West Africa Ebola Crisis

Situation Report #9

Reporting period 28/02/15 to 31/03/15

These Situation Reports are distributed monthly. The next report will be issued on or around 30/04/15.

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 and/ or radio communications services at 115x locations across the three affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- Since the beginning of the operation, more than 2,000 users have used the internet networks set up by the ET Cluster. ET Cluster lead, the World Food Programme, has been working closely with partners such as Ericsson Response and NetHope to ensure a coordinated and efficient response.
- As UNMEER prepares to close its operations, the ET Cluster is working with regional and local representatives of UNMEER to ensure a smooth transition. The ET Cluster will be taking over some of the equipment and services provided by UNMEER.
- The ET Cluster is also working closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. WHO has asked WFP to provide a full range of administrative services for the setup and running of the new offices and guesthouses they are establishing in 22 locations across the three countries. In line with this request, the ET Cluster is delivering and installing IT equipment (e.g. laptops) and providing connectivity services.

Country Updates

Guinea

- The ET Cluster is providing internet connectivity in 20x locations across Guinea, ensuring internet access for 175 humanitarian staff. ET Cluster partner Ericsson Response is providing two WIDER systems currently used in Macenta and Nzerekore.
- Discussions were ongoing with UNMEER regarding the possibility of the ET Cluster taking over UNMEER connectivity services at certain locations such as Forécariah, where a local ISP is used. It was decided that the ET Cluster would not take over UNMEER equipment.

The ETC provides timely, predictable and effective Information Communications Technology services to support the humanitarian community in carrying-out their work efficiently, effectively and safely.

- The ET Cluster has been working closely with WHO to finalize their requirements for equipment and services in the following locations: Conakry (all five districts), Beyla, Coyah, Dubreka, Forécariah, Kissidougou and Siguiri. Three generators had been sent to Labe, Boke and Kankan to support WHO but WHO later changed their plan to settle in these locations.
- The ETC received 4x out of the 8x new 24-metre towers, including the mast for the new office. An assessment mission was conducted in the locations where they will be installed.
- The ET Cluster has requested local Internet Service Providers to carry out assessments on the replacement of the ET Cluster equipment and services at ETUs in Beyla, Coyah, Conakry (Nongo) and N'zerekore.

