



Issue No. 9



Training Health Workers to Build a Resilient Health System

As Liberia seeks to restore gains lost due to the Ebola crisis, great attention is being paid to building a resilient health system. A critical part of this effort is strengthening the capacity of all health care workers to provide safe and quality health services to all. In line with this, the Ministry of Health (MoH) with the technical support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners such as IOM, developed a Safe and Quality Health Services (SQS) training package focused on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Emergency Care and Psychosocial Support. Following this, a team of Master Trainers was equipped to conduct Training of Trainers in the various counties as per the operational plan.

IOM as the lead MoH partner in Bomi and Grand Cape Mount (GCM) counties, is training the first team of 29 county-based IOM, JSI and PCI staff and County Health Officers who will form the core team, training at least 1,000 healthcare workers in Bomi (600) and GCM (400). [Read on](#)



“There were several medical NGOs in Liberia for many years before the Ebola outbreak but when EVD struck we realized that we did not have any structure in place to address major health outbreaks. We are thankful that IOM and other partners came in with the much needed help.” Hon Etweda Cooper, Grand Bassa County Superintendent speaking at the Buchanan ETU handover. [Read on](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Case Management

- IOM is responsible for clinical and operational management of one Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount County. Tubmanburg ETU, Bomi and Buchanan ETU, Grand Bassa stopped admitting patients on 15th April. The 2 ETUs have since been decommissioned with responsibility for EVD health services transition to County Health Teams. All assets have been donated and ETUs handed over in Bomi (27th August) and Grand Bassa (31st August)
- Since 18 November 2014, when the first ETU was opened, 133 patients have been admitted, 12 survivors discharged and 15 EVD-related deaths.

Coordination, Surveillance and Capacity Building

- IOM continues to provide operational support and mentorship to County Health Teams (CHTs) and border screening in Grand Cape Mount (GCM) and Grand Bassa (GB) County. Regular on-the-job training was provided at 7 Border Crossing Points and 2 county checkpoints in GCM to ensure proper screening, IPC compliance and accurate reporting. During the reporting period, additional checkpoints were activated in GB (7) and GCM (2) with necessary infrastructure, training of screeners and supplies.

IOM has expanded its work in border areas to reinforce cross-border screening of travellers and surveillance capacity. IOM will work with CHTs and the Ministry of Health (MoH) Disease Prevention and Control Division to provide additional key resources, training and mentoring support to major ports of entry and border communities in Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland counties.



Expanding Support to Cross-Border Screening and Surveillance

With no new Ebola cases in Liberia, but ongoing transmission in neighbouring Sierra Leone and Guinea, IOM is expanding its work to reinforce Liberia's cross-border screening of travellers and its surveillance capacity. Under a new project funded by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), IOM will work with County Health Teams and the Ministry of Health Disease Prevention and Control Division to provide key resources, training and mentoring support to major ports of entry and border communities in Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland counties.

"Liberia has experienced the third wave of Ebola and as we move forward it is critical that border surveillance activities are heightened to ensure early detection of imported cases, identification, tracking and monitoring of potential high risk contacts," says Thomas Nagbe, Director of the MoH Disease Prevention and Control Division and Chair of the National Disease Surveillance Technical Coordination Committee.

"With intermarriages, bloodlines and daily trade across borders, it is also important to engage key networks in communities to develop early warning surveillance systems. IOM has been working with us and is playing a critical role as the secretariat and part of the technical team driving the country's border strategy to prevent Ebola transmission," he notes. [Read on](#)

"IOM, UNDP and WFP technical support at national level was acknowledged and appreciated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs along with an invitation to provide county-level support to disaster preparedness and response planning."

Vedha Karrupiah, IOM Bomi Field Officer represented the organisation at a multi-actor meeting hosted by the Bomi County Superintendent on the reactivation of County Disaster Management Committees following the instruction of the President of Liberia.



- IOM participated in a WHO-convened meeting on Clinical Care of Ebola Virus Disease Survivors held in Freetown, Sierra Leone (3-4 August). IOM Bomi Medical Coordinator moderated a session on clinical management practices based on IOM experience drafting and implementing standard operating procedures for EVD survivors' clinical and psychosocial care.

Psychosocial Support

- IOM Psychosocial support (PSS) teams continue to conduct outreach services providing support to 46 IOM and non-IOM survivors (14 in GB, 9 in GCM, 23 in Bomi), survivors families and communities in the three counties.

Essential Services Revitalisation

- In aid of national efforts to improve the health system's capacity to universally provide safe quality healthcare, IOM conducted a 6-day county level Training of Trainers (ToT) on the Ministry of Health Safe and Quality Services training package in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount (GCM). The ToT reached 29 county-based IOM, JSI and PCI staff as well as County health officers who will form the core team training 600 healthcare workers in Bomi and 400 in GCM on Clinical Infection Prevention and Control, Emergency Care and Psychosocial Support.

