

## **West Africa Ebola Crisis**

### **Situation Report #7**

**Reporting period 26/01/15 to 09/02/15**

These Sitreps are distributed every two weeks. The next report will be issued on or around 21/02/15.

*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 61 locations across the three affected countries, ensuring internet access for 1502 humanitarian staff.
- Work is underway for the construction of 17 x 24 meter high towers to extend internet coverage area in hard to reach locations in all 3 Ebola Affected Countries, meaning that more Wi-Fi hotspots will be available to humanitarians.
- The 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.

### **Country Updates**

#### **Guinea**

*There has been a transition of ICT Coordinators in the country. The current coordinator is Michael Dirksen, please see the West Africa page on the ICT site for contact information.*

- Expanded the coverage of internet connectivity to the Kerouane ETU. With the addition of Kerouane, ETC is currently providing connectivity to five ETUs (Macenta, Nzerekore, Beyla, Coyah and Kerouane) in the country.
- The team is continuing to support and improve radio communication services. This included improvement to NGO and UN radio communication (Chanel 3) in Kissidougou, Macenta and Gueckedou, as well as provision of radio training for UN/NGO personnel in Macenta and Nzerekore.

- Significant improvement has been made to internet connectivity and radio services in Nzerekore, one of the key Ebola emergency response location in Guinea. Using Ericsson Response WIDER connectivity solution, the ET Cluster has expanded network coverage to all UN offices in Nzerekore.
- Additionally, the team in Nzerekore assisting UNMEER with setting up a wireless network at the Nzerekore Forward Logistics Base.

### **Liberia**

- An estimated number of 250 UN and NGO users have been provided with internet connectivity or radio communications in 22 locations in 8 operational areas throughout the country.
- The ET Cluster has completed the mission to provide all Forward Logistics Bases (FLB) with connectivity. All sites are currently provided with NGO radio communications, security communications, and internet connectivity. As part of this effort, the team has also issued additional 35 laptops and 25 VHF handsets to each of the FLBs.
- Further expansion of connectivity coverage included provision of connectivity to UNHAS RIA Terminal 2 (UNHAS).
- UNMIL has provided connectivity to the Ganta ETU using VSAT equipment provided by ETC partner Nethope.

### **Sierra Leone**

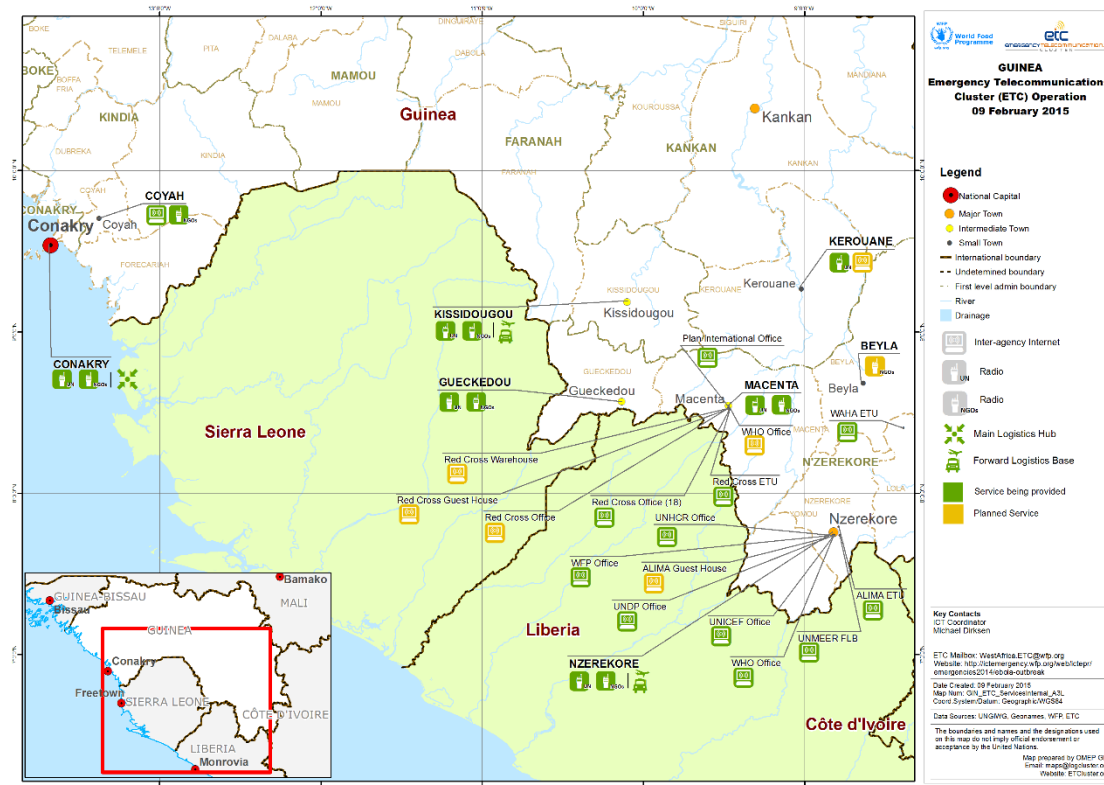
*There has been a transition of ICT Coordinators in the country. The current coordinator is Mark Phillips, please see the West Africa page on the ICT site for contact information.*

