West Africa Ebola Crisis

Situation Report #6

Reporting period 16/12/14 to 03/01/15

These Sitreps are distributed every two weeks. The next report will be issued on or around 23/01/15.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster has not been activated in response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. As there are clear needs across the three affected countries for ICT services, the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) has mandated the World Food Programme (WFP), as global ET Cluster lead, to respond as if the cluster was activated. The ET Cluster, its partners and membership are responding together for a coordinated response.

Regional Highlights

- The ET Cluster is providing internet connectivity in 23 locations across the three affected countries, ensuring reliable internet access for 559 inter-agency and humanitarian staff.
- In addition, 4 locations have NGO radio coverage and 11 locations have UN radio coverage.

Regional Update

ET Cluster has published new common ICT services maps for all 3 countries which portray the operational status on the [ET Cluster website](#) and in the annex of this SitRep.

To better manage service requests from customers, ET Cluster has developed a request form available [to customers online](#)

Country Highlights

Liberia – *The response on Liberia is heavily focused on establishing or upgrading security coms in 8x locations as well as work with UNMEER and UNMIL to establish data and voice connectivity at the 5x FLB's and 2x MLB's.*

- The Channel 10 NGO humanitarian radio security channel was established in Monrovia and is being extended to the remaining 7 locations across the country.

- The Liberia team is currently on a 5 week mission to all 5 FLB sites to install security coms for both UN and NGOs.
- 35 new handheld radios have been programmed and ready for shipment to all 5 FLBs in country.
- Additional 10 land cruisers are being programmed with radio equipment before they are sent to the field.

Sierra Leone – *The response on Sierra Leone has changed drastically in the past few weeks and is heavily focused on establishing internet communications in 57 ETUs as well as providing internet, radio, voice, or electrical services in 58 other locations. The project is massive and will require significant support from cluster members.*
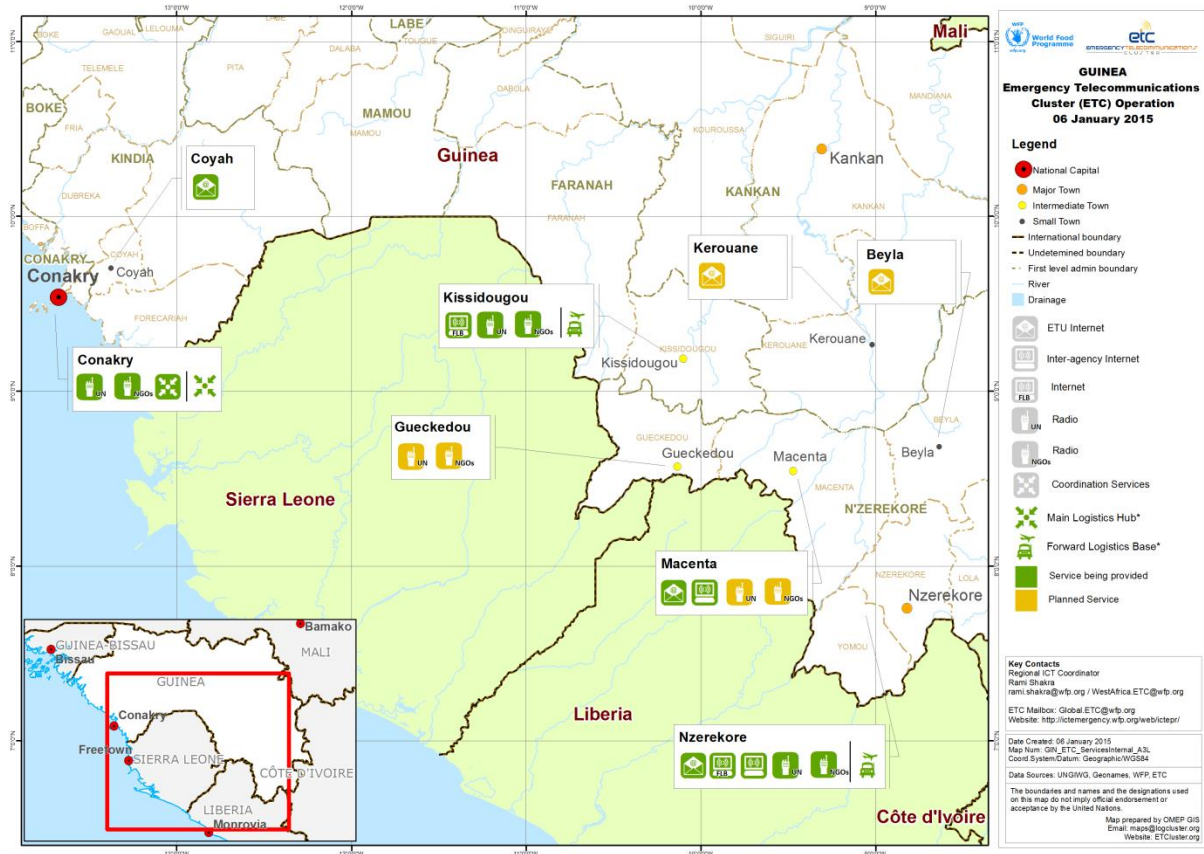
- To date. 7 inter-agency locations and 2 Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) have internet connectivity supporting 395 humanitarian and health workers.
- Provided satellite and data connectivity equipment to World Vision to set up connectivity at 5 different locations.
- In the past 2 weeks, received request to provide internet connectivity in 57 ETUs across the country.

