



IOM and local NGOs carrying out EVD sensitization campaigns at gold mining sites in Siguiri

OVERVIEW

Since the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was first reported in March 2014, to date, there have been **27,514** confirmed probable and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) with **11,220** fatalities (41%), according to the UNMEER report, dated 1 July 2015. WHO declared Liberia free of Ebola virus transmission on 9 May 2015. However, on 29 June, routine surveillance detected a confirmed case of EVD in Margibi County—the first confirmed case in Liberia, since 20 March. IOM continues its Ebola response in West Africa, which aims to strengthen containment and control activities, capacities to prevent the spread of EVD, reduce disease burden, and contribute to “getting to zero cases and maintaining zero.”



IOM provides psychosocial support to students and teachers affected by the EVD epidemic in Liberia

HIGHLIGHTS

- Due to the recent EVD outbreak in Magazine Wharf in Freetown, **Sierra Leone**, IOM, along with CDC, WHO, Dfid, and the Ebola Response Consortium, is responding with a number of counter measures, including Infection Prevention and Control training for 41 participants on 25 June.
- In coordination with County and District Education officers, IOM has completed a total of **60** assessments of WASH capacities in schools in Bomi, Grand Bassa and Grand Cape Mount counties, **Liberia**.
- In partnership with local NGOs, IOM **Guinea** carried out EVD sensitisation campaigns on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) on the Guinea/Mali border at Gold mining sites.
- A total of **41,806** persons have been monitored at the three Flow Points in Kourémalé, Nafadji and Niany in **Guinea**, since February 2015.
- IOM is installing three new Provincial Emergency Operations Centers (PEOCs) in Boké, Fria and Téli-mélé in **Guinea**.
- EVD preparedness assessments were undertaken at Takoradi and Sampa, **Ghana**.



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An IOM social mobilization team raises EVD awareness in challenging conditions in Susan's Bay, which neighbours Magazine Wharf, the site of a recent EVD outbreak in Freetown, Sierra Leone

SIERRA LEONE

Health & Humanitarian Border Management

A technical meeting was held on 18 June at the Forecariah PEOC in Guinea, involving IOM Sierra Leone and Guinea, UNICEF, UNMEER, the Kambia District Ebola Response Center, DfID, USAID, US CDC, WHO, ACF, Catholic Relief Services, and the Red Cross. The meeting proposed working strategies to assist in the final push to eradicate Ebola in Kambia district, and Forecariah Prefecture, two of the last major hotspots in the region.

Operation Northern Push was officially launched on 16 June in Kambia and Port Loko districts. Additional Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) units and Sierra Leone Police were deployed in both districts to enforce a 6pm-6am curfew; robust quarantine measures; community to household ownership of the response; and task forces of social mobilizers, surveillance officers, and contact tracers deployed to prevent new infections. The operational plan for the Kambia/Forecariah part of the Operation Northern Push was presented and endorsed with District and Prefectural Coordinators launched on 24 June.

In response to the recent outbreak in Magazine Wharf in Freetown, IOM facilitated a RING Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training delivered by Center for Disease Control (CDC) at the Siaka Stevens Stadium on 24 June. 41 individuals participated from Concern, WHO, CDC, GOAL, and IOM. Most of the represented organizations are currently in partnerships with one or more of the eight peripheral health units (PHUs) and four hospitals in the affected area and have been trained on IPC.

On 26 June IOM held a meeting with Concern Worldwide and their partners (Save the Children and



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IOM conducts health screening and flow monitoring at Mange in Port Loko district, Sierra Leone

Goal) to arrange the Surge Response teams for eight Peripheral Health Units (PHUs) surrounding Magazine Wharf. WHO sent out four separate teams to four respective hospitals in the area, while Concern provided eight staff along with IOM's 13 to address the eight facilities within the ring - Mabella, Suzan's Bay, Welbodi, Sierra Leone Red Cross, Ross Road, Ginger Hall, Kroo Bay, and Grey Bush.

Roving Monitors Deployed to Key Checkpoints in Port Loko District

IOM's Port Loko sub-office at Lungi International Airport expanded its human resource capacity with 14 new monitors who are working at prioritized screening points throughout the district. The monitors have been divided into two roving teams of seven and are covering checkpoints at Gbaneh Bana, Bundulai, Kabata, Total, Gbere Junction, Mile 38, Konta Line, Foredugu and Mange. The checkpoints were identified by the District Coordinator and District Ebola Response Centre. To ensure their effectiveness, the monitors underwent a one day training involving presentations and practical exercises. The role of the monitors is to observe and support the health screening process conducted by District Health Management Teams (DHMT) at select checkpoints and provide supplies as needed.

