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*IOM's Sanusi Savage and Jasmine Riley welcome the US Government delegation, US Embassy representatives and USAID/OFDA staff to the National Ebola Training Academy on 19 February.*

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- After a rapid decline, weekly case incidence has stabilized since the week ending January 25, at between 60 and 80 confirmed cases per week. A **total of 74 cases were reported in the week to 15 February**, compared with 76 confirmed cases the previous week, and 80 confirmed cases reported in the week to 1 February.
- The capital, Freetown, reported the majority of new confirmed cases (45), with the neighbouring district of Port Loko reporting 11 new confirmed cases; down from 28 in the previous week. A cluster of cases reported in a highly mobile fishing community in the Aberdeen area of Freetown is likely to lead to further cases. A response team is currently working to trace over 2000 contacts associated with the cluster.
- The western districts of Kambia (6 confirmed cases), Western Rural (7 confirmed cases), the central district of Tonkolili (4 confirmed cases), and the northern district of Koinadugu (1 confirmed case) also reported confirmed cases in the week to 15 February.
- Community engagement remains a challenge in several areas of Sierra Leone. 45 unsafe burials were reported in the week to 15 February, 20 of which were in the western urban area that includes the capital, Freetown. Over the same period, a total of 25 confirmed cases were identified after post-mortem testing of dead bodies found in the community.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- On 19 February a delegation from the US Government visited the National Ebola Training Academy.
- The Academy has now trained a total of 3664 health care workers as of 21 February.
- IOM continues interim home care kit distribution through implementing partner, Oxfam's community-based active case finding activities in the Western Area in seven wards after the number of quarantined homes has increased threefold to 1520 households. 15 kits were distributed this week to households identified by Oxfam-supported Community Health Committees.
- Community Health Workers trained by IOM's implementing partner, Wellbody Alliance, facilitated referrals of three suspected cases to the Koidu Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU), in Kono district on 20 February following a resurgence of Ebola.
- IOM and World Hope International's social mobilization teams in Bombali district have embarked on intensive community engagement in Rosanda and Kapeteh villages, as incidences of migration are on the rise and have resulted in 3 new infections related to traditional healing and funeral rites.
- IOM's Health and Humanitarian Border Management team is gearing up to execute its second Health Emergency Simulation Exercise at Lungi International Airport on Monday, 23 February.

## National Ebola Training Academy & Mobile Training

### High level visit from US Senate delegation

On 19 February a United States Senate Appropriations Committee delegation with representatives from the US Embassy in Sierra Leone and staff from USAID and the

IOM as expert patients. A few of the survivors were asked to share their stories, in particular their experiences since their recovery. The trainers shared details of their motivation to participate in the fight against Ebola. The tour concluded at the mock Ebola Treatment Unit



Survivors who work as patient experts at the Academy share their experiences of Ebola with the US delegation on 19 February.

Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) visited the National Ebola Training Academy for Frontline Health Care Workers, IOM's ongoing contribution to combating the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone. The delegation received a warm welcome from Mr Sanusi Savage, IOM Sierra Leone's Head of Office and a brief overview of the history of the Academy since IOM assumed management in December of last year. This was followed by a guided tour of the Siaka Stevens Stadium site led by the Academy's Training Coordinator, Jasmine Riley. All members of the delegation toured three classrooms and observed a lecture on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and skills stations. The delegation also had an opportunity to meet five members of the clinical training team and five Ebola survivors who work with

where trainees engage in simulated exercises that allow them to demonstrate their recently acquired knowledge with the support of clinical trainers. The trainees learning experience is aided by the invaluable contribution of expert patients. The tour was augmented with explanations of the design of the ETU and its adherence to Infection Prevention and Control principles. In closing the Head of Office conveyed IOM's appreciation to OFDA and the United States Government for their partnership in the fight against Ebola. He also expressed IOM's commitment in continuing the collaboration towards strengthening medical training facilities in Sierra Leone past the current epidemic by ensuring the Training Academy becomes permanent.

Cumulative Training Academy operational data for 01 December 2014– 21 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<br>2 day simulated patient | 10 (1)                | 215 (51)                          | 287                                    | 502              |
| 1 day Ebola clinical IPC<br>2 day simulated patient  | 4                     | 26                                | 59                                     | 85               |
| 1 day clinical augmentation                          | 2                     | 25                                | 41                                     | 66               |
| 3 day basic IPC/PPE                                  | 32 (2)                | 2787 (255)                        | 49 (32)                                | 2836             |
| Mobile Training 1 day IPC                            | 4                     | 175                               | 0                                      | 175              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>52 (3)</b>         | <b>3228 (306)</b>                 | <b>436 (32)</b>                        | <b>3664</b>      |

## Social Mobilization

IOM's Implementation Partner in Kono district, Wellbody Alliance's field community health workers (CHWs) successfully traced a contact who fled a quarantined house to a remote village. Upon tracing, the person appeared sick and soon after passed away. The test for Ebola came back positive, which marks the first positive test result for the district in an 11-day period. CHWs are now in the village where the person died, providing counseling and mentoring to the affected households. The CHWs continue to support and monitor the village, and have responded to 8 alerts to the district helpline, alongside district surveillance officers. Finally, CHWs facilitated referrals of three suspected cases to the Koidu Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU), in the district capital town, on 20 February fol-



*A meeting for survivors organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs in Gbanti Kamaraka chiefdom, Bombali district.*

lowing the resurgence of Ebola in Kono.