- Officially agreed with UNDSS to upgrade radio communications in Freetown, Kailahun, Kenema, Makeni, Kono, and brand new radio communications in Port Loko and Bo.
- A very active Skype group was created for daily communication between all ETcluster members.
- The following partners are contributing life-saving ICT support and services in Sierra Leone: Ericsson Response, NetHope, SOS Children Villages, Emergency.lu, MSB, and Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW).
- In the district of Bo, work is ongoing to build two towers (SOS Village, Bo Government Hospital) to extend connectivity from SOS/British Telecoms to Ebola Care Facilities in Bo.
- Planning to connect around 60 sites in Sierra Leone together with NetHope.
- Planning with World Vision and NetHope Sierra Leone to provide connectivity to 3 District Ebola Centres in Kono, Pujehun and Bonthe.
- A major shipment of equipment was received from NetHope consisting of 17 Eutelsat VSATs that will be deployed in key facilities.

Guinea – *The response in Guinea is geared heavily on both data connectivity and security communications. Almost all UN, NGO, and ETU data and security comms needs in N'zerekore are being provided exclusively by the ET Cluster.*
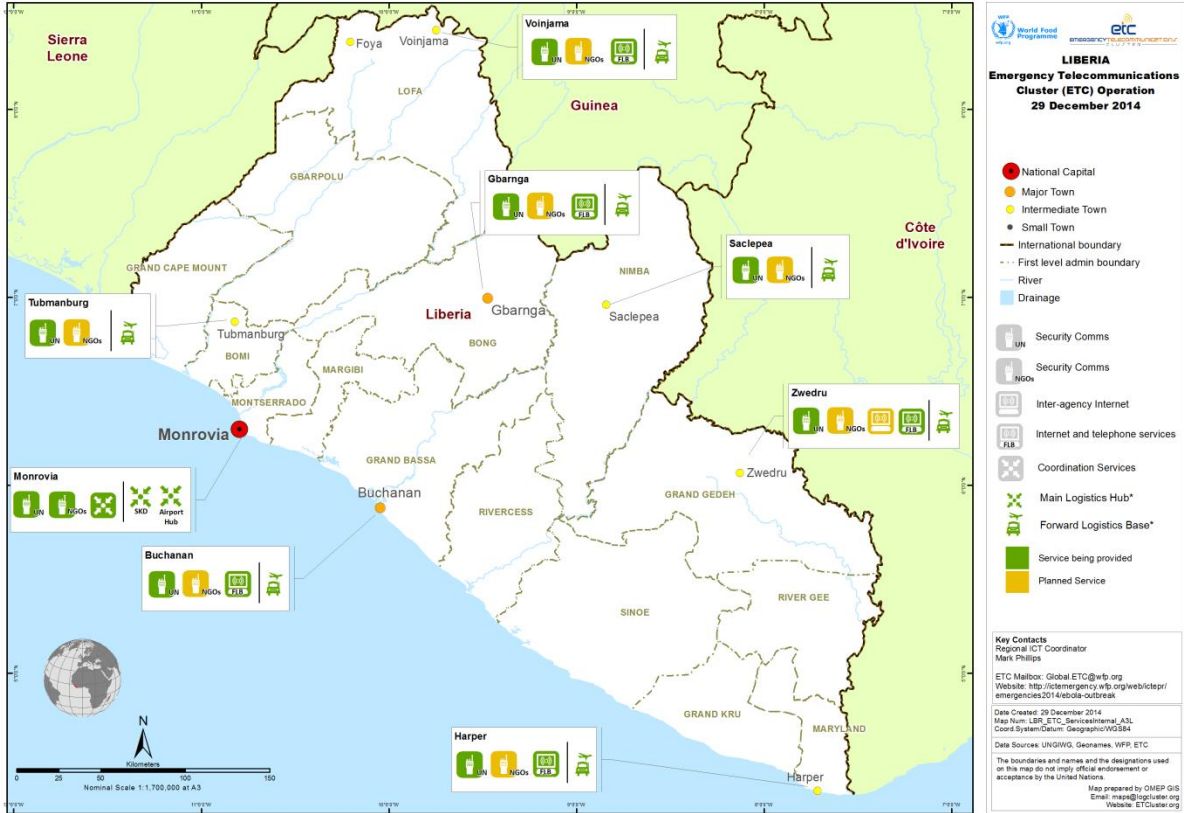

- 85% of data and security telecommunications services needs have been accomplished. Guinea team estimates to finish major deployments by 31 Jan, 2015.
- Security Telecommunications equipment (repeater and Radio Room) is being installed in Kissidougou and Guéckédou, both sites will be finished by 12 January 2015.

