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Medical staff deliver vital healthcare services at the mobile clinic in Beajah, Liberia

### OVERVIEW

Since the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was first reported in March 2014, to date, there have been **26,593** confirmed probable and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) with **11,005** fatalities (41%), according to the current UNMEER report, dated 6 May 2015. IOM is continuing its Ebola response in West Africa, which aims to strengthen containment and control capacities to prevent the spread of EVD, reduce disease burden, and to contribute to “getting to zero cases.”



Dr. Kaba of IOM Guinea and Dr. Pekezou of IOM Sierra Leone meet at the Provincial Emergency Operation Centre in Forecariah, Guinea to coordinate cross-border health and humanitarian activities

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **17,470** migrants screened at Bo waterside crossing point in Liberia.
- IOM’s Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) in Buchanan and Tubmanburg, Liberia, have closed their doors and are implementing decommissioning and decontamination protocols while the Sinje ETU will remain open
- **85,080** people were reached through Social Mobilization outreach activities in Bomi, Grand Cape, and Grand Bassa counties in Liberia with over **1,616** community leaders trained.
- The refurbishment of the Faculty of Nursing, College of Medicine and Allied Health Services has begun in Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- **2,130** pupils were reached by IOM’s implementing partner, World Hope International through social mobilization activities. During school reopening
- IOM Côte d’Ivoire conducted HHBM assessments along the borders with Liberia and Guinea-Conakry.
- IOM distributed 44 Hygiene kits at entry points in Ségou, Fongolimbi and Oubadji in Senegal.
- **6,000** Ebola prevention and awareness cards distributed in Sélingué, Mali.



## SIERRA LEONE

### Social Mobilization & Community Outreach

Through their community-based activities, IOM's implementation partner, World Hope International (WHI), conducted social mobilization activities focusing on school reopening, with a total of **2,130** pupils reached with Ebola awareness messaging. In collaboration with the Burial Pillar, Bombali district, cultural liaison teams completed their training session. A total of **129** Cultural Liaison Officers (83 males, 46 females) were trained. With continuous social mobilization activities in the rural communities led by community-based social mobilizers, the Pillar rapid response team and other partners, the district has not detected any case of EVD in the last **36** days.



Emergency care kits delivered to a Community Health Centre in Kono district, Sierra Leone

Wellbody Alliance supported field Community Health Workers (CHWs) to share key Ebola messages to **10,388** households. Thus far 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 1 May, IOM Sierra Leone's Senior Public Health Coordinator, Dr Aurelien Pekezou, crossed over the Kambia border into Guinea's Forécariah prefecture, an area which has experienced a rise in new Ebola cases, to meet with Dr Lamine Kaba, his counterpart from IOM Guinea, as well as representatives from WHO and UNICEF.

IOM's activities on both sides of the border were presented with a specific focus on health and humanitarian border management including health screening, flow monitoring points (FMPs), community mobilization and sensitization, training of national authorities and communities on EVD surveillance, and data management.

Key achievements to date on cross border issues include a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between the Governments of Sierra Leone and Guinea in March covering surveillance, communication, security, logistics and laboratory resources sharing; information sharing between the countries and a screening process on the border which involves both civilian and military actors in concert.

Despite these successes, challenges remain on the implementation of the MOU, including coordination challenges due to decentralized governance, irregular cross border meetings and linguistic problems as Sierra Leone is English speaking and Guinea is francophone.

### National Training Academy & Mobile Training

To date, IOM's National Ebola Training Academy, in partnership with WHO, CDC, COMAHS, MOHS and RSLAF, has now trained **6,689** health care workers, which includes 5,899 at the Academy in Freetown and 790 via mobile training throughout Sierra Leone.

On 1 May the refurbishment of the Faculty of Nursing, College of Medicine and Allied Health Services began in Freetown. IOM is renovating the faculty over the next 2 months to coincide with the official reopening.



Refurbishment of the Faculty of Nursing, College of Medicine and Allied Health Services commences in Freetown, Sierra Leone

## GUINEA

### Health and Humanitarian Border Management: Flow Monitoring Points

IOM Guinea continues to carry out Flow Monitoring activities at the three borders points of Kourémalé, Nafadji, and Niani. These activities include EVD sensitization in the local language, as well as collection and processing of migrant travel data. Eight Flow Monitoring Point agents received training to familiarize them with the updated version of the data collection sheet, which now includes four health-specific questions.