Liberia

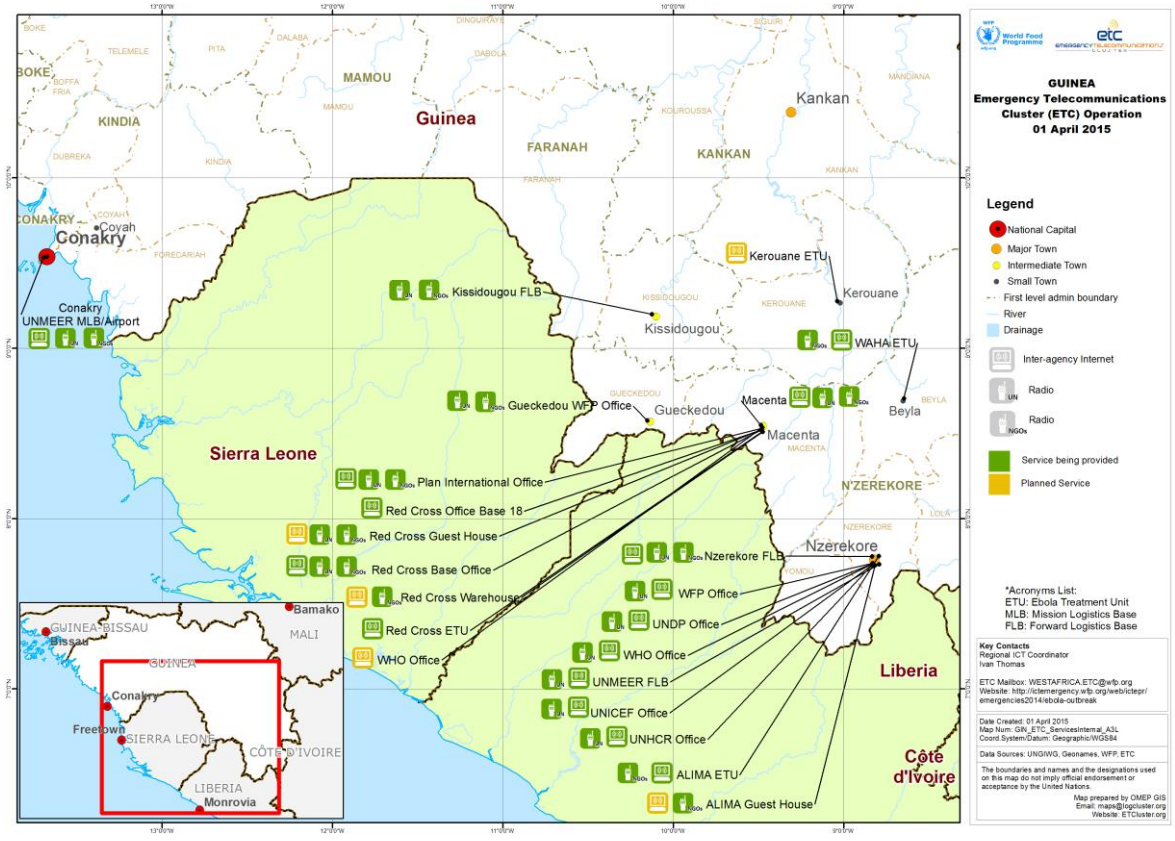
- The ET Cluster is providing internet connectivity and/ or radio communications in 29x locations across Liberia. 115x humanitarian staff spread across 8x locations are active users of ET Cluster's internet services. The ET Cluster has also provided 91x handheld radios to Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs).
- The tender process for connectivity services at Mission Logistics Bases (MLBs) and FLBs after UNMEER's departure has progressed. The evaluation panel met to review the offers and made a recommendation that is pending approval by the management. The ET Cluster has agreed to provide technical support at the 2x MLBs and 5x FLBs and will escalate any connectivity issue to UNMIL who is providing the service. On the handover of UNMEER equipment, discussions are ongoing.
- In response to an UNMEER request to set up cross border VHF communications, the ET Cluster submitted a list of equipment needed and a budget.
- The ET Cluster has submitted to WHO an initial scope of work and budget for the provision of IT services, including data connectivity, in the five locations where WHO will set up offices or guesthouses (Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Nimba). WHO has not confirmed yet whether they will also need radio communications services.
- The ET Cluster has been continuing to deliver radio training for UN and NGO staff. A train-the-trainer methodology has been used to ensure local capacity is built to further replicate these trainings. 18x UNOPS staff received training in March.
- The ET Cluster completed the setup of the radio base station (VH and VHF) as well as internet connectivity for the Radio Room of the UNHAS Flight Following Centre.
- The ET Cluster fine-tuned the repeater installation at the UNICEF office in Monrovia.
- The ET Cluster extended Channel 3 coverage to Zwedru. This channel is for UN and NGO use.
- An inventory of ET Cluster equipment was carried out.

