

SITUATION REPORT



IOM Tubmanburg Outreach Team & Bomi CHT encourage travellers to use official crossing points for hand washing & health screening. © IOM 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- Grand Cape Mount County—where IOM has been running the only ETU—passed 21 days without a confirmed case.
- IOM is participating in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) *Consultancy on Building a Resilient Health Care System in Liberia*. Between 1 and 7 February IOM supported a Rapid Health Assessments in 3 counties, IOM provided 3 medical coordinators from 3 ETUs to join the assessment teams, IOM also provided 3 vehicles and logistical support.
- Buchanan ETU in partnership with the Grand Bassa County Health Team (CHT) provided support to vulnerable communities in the County, during two visits the mobile outreach team provided vaccination and primary health care services to 115 villagers.
- IOM Director of Operations and Emergencies [Mohammed Abdiker](#), and Regional Director for West and Central Africa, [Carmela Godeau](#) visited the Sinje and Tubmanburg ETUs on Sunday 25 January.
- IOM is facilitating coordination in Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties to support national efforts to re-open schools in Liberia with basic infection control (hand washing, temperature screening) and monitoring activities.
- IOM has been named the secretariat of the Border Coordination Group (BCG) under the Chairmanship of the Government of Liberia's Presidential Advisory Committee for Ebola.



The Psychosocial Team at the Tubmanburg ETU worked with the Bomi County Health Team to ensure the successful return and reintegration of the child survivors. © IOM 2015

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- In the 21 days to 4 February, 16 new cases were reported in Liberia, all in Montserrado County. All other counties have not reported confirmed cases for 21 days or more, including Bomi (74 days), Grand Bassa (54 days) and Grand Cape Mount (24 days).
- Contact tracing is critical to reaching zero new cases. Between 22-31 January 100% of new confirmed cases were from registered contact lists, an increase from 50% over the previous 7 days.

“We are living a good life,” Daniel declares when asked about life since he and his four siblings left the IOM-managed Ebola treatment unit (ETU) in Tubmanburg in excellent health. [Read on](#) and learn about the return of this family of young survivors.

ETU MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

IOM Liberia is performing clinical and operational management of three Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) in three counties

- Tubmanburg, Bomi County (opened 18th November)
- Buchanan, Grand Bassa County (opened 22nd December)
- Sinje, Grand Cape Mount County (opened 29th December)

- Over the last 7 days, **Tubmanburg ETU** has admitted 3 patients, and had 2 deaths, **Sinje ETU** has admitted 1 suspected case and had 2 deaths, **Buchanan ETU** admitted 0 patients.
- Since opening, **93 patients** have been admitted to the 3 ETUs.
- In total, **12 Survivors** have been discharged from the ETUs and there have been 21 deaths.



Umu joins 7 other Ebola Survivors discharged from the ETU in Tubmanburg and leaves her handprint on the Survivors Board © IOM 2015

ETU based snapshot for last 21 days (17/01/15 - 06/02/15)

		IOM Managed ETUs						All ETUs		LAST 21 DAYS	
		ETU TUBMANBURG		ETU SINJE		ETU BUCHANAN		last 7 days	Cumulative		
Highest occupancy		14									
Lowest occupancy		0									
Cases	Suspected/Probable Cases	10	43	6	15	3	7	19	65	21	
	Confirmed Cases	2	20	0	8	0	0	2	28		
	Total Admissions	12	63	6	23	3	7	21	93		Total Admissions
Exits as Dead	Death - not a Case	1	3	1	1	1	2	3	6	5	
	Death- due to EVD	2	11	0	4	0	0	2	15		
	Total Deaths	3	14	1	5	1	2	5	21		5
Exits as alive	Discharged	Survivor	1	8	4	4	0	0	5	12	5
		Not a case	13	40	8	14	3	5	24	59	
	Externally transferred EVD case	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	
	Total Exits	14	49	12	18	3	5	29	72	EVD Deaths	

Cumulative since opening of ETUs

ETU preparedness training

Before beginning work all ETU staff must complete MoHSW / World Health Organization (WHO) training. Cold training is completed by all ETU staff, clinical staff further provided with Hot training within a operational ETU. Ambulance and laboratory technician staff receive additional specialized trainings.

