



Mr Sanusi Savage, Ms Carmela Godeau (left) and Mr Mohammed Abdiker (far right) meet with H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone © IOM 2015

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- On 22-24 of January IOM Sierra Leone was proud to welcome Mr Mohammed Abdiker, Director for IOM's Department of Operations and Emergencies and Ms Carmela Godeau, Regional Director for West and Central Africa on the Freetown segment of a weeklong operational assessment mission across Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- IOM's implementing partner, Oxfam, started kit distribution on 18 January 2015 in two hotspots in the Western Area, John Thorpe and Kontolloh. Kit distribution was initiated in Rokel, Western Area, on 24 January. Mobile warehouses were placed in each community and overseen by Peripheral Health Unit (PHU) staff. Community Health Committees (CHCs), comprised of respected members of the community and selected by the communities themselves, are conducting active case finding.
- The National Training Academy held one 3+2 day Clinical Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) simulated patient training course for 58 African Union health professionals from Kenya . This week one 4 person mobile training team will be deployed to Bo District to train 10 burial workers on the collection of swabs from corpses and a second 4 person team to Kambia District to train 18 ambulance drivers on the transportation of suspected cases. This training will later be used to hold a Training of Trainers in Freetown at Siaka Stevens Stadium.
- IOM's Health and Humanitarian Border Management team in collaboration with US Centers for Disease Prevention and Control and the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, has started focusing priority efforts on reinforcing areas of improvement identified during the 12 January Emergency Simulation Exercise including enhancing the secondary screening system. IOM has been invited to participate in a Border Management strategic conference, hosted by the Mano River Union, on 26-27 January in Freetown.

National Ebola Training Academy

Operational Highlights

- 1x 3+2 day Clinical Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) simulated patient training was held for 58 AU volunteers from Kenya and a UNDP Medical Services team.
- A compressed 1 day clinical IPC+ 2 day simulated patient course was provided for Partners in Health (PIH) in order to facilitate rapid deployment.
- 4 x 3 day Infection Prevention & Control/ Personal Protective Equipment (IPC/PPE) courses were held.
- WHO and CDC requested IOM to support mobile training in Bo and Kambia.

Trainer Feedback:

"I feel delighted that people can come to the aid of each other... As a Sierra Leonean I am proud to work for IOM." — Dr. Abu Minah, IOM Clinical Trainer.

Curriculum Development

- WHO presented the latest draft IPC module to the Training Academy team comprised by IOM, the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS). The team identified additional issues to be revised.
- WHO provided a Training of Trainers to IOM on ambulance drivers transportation of suspected cases and burial team swab collection.
- A two-day course was delivered on basic IPC, collection of swabs from corpses and transportation of suspected cases by ambulance drivers.
- IOM and CDC collaborated to develop a post deployment evaluation tool for Academy graduates.

The Week Ahead...

- 3+2 clinical training to be delivered to Hastings ETC, Partners in Health USA and Blue Shields Hospital
- WHO/IOM ongoing review of IPC course.
- Deployment of a 4 person mobile team to Bo District to train 10 burial workers on swab collection from corpses, 26 -28 January.
- Deployment of a 4 person mobile team to Kambia



Mohammed Abdiker, Sanusi Savage and Carmela Godeau receive a briefing from Training Coordinator, Jasmine Riley at the National Training Academy's Mock Ebola Treatment Center

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- Seamless collaboration between IOM and RSLAF in the delivery of practical sessions in classroom and in the mock ETC. RSLAF has expressed an interest to participate in upcoming plans for mobile training
- CDC provided a two-day session on epidemiology, reporting and contact tracing. Among the volunteers were public health specialists, epidemiologists, pharmacists and lab technicians. This weeks session was augmented with one module focussed on cultural competency and its potential impact on working successfully within communities.

District on 29 January—01 February to conduct a training for 18 ambulance drivers on the transportation of suspected cases. Mobile trainings will be used to conduct a Training of Trainers in Freetown.

- Collaborative revision of two clinical modules to add practical and visual learning aids (layout of ETC, drawing of blood and strategies for the eradication of Ebola).

**Cumulative Training Academy operational data for 01 December 2014– 25 January 2015
(weekly number in brackets)**

Course Name	Number of courses run	Total number of National students	Total number of International Students
3 day Ebola clinician IPC 2 day simulated patient	6 (1)	74 (1)	219 (58)
1 day Ebola clinical IPC 2 day simulated patient	4 (1)	26	45 (14)
1 day clinical augmentation	2	25	41
3 day basic IPC/PPE	24 (4)	1937 (207)	11 (0)
Total	36 (6)	2062 (208)	316 (72)

Distribution of Emergency Interim Care Packages for suspected Ebola cases



USAID's DART team hearing from Oxfam's PHP Specialist and the CHC supervisor and field officer at the PHU in John Thorpe community © IOM 2015

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Three members of USAID's Disaster Assistance Recovery Team (DART) team, who are supporting the project, joined IOM on a field visit on 22 January in the John Thorpe Community. Oxfam's Public Health Promotion (PHP) Specialist introduced the team to John Thorpe's CHC members and supervisors as well as the PHU staff supporting the commu-

nity and overseeing the mobile warehouse. The CHC members explained their success in supporting 60 households with possible EVD cases through their training provided by Oxfam.

