

## West Africa Ebola Crisis

### Situation Report #15

Reporting period 01/10/15 to 22/11/15

These Situation Reports are distributed every six weeks. The next report will be issued on or around 31/12/15.

The Emergency Telecommunications (ET) 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 members are responding together for a coordinated response.

### Regional Highlights

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Sierra Leone Ebola-free on 7 November.
- As of 1 November, the ET Cluster is no longer mobilised in Sierra Leone - consultations carried out with all major stakeholders showed that ET Cluster services were no longer required by the response community to support their Ebola operations.
- The ET Cluster is supporting 24x sites across Liberia and Guinea. As part of the ET Cluster demobilisation plan, the Main Logistics Base (MLB) at Monrovia's International Airport was decommissioned on 9 November.

### Country Updates

#### Sierra Leone

- As of 1 November, the ET Cluster is no longer mobilised in Sierra Leone as its services were no longer required by the response community to support their Ebola operations.
- Sierra Leone was declared Ebola-free by WHO on 7 November after a 42-day period without a single reported case of Ebola.



- Throughout the operation in Sierra Leone, the ET Cluster provided shared internet connectivity in over 60 sites in Sierra Leone, upgraded and / or expanded the security telecommunications infrastructure and assisted in building local capacity to sustain the ICT infrastructure.
- The ET Cluster / ICT Coordinator in the country, Michael Ngisiro, left Sierra Leone on 7 November.
- Remaining inter-agency sites are being coordinated by the World Food Programme (WFP) as global lead of the ET Cluster.
- A Stand-by Partner from Crisis Management Centre (CMC) Finland, Ilari Koskela, is supporting operations until 31 December to continue providing services in 11x sites:
  - 6x WHO-WFP project sites: Kambia, Koido, Port Loko, Magburata, Makeni and Tokolili.
  - 4x sites in Pork Loko: District Ebola Response Centre (DERC), GOAL Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU), District Health Management Team (DHMT) and Forward Logistics Base (FLB).
  - 1x site in Freetown at Cockeril Helipad for United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).

## **Guinea**

- The ET Cluster in Guinea continues to support the provision of services in 12x sites across the country:
  - 8x WHO-WFP project sites: N'Zerekore, Matoto, Matamba, Matam, Lambanyi, Dixinn, Kaloum, Forecariah Coordination Centre.
    - These sites will be handed over to WHO by the end of December.
  - The remaining 4x ET Cluster sites (Main Logistics Base –MLB- at Conakry Airport, Coyah ETU, Kissidougou FLB and N'Zerekore FLB) will be handed over to WFP, as global lead of the ETC, by the end of the year.
- In partnership with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), the ET Cluster continues to provide the response community with security telecommunications services in Conakry, Kissidougou, Gueckedou, Macenta, N'zerekore and Forecariah prefectures.

## **Liberia**

- The ET Cluster continues to provide connectivity services in 12x sites across Liberia:
  - 5x WHO-WFP project sites: Sinje, Bopolu, Gbarnga, Voinjama and Saniquellie.

- 7x United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) sites: UNHAS, MLB in Monrovia as well as the 5x FLBs in Gbarnga, Voinjama, Buchanan, Zwedru and Harper.
  - The Regional ET Cluster Coordinator met UNMIL on 17 November to decide when their sites will be decommissioned.
- The decommissioning process began on 9 November when the ET Cluster demobilised at Monrovia's International Airport. The second site to be demobilised will be UNHAS by the end of November.
- In partnership with UNDSS, the ET Cluster continues to provide the response community with security telecommunications services across Monrovia, Buchanan, Gbarnga, Voinjama, Sinje, Zwedru, Bopoli and Sanniquellie.
  - The handover of the ET Cluster security telecommunications network to UNDSS, responsible agency for inter-agency radio services, will be completed by the end of December.

## Meetings

The next **Joint ET Cluster Global teleconference** will be held on Wednesday 16 December 2015 at:

08:00 New York  
12:00 UTC  
12:00 Dakar / Conakry / Freetown / Monrovia  
14:00 Rome  
16:00 Dubai

- **ET Cluster services maps:**

- Sierra Leone: <https://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-service-map-sierra-leone-4-november-2015>
- Liberia: <http://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-service-map-liberia-23-september-2015>
- Guinea: <http://www.etcluster.org/document/etc-service-map-guinea-14-august-2015>

## Contacts

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## Acronyms

CMC	Crisis Management Centre
CO	Country Office
DERC	District Ebola Response Centre
ET Cluster	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
EAC	Ebola Affected Countries
ETU	Ebola Treatment Unit
FLB	Forward Logistics Base
MLB	Main Logistics Base
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNMIL	UN Mission in Liberia
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

**All information related to ET Cluster 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, 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