USAID and IOM meet with local health officials at the IOM-renovated Emergency Operations Centre in Forecariah, Guinea

## LIBERIA

### Health and Humanitarian Border Management

IOM Liberia is providing support and health screening services at Bo Waterside, a primary border crossing point between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Between 13 and 26 April, IOM screened more than **17,470** travellers, all of whom were cleared. In addition, IOM is ensuring health screening services at two key checkpoints, Tienni and Sinje, in Grand Cape Mount.



Border officers and health staff screen travellers at the Bo Waterside border crossing in Liberia



IOM's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene officer explains the technical aspects of ETU decommissioning to community leaders at the Tubmanburg ETU in Liberia

### Decommissioning of Ebola Treatment Units

With no new Ebola cases and great strides in managing the epidemic in Liberia, the process of repurposing treatment facilities, is in progress. In Bomi and Grand Bassa counties, which host IOM-managed Ebola treatment units (ETUs) based in Tubmanburg and Buchanan, the process of transitioning responsibility for Ebola healthcare services to the County Health Teams is well underway. With the ETUs now closed to patients, a crucial element of the decommissioning process is the ongoing community engagement led by psychosocial support and social mobilization staff.

*"We involved the community when we were opening the treatment unit and it is important to involve them in the process of closing"*

*Helen Gitiche*

*Tubmanburg ETU Psychosocial Support Officer*

### Social Mobilization & Community Outreach

Between 13 April and 26 April, six talk shows in Grand Cape Mount and Bomi, respectively, were held to promote awareness and sensitization towards EVD. IOM Liberia's medical doctors and nurses are invited on daily talk shows to advise the public about the importance of EVD prevention and good practices, such as hand washing. In aid of this cause, IOM has also been airing daily radio spots and jingles in all three counties.

Furthermore, IOM-trained general Community Health Volunteers are promoting EVD awareness in their communities via interpersonal communications and use of specially designed communication tools. A new IOM-developed graphic story became available during the past week for distribution in the three counties. The tool is designed to help inform the general public on the appropriate measures to take to protect themselves and their communities.



## Health Systems Support & Revitalization

IOM is supporting County Health Teams in providing basic health care services to communities in Bomi, Grand Bassa, and Grand Cape Mount counties through mobile clinics. The clinics, in addition to providing primary healthcare, are a means of administering vaccines and de-worming children in targeted communities. Since 13 April, **126** patients have received treatment at two locations in Grand Cape Mount, IOM Bomi has treated **595** persons and dewormed **165**, while IOM Grand Bassa has provided care to **252** patients and immunized **203** persons



Nurse examines a young patient at a Mobile Clinic in Bomi county, Liberia

IOM psychosocial support teams continued to provide outreach services and assist social mobilizers with community-level EVD awareness raising and education, including combating stigmatization in heavily affected communities. Between 13 and 26 April, **83** protection cases were identified during community outreach work. These are referred to the County Health Teams for further support. In the framework of the back-to-school Programme, IOM Grand Bassa has reached out to the school administration and teachers of Al- Rashad Islamic school campus to discuss how staff can ensure their pupils' wellbeing. **15** children were left orphaned at the respective school as a consequence of EVD.

## MALI

### Health and Humanitarian Border Management Flow Monitoring Points

To strengthen Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) capacity at points of entry and among communities, IOM Mali dispatched a team of eight Flow Monitoring Point (FMP) agents to Sélingué to work closely with Health Agents in preparation for the Sélingué Musical Festival, 150 km from Bamako. Every year the city of Sélingué welcomes thousands of attendees to a 3 day

urban festival. The FMP agents also distributed approximately **6,000** prevention cards at the city entrance, as well as conducting temperature screening and hand washing sensitization to raise awareness about EVD.



Flow Monitoring agents conduct health screening and distribute EVD prevention cards to visitors of the Sélingué Musical Festival in Mali

Furthermore, four missions were organized to all FMPs, mainly to reconfigure the Open Data Kit data collection system for the inclusion of four additional health-related questions into the electronic form. The objective of the field trips was to assess the health ticket system.