The CHC team distributed Emergency Interim Care kits to each affected household and addressed each case on an individual basis. Two possible cases were called into 117, the Western Area Ebola response hotline, to alert the district authorities and referred to the local Community Care Centre (CCC), an initiative supported by Oxfam and the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

The CHC team is conducting daily follow-up visits on the remainder of the possible cases. The DART team and IOM visited three households that received an Emergency Interim Care Kit and are currently being monitored by the CHC team. The caregivers in each household discussed their use of the Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) for the sick household member and hygiene items provided in the kit. Two of the households had a sick child, and the caregivers each reported improvement in the condition of the child after using ORS. In the third household, the sick woman herself mentioned some improvement, and the CHC team is monitoring her condition daily to determine if referral to the hotline and/or CCC is necessary.



Members of the Jim Thorpe community and CHC staff © IOM 2015

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

On 24 January the HHBM team briefed Ms Carmela Godeau, the Regional Director for West and Central Africa and Mr Mohammed Abdiker, Director for IOM's Department of Operations and Emergencies on project outputs including the monitoring of Exit and Entry Health Screening SOP implementation in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA); training of over 100 airport screening personnel on the SOP; and the production of a pocket guide SOP distributed to screening personnel. Both the Regional Director and the Director for the Department of Operations and Emergencies praised the IOM HHBM team for their dedication to the project which involves a 24 hour shift schedule in order to monitor screening of 100 percent of all arriving and departing passengers.

In collaboration with US CDC and SLCAA, the team has started focusing priority efforts on reinforcing areas of improvement identified in the Emergency Simulation Exercise including enhancing the secondary screening system. IOM has been invited to participate in a Border Management strategic conference, hosted by the Mano River Union, on 26-27 January in Freetown. The objective of the conference is to finalize a regional Border Management concept note and action plan defining roles and responsibilities of key regional actors. IOM Liberia will also participate in the conference alongside IOM Sierra Leone ahead of an IOM Sierra Leone border assessment mission prior to the eventual reopening of the Sierra Leone and Liberian border.

High Level Assessment Mission

On 22-24 of January IOM Sierra Leone was proud to welcome Mr Mohammed Abdiker, Director for IOM's Department of Operations and Emergencies and Ms Carmela Godeau, Regional Director for West and Central Africa on the Freetown segment of a weeklong operational assessment mission across Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The Global and Regional Directors along with IOM Sierra Leone staff began their mission on Thursday by meeting with Sierra Leonean President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma at State House. IOM commended the President for his effective fight in the battle against Ebola. President Koroma expressed appreciation for IOM's efforts on training frontline health care workers and in its work in maintaining health security at Lungi Airport. He continued by emphasizing the importance of social mobilization, contact tracing and surveillance in bringing the number of cases down to zero.

"We have to put in a lot of preparatory work, sensitize parents and disinfect schools, while providing psychosocial support to Ebola survivors and children affected by the outbreak."

— H.E. President Ernest Bai Koroma

The IOM team also paid courtesy calls on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr David McLachlan-Karr, the country representatives of UNICEF, WHO, UNMEER and the Chief Operations Officer of the National Ebola Response Center, Mr Stephen Gaojia as well as the Secretary General of the Mano River Union, Ambassador Hadja Dr Saban Kaba.

Topics of discussion centered around the transition from fighting Ebola to early recovery planning and coordination.

To conclude the Freetown portion of the mission, the team visited the National Ebola Training Academy where they spoke with staff and toured the Mock ETC, where a team of African Union health care volunteers was undergoing practical training, before meeting with Ebola survivors who work at the Academy as simulated patient trainers. An all IOM staff town hall meeting was held in the evening during which staff conveyed anecdotes from their daily working experiences and asked questions related to the future of the Academy and IOM's post-Ebola response efforts in Sierra Leone.

News Headlines (click links for story/video):

[Drop in Ebola cases signals 'turning point', Guardian, 22 January](#)

Sierra Leone sees biggest fall in Ebola cases but experts warn outbreaks can flare up as quickly as they can die down.

[Sierra Leone lifts Ebola quarantine measures amid progress, Reuters, 22 January](#)

Sierra Leone's President removed Ebola district quarantine measures intended to curb the spread of the disease, declaring "victory is in sight" after a sharp drop in transmission.

[Sierra Leone to reopen schools in March, BBC News, 22 January](#)

[How Sierra Leone is winning the battle against Ebola, Huffington Post, 21 January](#)

[As Ebola vaccine trials near, raising awareness in Sierra Leone is next task, Fox News, 20 January](#)

Three organizations are involved in a \$250 million campaign called the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) that aims to accelerate the development and manufacture of Ebola vaccines. Pharmaceutical companies anticipate the first vaccine trial will begin in West Africa in May 2015.

IOM's partners on the Ebola Emergency Response in Sierra Leone include:



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