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# IOM Sierra Leone Ebola Response

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Dean Joseph Hotah with IOM's Jon Baker at the Faculty of Nursing of the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences where IOM holds Infection Prevention and Control training for over 200 nursing students every week. © IOM 2015

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Weekly case incidence increased for the first time this year after 5 consecutive weeks of decreases, from 65 new confirmed cases in the week to 25 January 2015 to 80 new confirmed cases in the week to 1 February according to WHO.
- The west of the country remains the area of most intense transmission with Freetown, reporting 22 new confirmed cases, compared with 20 the previous week. The neighbouring district of Port Loko saw a surge of cases, with 36 new confirmed cases compared with 6 in the previous week.
- A total of 9 out of 14 districts reported at least one new confirmed case in the latest reporting period. Bombali was the only district in the north of the country to report no cases. In the south, Bo, Bonthe, Kailahun, and Pujehun all reported no cases. Bonthe, Kailahun and Pujehun have each reported no confirmed cases for more than 42 days.
- During the week to 1 February 2015, 98% of all registered contacts were visited on a daily basis.
- In the week to 1 February 12 deaths were reported to have occurred in the community, and 11 unsafe burials were reported.
- Three districts in Sierra Leone reported incidents of community resistance in the week to 27 January.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Training Academy has now trained a total of 2,883 health care workers as of 7 February. This past week a 3+2 day Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) simulated patient training took place for medical workers from Emergency, UNDP, PTS Hospital, Partners in Health, Choithram Hospital, Connaught Hospital, and several other local hospitals.
- IOM's Emergency Care Kit project has seen Community Health Care supervisors trained with 109 care kits distributed in the Western Area's two pilot wards of Kontolloh and John Thorpe. 17 people were identified as suspect cases and referred to a Community Care Centre (CCC), with one positive test result for Ebola.
- IOM, in partnership with World Hope International (WHI) and Wellbody Alliance (WBA), has launched a program on social mobilization in Bombali and Kono districts.
- From February 3-6 a 4-person mobile training team was deployed to Kambia District to train 15 ambulance drivers and 12 members of a decontamination team on Infection Prevention and Control after the recent death of a driver.
- A spike in Ebola cases in Kaffu Bullom Chiefdom, which surrounds Lungi airport, has put the airport on high alert. IOM's Border Management team is responding with enhanced training for airport staff including a second Emergency Simulation Exercise to be held later this month.

## National Ebola Training Academy & Mobile Training

### Operational Highlights

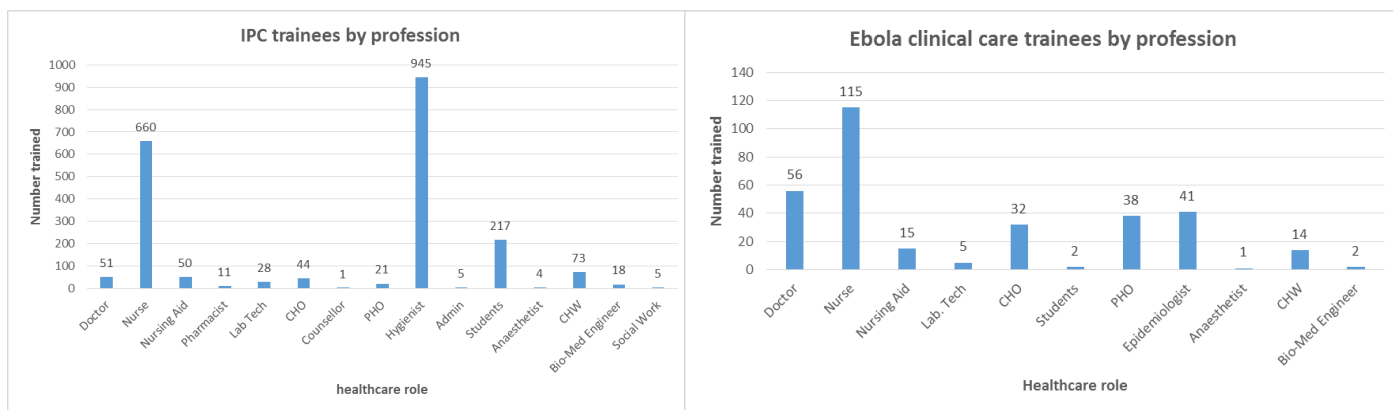
- 1x 3+2 day Clinical Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) simulated patient training was held for medical workers from Emergency, UNDP, PTS Hospital, Partners in Health, Choithram Hospital, Connaught Hospital, Jui Government Hospital, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank Clinic, Hasting ETC, and Blue Shields Hospital.



