

West Africa Ebola Crisis

Situation Report #8

Reporting period 10/02/15 to 27/02/15

These Sitreps are distributed every two weeks. The next report will be issued on or around 14/03/15.

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 84 locations across the three affected countries, ensuring internet access for 2163 humanitarian staff.

Country Updates

Guinea

- The ET Cluster Carried out radio training for 161 humanitarian personnel from five different organisations in Macenta and in N'zerekore.

- Internet connectivity services in N'zerekore district have been expanded. There are currently 72 registered users on the ET Cluster Network in this area. The set of activities to expand connectivity services included:

- Installation of an indoor access point that will provide internet connectivity at UNICEF office
- Assisting UNMEER with setting up a wireless network at the N'zerekore FLB.



ETC team upgrading the VSAT in Port Loko, Sierra Leone.
Photo: IHP

- Using Ericsson Response WIDER connectivity solution, expanding network coverage to all UN offices in N'zerekore.
 - Installation of additional equipment to improve internet connectivity in the N'zerekore ETU
- Telecommunications capacity assessments were completed in Boke, Labe, Kankan, Kissdougou and N'Zerekore, to determine the level of need to scale up operations in these areas.

Liberia

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

- As part of internet connectivity support services for UNHAS, ETC restored connectivity at James Spriggs Airport and extended connectivity at the RIA Airport to the check-in desk area.
- The ET Cluster is testing a radio repeater at the UNICEF office in Monrovia.
- A project to extend connectivity in remote areas as part of common services have been scaled down from 15 sites to five sites, with all five locations being close to the FLBs.
- ET Cluster received a set of equipment donated to the operation by NetHope, including 2x mobile VSATs, 5x BGANs and 40x 4G dongles. Remaining services to be deployed by NetHope will now come under the ET Cluster operation. Only 1 x mobile VSAT will need to be decommissioned and returned.
- As part of extending internet connectivity services to ETUs, in collaboration with UNMEER and NetHope, ET Cluster will deploy two mobile VSATs.
- An ETC Needs Assessment survey was sent out through cluster and OCHA to identify the humanitarian community's ongoing security telecoms and internet connectivity requirements. The deadline for submission of the survey is on Monday, 02 March 2015.

