Central African Republic – Conflict

ETC Situation Report #41

Reporting period 01/01/2021 to 31/01/2021

These Situation Reports will be distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 28/02/21.

Highlights

- The ETC is tentatively planning several missions that had been delayed due to the escalation of conflict across the country, following the general election held on 27 December.

- In response to a request from the humanitarian community, the ETC deployed to Zemio on 29 January to set up Internet connectivity services for responders there.

- The ETC is formalizing an agreement with the authorities in Bangassou to set up the planned information and learning hub in one of the city's buildings.

An ETC technician installs satellite equipment for data connectivity services in Zemio.

Photo credit: WFP/ETC

ETC Activities

Security situation

- The ETC is tentatively planning several missions that had been delayed due to the escalation of conflict across the country, following the general election held on 27 December.

Internet connectivity

- The ETC continues to provide Internet connectivity services to an average of 386 humanitarian users across 10 sites. The numbers of users decreased by approximately 40 percent during the holiday period due to flight disruption caused by the escalating security situation, which prevented responders from returning to their duty stations.

The ETC is a global network of organizations that work together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies

- The ETC shipped satellite connectivity equipment to Zemio in mid-January and deployed on 29 January to set up Internet connectivity services for the humanitarian community there, in response to a request for services from OCHA.

Security telecommunications

- The ETC supported UNDSS to strengthen security telecommunications services for the response community in Bossangoa, where tensions escalated during and after the electoral period. ETC support included reactivating the VHF radio channel used by humanitarians in Bossangoa.

- The ETC deployed to Bouar on 29 January to restore a VHF radio channel.

Services for communities' projects

- The ETC is formalizing an agreement with the authorities in Bangassou to set up the planned information and learning hub in one of the city's buildings.

- The ETC is also concluding its agreement with implementing partner INTERSOS to set up a phone booth in the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Bria to enable affected communities to access free-of-charge call services.

COVID-19 call centre

- To support the reopening of the dedicated COVID-19 call centre managed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Bangui, the ETC is planning to onboard and train three team supervisors with technical expertise in February – dependent on the security situation – to staff the call centre on a rotational 24/7 basis, once the centre is reopened. The process has been significantly delayed following the security situation in CAR.

Challenges

- Funding constraints remain a critical element in enabling the team to move forward with several ongoing ETC activities in CAR.

- The volatile security situation in the country remains a challenge for all humanitarians.

Meetings

- The next Global ETC Joint teleconference will take place on **17 February 2021.**

Information

- ICT responders operating on the ground in CAR are encouraged to share their contact details with **CAR.ETC@wfp.org** to facilitate local coordination.

- All the information related to the ETC response in CAR can be found on the **dedicated emergency page** on the ETC website.

Contacts

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