



IOM Ghana EVD team at the fishing harbour at Takoradi

HIGHLIGHTS

- IOM Ghana has carried out a number of key activities from April to May 2015, which include, convening an EVD Program core Group of key stakeholders and agencies, including Ghana Health Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Revenue Authority, National Disaster Management Organisation, and World Health Organisation.
- The project has conducted an HHBM rapid assessment and community mapping of the selected Points of Entry, starting with the Kotoka International Airport, Tema Port, Takoradi Port and Elubo, Paga and Hamile land borders.
- From 18-29 May 2015, over 46 officials of the various state agencies and partner organisations have been interviewed as part of a needs assessment for strengthening the capacity of border officials.

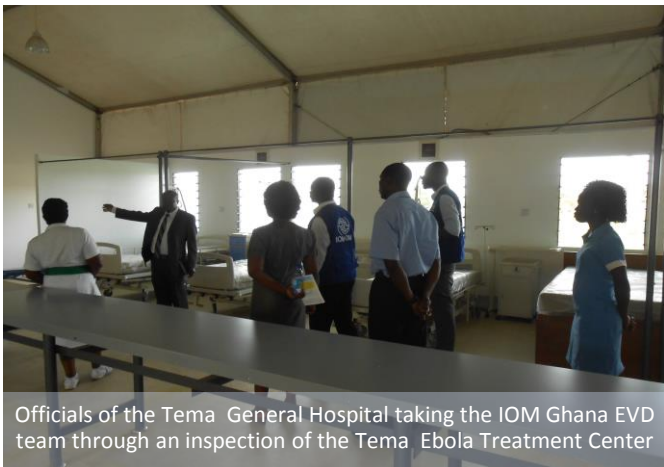
OVERVIEW

Ghana is one of 15 priority countries targeted by the World Health Organization (WHO) for accelerated Ebola Preparedness, including the four countries (Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire) bordering those with widespread and intense Ebola transmission. In August 2014, the WHO Emergency Committee identified "high mobility of populations and cross-border movement of infected travellers" as a key challenge facing Governments.

With funding from the Government of Japan and the UN Joint Program, IOM Ghana is implementing the EVD Preparedness Program to prevent an outbreak of EVD (or other infectious diseases) in Ghana by building capacity to ensure that suspected cases are identified at selected border points, ports and airports and promoting public awareness and community engagement in communities close or linked to the selected Points of Entry.

HEALTH AND HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT

During the previous IOM International Development Fund Project on Ebola from October 2014 to January 2015, IOM Ghana trained 40 participants from Tema and Takoradi Ports on EVD preparedness and ship sanitation. IOM Ghana also printed and distributed 20,000 bilingual health declaration forms. The current assessment confirmed earlier findings that plans and structures exist for handling suspected Ebola cases at the PoEs visited, but more training and equipment is needed, and SOPs have to be formalized and adhered to more strictly. As well as raising the level of surveillance, officials need to use protective equipment to protect themselves, and gaps in data collection and management have also been identified. These shortcomings will be addressed by IOM through the provision of equipment and training to build the capacity of border officials to detect suspected cases and to protect themselves.



Officials of the Tema General Hospital taking the IOM Ghana EVD team through an inspection of the Tema Ebola Treatment Center

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

During the previous Project on Ebola, IOM printed and distributed information posters highlighting basic

hygiene practices. During the current field assessment IOM has conducted community mapping, identifying at risk communities, and has met with key officials at the regional, districts and sub district levels. IOM met with the Tema Metropolitan Assembly Ebola Committee on 3 June 2015 to begin mapping and establishing partnership for community mobilization activities around Tema Port. The project's objective is to engage targeted communities through the use of local radio stations, IEC materials and forums aimed at behaviour change and better understanding on EVD infection, prevention and control.

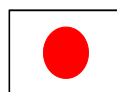


Passengers going through screening at the Kotoka International Airport



COM of IOM Ghana Sylvia Lopez-Ekra (fifth from left) and the EVD team at a meeting with the Japanese Ambassador to Ghana His Excellency Kaoru Yoshimura (fourth from right)

IOM'S PARTNERS ON THE EBOLA PREPAREDNESS PROJECT IN GHANA INCLUDE:



From
the People of Japan



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON IOM'S EBOLA CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAMME, PLEASE CONTACT:

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