



At the Ganta point of entry in Nimba County, a screener takes the temperature of a traveller crossing from Guinea into Liberia as part of IOM's support to border surveillance measures to prevent cross-border transmission of Ebola and other communicable diseases. © IOM 2016

Highlights

■ General Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) are monitoring and reporting disease triggers in **2,917 communities**. The number of verified disease triggers increased by 59% from the last month, demonstrating continuous improvements in the ability of gCHVs to recognize potential threats to public health.

■ On 21-22 May 2016, IOM participated in a meeting in Harper, Maryland County to discuss a forthcoming joint, cross-border project with Côte d'Ivoire. After reviewing respective assessments, stakeholders discussed priorities for the project that will **address drivers of insecurity along the Liberia- Côte d'Ivoire border**.

Situation Overview

The WHO declared the end of the most recent outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia on 9 June 2016. This announcement comes 42 days after the last confirmed Ebola patient tested negative for the disease for the second time. A 90-day period of heightened surveillance will follow. Across the border in Guinea, the end of Ebola was declared on 1 June 2016. IOM continues to support the Government of Liberia (GoL) in its surveillance efforts in the border counties, both in communities and at points of entry, to prevent possible cross-border transmission of the disease.

Despite the declaration of the end of the recent outbreak, the border with Côte d'Ivoire remains officially closed. Though the border remains closed, the UNHCR-led voluntary repatriation (VolRep) of refugees through designated humanitarian corridors continues. IOM supports the VolRep operation by assuring all refugees are screened at the border for priority diseases before they cross the border to Côte d'Ivoire.

Progress continues on the UNMIL drawdown and transition of full security responsibilities to the GoL. In May, UN peacekeeping troops withdrew from Margibi County, handing over facilities to the county's authorities. In addition, UNMIL handed over full security responsibilities of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Vice President Joseph Boakai to the elite Executive Protection Service.

Liberia also marked an important milestone in May – the end of sanctions and arms embargo. On 25 May 2016, United Nations Security Council unanimously voted to lift the sanctions imposed on arms and the export of Liberian timber and rough diamonds.

CONTACTS

PROGRAMME UPDATES



SURVEILLANCE IN BORDER AREAS

Now that the reemergence of Ebola, which started in March 2016, has been controlled in both Guinea and Liberia, the scale-up of border surveillance is completed.

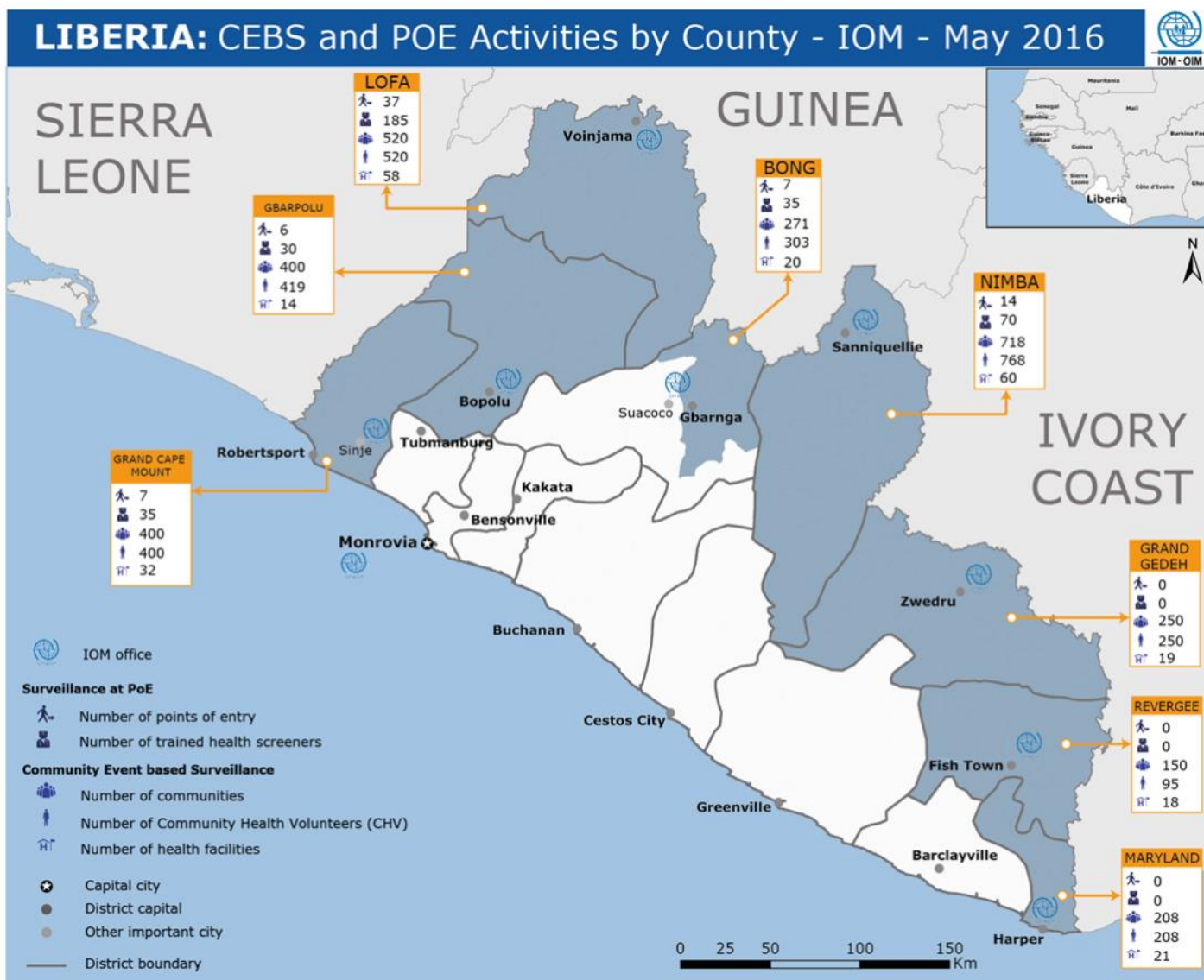
IOM now supports a total 81 border crossing points in the eight border counties. This includes 63 land PoEs and 18 checkpoints. Screeners check travelers' temperatures and if needed, refer and/or isolate sick travelers. In Nimba County, a temporary triage facility was completed at the beginning of the month. The temporary triage facility allows screeners to isolate individuals with suspected cases of ebola and other communicable diseases (see photo on next page).

