



# IOM Sierra Leone Ebola Response

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The IOM Kambia team with delegates from the head office in Freetown at the official opening ceremony of the Kambia sub-office on Saturday, 15 August 2015.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The single confirmed case in Sierra Leone in the week to 9 August was reported from Freetown. The case is an 8 month-old girl who had onset of symptoms on 4 August, and who was admitted to Ola During Children's Hospital (ODCH) in Freetown on 6 August with fever, vomiting, and diarrhea. A total of 28 high risk contacts have been identified and 19 other contacts have entered voluntary quarantine and 6 are in ODCH. There are 6 missing contacts; 3 high risk and 3 low risk. 2 missing contacts have been found, both high risk; one has fever and is being investigated.
- There is currently only 1 known active transmission chain in Sierra Leone which originates from the Magazine Wharf community in Freetown. The current Tonkolili cases are an extension of this chain. The last date of quarantine in Tonkolili is 22 August 2015 if no further infections take place.
- There remain 82 high risk contacts with the continued potential for secondary cases.
- A total of 694 contacts remain under follow-up, compared with 811 the previous week. The vast majority of contacts, 638, are located in Tonkolili, with the remaining 56 located in Freetown.
- Laboratory indicators continue to reflect a heightened degree of vigilance, with 1938 new samples tested in the 7 days to 9 August. Fewer than 1% of samples tested positive for EVD. Most tests (79% in the week to 9 August) are of post-mortem swabs taken to rule out EVD as the cause of death.

## Weekly Highlights

- From August 10-11 IOM Sierra Leone welcomed Mr. Mohammed Abdiker, Director - Department of Operations and Emergencies and Dr. Davide Mosca, Director - Migration Health Division, at IOM HQ Geneva as well as representatives from the IOM Regional Office in Dakar on a consultative mission. High level meetings were held with the UN Resident Coordinator, WHO Country Representative, Minister of Health, US CDC and USAID OFDA.
- 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 535 hospital personnel.
- IOM and World Hope International will hold a one day conference on Cultural Burial Liaisons at the University of Makeni on 18 August.
- IOM Bombali's Flow Monitoring Point and two Vehicle Checkpoints in Sella Limba and Tambaka Chiefdoms screened an average of 2,100 per day travelers crossing to and from Guinea, Kambia, Port Loko, Makeni and Koinadugu over the past week.

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## IOM Freetown delegation heads to Kambia for official sub-office opening ceremony

On Saturday, 15 August 2015, a delegation from Freetown including Head of Office, Sanusi Savage, Emergency Coordinator, Jon Baker and Health and Humanitarian Border Management Project Manager, Ben Potter traveled to Kambia to attend the official opening of the IOM Kambia sub-office which has been in operation since June. The ceremony was attended by over 50 IOM Kambia staff who work on the HHBM and Emergency Interim Care Kits

note address was provided by Sanusi Savage, Head of Office, who inspired Kambia staff with spirited remarks noting his own rise through the ranks. The Head of Office asked that all staff personally introduce themselves so that



**IOM Head of Office, Sanusi Savage cutting the ribbon to officially open the Kambia sub-office on 15 August 2015.**

projects. Staff rose to their feet and received the delegates with enthusiastic applause upon their arrival. The event began with opening remarks from Kambia sub-office head, Alpha Kamara who warmly welcomed the Freetown delegates and thanked the entire gathering for their steadfast commitment to ensuring the safety of travelers and the people of Sierra Leone. Brief speeches were given by the HHBM Project Manager and the Emergency Coordinator, both of whom gave high praise to the dedication of staff who work long hours in challenging conditions. The key-



**IOM Freetown delegates address a gathering of IOM Kambia staff to inaugurate the new sub-office.**

he could put a name to a face. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held, followed by the presentation of a special gift .



**IOM Head of Office, Sanusi Savage and Emergency Coordinator, Jon Baker receive a locally produced landscape painting.**

## Quinette Bangura, senior monitor, from Freetown to Ghana to HHBM

A year ago Quinette Bangura would never have imagined she would be managing a team of 7 health screening monitors for IOM in Kambia district. As a 3rd year student at Zenith University in Accra studying business management and accounting, border management and health screening were concepts that hadn't crossed her mind until an impromptu trip home to Freetown.

"I came home for holidays and I was looking for practical management experience to complement my studies."

Quinette knew IOM from the organization's past work in Sierra Leone on repatriation and resettlement of refugees but Health and Humanitarian Border Management came as a very big surprise. Although Quinette's grandparents are originally from Kambia she grew up in Freetown with her family. For the past 3 months her and her team have spent their days between Gbalamuya and Mange checkpoints conducting health screening and data collection in partnership with the District Health Management Team, RSLAF and Sierra Leone Police personnel in support of Operation



Northern Push.

"HHBM is fascinating. It is really surprising to learn that the Guinea-Kambia border is a transit point for travelers from all across West Africa. We have had people come from as far as Senegal, Banjul [Gambia], Mali and Burkina Faso."

Recently IOM Guinea has also begun HHBM activities on their side of the international border. "IOM is a family. We learn from our Guinea counterparts and they learn from us."

When asked about her greatest challenge as a senior monitor she has an answer at the ready. "Talking to people, to total strangers to get information is the most challenging aspect of my job but it's a great experience."

Quinette is diligently continuing her studies in Accra online in the evenings while working to ensure her country stays safe from Ebola so that people can go back to their lives. Despite the difficulties she faces everyday on the ground in Kambia, she says with a smile, "I always find my way through."