- The team continued to expand and improve internet connectivity coverage for humanitarian responders responding to the emergency in Sierra Leone. During the first weeks of February, the team:
  - In Bo provided connectivity to the District Health Management Team, the District Medical Store, OICC and District Ebola Response Centre offices, as well as resolved technical problems with the internet connection at the Bo Observational Interim Care Center;
  - In Kono, provided internet connectivity to the Kono UN Common compound, Partners in Health holding centre at the Koidu/Kono Government Hospital and the District Health Management Team;
  - In Kenema increased internet network coverage for staff at the WFP/UN compound by installing outdoor Access Point & WIDER, a connectivity management solution provided by Ericsson Response;
  - In Port Loko Provided connectivity to the GOAL Ebola Treatment Unit, District Health Management Team, ChildFund and OICC Sunville Hotel (WHO guesthouse);

- In close partnership with NetHope provided internet connectivity to the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine for Ebola vaccine clinical trial reporting in Bathurst;
  - In partnership with Ericsson Response, provided internet Access Points to the Comfort Guest House, MJ Motel and IHP camp in Port Loko.
- As part of the ET Cluster's radio communications support, 17 Thuraya voice telephones were provided to the National Ebola Response Center (NERC).
- The ET Cluster, is continuing to provide support for logistics teams on the ground by
  - improving connectivity for all Port Loko FLB-connected sites and Port Loko District Emergency Response Centre;
  - providing connectivity at the helipad in Freetown, to support the MedLog team, established by WFP logistics;
  - providing ICT Equipment for the Logistics Cluster and UNHAS

## Map of ETC Service

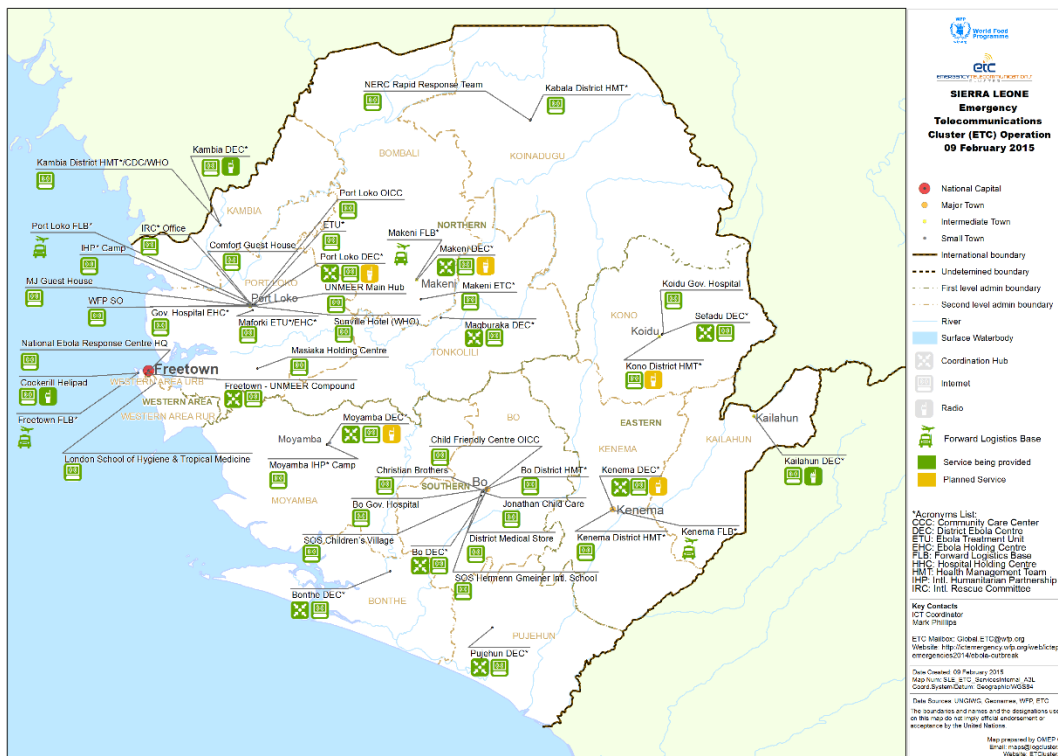
### Guinea



## Liberia



## Sierra Leone



## Meetings

**Global ETC teleconference:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

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

## Local ETC meetings

- Guinea:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015
- Sierra Leone:** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2015
- Liberia:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

## Acronyms

CCC	Community Care Centres
DERC	District Ebola Response Center
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETU	Ebola Treatment Unit
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FLB	Forward Logistics Base



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ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
MLB	Mission Logistics Base
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NERC	National Ebola Response Center
OICC	Observational Interim Care Center
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNHAS	UN Humanitarian Air Service
UNMEER	UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response
UNMIL	UN Mission in Liberia
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

**All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website: [www.ETCluster.org](http://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](mailto:WestAfrica.ETC@wfp.org)**

**Background on the crisis:**

In March 2014, a rapidly evolving outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever started in Guinea. The outbreak subsequently spread to Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal. On 1 Aug, WHO and the government of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia launched a joint US\$ 100 million response plan as part of an intensified international, regional and national campaign to bring the outbreak under control. On 8 Aug, WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) (WHO, 8 Aug 2014). On 28 Aug, WHO issued a "roadmap" to scale up the international response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. On 16 Sep, the Overview of Needs and Requirements document was presented to UN Member States, which covers activities in the three most-affected countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone for six months.

Sources: ReliefWeb