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Ebola survivor makes his handprint on the Survivor Wall during the Tubmanburg ETU Closing Ceremony in Liberia

OVERVIEW

Since the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was first reported in March 2014, to date, there have been **27,013** confirmed probable and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) with **11,134** fatalities (41%), according to the current UNMEER report, dated 27 May 2015. On 9 May, WHO declared Liberia free of Ebola virus transmission. IOM is continuing to support the Ebola response in West Africa, which aims to strengthen containment and control activities, capacities to prevent the spread of EVD, reduce disease burden, and to contribute to “getting to zero and maintaining zero cases.”



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Flow Monitoring agents use tablets to collect migrant travel and health screening data in Kourémalé, Guinea

HIGHLIGHTS

- **39,346** travellers were screened between 27 April and 17 May at Bo waterside, **Liberia**.
- **99,640** people have benefited from social mobilization outreach in **Liberia**.
- **303,504** travellers have been screened and sensitized at 15 FMPs in **Mali**, since the start of the project in November 2014.
- **7,286** health care workers and frontline responders have been trained in **Freetown, Sierra Leone** as of 22 May.
- IOM’s social mobilizers reached **4,650** persons with Ebola awareness and health promotion messaging in **Sierra Leone**.
- IOM has installed a mobile data collection system, already implemented in **Mali** and **Guinea**, to monitor migration flows at three border entry points in **Côte d’Ivoire**.
- Distribution and installation of all IT materials and equipment has been completed in five new PEOCs and the rehabilitation works are ongoing in Conakry, **Guinea**.
- EVD preparedness assessments were undertaken at selected Points of Entry in the Greater Accra and Western Regions in **Ghana**.

SIERRA LEONE

Social Mobilization & Community Outreach

IOM social mobilizers conducted **1,089** household visits to distribute interim care kits and promote Ebola Awareness reaching **4,650** people, and **166** community engagement meetings across 8 low income coastal communities in the Freetown area. Mobilizers will seek to supply interim emergency care kits to Suzan's Bay community a potential risk zone with a meeting held in Moa Wharf on 25 May to raise Ebola awareness and infection prevention health promotion, as the community continues to be a hotspot for Ebola cases.

Furthermore, IOM's implementing partner Wellbody Alliance continues to engage communities in five chiefdoms in Kono district. The Community Health Worker programme team members will conduct screening and education on Ebola-related matters



Social Mobilization team raises EVD awareness, during Community Outreach in Freetown, Sierra Leone

Wellbody Alliance supported field Community Health Workers (CHWs) to share key Ebola messages to **10,388** households. In addition, the CHWs were able to refer **214** people to local Community Care Centres for early diagnosis and care. With Koidu Government Hospital having reported an increase in the number of persons presenting with late stage malaria, Wellbody's CHW teams have started to include health promotion messages encouraging community members with fever and other malaria symptoms to seek early care.

Health & Humanitarian Border Management

On 22 May, IOM's Health and Humanitarian Border Management (HHBM) Monitoring of the Entry and Exit Health Screening project marked the end of Phase I activities with a lessons learned workshop held at Lungi Airport Hotel.

HHBM Phase II will see an expansion of airport monitoring of health screening to land borders with Guinea in Kambia and Bombali districts involved, as well as seaports in the Freetown area. Activities have already commenced with the opening of IOM's new Kambia sub-office.

National Training Academy & Mobile Training

Over the past weeks two 3-day Ebola basic Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) trainings took place. In total, **166** health care personnel were trained from the College of Medicine and Allied Health Science's nursing diploma, certificate and degree programmes. One clinical IPC and simulated patient care course was held for 15 clinicians from United Nations Volunteers, Save the Children, Princess Christian Maternity Hospital and Connaught Hospital.

On Saturday, 23 May, a second Training of Trainers (ToT) was held for 5 returning trainers from the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces on general IPC modules designed to prepare College of Medicine students for practical activities in hospital wards.

At the request of the District Medical Officer in Bo district, a mobile training team delivered one 3-day basic IPC course to 40 health care workers from local Peripheral Health Units and an abbreviated 3-day clinical course for 19 clinicians were held from 18-20 May.

GUINEA

Health and Humanitarian Border Management: Flow Monitoring Points

To promote safe migration and better health management, IOM Guinea continues to carry out activities at three border Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Kourémalé, Nafadji and Niany. Since the start of the project, a total of **19,768** migrants have been recorded and monitored, passing through the three FMPs.