To date, IOM has trained 455 screeners, supervisors, port health and border officials on the new PoE training package

with the Integrated Disease and Surveillance and Response (IDSR) component.

During the month of May, the Community Event-Based Surveillance (CEBS) guidelines that will form part of the IDSR Manual revisions were completed with the help of IOM and approved by all relevant departments in the Ministry of Health. These guidelines will form the basis of refresher trainings for general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs).

In May, gCHVs from 2,917 communities monitored and reported 622 disease triggers of which 568 were verified (see chart on next page). In May, the number of verified triggers increased by 59%.



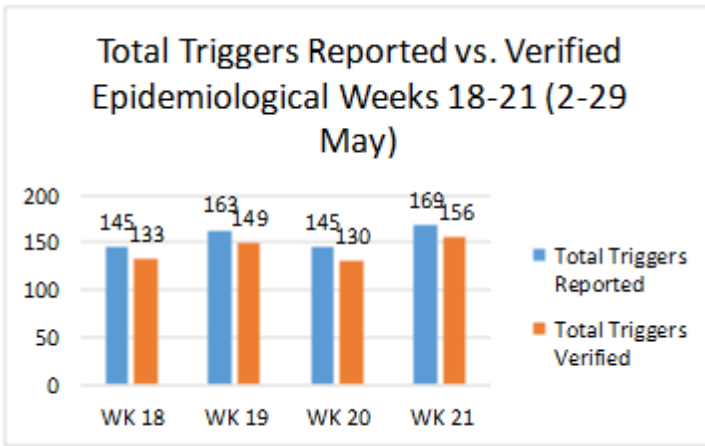
Sources : IOM, OCHA



EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Under the Epidemic Preparedness and Response (EPR) project, IOM and other consortium members support Liberia’s ability to respond to disease outbreaks.

In coordination with WHO and County Health teams, IOM supported the distribution of IPC materials to health facilities in Gbarpolu, Bomi, Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape Mount, Maryland, and River Gee counties. IOM has continued conducting health facility spot checks using the standard tools developed by the Consortium. **Major health facilities have been checked in five counties, including: Bomi Government Hospital, Robertspot Hospital, Sinje Health Centre, Chief Jallah Leone Health Centre, JJ Hospital, Martha Tubman Hospital.**



On 2-3 June 2016, a refresher training of trainers was conducted in Nimba as part of the ongoing CEBS activity. The training brought together **78 participants from eight border counties representing implementing partners, WHO and MoH**. The training served to reinforce the importance of CEBS, share improved methodology, increase case finding ability, and strengthen links between the County Health Teams, IPs and IOM. The rollout training will be provided to 2,986 gCHVs by those who attended the ToT throughout the course of June.



A CEBS Refresher training was held in Ganta, Nimba County. © IOM 2016



IOM staff conducting health facility spot checks in Bomi County. © IOM 2016



WHO, County Health team, border officials, and IOM staff at the new Ganta PoE triage facility. © IOM 2016

From 17-19 May 2016, the Ministry of Health conducted a training of trainers for rapid response teams (RRT). The training will be rolled out to all counties. IOM case management coordinators attended and will implement the RRT training in Bomi, Gbarpolu, Maryland, Grand Gedeh, and River Gee.



Revision of Aliens and Nationality Law

As part of the security transition plan for the UNMIL drawdown, IOM – with support from ACP-EU – is providing technical support to the Government of Liberia to review and revise the Aliens and Nationality Act. The Act has not been amended since its enactment more than forty years ago. Working alongside the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, consultation with stakeholders including government ministries and agencies (Ministries of Labor, Gender, Foreign Affairs, Commerce & Industry, Justice, LRRRC, National Investment Commission, LISGIS, etc.) and partners (UNMIL/BINAT, UNHCR, UNDP, etc.) has taken place in May, culminating in stakeholder roundtables to discuss issues on nationality and employment.

On 3 June 2016, stakeholders convened at IOM to discuss issues on nationality including the prevention of statelessness, naturalization by marriage, provision for children found on Liberian soil whose parents cannot be located, and grounds for revoking nationality. On 9 June 2016, the stakeholders met again to discuss employment issues related to the Act.



Stakeholders meet to discuss the Aliens and Nationality Act. © IOM 2016

Voluntary Repatriation of Ivorian Refugees

In May, IOM supported the UNHCR-led voluntary repatriation of **1,757 refugees to Côte d’Ivoire**. In Maryland and Grand Gedeh counties, IOM screened refugees’ temperatures and ensured hand washing at the border before they returned to Ivory Coast.



Ivorian refugee children wash their hands before the VolRep to Côte d’Ivoire. © IOM 2016

IOM Projects in Liberia are supported by:

