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Residents of quarantined homes in the Moa Wharf community of Freetown receiving emergency interim care kits on 20 March.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- A total of **55 confirmed cases** were reported in the week to 15 March, compared with 58 the previous week. This is the lowest weekly total since late June 2014.
- This week the National Ebola Response Center (NERC) launched a national strategy aimed at getting to zero cases by 15 April. To introduce this 'Zero Ebola' strategy to all involved in the response, a series of meetings with pillars, partners and representatives from the DERCs were held at the NERC headquarters. **Authorities will conduct door to door searches in Western Area, Port Loko and Bombali districts from March 27-29 and a lockdown will be in effect.**
- Cases were reported from 6 northern and western districts around and including the capital Freetown, which reported 29 new confirmed cases. The neighbouring districts of Bombali (6 cases), Kambia (4 cases), Port Loko (11 cases) and Western Rural (3 cases) also reported cases.
- Two other districts, Kono and Tonkolili, have reported a confirmed case within the past 21 days.
- More than two-thirds (39 of 58: 67%) of confirmed EVD cases arose among known contacts in the week to 8 March; the number of confirmed cases identified after post-mortem testing of dead bodies found in the community fell to 6 in the week to 15 March. According to the National Ebola Response Centre, 92% of credible reports of potential EVD cases were investigated within 24 hours in the week to 8 March. Potential cases were identified through contact tracing or case finding, or from reports to a dedicated national Ebola alert hotline.

## Highlights

- IOM was proud to host Dr Nette Motus, Senior Migration Health Policy Advisor and Dr Jean-Francois Aguilera, Regional Health Specialist on a high level visit from 16-21 March.
- IOM's National Ebola Training Academy has now trained 5,234 health care workers as of 21 March. A 3-day mobile training course on Infection Prevention and Control was held at Lungi Airport for 15 airport personnel. Two 2-day IPC mobile trainings were held for 82 prison guards in Bo and Kenema districts.
- From 16-18 March, an inter-agency team led by IOM conducted a border assessment mission to Pujehun district, southeastern Sierra Leone. The assessment will inform future IOM border management activities on the Pujehun-Liberia border. The fourth and final assessment mission will take place along the Bombali-Guinea border in early April.
- IOM's implementation partner, Medair, distributed over 300 emergency care kits in quarantined areas of Freetown. ACF are organizing the delivery of care kits to Moyamba and Kambia for distribution through the Community-led Ebola Management Eradication approach. Oxfam will train 55 social mobilizers from World Hope International.
- IOM's implementation partner, Wellbody Alliance/Partners in Health's social mobilization Community Health Workers (CHWs) reached 304 different communities with household visits. 235 sick people were referred to their local CCC by CHWs in the past week.

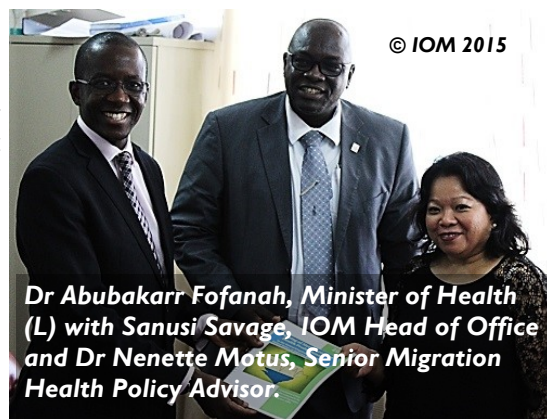
## National Ebola Training Academy



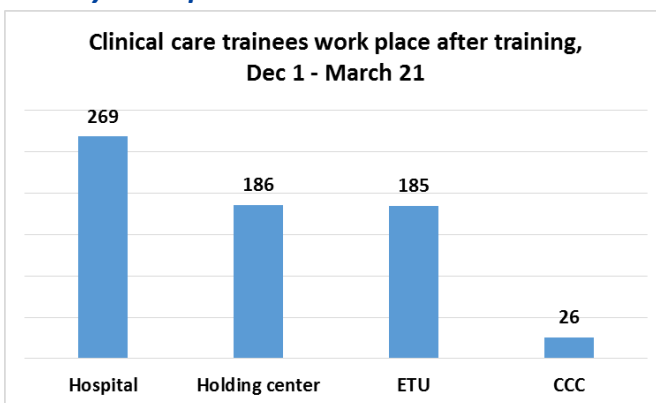
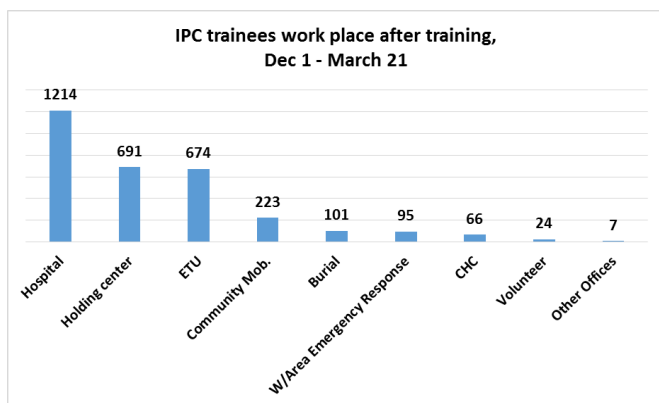
### Operational Highlights

