



IOM Sierra Leone Ebola Response

IOM • OIM

SITUATION REPORT | Issue 40 | 30 August –12 September 2015



Unfortunately the confirmed case discovered on Sunday, 30 August in Kambia's Tonko Limba chiefdom has sparked a mini outbreak. In response IOM has redeployed HHBM health screening monitoring teams and emergency care kit field monitors to the affected area of Sella Kafta. Above (L to R), field monitors deliver emergency interim care kits to a quarantined home, IOM HHBM staff liaise with US CDC on the roll out of new checkpoints in the area and US CDC provides a training on GPS mapping to IOM staff.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- ****As of Sunday, 13 September, the National Ebola Response Center has reported 5 new cases coming from the Sella Kafta chain of transmission over the past week. A quarantine escapee exhibiting wet symptoms was captured at the Newton– Waterloo Vehicle Checkpoint on their way to Freetown on 9 September after spending several days in Moyamba but later found to be negative. More cases are expected.****
- One new confirmed case was reported from Sierra Leone in the week to 6 September. The case is the daughter of the 67-year-old woman identified as EVD-positive after post-mortem testing in the village of Sella Kafta, Tonko Limba chiefdom. The most recent case was identified as a high-risk contact after caring for her mother during her illness. Further cases are expected among the approximately 40 high-risk contacts. The origin of infection of the 67-year-old woman remains unknown.
- The *Ebola ça suffit!* ring vaccination Phase 3 efficacy trial of the rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine has now been extended from Guinea to Sierra Leone. 200 Contacts and contacts of contacts associated with new confirmed cases and who meet the trial's eligibility criteria have been vaccinated in the Sella Kafta area.
- As of 6 September a total of 989 contacts had been identified in Kambia, although the majority of these contacts have been defined by geographical proximity rather than by history of exposure, and are therefore considered to be at very low risk. Approximately 40 contacts are considered to be high risk. All contacts associated with other chains of transmission in Sierra Leone have completed 21-day follow-up.

Weekly Highlights

- IOM clinicians in collaboration with the Ebola Response Consortium are providing Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training support at Connaught, Princess Christian's Maternity and Ola During Children's Hospitals and have now trained 987 (F 712, M 275) hospital personnel.
- IOM HHBM monitoring teams and emergency care kits field monitors have redeployed in Kambia district to 6 checkpoints around the Sella Kafta hotspot community in Tonko Limba chiefdom as of 19 September. An average of 570 travelers pass through these checkpoints daily. IOM is also exploring ways to reinforce monitoring efforts in neighboring Port Loko district.
- IOM clinicians have begun a new intervention in the Prison and Police hospitals in partnership with the Ebola Response Consortium. IOM staff will train hospital personnel on IPC as well as refurbish WASH facilities in both facilities over the next 6 months to the end of February 2016.
- Beginning on 28 September, IOM-WHO-CDC will take part in a joint 9-day mobility mapping pilot exercise with over 30 participants.

FOLLOW IOM SIERRA LEONE ON FACEBOOK WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/IOMSIERRALEONE OR VISIT WWW.IOM.INT/COUNTRIES/SIERRA-LEONE

IOM sets up checkpoints around Sella Kafta hotspot communities in Kambia

Late on the evening of Saturday 29 August 2015 a port-mortem swab was confirmed EVD positive in Tonko Limba, Kambia from a 67 year old female. This has rapidly led to the infection of at least 5 people many from her immediate family or funeral service with 36 high risk contacts that are presently in treatment facilities or under observation. A total number of 823 people in 227 households are under quarantine and unfortunately more cases are expected by WHO. In a bid to control the virus and prevent further infection in other communities, over the past week to 12 September IOM has set up 6 screening points from Sumbuya (entrance to Tonko Limba Chiefdom) and all the entry and exit routes into and out of the Sella and Kafta communities. IOM has made available personnel, hand washing stations, thermometers, liquid soap, hand sanitizer, basic PPE and other essential material and supplies at all newly established check points. IOM’s intervention at Sella Kafta has intensified IPC measures and monitoring of passenger traffic in and around the communities. A regular screening resupply mechanism has also been set up to ensure that checkpoints are in operation 24 hours per day without issue.