## SENEGAL

### Health and Humanitarian Border Management Distribution of Hygiene Kits



Hygiene Kits distributed at the border post in Fongolimbi, Senegal to promote EVD awareness and prevention

As part of its EVD preparedness and monitoring activities at the border, IOM Senegal distributed to nursing heads of posts based in three strategic entry points of Ségou, Fongolimbi and Oubadji. 44 hygiene



kits, which included soap, bleach and basins, were distributed to participants in order to promote hand washing, a standard component in infection prevention control.

The distribution is part of the Community monitoring initiative for which general hygiene and hands washing in particular are the heart of the response. The support was appreciated by village committees, health workers and border police officer's

### Health Systems Support & Revitalization

IOM organized a meeting with the County Committee for epidemic management in Saraya. The objective of the meeting was to evaluate the 2014 action plan for Ebola response and develop one for 2015. The main risk factors for exposure to Ebola in the Saraya area are related to the geographical location of the department (environment, transport, migratory flows connected with gold mining), as well as behaviour. The strategies adopted in the new action plan revolve around capacity building and multi-sectoral collaboration, as well as community-based surveillance.

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE

### Health and Humanitarian Border Management

IOM Côte d'Ivoire conducted an HHBM assessment of 18 points of entry along borders with Liberia and Guinea from 6-25 April. The team found the need to improve hygiene infrastructure conditions for border personnel and travellers through water and sanitation upgrades. The assessment also discovered a lack of communication between officials on both sides of the

border, a lack of personal protective equipment, and the need for more practical training on Ebola preparedness.



Current condition of the official border post at Dohouba, Côte d'Ivoire on the Liberian border

Key areas of IOM's intervention at the border posts were determined to include equipping law enforcement agents with protective equipment and hygiene materials, raising EVD awareness, and supplying adequate hand washing stations and consumable goods.



An unofficial border post at Kpantoupleu, Côte d'Ivoire on the border with Liberia