- To promote IPC practices and safe school environments, IOM has supported WASH infrastructure upgrades by conducting 21 hand pump repairs in schools in Grand Cape Mount (7), Grand Bassa (4) and Bomi (10) counties. This followed WASH capacity assessments conducted in schools in collaboration with respective County and District Education Officers.



Community Appreciates IOM Support to Ministry of Health Initiative

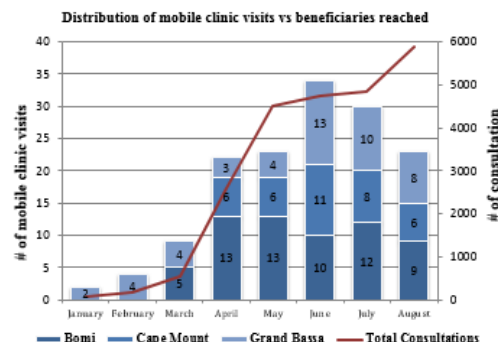
Gbaigbon is one of 20 communities benefiting from the mobile clinics conducted in Bomi County. These clinics are part of a partnership with the Bomi County Health Team in support of their efforts to restart health service delivery and reach specifically targeted communities. Since the free health services were first offered in Gbaigbon, the population of approximately 4,955 has been visited 4 times by the travelling team of doctors, nurses and a County Health representative.

As IOM Medical Coordinator, Dr Nisar Ul Khak explains, “the community is about 7 kilometres from the nearest health facility so when someone is sick they rely on traditional medicine.” In this particular case, the mobile clinic team identified an alarming number of malnourished children and tailored future visits to address this situation. Dr Nisar expounds, “We found several cases of severe malnutrition and referred these children to the government hospital for more comprehensive malnutrition management. However, we also conducted health education sessions on malnutrition and provided valuable food items for these children such as plumpy nut, baby milk formula and oral rehydration salts.”

In appreciation of these efforts, the Gbaigbon Community Town Chief, Chair Lady and Dean of Elders visited the IOM Team in Tubmanburg with a certificate of thanks and a sheep. [Read on](#)

“As a member of the IOM Ebola response medical team, it was a very enriching experience for me to attend this meeting where the World Health Organization (WHO) give me a chance to be a moderator. It was very interesting and gave the opportunity to learn many issues in regards to general health, mental health and psychosocial support of Ebola survivors.” Dr Nisar Ul Khak, IOM Bomi Medical Coordinator

- IOM continues to partner with CHTs to restart primary health service delivery within communities through mobile clinics. During the reporting period, immunization, psychosocial support, curative care services, family planning and health education were provided at mobile clinics in Bomi (9), Grand Bassa (8) and GCM (6) with a total of 6347 consultations.








- To support Grand Bassa CHT efforts to reinforce infection prevention and control (IPC) standards and practices in public health facilities, IOM completed construction of triage and isolation facilities at the Liberia Government Hospital in Buchanan.