FMP agent raises awareness about the importance of hand sanitization in Kourémalé, Guinea

Training sessions on IPC measures for security officers have been carried out with emphasis on the tracking of suspected cases.

IOM Guinea activities consist of training of **53** persons regarding alert system and contact tracing, as well as suspected cases, sensitization of travellers at the borders on IPC measures, training of 8 screening agents in the use of new version/form for data collection of travellers at the borders.

Preparations are underway for an Ebola sensitization campaign in the traditional gold mines, a potential risk zone, with a similar campaign ongoing in border areas. An evaluation mission was carried out in Kamsar, a border town near Sierra Leone, to ascertain the effectiveness of measures put in place to control maritime movements coming from neighbouring Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, and Senegal.

Provincial Emergency Operation Centres

In order to further reinforce and strengthen the capacity of the coordination in the fight against the EVD, and following recommendations from the National Emergency Operations Coordination (NEOC), in addition to the 20 PEOCs, IOM now provides logistical support to five communes in Conakry. A total of **25** Provincial Emergency Operational Centres (PEOCs) are now supported by IOM nationwide. All these PEOCs have received office supplies and IT equipment/internet connectivity has been installed.

LIBERIA

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

IOM Grand Cape Mount is supporting the Country Health Teams (CHTs) with health screening services at Bo Waterside, the main border crossing point with Sierra Leone. Between 27 April and 17 May, **39,346** travellers were screened. In addition, IOM is also providing screening supervision by ensuring provision of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) and triage materials at six other identified border crossing points (BCPs); this is in addition to other services, such as IPC and WASH supplies and supervising activities at two county checkpoints in Bomi County and two in Grand Cape Mount County.

Furthermore, a four-day refresher training was conducted on primary screening and basic PPE at border crossings in Grand Cape Mount in partnership with the CHT and Global Communities. **35** participants from the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN) and

district and county health officers, as well as gCHVs were trained and provided with on the job mentorship.

Decontamination of Ebola Treatment Units

On 9 May 2014, Liberia was declared Ebola free. In order to build resilience and respond to future health-related challenges, IOM is supporting the County Health Teams (CHTs) to build local capacity for safe isolation, triage and referrals. IOM is still performing clinical and operational management of one Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount (GCM) County.



Ebola Survivors revisit the Tubmanburg ETU for a Photo Exhibition at the Closing Ceremony in Liberia

The Tubmanburg ETU in Bomi and Buchanan ETU in Grand Bassa stopped admitting patients on 15 April, and finalized decommissioning of the ETUs in line with World Health Organization (WHO) protocols. An official closing ceremony was held for both ETUs on 8 May.



ETU staff proudly display their Certificates of Appreciation during the Tubmanburg ETU Closing Ceremony in Liberia

Since opening in November 2014, **131** patients have been admitted to the 3 IOM ETUs, **12** Survivors have been discharged and there have been **15** EVD related deaths.

Social Mobilization & Community Outreach

IOM led 5 training sessions (3 in Bomi and 2 in Grand Bassa) in which **126** gCHVs and community leaders were trained on community preparedness for EVD.

Between 27 April and 17 May, 10 radio talk shows were held with medical doctors and nurses from the ETUs participating, informing the public on topics, such as the last mile in fighting against the Ebola outbreak, back-to-schools programme, mobile clinic and immunization campaign awareness. IOM airs daily radio jingles in all 3 counties, informing the public on matters, such as the importance of hand washing and EVD prevention measures, as well as the immunization campaigns.

Health Systems Support & Revitalization

At the request of the CHTs, IOM Grand Bassa and IOM Bomi assisted with the integrated measles/polio vaccination campaign from 8-15 May 2015. IOM Bomi provided logistical support and 3 nurses joined vaccination teams. IOM Grand Bassa trained **225** vaccinators and provided supervision during the campaign, as well as delivering vaccines and other materials. In Grand Cape Mount **473** patients were treated at three mobile clinic visits, whereas in Bomi the mobile clinic team provided health care services to **1,471** community members.

MALI

Health and Humanitarian Border Management Flow Monitoring Points

To ensure the epidemiological surveillance of travellers from countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Mali has implemented health screening at checkpoints on major roads, rivers, railways and airports, and have raised the need to strengthen the health monitoring system at health screening, and to raise awareness of travellers between Guinea and Mali.

To date, a total of **303,504** travellers have been screened for Ebola symptoms and sensitized to EVD, since the start of the project in November 2014.