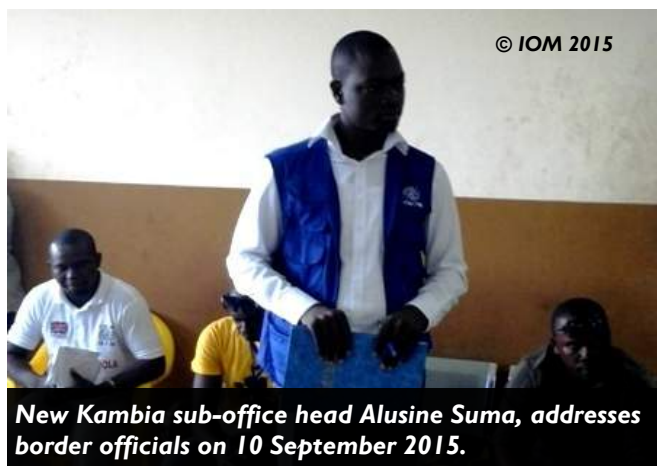


© IOM 2015

One of the 6 newly established IOM handwashing stations in the Sella Kafta hotspot community, Kambia district on 9 September 2015.

Border Officials in Sierra Leone and Guinea agree on new border management mechanism

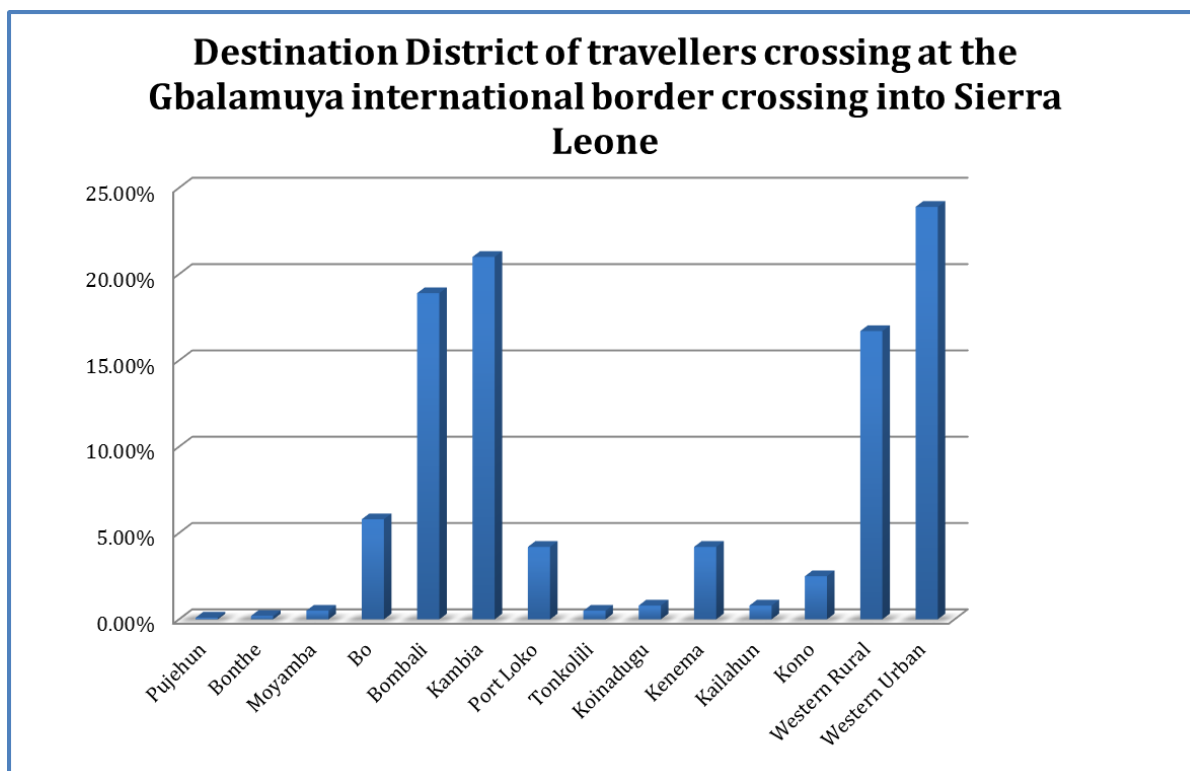
10 September 2015 marked an important day as border officials including staff from IOM Sierra Leone and IOM Guinea met to discuss challenges faced at the international border in terms of protocol around the management of EVD prevention after unconfirmed rumors emerged that local residents have been plying illegal routes from villages around Sella Kafta to nearby villages in the Republic of Guinea out of fear of being quarantined. After a long debate on border opening and closing times, the Port Health, Customs and Immigration Department