- A total of 58 health care workers have reliable access to internet at the Ebola Treatment Units in Macenta and N'zerekore. 2 ETUs remain to receive connectivity in Beyla expected by 15 January 2015 and Keroune by 31 January 2015.
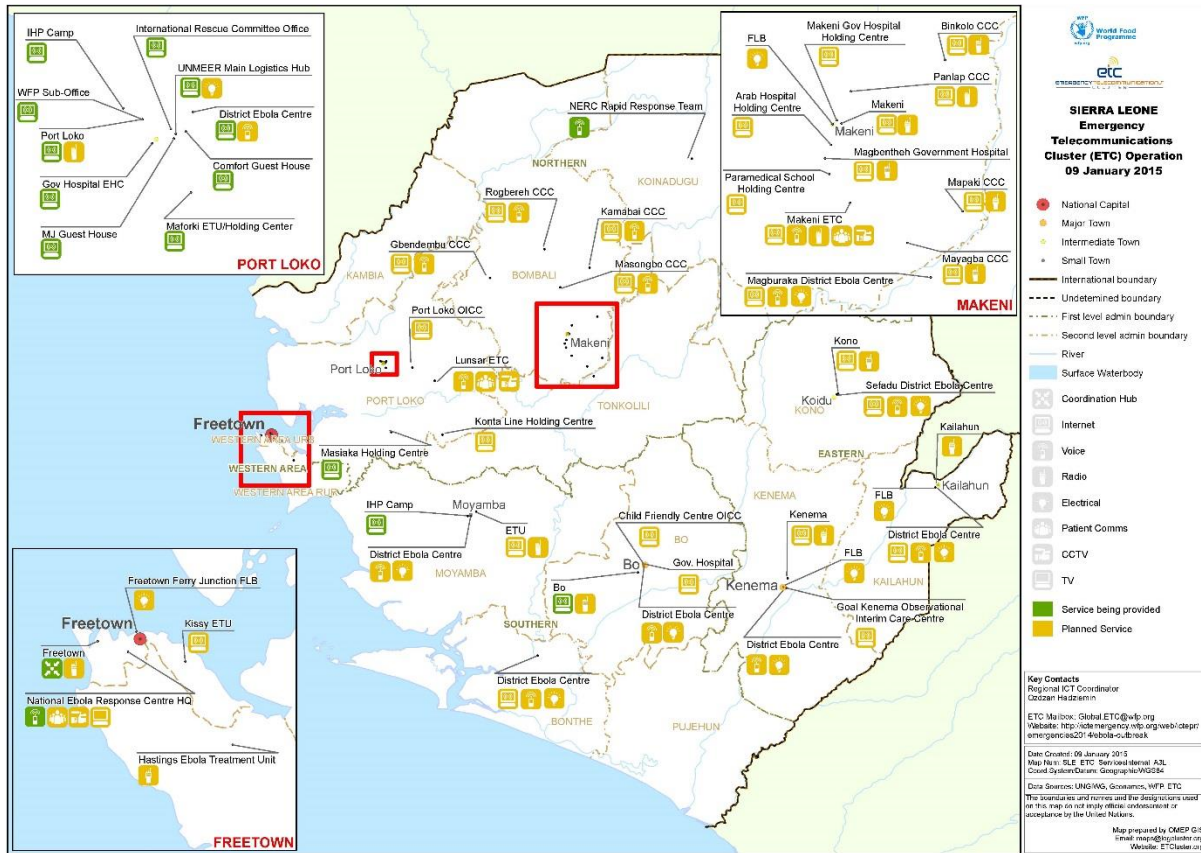- A radio base station was installed for UNHAS in Conakry to provide communications between air and ground staff.

Guinea

Liberia

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

www.ETCluster.org

Sierra Leone

Meetings

Global ETC teleconference:

09:00	New York
13:00	UTC
13:00	Accra / Dakar / Conakry / Freetown / Monrovia
15:00	Rome
17:00	Dubai

Local ETC meetings

- *Guinea:*   14 January 2014
- *Sierra Leone:*   12 January 1015
- *Liberia:*   TBD

Acronyms

CCC	Community Care Centres
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETU	Ebola Treatment Unit
FLB	Forward Logistics Base
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
MLB	Mission Logistics Base
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNMEER	United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
WFP	World Food Programme

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: www.ETCluster.org

For more information, to contact the team on the ground, or to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact: WestAfrica.ETC@wfp.org