

Like the Ebola outbreak itself, the ET Cluster response to fight the deadly disease is unprecedented in scale and geographical coverage.

Humanitarians, governmental bodies and - for the first time - affected populations are being provided with essential communications support by the ET Cluster in West Africa.

An outbreak of Ebola was first reported in Guinea in March 2014. The virus rapidly spread to neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone, causing a regional crisis.

Although the Emergency Telecommunications (ET) Cluster is not officially activated, the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) mandated the World Food Programme (WFP) to respond as if the cluster was activated and to lead inter-agency ICT efforts.



ET Cluster Response Pillars & Partners

1. ETU Communications Support

Internet connectivity & security communications in 22 Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs).

Voice communications to around 200 Community Care Centres (CCCs) & 'Rapid Response Teams'.

2. Common Humanitarian IT Services

Internet connectivity & 8/5 security telecoms services in 19 common operational areas.

Security telecoms equipment in 130 trucks and light vehicles.

3. Communications 4 Communities

In partnership with healthcare providers, establish technology services to allow patients to communicate with their families, including provision of 500 mobiles phones to patients.

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ERICSSON
RESPONSE



ET Cluster Activities

GUINEA

- Connectivity and voice communications to be established in 5x ETUs.
- Provide security communications in 5 locations to UN and NGO community.
- Internet hotspots will be installed in Macenta and N'zerekore.
- 200 mobile phones will be given to Ebola patients allowing them to communicate with their families.

LIBERIA

- The ET Cluster is independently providing satellite phone and internet connectivity for Rapid Response Teams and 5x Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) and 2x Main Logistics Bases (MLBs) in support of UNMEER.
- Security communications equipment will be installed in 40x light vehicles and 40x trucks. The vehicles will support transportation of inter-agency staff and humanitarian supplies.
- A dedicated NGO radio network will be established in Monrovia, enhancing security telecommunications services for the NGO community.

SIERRA LEONE

- Provide internet connectivity, security communications and telephony services to 9 ETUs and 200 CCCs for Ebola patients and health care workers.
- Provide the National Ebola Response Centre with internet connectivity and telephony services to 3 Rapid Response and Stabilisation Teams and 12 District Command Centres.
- Security communications services will be established for the humanitarian community in Freetown, Kailahun, Kenema, Makeni, Kono, Port Loko and Bo.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is a global network of organizations that work together to provide common communications services in humanitarian emergencies.

The cluster approach strengthens response effectiveness through ensuring predictable and sufficient capacity, leadership, partners, accountability and coordination.

In emergencies, members exchange information and expertise and provide personnel, equipment and solutions.

Staff from all humanitarian organizations can use ETC services, regardless of membership.

Representatives from humanitarian organizations interested in participating in inter-agency ICT services and information-sharing are encouraged to attend local working group meetings.

Funding

The current approved budget for the ET Cluster response is US\$8.2 million across the four countries.



For more information about the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in West Africa, visit: www.ETCluster.org or contact: WestAfrica.ETC@wfp.org.

On behalf of the ETC, WFP thanks key partners for their contribution to this response.