

## SITUATION REPORT



ETU staff raising awareness of infection prevention control at weekday market in Bomi County © IOM 2015

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG)** and head of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response UNMEER [Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed](#) visited the IOM managed ETU in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount County, together with the UN Special Envoy on Ebola Dr. David Nabarro, the Assistant Director General World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Bruce Aylward, the Presidential Advisory Committee Representative Dr. Emmanuel Dolo, the Vice Minister of Health and Social Welfare Hon. Tolbert Nyenswah and the UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager for Liberia Dr. Peter Graff.
- In coordination with the Bomi County Health Team, IOM has started to establish triage areas and provide Infection Prevention Control trainings for 20 health care facilities in **Bomi County**.
- IOM is conducting weekly **active case finding** and **social mobilization** activities at Weekday Markets in Bomi County.
- Two counties are reporting new confirmed Ebola cases in Liberia. Eight confirmed cases were reported in the 7 days to the 17th of January 2015 in **Grand Cape Mount (2)** and **Montserrado (6)**.

*“We work with the leaders in the community to observe any existing gaps so we can help in preventing infection. We found that they do not have points to wash hands so we came with big buckets and chlorine”* [Read more](#) about what IOM is doing to contain the spread of Ebola in the Counties, [here](#).



IOM Border assessment team and border officials inspecting a crossing point along the Mano River, the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone. © IOM 2015

### Border Assessment in Grand Cape Mount County

IOM is leading a border assessment in Grand Cape Mount County (GCM) —a hotspot for Ebola in the country. The assessment, taking place between the 19th and 25th of January, is being conducted in coordination and partnership with the County Authorities, UNMEER and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The border assessment aims to understand the nature of cross-border movements and clarify the needs of local communities, border officials and health authorities in GCM, to improve health surveillance and enhance the prevention of EVD transmission.

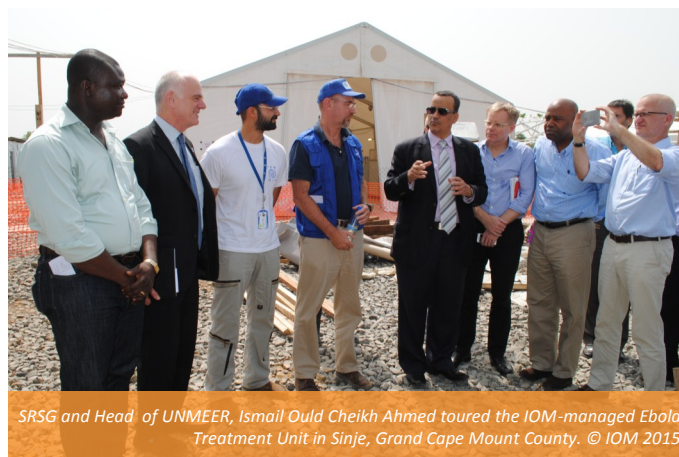
The border assessment targets towns and communities in two border districts, Porkpa and Tewor, which have strong cross-border cultural, social and economic linkages. The multidisciplinary assessment approach encompasses health, social mobilization, WASH and Border Management.

## 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, **Sinje ETU** has admitted 12 patients—7 confirmed with Ebola, and has discharged 2 survivors; **Tubmanburg ETU** has admitted 11 suspected cases and discharged 1 survivors; **Buchanan ETU** has admitted 1 patient and had 1 death.
- Since opening, 74 patients have been admitted to the 3 ETUs—48 confirmed for Ebola.
- In total, **8 Survivors** have been discharged from the ETUs and there have been 13 deaths.



SRSG and Head of UNMEER, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed toured the IOM-managed Ebola Treatment Unit in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount County. © IOM 2015

### ETU based Snapshot for last 21 days (31/12/2014 - 20/01/15)

#### ETU Tubmanburg Snapshot

3	0	0	0	1	20	50
Total Admissions	Survivor	Total Deaths	Total patients under treatment	Confirmed pts under treatment	Current bed capacity	Potential bed capacity

#### ETU Sinje Snapshot

19	3	4	5	1	20	50
Total Admissions	Survivor	Total EVD Deaths	Total patients under treatment	Confirmed pts under treatment	Current bed capacity	Potential bed capacity

#### ETU Buchanan Snapshot

4	0	1	2	0	10	50
Total Admissions	Survivor	Total EVD Deaths	Total patients under treatment	Confirmed pts under treatment	Current bed capacity	Potential bed capacity

IOM Liberia Ebola Response - 2014

"We are here to protect life and property to make sure everything is okay."

"I lost one of my brothers. He was a nurse and he had a big renowned store in Tubmanburg. When I came to Sinje I said, I am a family man and I am interested in working for the ETU." [Read more](#) from Festus about his experience, he is one of 114 Liberians working at the ETU in Sinje.



Festus Kengo, working at the ETU in Sinje. © IOM 2015



Isatu, the first survivor to leave Sinje ETU since opening at the end of December. © IOM 2015

"They treated me fine. They encouraged me and joked with me so I could be happy. They used to play with my daughter. They gave me medicine and I used to eat four times a day."