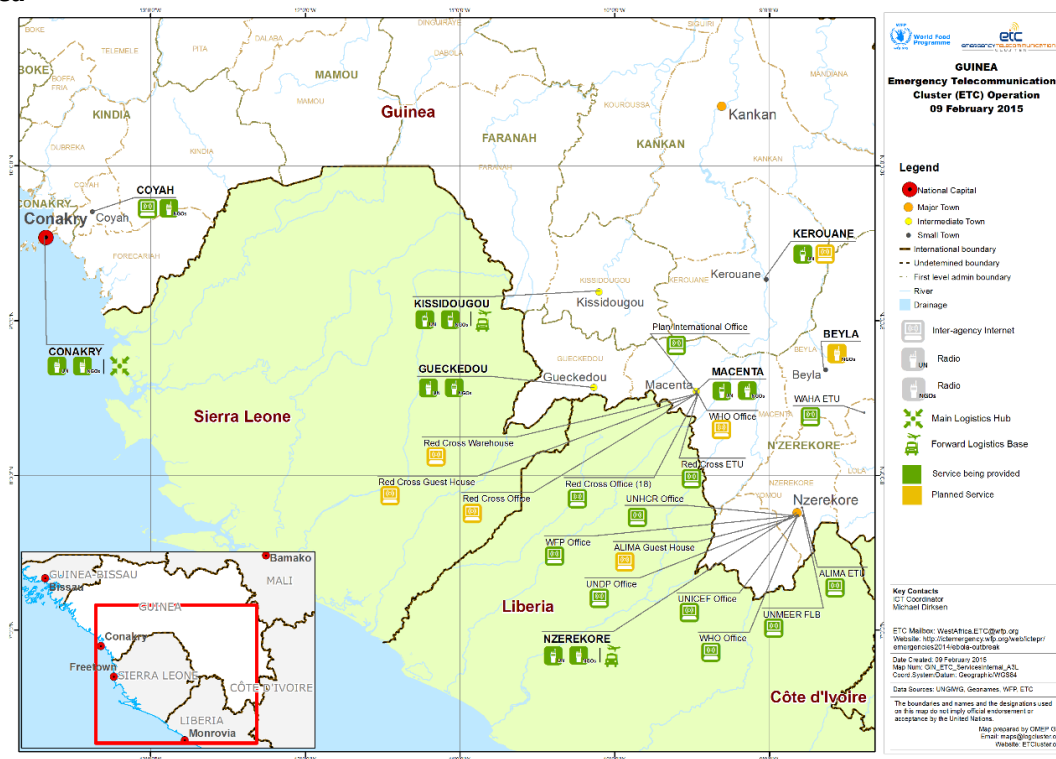
Sierra Leone

- The ET Cluster in Sierra Leone is currently providing internet services to over 1500 humanitarians in 64 locations.
- In partnership with the emergency.lu team upgraded equipment at IHP camps in Port Loko and Moyamba to improve internet services for the humanitarian community there.
- The team in Sierra Leone provided internet connectivity at:
 - The UN compound and Government Hospital in Koidu using Ericsson Response WIDER solution installed in UN compound Koidu.
 - Diamond Lodge and the Partners in Health office in Koidu via VSAT.

- Two Wellbody Clinics in Kono, Kailahun District Ebola Centre, Kailahun and Kenema District Ebola Centres, in close partnership with NetHope,
 - Bonthe District Ebola Response Center and District Health Management Team Office using Ericsson Response WIDER solution.
 - Blood bank at Connaught Hospital using equipment from NetHope and Ericsson Response
- Connectivity at the Hastings Ebola Treatment Unit, Maforki ETU, Port Loko government hospital and Port Loko GOAL ETU was improved.

Map of ETC Service

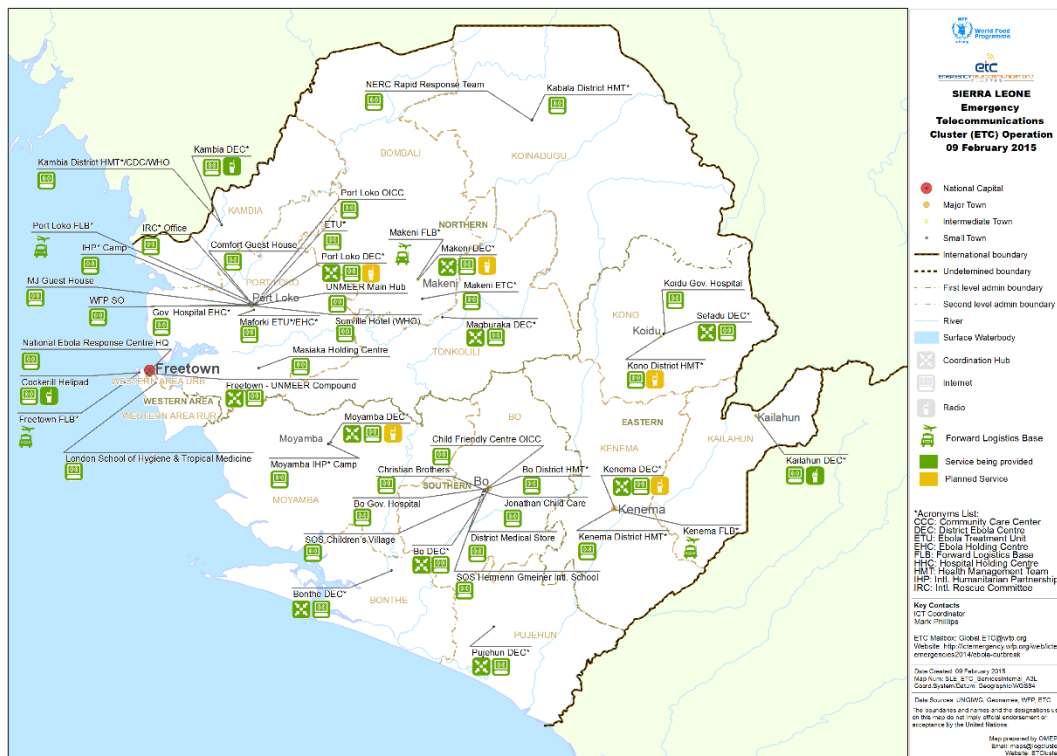
Guinea



Liberia



Sierra Leone





Meetings

Global ETC teleconference: Thursday 5th March, 2015

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

Local ETC meetings

- *Guinea:* TBC
- *Sierra Leone:* Friday 6th March, 2015
- *Liberia:* Tuesday 3rd March, 2015

Acronyms

CCC	Community Care Centres
DERC	District Ebola Response Centre
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETU	Ebola Treatment Unit
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FLB	Forward Logistics Base
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
MLB	Mission Logistics Base
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NERC	National Ebola Response Centre
OICC	Observational Interim Care Centre
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

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

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