

3.4 Republic of the Congo Telecommunications

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Competition on the mobile telephone market is relatively scarce with two major companies dominating the market MTN and AIRTEL while AZUR and CONGO TELECOM have a marginal role. The rates are relatively high compared to other African countries.

No restrictions are applied for registering SIM cards, a government issued document is required for nationals, while a passport is required for internationals.

For more information on telecoms contacts, please see the following link: [4.1 Republic of the Congo Government Contact List](#).

Telephone Services	
Is there an existing landline telephone network?	YES (Congo Telecom)
Does it allow international calls?	YES
Number and Length of Downtime Periods (on average)	ONCE A YEAR 1 WEEK
Mobile Phone Providers	MTN/AIRTEL/AZUR/CONGO TELECOM
Approximate Percentage of National Coverage	80% MTN and AIRTEL together

Telecommunications Regulations

The Congolese Act of 25 November 2009 created a new telecommunications and postal regulatory authority in Congo (Brazzaville), called L'Agence de régulation des postes et des communications électroniques (ARPCE — The Congolese Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Agency). The ARPCE is a Public Administrative Authority that benefits from legal personality, and budgetary authority, because it is financed by a tax on companies operating in the regulated sectors. It is subject to oversight by the Ministry in charge of Postal Services and Telecommunications. In support of its general mission of postal and telecommunications regulation, the ARPCE benefits from the powers to emit instructions and administrative rules and regulations, the power to impose sanctions, the power to control postal and telecommunications networks, according to the law as it stands.

Regulations on Usage and Import		
	Regulations in Place?	Regulating Authority
Satellite	YES	ARPCE
HF Radio	YES	ARPCE
UHF/VHF/HF Radio: Handheld, Base and Mobile	YES	ARPCE
UHF/VHF Repeaters	YES	ARPCE
GPS	NO	N/A
VSAT	YES	ARPCE
Individual Network Operator Licenses Required		
An MOU is in place between the UN agencies and the government of the Congo.		
Frequency Licenses Required		
An MOU is in place between the UN agencies and the government of the Congo.		

Existing Humanitarian Telecoms Systems

There is a UN shared HF and VHF radio communications system operated by UNDSS who is based at UNDP compound in Brazzaville.

UN staff must report to UNDSS when leaving their respective duty stations, radio check is regularly performed and increased in frequency based on the security current level.

Other UN Agencies do have their own communications system such as Thurayas satellite phones for internal use.

Existing UN Telecommunication Systems						
	UNDSS	WFP	UNDP	UNICEF	FAO	UNHCR
VHF Frequencies	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
HF Frequencies	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Locations of Repeaters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
VSAT	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

The main internet providers in the Republic of the Congo are AMC, WIFLY, MTN, AIRTEL and CONGO TELECOM of which the latter is state owned and is the only optic fibre provider in the country. Currently, most of the UN agencies are independent but can contract through private companies. Most of the businesses are connected through private providers or the state-owned Congo telecom, connections in general are reliable. Connection breakdowns can occur. In the past breakdowns have been caused by the rupture of a submarine cable and by the demand of the government. The average length of the breakdowns was one week.

Internet Service Providers		
Are there ISPs available?	YES	
If yes, are they privately or government owned?	PRIVATELY and GOVERNMENT OWNED	
Dial-up only?	NO	
Approximate Rates (local currency and USD - \$)	Dial-up	280CFA or 0.50USD per minute with max speed of 56Kbps
	Broadband	1,253 CFA per GB at speed 2MBPS
Max Leasable 'Dedicated' Bandwidth	4MBPS	

Mobile Network Operators (MNOs)

The main companies of the Republic of the Congo are MTN, AIRTEL, AZUR and the state-owned CONGO TELECOM. The four main Companies all together guarantee a coverage of about 80 percent of the national territory, with different strength and coverage depending on the region.

The regulatory authority in Congo (Brazzaville) is L'Agence de régulation des postes et des communications électroniques (ARPCE — The Congolese Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Agency)

For information on MNOs please visit the [GSM Association website](#).

Company	Number of Agent Outlets by Area	Network Strength by Area	Contracted for Humanitarian or Government Cash Transfer Programmes?	Services Offered (i.e. Merchant Payment, Bulk Disbursement, Receive & Make Payment)
MTN	N/A	N/A	YES	
AIRTEL	N/A	N/A	YES	Merchant payment, Receive & Make Payment (Airtel Money)
CONGO TELECOM	N/A	N/A	NO	
AZUR	N/A	N/A	NO	

Disclaimer: Inclusion of company information in the LCA does not imply any business relationship between the supplier and WFP / Logistics Cluster, and is used solely as a determinant of services, and capacities.

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