[Read more](#) from Isatu, Sinje ETUs first survivor.

## SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community level engagement and social mobilization activities have been critical in containing the spread of Ebola. IOM and ETU staff conduct regular social mobilization activities from the ETUs—working directly with communities in the 3 Counties. IOM is supporting CHTs active case finding measures and provides referrals to treatment centers. IOM conducts awareness raising activities and promotes behavior change communications in the communities the ETUs are located.

- As the number of confirmed cases falls, the focus has shifted to Active Case Finding. Tubmanburg ETU is supporting Bomi CHTs active case finding activities. ETU staff accompany the CHT on regular visits to villages to assess communities. Suspect cases are referred to the IOM managed Tubmanburg ETU. IOM also provides primary health care through mobile clinics for identified non-Ebola health concerns. Sinje and Buchanan ETUs have been approved to begin providing similar support to respective CHTs.
- Traders have been particularly impacted by market closures—aimed at preventing the spread of the disease. To support appropriate IPC practices, the Tubmanburg ETU Outreach team conducts weekly active case finding and social mobilization activities at Weekday Markets in Bomi County. The team monitors IPC measures in place and provides material support (e.g. buckets and chlorine) where gaps are identified, promotes Ebola sensitization messages amongst traders and conducts temperature screening.



The sooner you seek treatment, the better your chances. Call 4455 quick-quick if you have a sudden fever after being in contact with a person who had Ebola.



Awareness raising message, promoted by IOM social mobilization team © IOM 2015

- The Sinje ETU psychosocial team accompanies survivors to their communities after being discharged from the ETU. Survivors are encouraged to raise awareness of the ETU amongst their community and promote behavior change. The Tubmanburg ETU psychosocial team accompanies survivors when they reunite with their communities. The team addresses community concerns and clarifies misconceptions about the ETU.



Sinje ETU Psychosocial team building awareness of the ETUs in communities © IOM 2015

[Read about](#) how IOM is promoting IPC measures and conducting Ebola screening amongst community leaders, traders and communities at Gba-Jakeh Market in Bomi County, Liberia.



ETU staff conduct temperature screening at Gba-Jakeh Market in Bomi County © IOM

[Read about](#) IOM's partnership with the County Health Team and Community Volunteers to promote behavioral change and raise awareness about the benefit of the ETUs.

*“On Saturday, we took three survivors to Camp 3 and the community members were happy to see them and received them with dancing. We told the village elders and some community members that they do not have Ebola and the patients shared their experience at the ETU. They said they were treated really well, the food was good, the doctors and the nurses were really good with them as well. They said the wards are really comfortable because they have air conditioning. The survivors encouraged everyone to not be scared of the ETU because they take really good care of patients at the ETU.”*

[Read more](#) from Robert Ayuge, the Psychosocial Coordinator at the Ebola treatment unit in Sinje.

*“She had already lost four grandchildren so we struggled and made sure the children and their mother survived and went back home... we kept encouraging her that different people respond differently to treatment and after four tests she was negative.”*

[Hear more](#) from Gilbert about his experience offering clinical care at the ETU in Tubmanburg.



*“I was happy because we struggled for them and they are well. They are fighters and they are heroes. I was happy for them but at the same time I was sad. I had mixed feelings.”*  
As all the staff at the IOM-managed Ebola Treatment Unit in Tubmanburg celebrated the discharge of two more child survivors, Zipporah Wasilwa had mixed feelings [read more](#).

## HEALTH SYSTEM SUPPORT

As the Ebola Case incidence decreases, IOM and partners are supporting the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) to revitalize essential health services at the county levels. Strengthening the health system will support the sustainability of on-going Ebola response efforts and build National capacity to respond to future outbreaks. County health capacity needs to be improved to fully eradicate Ebola from Liberia and support restoration of normal services, including primary health services, education and the reopening of markets.

- IOM is participating in a National level exercise identifying gaps and upgrade requirements across the Liberian Health System. IOM is providing technical support during the rapid assessment phase

and contributing to the preparation of the MoHSW Health System Recovery Plan for Liberia.

- IOM has provided triage upgrades at the Tubmanburg Hospital and is supporting Bomi county plans to install triage, isolation and IPC facilities at 19 health facilities.
- IOM has provided Ambulance management and triage training to health care workers and the ambulance team of the Bomi County Hospital.
- 6 Local nurses working in the Bomi County Health Team received Electronic Health Record Management training.
- Buchanan ETU National staff are being provided with additional training to build the capacity of local health care workers - 28 non-medical staff trained on Infection Prevention Control and WASH; 35 non-medical staff on Psychosocial Support (including care of the caregiver); and 31 non-medical staff on Ambulance Protocols including 10 live simulation drills each week.



Tubmanburg ETU staff conducted a rapid health assessment of all MoHSW health facilities in Bomi County between December 28 and January 8. © IOM 2015

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**For more information on IOM's Ebola Response in Liberia**

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