to communications services and information can provide a lifeline. The ETC has set up phone booths in the large Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Bria to enable affected populations to communicate with their families and contact humanitarian helplines free of charge. The ETC is also supporting the UNICEF-led Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM) in Bria to enable affected communities to contact humanitarians to explain their needs and to request assistance.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECURITY STANDARDS (TESS)

The ETC is working with TESS and UNDSS to strengthen and augment the capacity/coverage of VHF and HF radio networks across 15 sites in CAR, in line with UN Security Communications System standards to ensure staff can communicate safely and securely.

During the escalation of violence in Bria in 2020, NGOs operating in the area depended heavily on a dedicated radio channel set up for them by the ETC as part of the TESS project. Access to security channels gave humanitarians real and immediate support in the field and assisted them to stay safe.

At 37 per cent funded, the ETC in CAR requires immediate funding of US\$550,000 to maintain and expand lifesaving communications services.

Partner and donor organizations supporting the ETC in CAR: Central African Red Cross (CARC), CORDAID, Ericsson Response, Government of Luxembourg, INTERSOS, IOM, OCHA, UNDSS, UNICEF, WFP