Sierra Leone

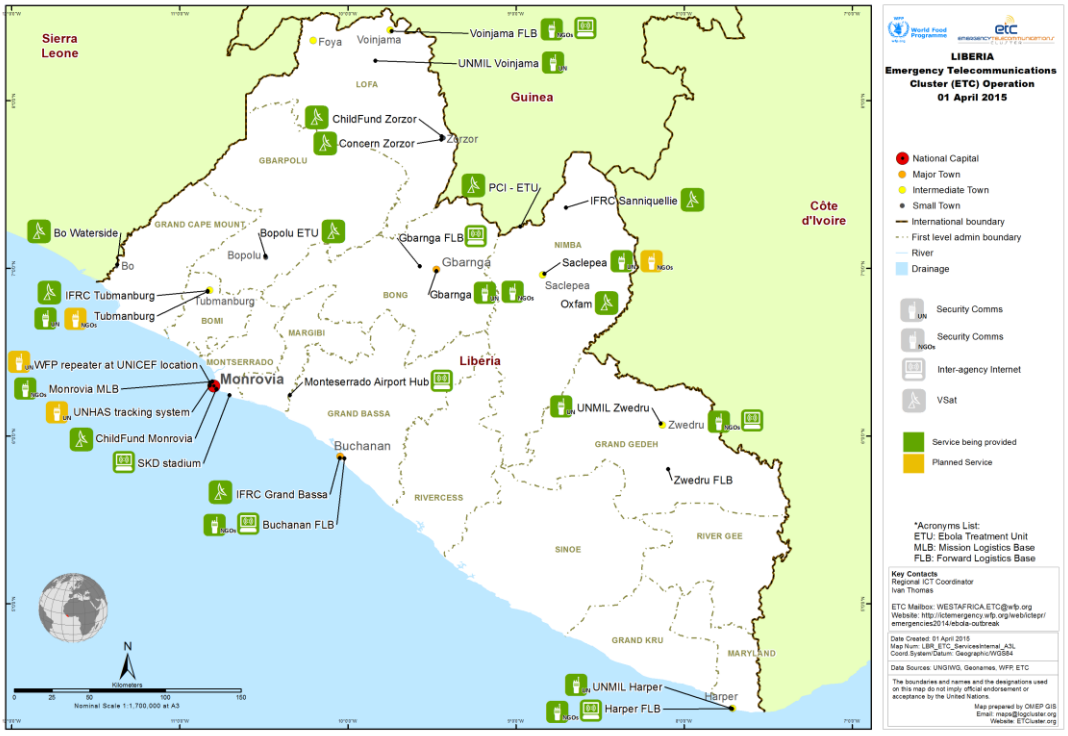
- The ET Cluster in Sierra Leone is currently providing internet services for humanitarian staff at 66x locations. Since the beginning of the operation, more than 1,600 users have accessed the internet networks set up by the ET Cluster.
- With regards to the UNMEER handover, it was agreed that the ET Cluster will take over providing connectivity at two Forward Logistics Bases (Kenema, Makeni) and Lungi airport. It will not take over the RHQ (special court) site in Freetown. On the handover of UNMEER equipment, discussions are ongoing.
- During the reporting period, the ET Cluster continued to rollout data networks and to provide routine maintenance support. This was the case in Bo, Freetown, Kailahun, Kenema, Koidu, Kono, Makeni, Moyamba and Port Loko.
- The ET Cluster performed site assessments for the WHO offices and guesthouses to be established in four locations (Kambia, Koidu, Makeni, Port Loko). Twenty-five laptops were configured and delivered. Connectivity has been set up at all locations.
- The ET Cluster has distributed 159x smart phones to four ETUs in Freetown and Port Loko (MSF Freetown, 34 Military Hospital, Aspen Medical, GOAL). These Samsung-donated phones will be used in the green and red zones by doctors and nurses to communicate essential information and by patients to communicate with their families.