Students at the Faculty of Nursing training on an IPC module

- 2 upgraded courses of 3 day basic IPC with revised slides from WHO and new projectors were held for Rokupa Government Hospital, PCMH Holding Centre, Ola During Children’s Hospital, Waterloo ETU, Katelina Clinic, Connaught Hospital, Jui Government Hospital
- The latest evaluation form for trainees which captures more data was launched.
- Delivery of a 3-day mobile IPC/PPE training for 15 ambulance drivers and 12 members of a decontamination team in Kambia District after the recent death of an ambulance driver. This marks the second mobile training exercise at the district level with more to follow.

### IPC trainees versus Clinical Care trainees by profession



### Cumulative Training Academy operational data for 01 December 2014– 07 February 2015 (weekly number 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	7 (1)	76 (45)	261 (16)	398
1 day Ebola clinical IPC 2 day simulated patient	4	26	59	85
1 day clinical augmentation	2	25	41	66
3 day basic IPC/PPE	26 (2)	2059 (226)	11	2296
Mobile Training 1 day IPC	2 (1)	11 (27)	0	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>45 (4)</b>	<b>2495 (298)</b>	<b>388 (16)</b>	<b>2883</b>

## Distribution of Emergency Interim Care Kits



**ACF's training for CHWs in Wellington, Western Area.**

IOM's implementing partner, Oxfam, continues interim home care kit distribution through their community-based active case finding activities across seven wards in the Western Area. All Community Health Care supervisors and team leaders have been trained. 109 emergency interim care kits have been distributed in the Western Area by Oxfam's teams in the two pilot wards of Kontolloh and John Thorpe. Among the people identified, 17 were referred to a Community Care Centre (CCC), with one positive test result for Ebola. In Port Loko, Oxfam completed training of 263 Village Health Committee (VHC) members. Active case finding has been initiated in Koya chiefdom, prioritizing communities surrounding the Ebola Isolation Centre in Masiaka.

ACF completed two trainings for their CHW teams in the Western Area, which represents a total of 45 CHWs across 9 city sections. ACF has prepositioned care kits in four city sections, including Allen Town, Old Wharf,

## Health & Humanitarian Border Management

A recent spike in Ebola cases in Kaffu Bullom Chiefdom, which surrounds Lungi airport has once again put the airport on high alert. Although numerous measures have been implemented to fortify the airport's health defenses in recent weeks, staff training is under constant review. Managing a health emergency requires all airport agencies to operate in a coordinated manner. This can only occur when agency staff understand their roles and responsibilities. To that end the HHBM team has constructed a multi-pronged training approach:

Short 15 minute training musters – inspired by CDC's practical training musters at Los Angeles Airport, where roaming training teams focus on specific groups and subjects. A range of musters will take place during the week.

Classroom training for all airport workers, focusing on

Bottom Oku, and Kissy Mess Mess, where implementation was activated on 02 February 2015. Five additional city sections, Kissy Mental, Kissy Brook 2 & Mamba Ridge, Kissy Bypass, Fourah Bay, and Moa Wharf, prepositioned kits on 03 February 2015, which implementation activated on 04 February 2015. To date, 235 kits have been distributed.