Cummulative training since November, 2014			
	National	FMT	Total
Cold	473	118	591
Hot	6	76	82
Laboratory	22	0	22
Ambulance	54	5	59



Dr Nisar Ul Khak, Medical Coordinator of the ETU in Tubmanburg, conducted the medical component of the Border Assessment in Tewor and Porkpa districts © IOM 2015

ETUs run 24 hours, with three shifts rotating throughout the day. Staff have core functions that require training and regular drills. On one hand, this makes it very difficult to scale down without closing. The hygiene requirements alone require up to 20 staff at any given time. IOM must keep a mandatory readiness to address any flare-ups and save lives. On the other hand, as staff improve, IOM is able to increase the flexibility of its foreign medical team.

Last week, we had staff from Buchanan and Tubmanburg join a core team to make a border assessment. Doctors and WASH engineers were able to take off – leaving behind adequate national and international staff – and help us gather more information on the needs along the Sierra Leone border.

[Read more](#) from IOM Project Coordinator Andrew Lind about the role of the ETU as a forward operating base for IOM supporting the Ebola response.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

Community members from the County, District, Chiefdom and Townships levels have been empowered by community outreach and social mobilization activities to drive the behavior change critical in the recent progress in the fight against Ebola. IOM is supporting County Health Teams in the 3 counties, through mobile clinic and community outreach programs and training community health volunteers.

- Buchanan ETU staff with the Grand Bassa CHT, are conducting a weekly mobile primary care clinic outreach program to vulnerable communities. Over two weekly visits Buchanan ETU staff provided primary care and vaccination services to 65 villagers. The mobile clinic supported the Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization program being led by the CHT, providing 50 vaccination services to Villagers in No Way Camp. Buchanan ETU staff conducted Town Hall meetings with community members and local leaders, 29 villagers in No Way Camp and 35 villagers in Jonny Tutu Town participated in sensitization activities and an initial needs assessment.

"We tell you all thank you for making our child come back to us."
Youth Chairman, Camp 3

Staff from the Sinje ETU, the Grand Cape Mount County Psychosocial Officer and a representative of WHO, accompanied [Kadiatu and Abdulla](#) as they returned to their community in Camp 3, Grand Cape Mount County. They were received by family members and community leaders.

- The Sinje ETU social mobilization team is promoting awareness of the ETU and its activities amongst the community. On 5 February Sinje ETU staff conducted a Town Hall meeting with 43 religious leaders from Grand Cape Mount County. General community health volunteers (gCHVs) were trained by IOM social mobilization staff and provided with 1,500 graphic stories and 600 feedback line fliers for distribution.

50 general Community Health Volunteers provided with EVD sensitization training in Grand Cape Mount

Target: 200



Umu is reunited with her sons after the Psychosocial team returns her to her family and community in Tieni, Grand Cape Mount County © IOM 2015

- IOM ETU psychosocial staff conduct community outreach activities to promote awareness of the ETU and support survivors in the 3 counties. Buchanan ETU staff visited 16 homes reaching 26 individuals during the 7 days to 7 February, ETU Tubmanburg psychosocial staff made 7 community visits in the 7 days to 31 January. Staff provide counseling sessions and support to survivors and families.

- Tubmanburg ETU staff are conducting a community outreach program in Gbah Town, Klay District. Each Monday market day the ETU team conducts IPC awareness raising and active case finding with traders. On 26 January around 100 market traders, and religious leaders were provided with Ebola awareness and prevention messages, around 220 market traders and buyers were reached on 2 February. The ETU outreach team is supporting clinical health care workers at community screening checkpoints. On 6 February the team monitored IPC measures and mentored 2 clinical staff at Klay Checkpoint and 3 clinical staff at Lofa River



Nurse Evangeline screens all travelers crossing into Bomi County from Grand Cape Mount County at the newly installed booth in Gbah town © IOM 2015

"I got a phone inside and my husband could call me. It was a good thing because I could talk to him and I could always tell him that there is no problem".