Social Mobilization & Community Outreach

IOM Mali carried out a feasibility assessment of social mobilization activities in the Sikasso Region. The assessment concluded that mining sites in Kayes region were a potential risk zone, therefore activities, such as popular dramas (theatre production), will be developed in order to reach out to the communities.



Flow Monitoring agents conduct health screening and distribute EVD prevention cards in Banankoro, Mali

IOM also held ToT sessions with the three main target groups, which included community leaders, traditional healers and community health agents, more than **100** villages and gold mine sites were identified in the Sikasso Region.

GHANA

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

From 18-25 May, IOM Ghana conducted an EVD preparedness assessment at selected Points of Entry in the Greater Accra and Western Regions. In the Greater Accra Region, the team visited Kotoka International Airport and Tema Port, while in the Western Region they visited Takoradi Port, Elubo Land Border, Half Assini and Jaway Wharf.

The assessment provided practical understanding of the state of preparedness at the locations visited. Furthermore, the assessment enabled the EVD project to identify gaps in effective Health and Humanitarian Border Management (HHBM) programme implementation with respect to managing suspected cases of EVD or other infectious diseases from the Point of Entry (PEO) to the treatment centre, and to make appropriate recommendations.



Hand washing station in Noé, Cote d'Ivoire, visited during a cross-border assessment in Elubo, Ghana

Lastly, the assessment provided the EVD project team a better understanding of the communities located near the PoEs and travel routes and hot spots associated with the PoEs, which will guide the team in developing and implementing activities in the area of Social Mobilization.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

As of 19 May, IOM Côte d'Ivoire has completed 6 of 10 trainings along the Guinean and Liberian borders to strengthen the Ebola preparedness capacity of border officials. The training teams are comprised of four trainers from the National Institute of Public Hygiene (NIHP) and four IOM staff, including one doctor.

The two-day trainings focused on infection prevention and Control, personal protection, detection and response, and health surveillance and screening. The first day takes place in an academic setting, while the second day is at a nearby point of entry, where participants work on simulation exercises and practical-based tasks.

235 agents have benefited from training on cross-border fight against Ebola virus disease with Participants giving great feedback to IOM and INHP trainers and appreciated the in-depth coverage of the subject.

Furthermore, with support from the IOM Development Fund, IOM Côte d'Ivoire is transporting hand-washing stations, mattresses, personal-protective equipment and infection-control materials to points of entry along the western border with Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. Six



Border Control officials undergo simulated health screening training in Touba, Côte d'Ivoire

medical authorities along the border will receive motorcycles to enhance their ability to provide ongoing training and monitoring of Ebola-preparedness activities.