Furthermore IOM conducted a rapid needs assessment on 25-26 June at all the identified checkpoints and were able to establish basic needs. Key findings include a need to improve the supply chain for thermometers, batteries, gloves, face masks and hand washing buckets. In some checkpoints it was noted that there was no reserve tanks for water or chlorine had run out. The roving monitoring teams are now re-supplying all checkpoints.

National Training Academy & Mobile Training

A 2-day mobile training on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) was held on 19-20 June in Kambia for 21 newly inducted IOM monitors, and a further 28 monitors from the Passenger Welfare Association (PAWEL) on health screening/monitoring. A second IPC training was rolled out at the end of June for another 50 participants to ensure all monitoring teams acquire the relevant skills and knowledge on health screening. Key elements of the training include hand washing techniques, temperature checks, health monitoring/observation, EVD response mechanisms and disease identification.

GUINEA

Health and Humanitarian Border Management: Flow Monitoring Points

IOM has begun cross border Health and Humanitarian Border Managements activities such as Entry-Exit screening at the Forcariah/Kambia border. The HHBM project aims to contribute to collaborative multi-sectorial efforts in "getting to zero" and "maintaining zero" by ensuring a comprehensive Entry-Exit Health Screening and mobility pattern monitoring at strategic land Points of Entry along the borders with Sierra Leone.

IOM's approach will include the urgent deployment of Flow Monitoring Point agents for Mobility Pattern Monitoring and travellers' awareness, as well as the transition to a sustainable system able to deal with other epidemic prone-diseases affecting the areas. As part of the recommendations from the National coordination for the fight against the EVD, the monitoring of movements of travellers as well as sensitizations on major roads between Prefectures has been identified as a major concern.

To this end, the National Coordination for the fight against the EVD has solicited IOM to provide logistics support to the recommended health check points in the different prefectures currently affected by the EVD. It is in this light that IOM has started with the installation of tents to serve as shelters on some of these check points, to be followed by distribution of some basic hygiene kits.



Tent at Forcariah-Coyah health check point

Social Mobilization & Community Outreach

IOM continues to carry out activities at the three Flow Monitoring Points in Kourémalé, Nafadji and Niany on the Guinea/Mali border. To this end, IOM alongside some selected NGOs is currently carrying out sensitisation campaigns, particularly at local gold mining sites in Siguri, Mandiana, and their environs. The sensitisation campaigns are being carried out as part of



EVD Awareness campaign in Mandiana, Guinea

the Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) measures against the EVD. So far, a total of **41,806** persons have been monitored through the three FMPs of Kourémalé, Nafadji and Niany.

Provincial Emergency Operation Centres

At the recommendation of the National coordination and USAID/OFDA, IOM will install three new PEOCs in Boké, Fria and Télimélé, making a total of **28** PEOCs nationwide. This is following a shift in dynamics of EVD to these areas. In addition, the installation of internet connection and office supplies to the sub-coordination in Kamsar is underway.

Furthermore, a rapid assessment was carried out in Boké and Fria to ascertain the structures in place to host the coordination. Rehabilitation works will commence shortly with purchase of office supplies as well as IT equipment underway. Meanwhile all the 25 PEOCs continuously receive office supplies as well as monthly fuel allowances for the generators. Rehabilitation works for the five new communes are completed and operational.

LIBERIA

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

To evaluate the level of preparedness and capacity to detect possible cases at the points of entry and exit, IOM carried out an assessment at Bo Waterside, the major crossing point for travellers between Sierra Leone and Liberia. The team was led by the Assistant Minister of Health for Preventive Services, alongside representatives of the Incident Management System, CDC, CLA, Global Communities, Liberian Red Cross, WHO, UNICEF and IOM.

IOM has also provided screening support and on-the-job mentorship at 9 Border Crossing Points in Grand Cape Mount. Between 18 June and 1 July, **9,846** persons were

screened for their temperature at the respective border posts.

IOM and the other partners of the Border Coordination Group have finalized the mid-term assessments of the cross-border operational plan for Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount and Nimba counties.