When Umu left her 10-month old son at home to briefly visit the local hospital, she did not expect to be unable to immediately return to him. Umu was transferred to the Ebola treatment unit (ETU) in Tubmanburg, tested and confirmed as an Ebola patient. [Read](#) more about the support she received from the ETU staff.

HEALTH AND HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT

- IOM is providing the Secretariat for the newly established Border Coordination Group (BCG). The BCG is under the Chairmanship of the Government of Liberia, Presidential Advisory Committee for Ebola. As part of the Secretariat role IOM sent representatives to a cross-border community consultative meeting in Nongowa, Guéckédou Prefecture in Guinea on 24 January. IOM was part of the Government of Liberia delegation (including UNMEER and WHO) to the Mano River Union technical meeting on border surveillance and disease control held between 26-27 January in Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- Between 19 and 25 January IOM conducted a border assessment in Grand Cape Mount County. IOM sent a multidisciplinary team of experts who assessed 6 official border crossing points, 9 health care facilities, and 9 WASH facilities. The team facilitated 2 District and 8 Community Focus Group discussions, with 94 community members and conducted 24 in-depth interviews.

HEALTH SYSTEM SUPPORT

Stronger health systems and more resilient communities with greater access to basic services are essential to respond to current and future epidemics. IOM is supporting MoHSW National and County health system revitalization efforts to build on existing Ebola response resources and strengthen health system capacity. IOM is supporting CHTs and National Government efforts to restore essential services, including primary health and education.

- IOM ETU staff participated in a Health Recovery Assessment taking place over 7 days in Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa and Bomi Counties. The three ETUs each provided 1 medical officer, 1 IOM vehicle and logistical support to the County-led assessment.



IOM ETU staff participate in community focus group discussions as part of Health Recovery Assessment, Sass Town rural community, Bomi County © IOM 2015



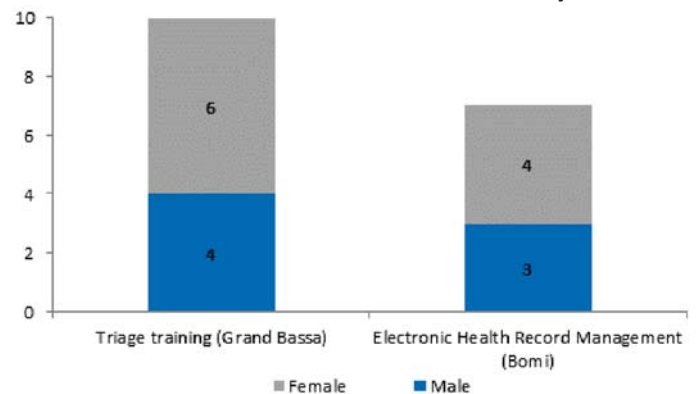
Paul Apedha and Tina Smith train Officers in Charge of 7 public health facilities in Bomi County on computer skills needed to support continuous learning © IOM 2015

“This is an urgent message and in some places they don’t have a proper road network or an operational post office account and the letter can also get lost.”

[Read More](#) from Paul Apedha, one of the trainers and a Registered Nurse attached to the Tubmanburg ETU’s Data Management Unit providing capacity building to MoHSW health care workers.

- IOM is supporting the restoration of basic health services through the provision of supplies. At the direct request of the Bomi County Health Officer, IOM provided essential medical supplies to Tubmanburg hospital.
- ETU staff are strengthening the skills of County MoHSW health care workers to support health system capacity in the Counties.

MoHSW health care workers trained by IOM



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For more information on IOM’s Ebola Response in Liberia

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