© IOM 2015

New Kambia sub-office head Alusine Suma, addresses border officials on 10 September 2015.

from both countries agreed to close the Sierra Leone and Guinea border at 7pm each day. IOM commended the agreement with an assurance and wand will continue to conduct data collection and health screening around the new operational schedule. It was unanimously agreed that only government dignitaries and Ebola response personnel would be allowed to cross the border after 7pm. Plans are already in place to increase the security presence in the area at unmanned crossing points.



IOM Lungi leads wharf assessments

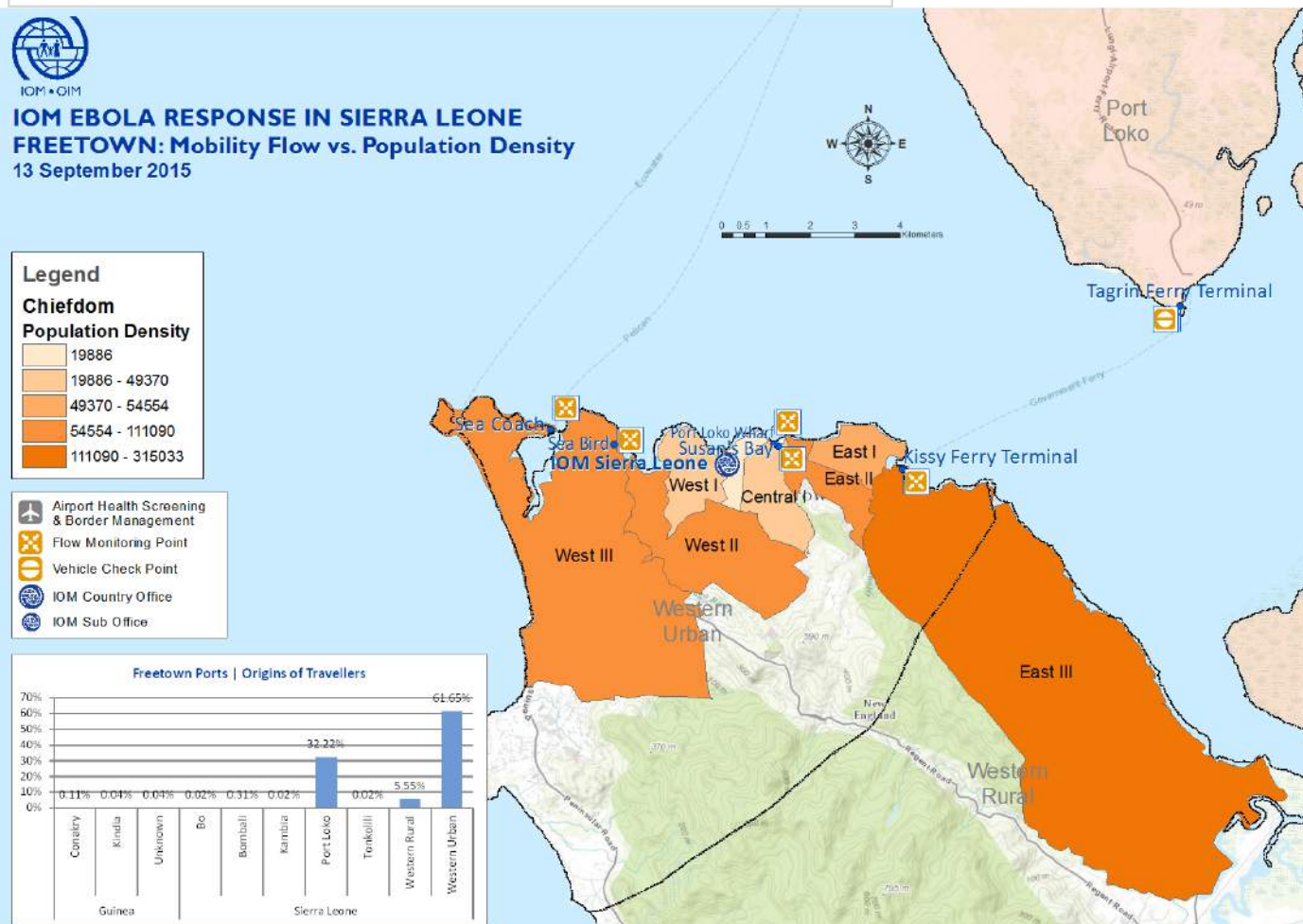
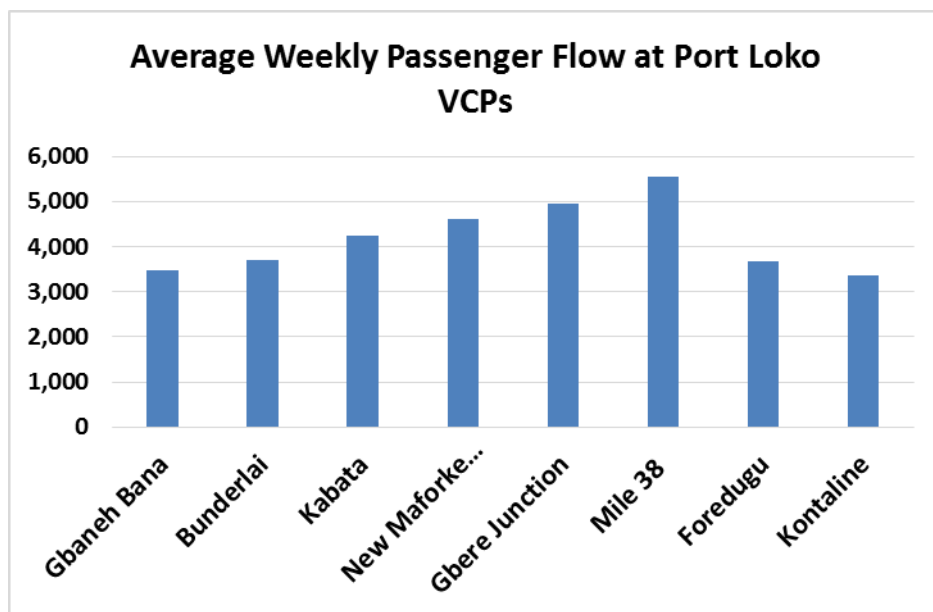
The IOM Lungi sub-office has begun conducting rapid assessments on the wharfs in Kaffu Bullom chiefdom to enhance data collection and migratory flow tracking on sea transport routes for people travelling to Port Loko from high risk EVD areas in Kambia and Guinea. The first phase started with Loko Masama chiefdom. A meeting was held with the office of the paramount chief and the key wharfs and seaports were identified as Tagrin, Lungi Wharf, Kona-kry Dii, and Makem. During the past week to 11 September 2015 resupply of health screening material and headcounts continued at the vehicle checkpoints where IOM monitors are present within Port Loko. The average flows

of travelers is presented in the graph below.