## Health and Humanitarian Border Management

### KAMBIA DISTRICT

With support from the US CDC border health team, a secondary screening facility was donated to IOM Kambia for use at the international border crossing at Gbalamuya. This secondary screening facility will deal with any and all persons deemed in need of more intensive screening procedures after temperature check and symptom observation.



**IOM Kambia HHBM staff at Gbalamuya standing in front of the newly installed secondary screening facility.**

### BOMBALI DISTRICT

The HHBM weekly management meeting in Bombali called together all senior monitors to discuss current trends in migration flow. IOM Bombali is manning one Flow Monitoring Point and two Vehicle Checkpoints in Sella Limba and Tambaka Chiefdoms. These three locations screened an average of 2,100 travelers crossing to and from Guinea, Kambia, Port Loko, Makeni and Koinadugu. There has been a significant increase in the number of travelers as market days have been increased from once a week to three times

a week, and entertainment spots are now running after the lifting of emergency measures last week. In order to manage the issue of compliance, the IOM team will be holding a stakeholder's engagement meeting to clearly explain the restrictions in order to prevent future outbreak within the community.

The Tomparay VCP which is situated on the Little Scarcies River conducts health screening for travelers that come from Kambia, Port Loko and the Republic of Guinea. A refresher training on administering the data collection questionnaire and the use of the non-contact thermometer was given.

### PORT LOKO DISTRICT

On 14 August 2015, IOM Port Loko facilitated the 5<sup>th</sup> Emergency Simulation Exercise since the commencement of the project at the Freetown International Airport to test the Ebola Virus Disease response preparedness of key agencies. The exercise involved two scenarios focusing on airport workers on the runway and at the General Manager's Gate. The exercise revealed several gaps in the response that IOM will address through practical and classroom training.

On 13 August the IOM Port Loko office began rolling out basic IPC training for IOM and DHMT monitoring staff deployed Vehicle Checkpoints providing resupply of IPC materials. To date training has been provided to screeners at Gbaneh Bana on 13 August and Bundelai on 14 August. The training also targets the police and military personnel stationed at the checkpoints.

**Cumulative Training Academy/Mobile Training operational data for 01 December 2014– 15 August 2015  
(weekly numbers in brackets)**

Course Name	Number of courses run	Total number of National students	Total number of International Students	Cumulative Total
3 day Ebola clinician IPC 2 day Simulated Patient care	23	589	355	944
IPC support to Gov't hospitals	24 (6)	535 (119)	0	535
1 day Ebola clinical IPC 2 day Simulated patient care	4	26	59	85
1 day clinical augmentation/ 1 day clinical pilot/RING IPC	4	25/65	41/33	164
3 day basic IPC/PPE/3 day WHO Ebola basic IPC	67 (1)	5,863 (13)	51	5,914
Mobile Training 3 day IPC/PPE/Clinical Decontamination/ 2 day modified IPC	36	1,335	0	1,335
3 day clinical frontline IPC (COMAHS)	2 (1)	20 (12)	4 (2)	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>160 (8)</b>	<b>8,458 (144)</b>	<b>543 (2)</b>	<b>9,001</b>

***IOM & WHI to co-host Cultural Burial Liaison conference at University of Makeni on 18 August***

IOM, World Hope International (WHI) and partners, continue to work with the Social Mobilization and Burial Pillars in Bombali district to address a serious issue of concern – secret and unsafe burials.

Unsafe burials have been a significant barrier to disease prevention and control and reaching and maintaining a resilient zero across Sierra Leone. The Social Mobilization Pillar in Bombali has been working hard to effect behavior change through communication at the community level.

IOM and WHI are implementing social mobilization interventions that integrate behavior change communication and effective community participation to strengthen the responsiveness of district Ebola services to meet community needs regarding social burial norms while preventing disease transmission.

In order to address behavior change around unsafe burials while ensuring that Ebola response services embrace local traditions the concept of Cultural Burial Liaisons was developed.

130 Liaisons across 13 chiefdoms that reflect geographical and cultural differences have been recruited through community engagement meetings with local traditional and religious leaders. The Liaisons are tasked with ensur-

ing community deaths are reported to the DERC and that community members comply with safe, dignified medical burial practices as mandated by the Government of Sierra Leone. The Liaisons use messaging and intervene by calling in death alerts, reassuring family members with deceased loved ones until the burial team arrives, and assisting in culturally sensitive burial rites with the burial team.

As a result of the CBL intervention and changing behavior patterns, Bombali district has recently seen a tremendous shift to zero unsafe burials since the Cultural Burial Liaison teams began their work in communities.

To share and disseminate lessons learned and explore the potential for expansion of this initiative to other districts **IOM and WHI will co-host a one day CBL conference at the University of Makeni on 18 August** from 0830 to 1700 with the participation of WHO, US CDC, the National Ebola Response Center, the Bombali, Port Loko, Tonkolili and Kambia DERCs, the local MP and Mayor, local paramount chiefs and religious leaders as well as project donor the US Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA-USAID).

**BEST of the WEB (click links for story):**

[Ebola cases stay in single digits but all pose high risks, CIDRAP, 12 August](#)

[Sierra Leone celebrates lifting of ban on public gatherings, Guardian, 10 August](#)

[Emerging from the specter of Ebola, PRI, 11 August](#)

[Losing girls, post Ebola in Sierra Leone, Open Democracy, 13 August](#)

[Ebola's victims of the future, IRIN, 12 August](#)

[Hygiene protocols keep classrooms in West Africa free of Ebola, UN News Center, 12 August](#)

[\\$1.9m post-Ebola project to reskill burial teams, Awoko, 13 August](#)

[A doctor's gift to the brave nurses of Sierra Leone, NPR, 13 August](#)

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