Social Mobilization & Community Outreach

To support safe border crossings and prevent cross-border transmission of EVD and other communicable diseases, IOM has designed and released a graphic story. The story aims to raise awareness among travellers on preventative measures and good practices, before, during and after travel. Between 18 June and 1 July, IOM conducted one training session on the Graphic Story, training a total of 30 general Community Health Volunteer (gCHVs) and community leaders (among which 5 were female).

In the context of the Polio and Vitamin A immunization campaign, IOM in the three counties has conducted door-to-door outreach to inform households of the campaign. In Bomi County, IOM reached a total of **635** households with vaccination education messages.



Social mobilizers use an IOM-designed graphic story to promote safe border crossings and prevent cross-border transmission of EVD in Liberia

Psychosocial Support

To ensure sustained psychosocial support in schools, IOM provided technical input to the Ministry of Education/UNICEF-designed training-of-trainers (ToT) programme for teachers and school administrators to be rolled out across the country. The ToT includes psychological first aid aimed at helping schools to reduce stigma, rejection, isolation and stress related to

the EVD epidemic. IOM has been responsible for the rolling out the training in three counties. IOM has trained **109** school administrators and teachers in three counties.

Following the reopening of schools, IOM has provided psychosocial support to students and teachers affected by the EVD epidemic in Bomi, Grand Bassa and Grand Cape Mount counties. Working closely with the respective county education officers, IOM has provided psychological first aid on dealing with loss and grief, and stress related to EVD. Between 18 June and 1 July, IOM PSS teams conducted 6 school visits holding psychological first aid sessions with a total of **242** students.

Health Systems Support & Revitalization

IOM, in coordination with the County and District Education officers, has completed a total of 60 assessments (20 per county) for WASH capacity in schools in Bomi, Grand Bassa and Grand Cape Mount counties. Basic repairs, such as deepening hand-dug wells/ repairing hand pumps are scheduled to start early July.

In Partnership with the County Health Teams), IOM continues to provide primary health care to vulnerable communities, as well as deworming and vaccination services, with mobile clinics taking place on average three times a week in each county. Between 18 June and 1 July, 14 mobile clinics were held, with a total of **2,140** patient consultations.



Mobile clinics deliver vaccination services in Bomi, Grand Bassa, and Grand Cape Mount counties, Liberia

IOM has also provided logistics support to the County Health Teams (vehicles, as well as nurses for the vaccination teams) for the national Polio Vitamain A immunization campaign, which took place on 26 to 29 June in Bomi, Grand Bassa and Grand Cape Mount counties.

GHANA

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

As part of EVD preparedness, IOM Ghana carried out assessments in Takoradi and Sampa in May and June respectively. On 25 June, IOM staff visited Sampa and found that the port has three official crossing points and over 100 unapproved routes. Many residents of communities, such as Sampa town, Kokosua No.2, Korase, Zobo, Febi, Kabre and Jinibni have families on both sides of the border, and cross through the official points without documentation, as well as frequently using the unregulated routes.