Maps of ET Cluster Services

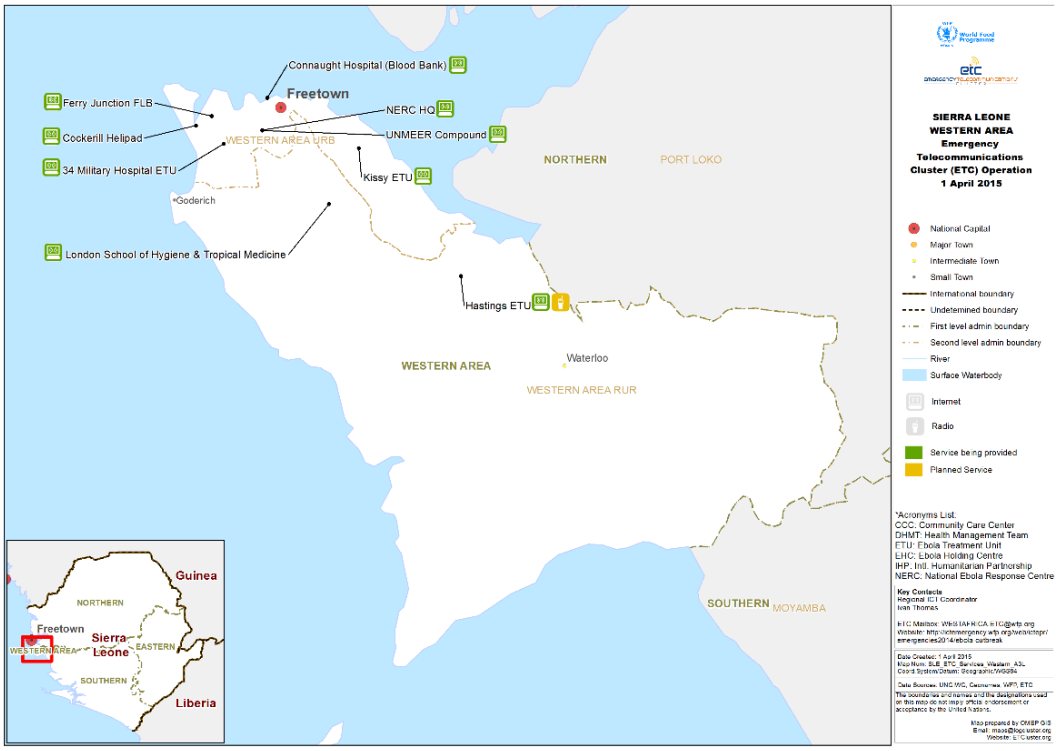
Guinea

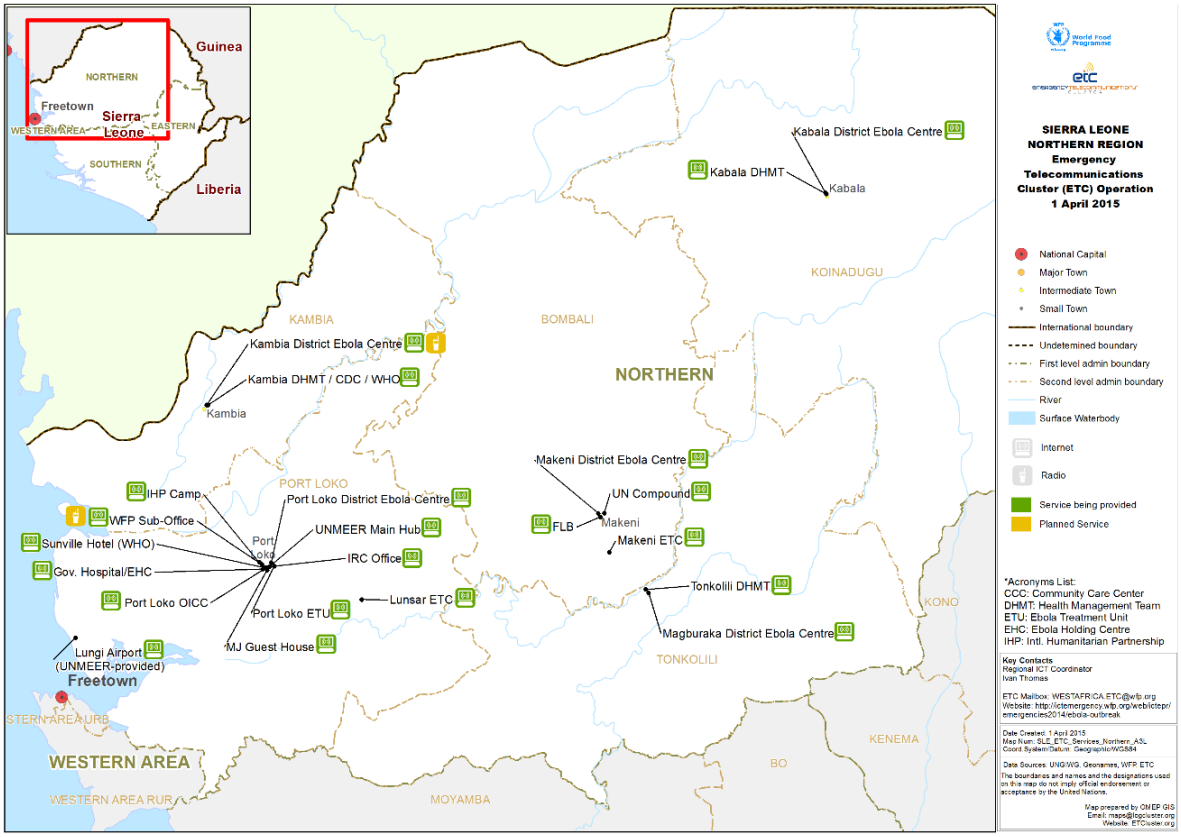


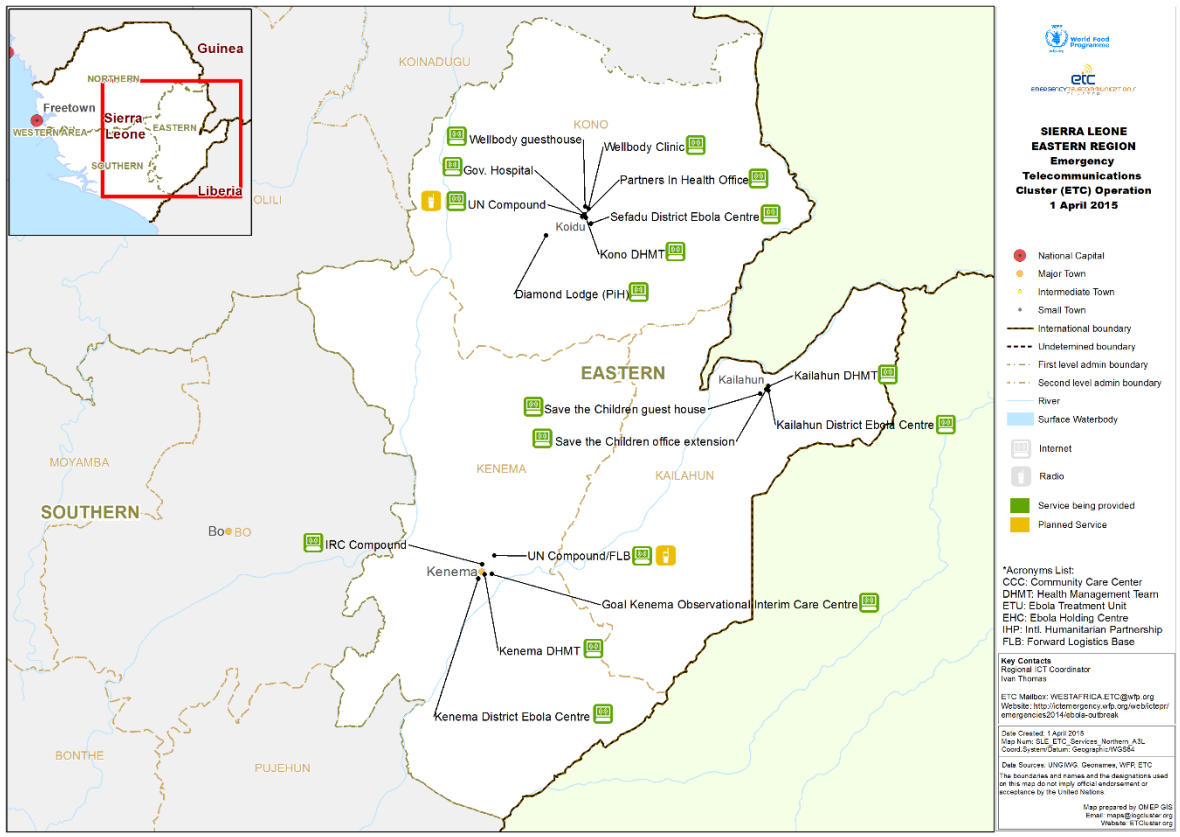
Liberia



Sierra Leone




Guinea
NORTHERN
Freetown
Sierra Leone
WESTERN AREA
EASTERN
SOUTHERN
Liberia
Kabala District Ebola Centre
Kabala DHMT
Kabala
KOINADUGU
KAMBIA
BOMBALI
Kambia District Ebola Centre
Kambia DHMT / CDC / WHO
Kambia
NORTHERN
Makeni District Ebola Centre
UN Compound
FLB
Makeni
Makeni ETC
IHP Camp
PORT LOKO
Port Loko District Ebola Centre
WFP Sub-Office
UNMEER Main Hub
Sunville Hotel (WHO)
Port Loko
