

## **West Africa Ebola Crisis**

### **Situation Report #5**

**Reporting period 24/11/14 to 15/12/14**

These Sitreps are distributed every two weeks. The next report will be issued on or around 28/12/14.

*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**

- Across the 3 affected countries the ET Cluster is providing internet connectivity in 15 locations and security communications in 11 locations as well as 60 vehicles with radio equipment.
- ET Cluster has published new maps which portray the operational status per country available on the [ET Cluster website](#) and in the annex of this SitRep.

### **Country Highlights**

**Liberia** – *The response on Liberia is heavily focused on establishing or upgrading security comms in 8x locations as well as work with UNMEER and UNMIL to establish data and voice connectivity at the 5x FLB's and 2x MLB's.*

- The Channel 1 UN humanitarian radio security channel has been established at all 8 planned locations ensuring that there is reliable UN security comms country wide.
- The Channel 10 NGO humanitarian radio security channel was established in Monrovia and is being extended to a remaining 7 locations across the country.
- 13x WFP pick-up trucks were installed with VHF radio equipment with 2 more remaining.
- 20x inter-agency trucks were installed with HF radios with 60 more remaining. The trucks will be transporting medical kits, non-food items, and food for the last mile distribution in every county across the country.
- 2x local IT support staff for each of the 5x Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) were hired to ensure internet and radio communications services work as expected.

- A DMR overview and radio training was provided by the ET Cluster to 7 different agencies in Monrovia ensuring they have the knowledge and skills to improve their own radio communications.

**Sierra Leone** – *The response in Sierra Leone is the largest out of the 3 affected countries and has made significant progress on shared internet support in the city of Port Loko as well as support for the Rapid Response Teams with satellite phone equipment.*

- 5x new WiFi hotspots were established at the Forward Logistics Base (FLB), WFP Sub-Office, 2x Guest House's, and the International Refugee Council (IRC) compound in Port Loko giving internet access to humanitarian workers from multiple NGOs, UN agencies and other Ebola responders operating in the area. The number of active users has expanded from 42 users on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> to 120 users on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. The exact locations receiving services can be viewed on this [google map](#).
- ET Cluster staff and volunteers from Ericsson Response and German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) installed an Emergency.lu Ranger and a WIDER network at the International Humanitarian Camp (IRC). 80 humanitarian workers live at this camp and work at a nearby Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU).
- The ET Cluster was requested to provide connectivity at a nearby Ebola Treatment Unit managed by Partners in Health. Roughly 80 users will benefit from connectivity.
- Three assessment missions were carried out: at two International Rescue Committee Ebola Holding Centres in Port Loko, International Humanitarian Partnerships camp in Moyamba and at the Medicos del Mundo Ebola Treatment Unit and camp in Moyamba.
- ET Cluster, in collaboration with NetHope and consultation with other actors identified technology needs and gaps to support the Ebola response effort. Given the recent spike in Ebola cases it is clear that operations will expand in Sierra Leone and technology will play a greater role to support the response.

**Guinea** – *The response in Guinea is geared heavily on both data connectivity and security communications. Almost all UN, NGO, and ETU data and security comms needs in N'zerekore are being provided exclusively by the ET Cluster.*

- Internet connectivity with WIDER systems was established at 4x inter-agency locations in N'zerekore as well as the main Red Cross base and Plan International in Macenta. Two EMC FE VSATs were installed at FLBs in Kissidougou and N'zerekore.
- UNHCR Radio Room was upgraded in N'zerekore and VHF equipment deployed in N'zerekore ETU, ambulance and ALIMA office.
- Internet connectivity with WIDER system was established in the Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Macenta.
- 6x portable internet devices (BGANs) were delivered to UNICEF for their use in Community Care Centers (CCCs).



## Challenges and Gaps

- Most equipment bottlenecks have been resolved; however, if there are future delays the ET Cluster is prepared to use commercial airline transportation to expedite the delivery to the affected countries.