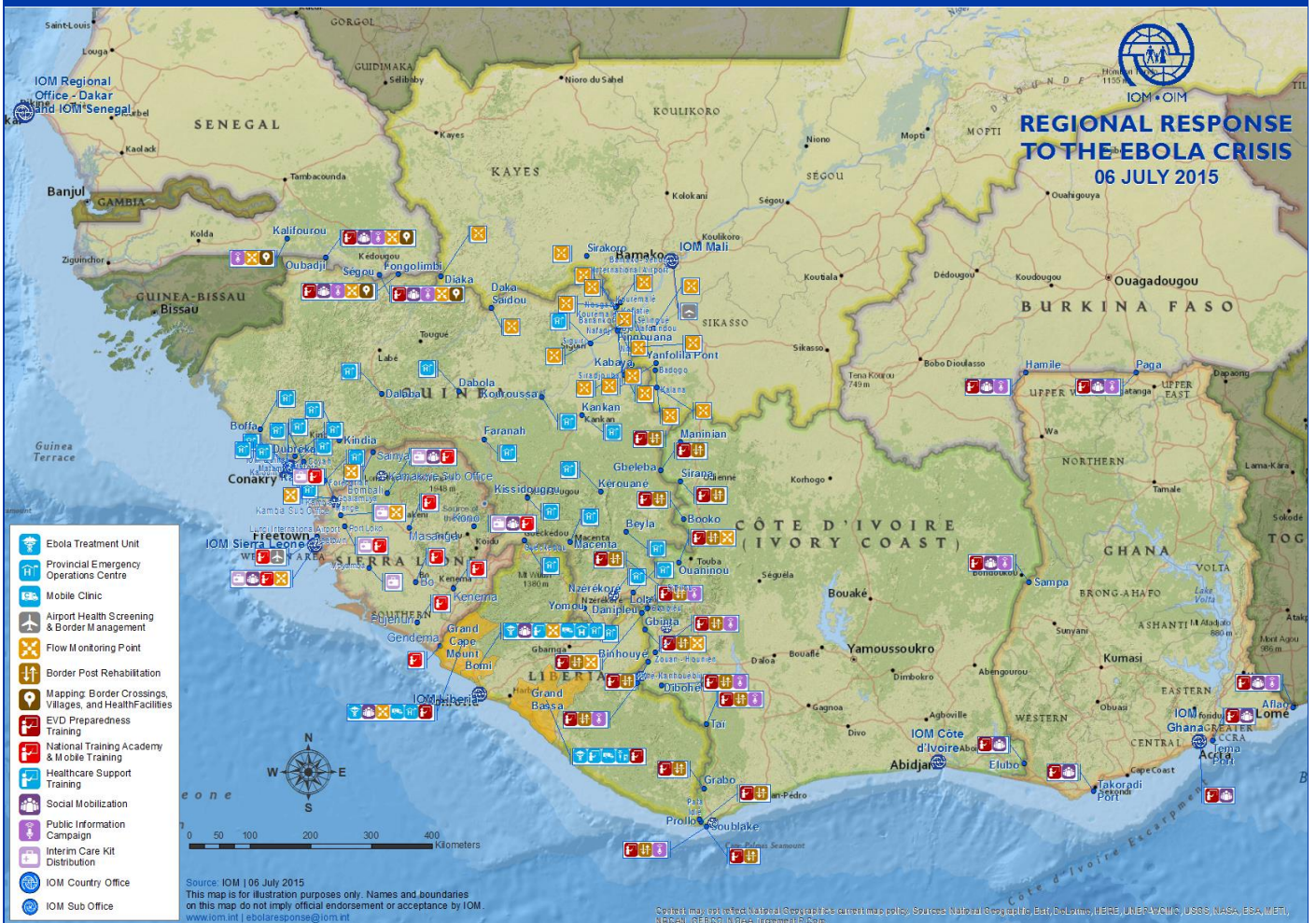
The final destination of most travellers crossing into Ghana are Sampa, Kumasi and Tema, whereas travellers from Ghana are mostly heading for Soko and Bondogou, the nearest trading centres on the Cote d'Ivoire side of the border. Officials of all three agencies have received training on EVD awareness and the District has developed a Preparedness and Response Plan. A local NGO has collaborated with the Ghana Health Service to conduct community mobilization and awareness in selected communities, and the local radio has given free airtime for health talks.



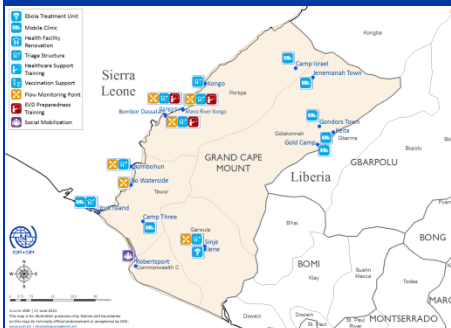
IOM team assesses EVD preparedness at the seaport in Takoradi, Ghana

At Takoradi, IOM staff team also found that there is no holding facility at the port. Port Health in particular is poorly equipped, for both its port and its regional coordination role, Hygiene equipment and PPEs are in short supply, and IEC materials are not widely distributed. Records are kept manually, and no risk assessment has been carried out to determine the level of infection risk and the protection measures that need to be taken.

IOM'S REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE EBOLA CRISIS



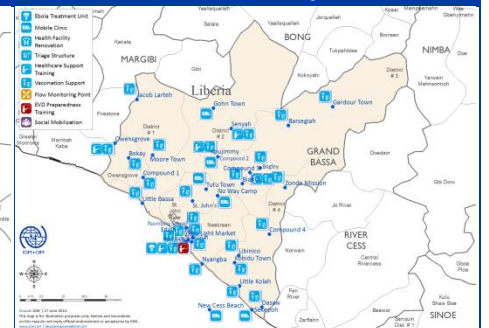
Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia



Bomi County, Liberia



Grand Bassa County, Liberia



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