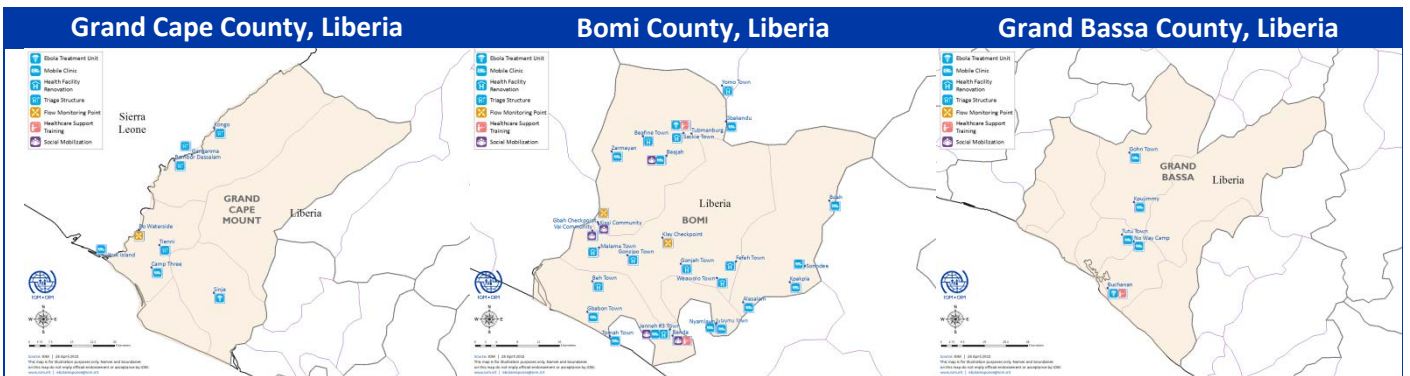
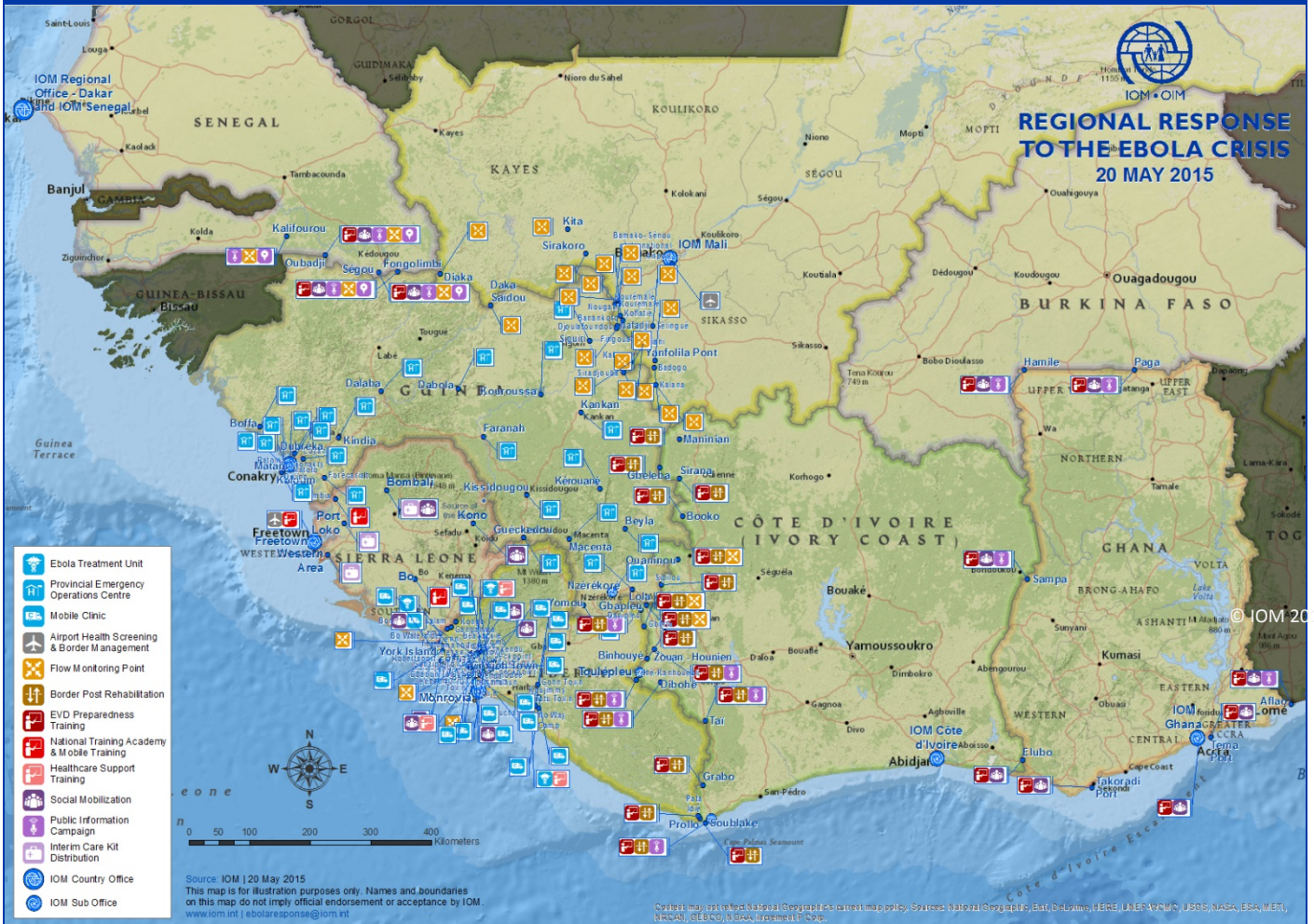
Policeman receives practical hand-sanitizing training at the border post in Odienné, Côte d'Ivoire

With the assistance and support of donors and implementing partners, IOM delivers an ongoing coordinated response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa, including such services as:

- Training airport staff to screen passengers for Ebola at Lungu International Airport and educating frontline responders to work safely and efficiently with Ebola patients in **Sierra Leone**
- Rehabilitation and equipping of Provincial Emergency Operations Centres in **Guinea-Conakry**
- Distribution of hygiene kits and home health kits to mitigate the spread of Ebola
- Revitalization of Health Systems in **Liberia and Sierra Leone**



IOM'S REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE EBOLA CRISIS



FUNDING FOR IOM'S EBOLA CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAMME IN WEST AFRICA IS PROVIDED BY:



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

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