IRC Office
Gov. Hospital/EHC
Port Loko OICC
Lunsar ETC
Port Loko ETU
MJ Guest House
Tonkolili DHMT
KONO
Magburaka District Ebola Centre
Lungi Airport (UNMEER-provided)
Freetown
TONKOLILI
KENEMA
WESTERN AREA
WESTERN AREA RUR
MOYAMBA
BO
SIERRA LEONE
NORTHERN REGION
Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Operation
1 April 2015
National Capital
Major Town
Intermediate Town
Small Town
International boundary
Undetermined boundary
First level admin boundary
Second level admin boundary
River
Surface Waterbody
Internet
Radio
Service being provided
Planned Service
*Acronyms List:
CCC: Community Care Center
DHMT: Health Management Team
ETU: Ebola Treatment Unit
EHC: Ebola Holding Centre
IHP: Intl. Humanitarian Partnership
Key Contacts
Regional ICT Coordinator
Ivan Thomas
ETC Mailbox: WESTAFRICA.ETC@wfp.org
Website: http://clemergency.wfp.org/weblctepr/emergencies2014/ebola-outbreak
Date Created: 1 April 2015
Map Num: SLE_ETC_Services_Northern_A3L
Coord.System/Datum: Geographic/WGS84
Data Sources: UNGIWG, Geonames, WFP, ETC
The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Map prepared by OMEP GIS
Email: maps@logcluster.org
Website: ETCluster.org