IPC and Behavioral Change Communication training in Freetown

Beginning on Monday 7 September 2015, a two-day training course on Infection Prevention and Control and Behavioral Change Communication (IPC/BCC) for health screeners and monitors at crossing/screening points was delivered to 32 participants drawn from various seaport organizations working in and around the Kissy Ferry Terminal at the Kissy Dockyard in Freetown. The training course included modules on introductory IPC, understanding Ebola and other common infectious diseases, screening isolating and notifying, infection prevention and control measures, behavior change communication at border/screening points etc.

The training was facilitated by members of the IOM IPC training team and increased participant's understanding of Ebola and other common infectious diseases. Participants are now equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to safely conduct Ebola related health screening and to respond to any suspected Ebola cases and other communicable diseases in their workplaces and communities.



Kallie Turay, “In the service of my country, HHBM keeps me on my toes to do more.”

Kallie Turay has been working as a senior monitor with the Health and Humanitarian Border Management project since July at the Tomparay checkpoint, about 6 hours north of Makeni in Bombali district.

Prior to joining IOM, Kallie has been lecturing on knowledge sharing at the University of Makeni for 2 years and had a diverse career in print media and development communications. He has worked as a consultant with GIZ on intergenerational dialogue in Kailahun and Kono, as a journalist with the now defunct Lion newspaper in Freetown, and with the Network Movement for Justice and Development, a local NGO, conducting advocacy and outreach communications.

One day several years ago, Kallie happened to catch a news story on IOM’s engagement in humane migration featured on Al Jazeera at the Sierra Leone Library Board. In the polished manner of a practiced public speaker he describes the experience as “profoundly important” and began keeping an eye out for possible job openings while digging deeper into IOM activities the world over that “resonated with my shared humanitarian concerns,” he says. Moving to Tomparay, a small village, to man a vehicle checkpoint was “a big change with no water or electricity supply and with no phone signal or

internet you feel really disconnected” but he says with a smile “I have no regrets about the move. We built a great team, we shared everything and complemented one another’s efforts on the ground.”

“I believe I serve my country and HHBM keeps me on my toes to do more and learn more.” Kallie sees the need for HHBM activities to continue well past the current Ebola outbreak, “Sierra Leone has very porous borders. Ebola and other infectious diseases, counter trafficking, smuggling and other illegal activities can all be impacted on by our work on border management. HHBM enhances preparedness and resilience. It’s like an early warning system.”

On IOM, Kallie is unequivocal in his opinion. “In Bombali, it is no exaggeration to say IOM is very visible and has attracted a lot of highly qualified individuals who have performed exceedingly well on its behalf. The organization has become so admired that people are literally climbing over one another to work for IOM.” Kallie believes that IOM is worth working for because it recognizes and encourages staff to grow. As a result of his own hard work and dedicated efforts Kallie has recently been promoted to Acting Sub-office Head and National Project Officer in Kamakwie.



Kallie Turay at IOM Freetown on 11 September 2015.

BEST of the WEB (click links for story):

[Three new Ebola patients found in Sierra Leone, VOA, 9 September](#)

[WHO announces Liberia as Ebola-free again, The Science Times, 8 September](#)

[More Ebola in Sierra Leone as Dallas probe notes missteps, CIDRAP, 9 September](#)

[Baby born to Sierra Leone’s first Ebola survivor dies, CBC, 4 September](#)

[Sierra Leone village in quarantine after Ebola death, BBC, 4 September](#)

[Philippines suspends monkey exports after Ebola deaths, AFP, 10 September](#)

[In aftermath of Ebola, forgiveness is a powerful resource, CS Monitor, 13 September](#)

[As quarantines lift, Sierra Leone takes stock of losses, Al Jazeera, 13 September](#)

IOM Sierra Leone’s initiatives are supported by:



For more information on IOM’s Sierra Leone activities please contact:

IOM Sierra Leone Response | jbaker@iom.int | Public Information/Project Development | nbishop@iom.int

Please find IOM Sierra Leone on Facebook at www.facebook.com/iomsierraleone &

www.iom.int/countries/sierra-leone/