40 healthcare workers were trained on Ebola clinical care (3-day Ebola clinician Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) + 2 day simulated patient) – 9 (22.9%) males and 31 (77.1%) females – were trained. Ninety five percent of those trained were Ebola health care workers. By health care profession, the majority (30; 75%) were nurses, followed by (4; 10%) lab techs, (4; 10%) community health officers, (1; 2.5%) Doctor and (1; 2.5%) Pharmacist. After completing the course, 13 (32.5%) will be going to work in Ebola treatment centers, 25 (62.5%) Ebola holding centers and 2 (5.0%) hospital. Two 3-day Ebola basic Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training for 297 health care personnel composed of 201 (67.7%) males and 96 (32.3%) females was provided. The Faculty of Nursing site trained 165 students and the

Stadium, 132. Of those trained, 260 (87.5%) were Ebola health care workers and 37 (12.5%) Non-Ebola workers. By health care profession, 91 were hygienists (30.6%) followed by 65 (21.9%) Surveillance Officers, 52 (17.5%) Nurses, 28 (9.4%) Swab collectors, 27 (9.1%) Sprayers, 3 (1%) Pharmacists, 3 (1%) Community health assistants, 2 (0.7%) Nursing Aids, 2 (0.7%) CHWs, 1 (0.3) Lab Tech, 1 (0.3) CHO and 1 (0.3%) Administrative staff. After completing the course, 115 (38.7%) will be going to work in Ebola treatment centers, 95 (32%) W/Area Emergency response, 29 (9.8%) burial team, 27 (9.1%) hospital, 22 (7.4) Ebola Holding center, 58 (20.4%) hospital, and 1 (0.3%) in community health center.



### IPC vs Clinical care trainees by work place

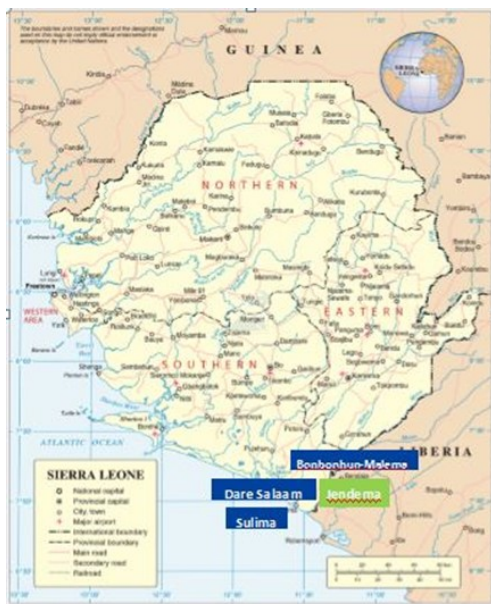


### Cumulative Training Academy operational data for 01 December 2014– 21 March 2015 (weekly number in brackets)

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	13 (1)	339 (35)	343 (5)	682
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	38 (2)	3956 (297)	50	4006
Mobile Training 3 day IPC/PPE/ Decontamination/2 day modified IPC	13 (3)	338 (97)	0	338
1 day clinical pilot	1	33	24	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>66 (4)</b>	<b>4717 (429)</b>	<b>517 (5)</b>	<b>5234</b>

## Pujehun district border assessment completed

From 16-18 March, an inter-agency team led by IOM visited the Jendema, Sulima and Bonbonhun-Malema border-crossing points (BXP) in the Sorogbema Chiefdom and Dare Salaam BXP in Makpele Chiefdom, Pujehun district, south-eastern Sierra Leone. All of the BXPs share a common border with Liberia.



The land border assessment aimed to; understand the movements of people across borders; identify needs of local communities, border officials and health authorities; and enhance health surveillance and the prevention of EVD transmission through targeted support. Members

of the team include IOM, the National Ebola Response Center (NERC), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Office of National Security (ONS), UN-MEER and UNDP. CDC and UNMEER were unable to partic-

## Emergency care kits reach Moa Wharf in eastern Freetown

On 20 March, IOM staff joined new implementing partner **Medair** and their local partner **Lifeline** in the Moa Wharf community near Kissy Port in eastern Freetown. Moa Wharf is a low income coastal community which has seen a number of EVD cases during the outbreak and has few social or medical services to rely on. IOM and the US Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance joined Medair in reaching out to EVD affected households with care kits and food distribution to three quarantined homes with over 30 residents. In spite of their EVD cases, a combination of the community's steep terrain and dense over-crowded laneways make provision of food and services very difficult. Moa Wharf also suffers from a lack of sanitation and waste management and the community's livestock, mainly pigs, co-exist in close conditions with the residents. The upcoming rainy season will only further endanger the health and wellbeing of locals as cholera, typhoid and malaria proliferate. Over the past week, Medair has distributed nearly 300 care kits to quar-



A quarantined home in Moa Wharf receives an emergency interim care kit. © OFDA/IFP/Clhossey

ipate. During the assessment mission, the team held focus group discussions with Ebola response stakeholders in Pujehun Town and community

focus groups in Sulima and in Jendema specifically on the role of women and participated in a joint border meeting with Liberian Security, Immigration and Health officials.