Guinea
NORTHERN
Freetown
Sierra Leone
WESTERN AREA
EASTERN
SOUTHERN
Liberia
KOINADUGU
KONO
Wellbody guesthouse
Wellbody Clinic
Gov. Hospital
Partners In Health Office
UN Compound
Koidu
Sefadu District Ebola Centre
Kono DHMT
Diamond Lodge (PIH)
OLILI
EASTERN
Kailahun
Kailahun DHMT
Save the Children guest house
Kailahun District Ebola Centre
Save the Children office extension
MOYAMBA
KENEMA
KAILAHUN
SOUTHERN
Bo
BO
IRC Compound
UN Compound/FLB
Kenema
Goal Kenema Observational Interim Care Centre
Kenema DHMT
Kenema District Ebola Centre
BONTHE
PUJEHUN
SIERRA LEONE
EASTERN REGION
Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Operation
1 April 2015
National Capital
Major Town
Intermediate Town
Small Town
International boundary
Undetermined boundary
First level admin boundary
Second level admin boundary
River
Surface Waterbody
Internet
Radio
Service being provided
Planned Service
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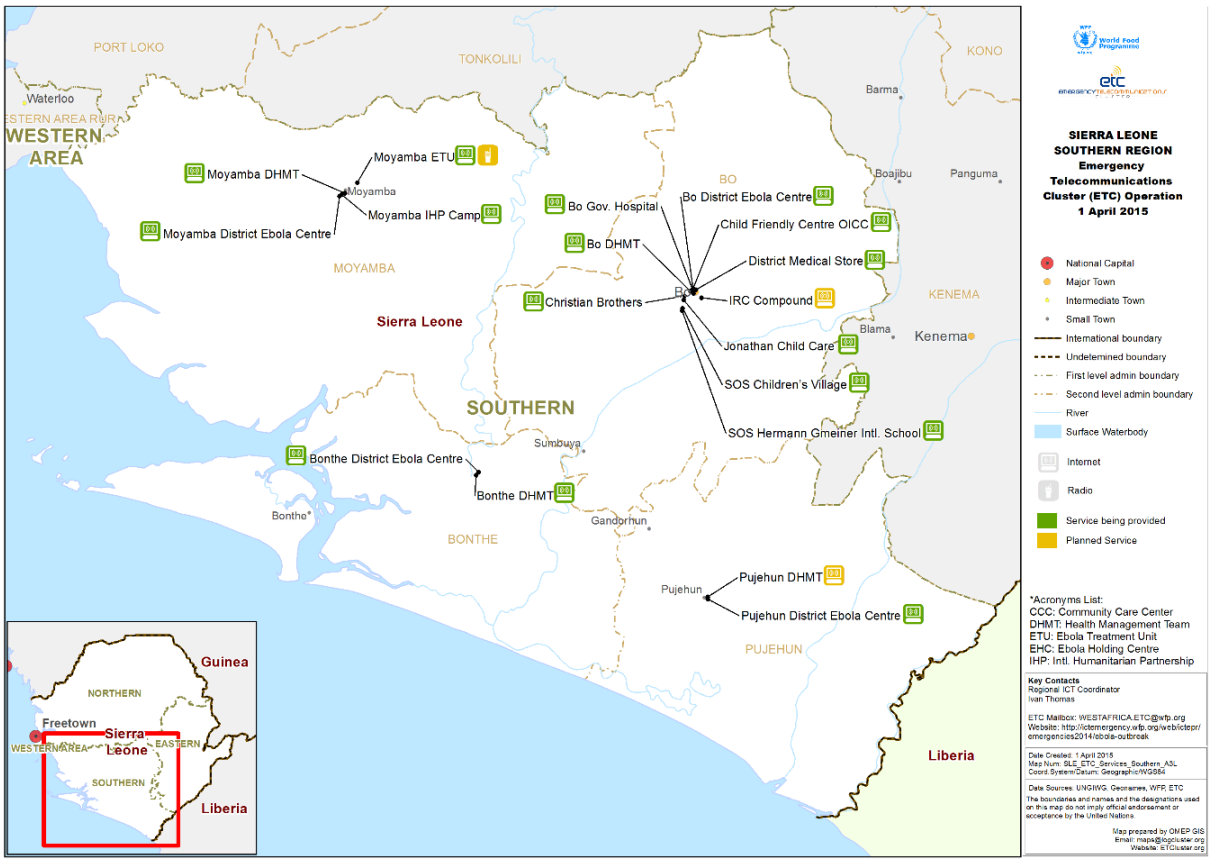

Meetings

The next Global ETC teleconference will be held on Wednesday 8th April, 2015 at:

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

Local ETC meetings

- *Guinea:* Thursday, April 23rd, 2015
- *Sierra Leone:* Friday, April 10th, 2015
- *Liberia:* Tuesday, April 14th, 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
UNOPS	UN Office for Project Services
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

Follow the ET Cluster's activities on Facebook and Twitter.

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, Senegal and Mali. In August 2014, 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. WHO also declared the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). In January 2015, an updated overview of needs and requirements for January-June 2015 was launched to outline the path to eliminate transmission and get to zero cases (estimated cost: US$ 1.54 billion).

Sources: ReliefWeb