



A billboard in Monrovia, Liberia raises public awareness about Ebola

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## OVERVIEW

To date, 18,464 confirmed, probable and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported with 6,841 (37%) fatalities in the three most severely affected West African nations of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, according to UNMEER reports. Stronger intervention is severely needed, including more robust surveillance systems, ongoing public awareness campaigns, and greater allocation of resources for the treatment of Ebola patients. See how IOM is addressing these needs in the affected countries.



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Participants receive clinical training at a mock Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU), as part of the Ebola Training Academy in Sierra Leone

## HIGHLIGHTS

- DG Consultations on Ebola were held with Senior IOM staff at IOM HQ on 11-12 December 2014 to further strengthen IOM's regional response.
- The first child Ebola survivor, age 8, was discharged on 6 December 2014 in Tubmanburg, Liberia.
- Over 100 people attended the Town Hall meeting in Buchanan, Liberia, where IOM shared the benefits of the local Ebola Treatment Unit.
- 499 healthcare workers, including Ebola survivors, recently graduated from the Ebola Training Academy in Sierra Leone.
- IOM's Border Management Team in Sierra Leone began production of an Ebola Pocket Guide, health advisory signage, and 1-day training sessions for airport personnel to detect travellers with Ebola-like symptoms.
- IOM provided 10,000 sachets of Oral Rehydration Salts for distribution to Ebola patients in the worst-affected Western Area, Sierra Leone.
- IOM distributed hygiene kits (soaps, antibacterial gel, chlorine) to local authorities in Guinea to mitigate the spread of Ebola.

## LIBERIA



Comics, also translated in pidgin English, are used in Liberia's public information campaign to educate the community about Ebola

### Community Outreach and Social Mobilization

In coordination with the County Health and Social Welfare Teams in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Grand Bassa counties, IOM is implementing a social mobilization and communication campaign to inform the public about Ebola and the benefits of the Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs). To combat stigma, public mistrust, and avoidance of seeking care, IOM undertakes many essential outreach activities, such as radio spots, town hall meetings, billboards, posters, and comics.

## SIERRA LEONE



A healthcare worker receives her certificate after completing clinical training at the Ebola Training Academy in Freetown, Sierra Leone

### National Ebola Training Academy

In collaboration with WHO, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, and the Sierra Leone Armed Forces, IOM organized a Training-of-Trainers (9-13 December 2014) for advanced

clinical training of healthcare workers on the Ebola treatment frontline. The curriculum focuses on clinical procedures, such as patient care in an Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC), collecting blood samples from suspected and confirmed patients, strategies to stop Ebola transmission, and infection protection control for clinicians. Courses include two days practical training in an advanced mock ETC, conducting EVD patient management. Trained Ebola survivors acted as patients in the mock ETC to reinforce the practical component.

IOM's training has been highly rated by the 499 certified trainees. One Ebola survivor who was among the recent trainees said, "This course has given me a great understanding of my new role as a hygienist and I look forward to sharing my experience of being a survivor." IOM will continue to prioritize the inclusion of Ebola survivors in all aspects of the Training Academy.

### Health and Humanitarian Border Management

The border management team received final authorization from the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority and has begun full exit/entry health screening monitoring at Lungi International Airport, as of 10 December 2014. The team has been trained and tested on Health Screening Procedures and conducted staff orientation at the airport.

## GUINEA



Distribution of hygiene kits at Kouremale on the Guinea/Mali border.

The distribution of hygiene kits, including soaps, antibacterial gel, and chlorine, by IOM to local authorities in charge of the Ebola response began in early December and shall remain ongoing. Thus far, distributions have been performed at Kouremale on the Guinea/Mali border and Boundoufourdou on the Guinea/Senegal border.

IOM continues its rapid assessment and selection process to retrofit 15 Provincial Emergency Operations Centres (PEOCs) to increase effective crisis response and intervention capacity.

# IOM EBOLA CRISIS RESPONSE IN WEST AFRICA



**Legend**

- Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU)
- IOM Offices
- Training Academy
- Airport Screening

Sources: IOM / 05 December 2014  
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With the assistance and support of donors and implementing partners, IOM delivers an ongoing coordinated response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa, including such services as:

- Installation of three Ebola Treatment Units in Liberia
- Training airport staff to screen passengers for Ebola at Lungi International Airport and educating frontline responders to work safely and efficiently with Ebola patients in Sierra Leone
- Rehabilitation and equipping of Provincial Emergency Operations Centres in Guinea
- Distribution of hygiene kits and home health kits to mitigate the spread of Ebola



Funding for IOM's Ebola Crisis Response Programme in West Africa is provided by:



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