Social Mobilization

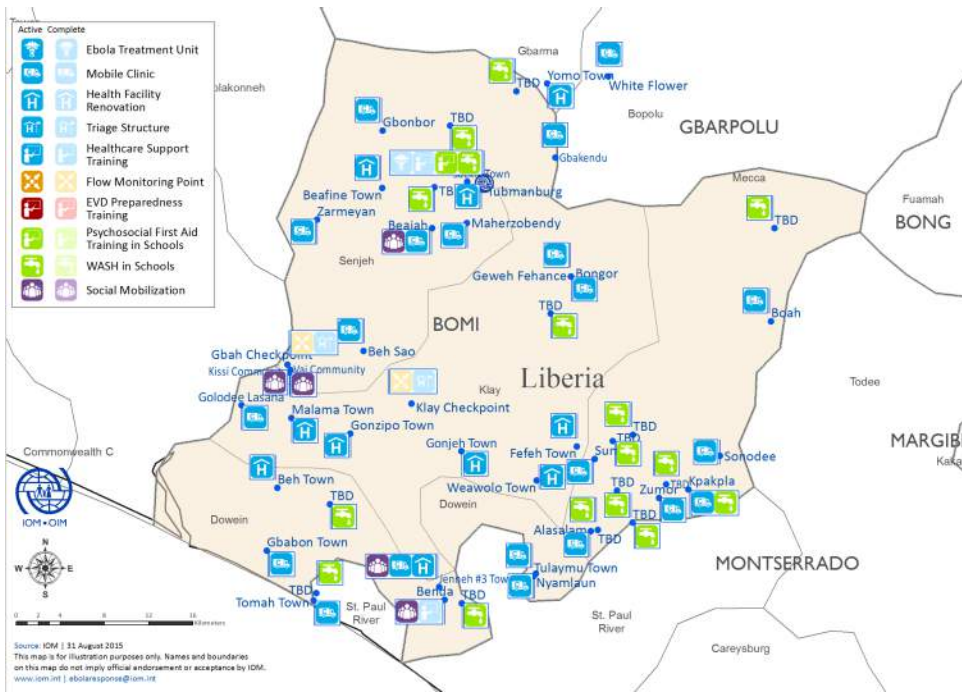
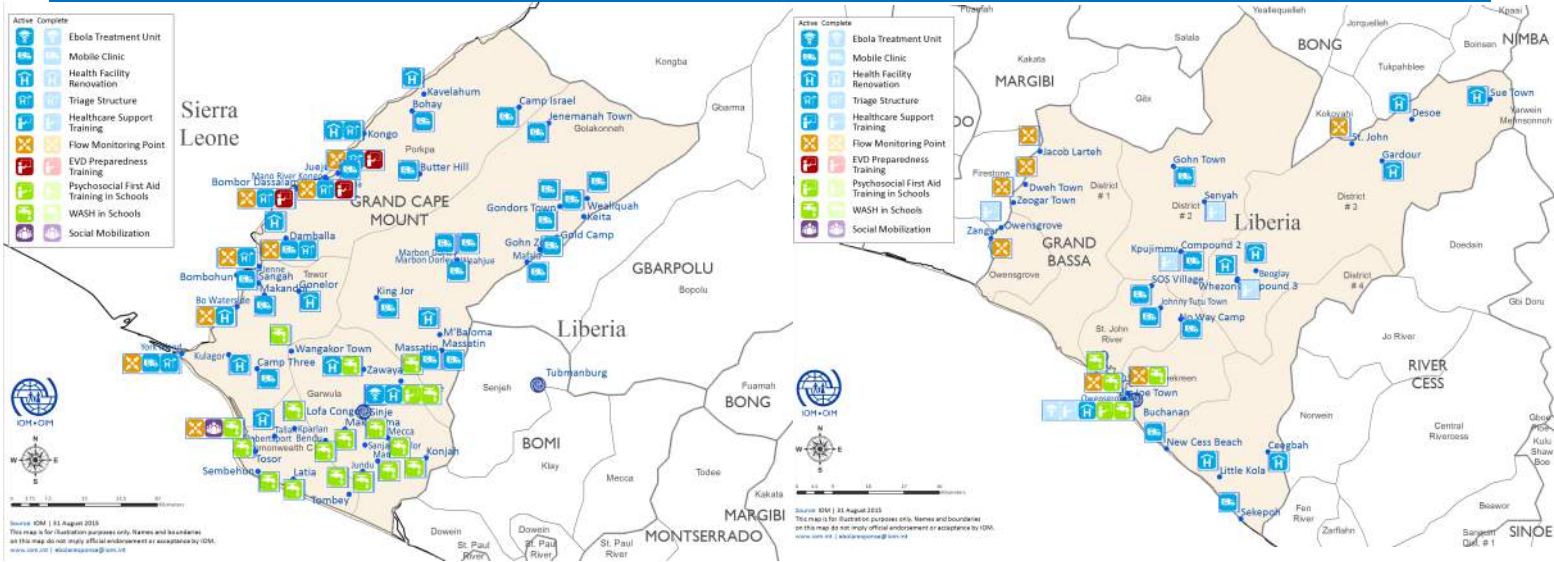
- To promote health practices and border health surveillance, IOM community outreach and border surveillance team held 3 town hall meetings targeting a cross-section of community members and leaders in Grand Cape Mount County.



Dashboard November 2014 - August 2015

	Total	Bomi	Grand Cape Mount	Grand Bassa
 Case Management <p>Tubmanburg and Buchanan ETUs have been decommissioned</p>				
# of ETUs operational	1		1	
 Surveillance, Coordination and Capacity Building				
# border crossing points / county checkpoints supported	13 check points 6 BCPs	2 checkpoints	6 BCPs 4 checkpoints	7 checkpoints
 Psychosocial Support and Survivor Follow-up				
# of IOM and non-IOM survivors regularly receiving PSS support	46	23	9	14
 Social Mobilization				
# of persons sensitized by gCHVs (July)	16,580	4,830	3,252	8,498
 Essential Services Revitalization				
# of schools supported through repaired hand pumps, new boreholes, and latrine infrastructure	21 boreholes & hand pumps repaired /	10	7	4
# of patient consultations by IOM mobile clinics	24,695	14,090	2,631	4,459
# of mobile clinic visits	147	62	37	48
# of local officials trained in health screening at borders	267	-	230	37

IOM Ebola Response in Bomi, Grand Bassa and Grand Cape Mount Counties



For more information on IOM's Ebola Response in Liberia

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