## Social Mobilization programming underway

IOM, in partnership with World Hope International (WHI) and Wellbody Alliance (WBA), supported by the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), has launched a program on social mobilization to fight Ebola in Bombali and Kono districts. WHI chairs the Social Mobilization Pillar at the District Ebola Response Centre (DERC) in Bombali district. WHI will continue its support of the district-level pillar's efforts in social mobilization, through training and revamping the messaging campaign to align with current epidemiological trends. In addition, WHI will seek to meet with traditional and leaders at the chiefdom-level to identify burial practices specific to the chiefdom in order to offer safe practices that are culturally relevant. In addition, WHI will support the identification, training, and deployment of a dual-gender team of cultural leaders in each district who can join the district burial team when dispatched.

Wellbody Alliance, is launching social mobilizer community health workers (CHWs) in 5 chiefdoms in Kono district. Over 200 CHWs from each village across the chiefdoms were trained in community social mobilization, surveillance, and contact tracing. House-to-house social mobilization is set to commence in a phased approach later this month. Once rolled out, it will be complemented by group education sessions in each community.

roles and responsibilities.

IOM Academy training for specific health screening roles, including – Clinical practitioners, Hygienists and



**President Koroma of Sierra Leone awaiting the arrival of President Gnassingbé of Togo on February 6.**

**HHBM continued...**

.... ambulance operators.

Tabletop exercises for all airport management, including – roles and responsibilities, and command and communication for health emergencies.

Health Emergency Simulation Exercise – full scale exercise with Ebola survivors as actors, targeting all airport agencies and health check points to take place later this month after January's initial exercise.

Additionally, Brigadier Steven Hughes, Chief of Staff with the British Army, visited the airport on 7 February. He was met by the HHBM project manager Ben Potter, members of the British Army and the Westminster Aviation Security Service. Brigadier Hughes was



*President Gnassingbé of Togo and President Koroma of Sierra Leone moving through IOM's entry health screening process.*

given a comprehensive briefing and tour of the airport's security and health security defenses. He highlighted the airport's value and vulnerability, but congratulated IOM on their efforts to enhance and improve the health screening process in the face of the challenge presented by Ebola.

In other news, A-sky airlines, a West and Central African carrier based in Togo, is in talks to resume flights to Lungi airport as of February 15. Similarly, Kenyan Airlines may begin flights on March 01 with Air France looking to potentially follow this summer, in June or July, after a recce during the spring.

A reporter from Voice of America has also been out to cover the airport and the link to the story can be found below.

**News Headlines** (click links for story/video):**Freetown air travelers screened thoroughly for Ebola, Voice of America, 05 February**

**\*IOM in the news\*** ...Sierra Leone is still battling to get the deadly Ebola epidemic under control. One of the more important measures to stop the spread is screening air travelers for the virus.

**Ebola epidemic takes it toll on Sierra Leone's surgeons, Huffington Post, 07 February**

There are only 8 remaining surgeons for Sierra Leone's 6 million people and only 1 is below the age of 60.

**Ebola hit Sierra Leone's to reopen, SBS Australia, 05 February****\$100mn debt relief to be provided by IMF to Ebola hit countries, Sierra Leone Times, 6 February****Ebola Deeply & OkayAfrica at Sierra Leone's epicenter, Ebola Deeply, 03 February**

**\*IOM in the news\*** ...When much of the media coverage of the Ebola crisis began to slow in November, daily case counts in Sierra Leone were still growing exponentially. So Ebola Deeply teamed up with OkayAfrica, who flew to Freetown on New Year's Eve in the midst of a country-wide state of emergency. This resulting video series, Ebola On The Ground, will be rolled out over the course of the next few weeks.

**IOM Sierra Leone's initiatives are supported by:**

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

**IOM Department of Operations and Emergencies | [ebolaresponse@iom.int](mailto:ebolaresponse@iom.int) |**

**IOM Sierra Leone Response | [jbaker@iom.int](mailto:jbaker@iom.int) | Public Information/Project Development | [nbishop@iom.int](mailto:nbishop@iom.int)**

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