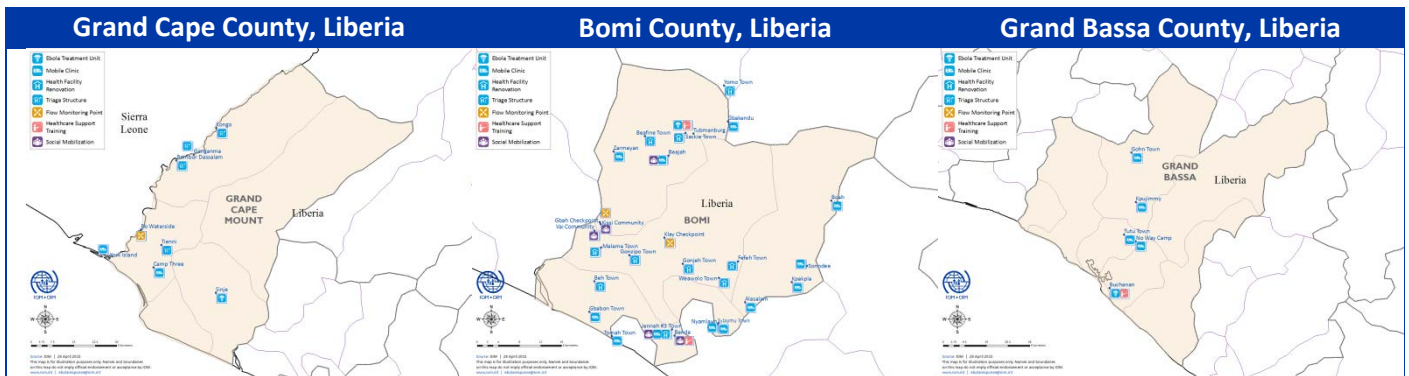
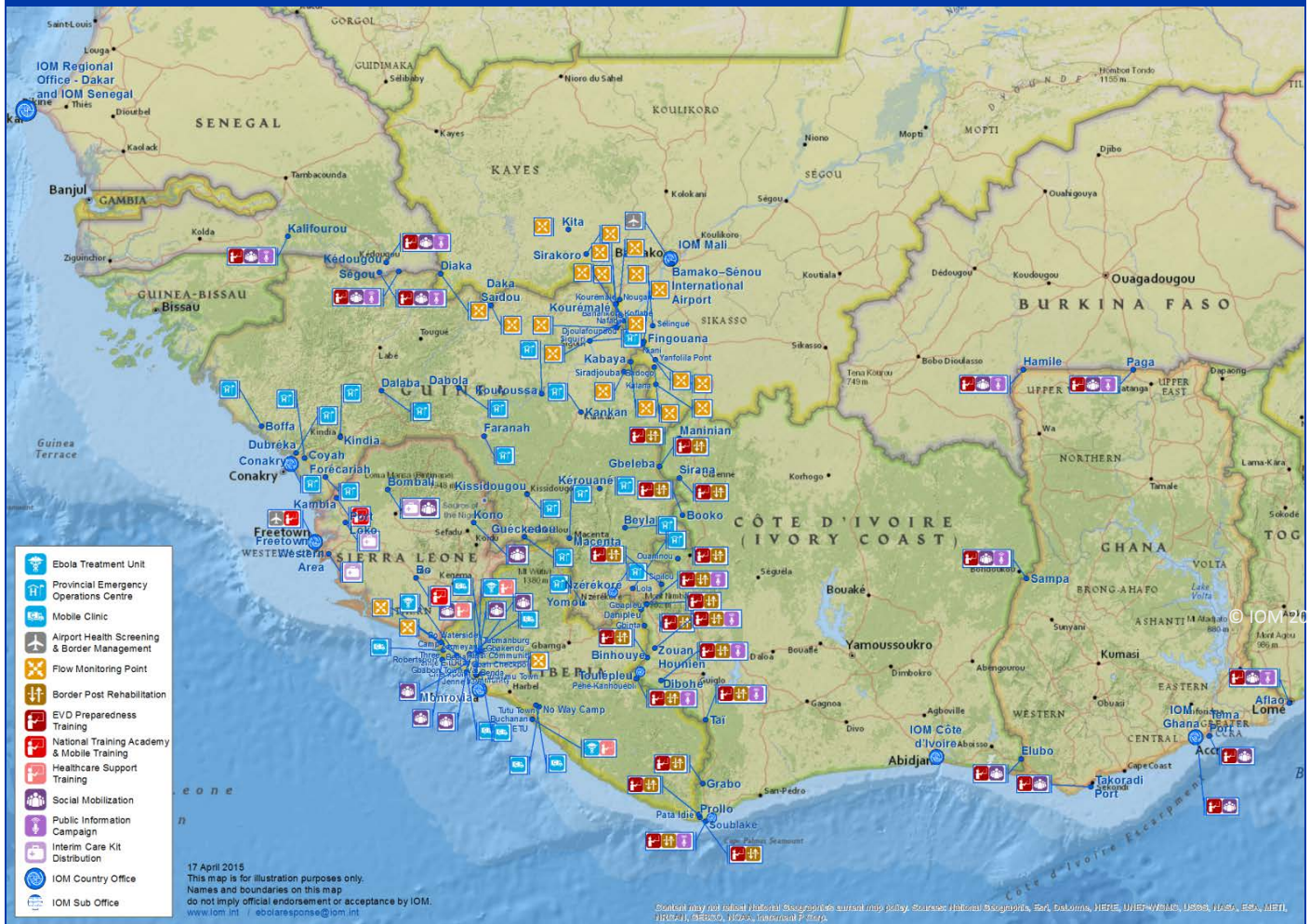
With the assistance and support of donors and implementing partners, IOM delivers an ongoing coordinated response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa, including such services as:

- 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:

IOM Ebola Crisis Response Programme Coordination Office, IOM HQs | [ebolaresponse@iom.int](mailto:ebolaresponse@iom.int) | +41 22 717 9111  
 Donor Relations Division, IOM HQs | [drd@iom.int](mailto:drd@iom.int) | +41 22 717 9271  
 IOM Regional Office, Dakar (Senegal) | [rodakarebolacoordination@iom.int](mailto:rodakarebolacoordination@iom.int) | +221 33 869 6200