IOM and World Hope International's social mobilization pillar support teams in Bombali district have embarked on intensive community engagement in Rosanda and Kapeh villages, as incidences of migration are on the rise and have resulted in 3 new EVD infections related to traditional healing and funeral rites. Social mobilisers are proactively relaying messaging on Ebola and safe funereal practices. Due to these findings IOM and World Hope will prioritize efforts to engage heads of secret societies.

This week, World Hope International met with OFDA at the Ebola survivors meeting organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs hosted in Gbanti Kamaraka chiefdom.

## Health & Humanitarian Border Management

The HHBM team is gearing up to execute the next Health Emergency Simulation Exercise this coming Monday, February 23. Its purpose will be:

- To test and improve the Entry and Exit Health Screening process and general health security throughout the airport while building on lessons learned from the first exercise held on January 12
- To exercise the various agencies in realistic health emergency scenarios and to facilitate better coordination and collaboration

To identify gaps in airport health security and assess further training requirements

The exercise will use the skills and experience of five Ebola survivors to act as expert patients, in order to add more realism to the scenarios for the airport workers involved. Additionally, a WHO clinical trainer will provide a technical debrief after each scenario to everyone involved. Alongside this guidance the HHBM project manager, Ben Potter, will highlight the aspects of command, control and communication that are required when responding to a health emergency. Similarly, regular airport training continues alongside the exercise in a variety of differing forms. The HHBM project assistant George Tucker conducted his first classroom training session this week. The lesson fo-

cused on Ebola awareness training and using the RING card SOP – Recognize, Isolate, Notify and Give support.

Additionally, he emphasized the importance of the 'Do not go to work if you are sick' policy, and that once an individual with suspected symptoms phones the 117 Ebola hotline they will be granted 21 days paid leave with food and will retain their job once cleared.



*HHBM project assistant, George Tucker, conducting a classroom training on Ebola awareness and the RING card SOP.*

## Training Academy continued...

### Operational Highlights

One 3+2 day clinical IPC simulated patient training was held as well as an IPC refresher provided by a WHO lead trainer. The 3-day basic IPC included trainees from the Africa Union (AU), Partners in Health (PIH), GOAL, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), the Police Training School (PTS) and the Aberdeen Women's Centre. There were two special visits to the Academy; the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations and OFDA on 19 February and the British Forces Broadcasting Services (BFBS) documentary film crew on 20 February. The BFBS visit was aimed at featuring the Academy in a documentary that will provide an update on the transition to IOM management from the British military and represent the military's contribution to the fight against Ebola in Sierra Leone.

The third meeting of the Board of Governors will be held on 25 February.

On Monday, 22 February a mobile training team will be deployed to Bombali district for a week long training on decontamination.

### Distribution of Emergency Interim Care Kits

IOM's implementation partner, Oxfam, continues inter-

im home care kit distribution through their community-based active case finding activities in the Western Area in seven wards after the number of quarantined homes has increased threefold to 1520 households from the previous week. 15 kits were distributed this week to households with persons identified by Oxfam-supported Community Health Committees. Oxfam has linked with partner, Save the Children, in the quarantined community of Aberdeen, Western Area, having trained Community Health Workers on 16 February. Oxfam is supporting the CHWs through a mobile warehouse in the community for prepositioning of kits and field monitoring. Action Contre la Faim's teams continue to support field monitoring in the Western Area. In Port Loko, Oxfam is liaising with the District Health Management Team on storage capacity for kits and the supervision of and additional distribution strategies. IOM, Oxfam, ACF and supporter OFDA, along with the Surveillance Pillar of the Western Area have continued a series of discussions on strategies to improve responsiveness to affected households. A lessons-learned meeting will be held on 24 February to chart the way forward on kit distribution, with priorities including quarantined areas, wider geographical coverage, new partners and distribution mechanisms.

## News Headlines (click links for story/video):

### \*IOM in the news\*

[Sierra Leone Ebola survivors help train health care workers](#), Voice of America, 17 February

Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone are helping to train health care workers by showing them what to expect when dealing with Ebola patients. The training is a partnership between the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Health Organization and the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

[Ebola drives increase in sexual violence](#), Al Jazeera America, 20 February

[Trials using Ebola survivors' blood to begin in Sierra Leone](#), The Guardian, 20 February

[Liberia lifts curfew, re-opens borders](#), AFP, 20 February

[Malaria vs. Ebola in Sierra Leone](#), World Policy blog, 19 February

[WHO approves 15 minute Ebola test](#), Deutsche Welle, 20 February

[Sierra Leone renews Ebola campaign](#), All Africa, 19 February

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



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