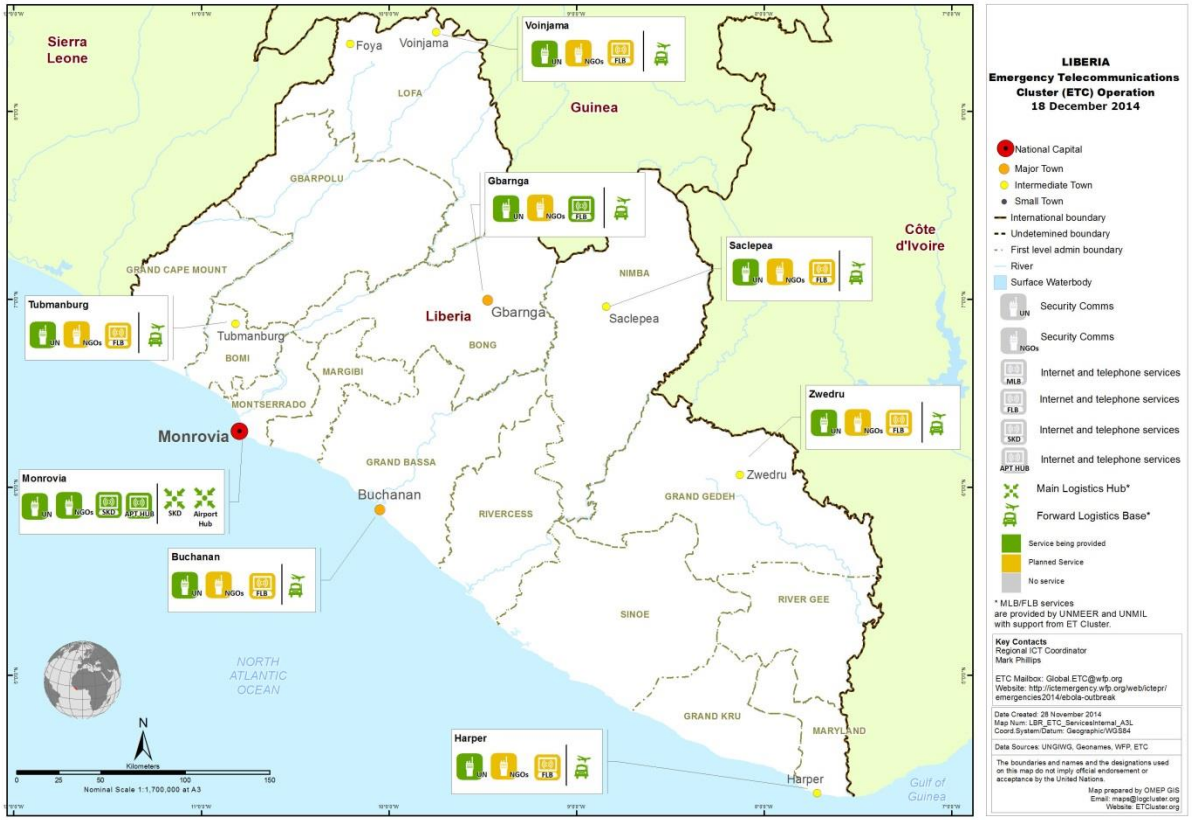
## Meetings

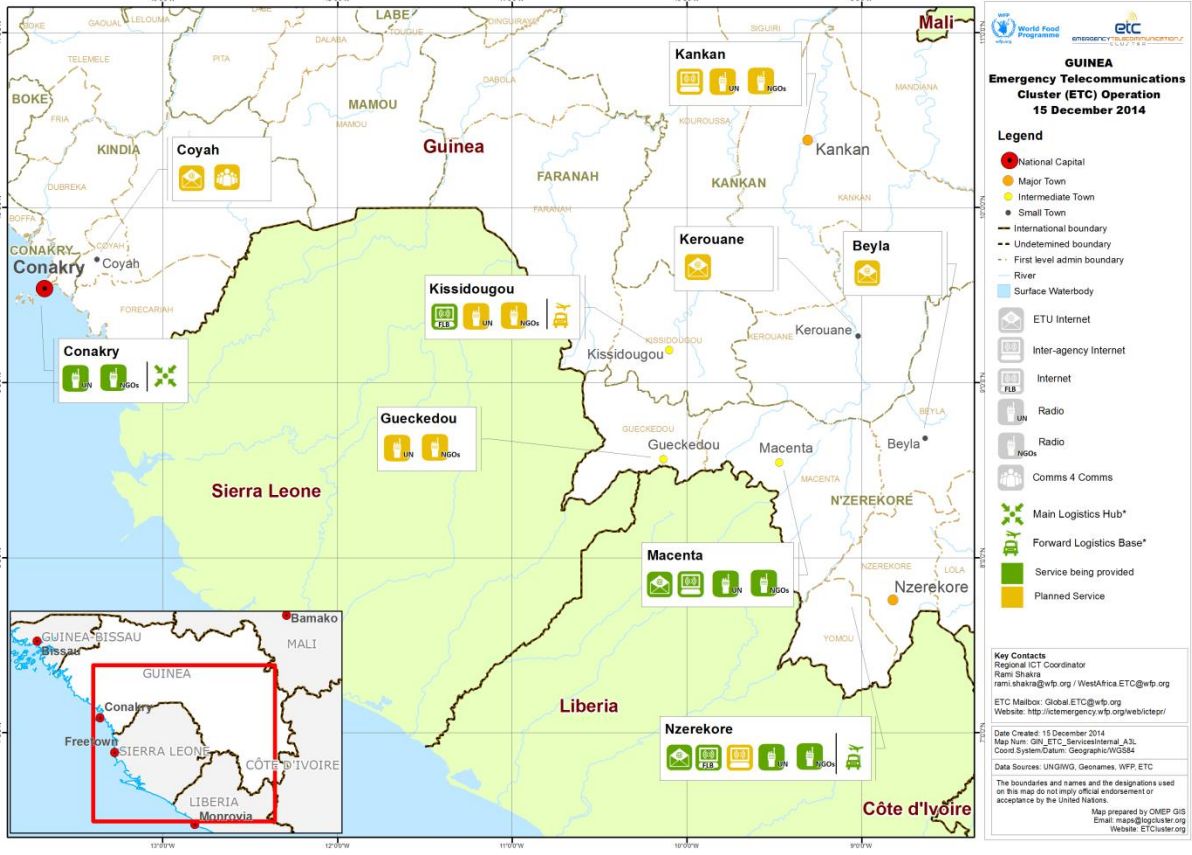
**Global ETC teleconference:** Friday 29 December, 2014