The assessed BXPs were closed from August 2014-February 2015 due to Ebola restrictions and the closure of the frontier between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Although Jendema BXP is now open to trade, the weekly Saturday open market remains closed. This has resulted in a drastic reduction in household income for residents of Jendema and the surrounding villages.

The border assessment will inform future IOM border management and related activities on the Pujehun-Liberia border. The fourth and final border assessment mission will take place along the Bombali-Guinea border in early April.

antined homes in the Freetown area.

**ACF** are organizing the delivery of care kits to Moyamba and Kambia (1245 in total) for distribution through the ACF

Community-led Ebola Management Eradication approach. ACF delivered 11 kits this week; 7 upon identification from Community Health Workers and 4 upon referral.

**Oxfam** participated in a meeting with IOM's new implementing partners Medair, Wellbody Alliance, Partners in Health (PiH) and World Hope International (WHI) and developed a project plan in which Oxfam will donate its stock of emergency interim care kits, provide access to warehousing and initial technical training support to WHI in Bombali to organise and facilitate training of WHI teams (see page 4). So far, 325 kits were given to Medair and 201 kits to PiH in Port Loko. In Freetown, emergency interim care activities are ongoing in 5 wards of the Western Area (Rokel, Kontollo, Menkeni, Robis, Thunderhill) alongside active case finding activities. As of 19 March, 281 kits have been distributed.



IOM's Mangeh Sesay addressing EVD community volunteers at the Dare Salaam border crossing point.

## Social Mobilization

IOM's implementing partner **World Hope International's** social mobilization activities have been concentrated in Rosanda village in Paki Masabom chiefdom – 14 teams comprising all pillars are permanently deployed in the village. The IOM support vehicle was assigned to bring social mobilizers and other pillar members to Rosanda to support the logistical gaps. Five rapid response members from the social mobilization pillar were also deployed to strengthen the mobilization efforts in this hotspot community. As a result no new EVD infections have been identified and a total of 12 survivors have returned to their homes; furthermore 18 homes have completed their quarantine period and have been released.

World Hope International (WHI), the Needy Today, Caritas/Catholic Relief Services and Health Poverty Action (HPA), who are all implementing EVD response projects with traditional healers/societal leaders held a meeting at the DERC organized by DFID to identify areas of similar intervention to ensure proper planning to prevent duplication.

Discussions with Oxfam's Makeni office on IOM's emergency interim care kit training and distribution are underway. Oxfam will train 55 WHI social mobilizers and WHI will draw up the activity plan.

**Wellbody Alliance/Partners in Health's** social mobilization Community Health Workers (CHWs) reached 304 different communities with household visits during which they emphasized the importance of seeking care at Community Care Centers (CCCs) when EVD symptoms present. 235 sick people were referred to their local CCC by CHWs in the past week.

During WBA's weekly meeting with community program coordinators, the importance of reminding households that Ebola is still a danger was discussed. Kono district has not had an EVD case for over three weeks and thus it is imperative for supervisors to continue to instruct CHWs to encourage people to take precautions seriously.

WBA/PIH designated 4 community health workers to work within the District Health Management Team (DHMT). These CHWs will be dispatched by the social mobilization pillar to investigate reports of EVD in the community alongside surveillance teams.

WBA's social mobilizers will also address other infectious diseases. With a measles outbreak in Bombali, WBA coordinators are educating their CHWs on the dangers of measles and correct protocols for referrals using existing emergency alert and surveillance networks should they come across a suspected measles case during EVD social mobilization.

## News Headlines (click links for story):

[Training expands across Sierra Leone from Academy in Freetown, IOM, 17 March](#)

[Sierra Leone plans second lock down to stem epidemic, The Guardian, 19 March](#)

[Ebola case undermines Liberia disease-free hopes, BBC, 20 March](#)

[How Ebola fools even the experts, NBC, 18 March](#)

[In Ebola country, a dignified death requires a feminine touch, Al Jazeera, 20 March](#)

[Chinese CDC trains teachers ahead of school re-opening, Awoko, 20 March](#)

[Ebola-proof tablet designed by Google rolled out in Sierra Leone, Telegraph, 20 March](#)

[Nigerian mobile lab in Sierra Leone, WHO, 19 March](#)

[Stigma has become another disease to beat, Ebola Deeply, 18 March](#)

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