

To fight the Ebola outbreak, the ET Cluster is providing vital communications services to over 90 humanitarian facilities in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

After an outbreak of Ebola was 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 Information and Communications Technology (ICT) efforts.



## ET Cluster Response to the Ebola Outbreak

### ET Cluster Users

- **Ebola Treatment Units** and other frontline response centres such as Community Care Centres, Observational Interim Care Centres and Ebola Holding Centres;
- **National and District Ebola Response Centres**, responsible for coordination, case management, surveillance, safe burials and social mobilisation to get to zero cases;
- **Mission Logistics Bases and Forward Logistics Bases**, where equipment ranging from medical protective equipment to electricity generators are warehoused;
- Offices and accommodation of various **UN agencies** and **NGOs** responding to the Ebola outbreak.

### ET Cluster Services

- **Onsite assessments** and recommendations to access internet and/or radio communications.
- **Reliable internet access**: Installation of satellite dishes, access points and wireless equipment.
- **Security telecommunications**: Installation and programming of radio equipment, trainings.
- **Transition to recovery**: Guidance and support in transitioning to commercial solutions.

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# ET Cluster Activities

## GUINEA

- Reliable internet connectivity provided to over 175 responders at 14 humanitarian facilities including Logistics Bases, NGO offices and Ebola Treatment Units.
- Security telecommunications for UN agencies and NGOs established in Conakry, Kissidougou, Gueckedou, N'zerekore and Macenta.
- Reinforced presence in previously and currently Ebola-affected areas (N'zerekore district, coastal area).

## LIBERIA

- Reliable internet access provided to about 200 responders at 22 humanitarian facilities spread across 11 of the 15 administrative counties.
- Satellite phones and internet connectivity delivered to Rapid Response Teams.
- Radios and/ or GPS installed in 39 trucks and 15 light vehicles transporting inter-agency staff and humanitarian supplies.
- Security telecommunications for UN agencies and NGOs established in Monrovia, Buchanan, Gbarnga, Voinjama, Saclepea, Zwedru and Harper.

## SIERRA LEONE

- Reliable internet connectivity provided to over 2,900 responders at 55 humanitarian facilities spread across all of the 14 administrative districts.
- 30 satellite phones provided to mobile Rapid Response and Stabilisation Teams managed by the National Ebola Response Centre to ensure uninterrupted telecommunications for these frontline responders.
- 169 smartphones donated to Ebola Treatment Units to facilitate patient-family communications and support the work of doctors and nurses.

**Highlight: Why connectivity matters at GOAL's Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) - Port Loko, Sierra Leone**

Thanks to the connectivity set up by the ET Cluster, the medical team receives the blood sample results of suspect Ebola cases directly by email. The faster this information is shared, the better for everyone. If the patient is Ebola-positive, the medical team can quickly make a decision on the treatment protocol. If the result is negative, they can accelerate the discharge of the patient, thereby also reducing his or her exposure time to other suspect cases. Internet is really making things simpler and faster for those working at ETUs.

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

**Staff from all humanitarian organizations can use ET Cluster services, regardless of membership.**



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

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

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