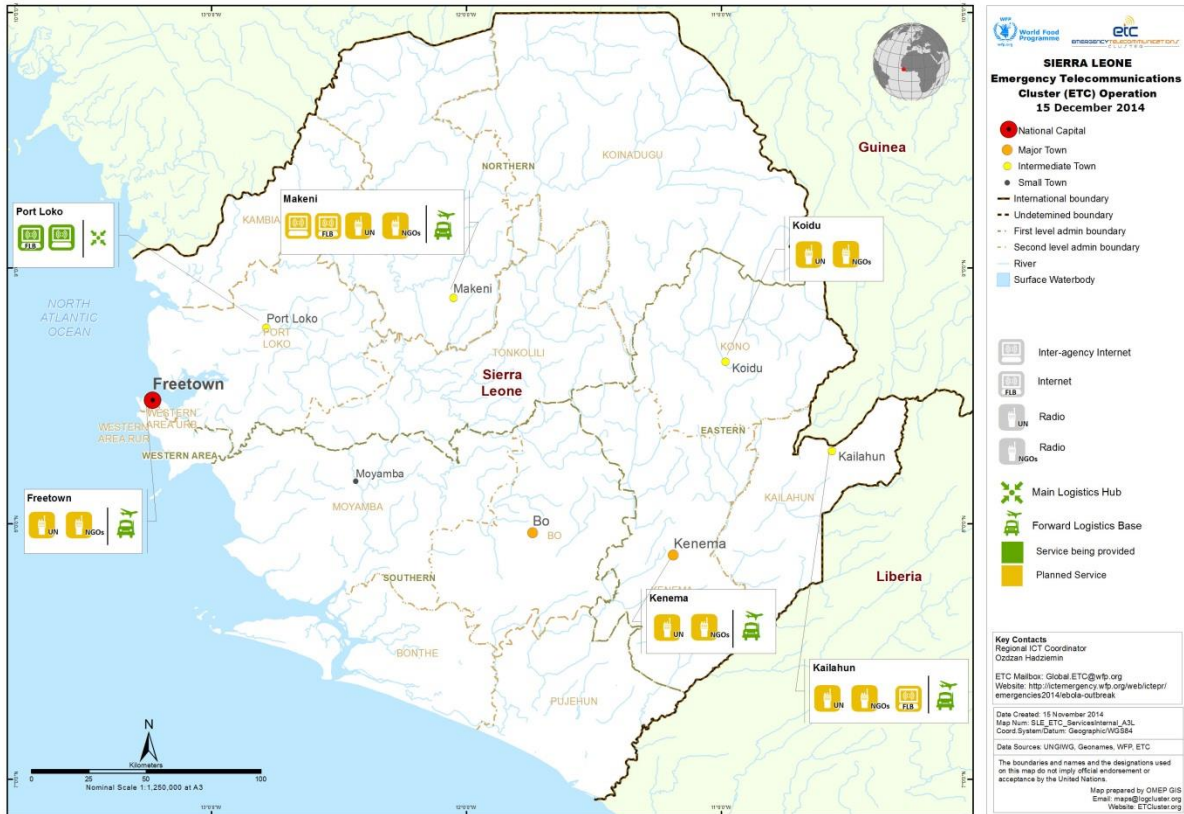
09:00 New York  
13:00 UTC  
13:00 Dakar / Conakry / Freetown / Monrovia  
15:00 Rome  
17:00 Dubai

### Local ETC meetings

- *Guinea:* TBD
- *Sierra Leone:* 31 December, 2014
- *Liberia:* TBD







## Acronyms

CCC	Community Care Centres
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
ETU	Ebola Treatment Unit
FLB	Forward Logistics Base
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
MLB	Mission Logistics Base
UNMEER	UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response
WFP	World Food Programme

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)