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IOM Trainer, Omoloso Olamidotun, handing out post-course evaluation test results at the Faculty of Nursing to Infection Prevention and Control trainees on Saturday, 2 May 2015 (left). Friday, 1 May, marked the beginning of the Faculty of Nursing refurbishment project (right).

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- A total of **11 confirmed cases** were reported in the week to 26 April, compared with 12 the previous week.
- Three districts reported cases, compared with 4 districts the previous week. Of 14 districts that have ever reported a confirmed case since the beginning of the outbreak, 7 have not reported a confirmed case for over 6 weeks.
- **8 cases were reported in the northwestern district of Kambia**, which borders the Guinean prefecture of Forecariah. Western Area Urban, which includes Freetown, reported 1 case, with Western Rural Area reporting 2 cases.
- A total of 4 confirmed cases were identified in the community after post-mortem testing (all from Kambia) in the week to 26 April, compared with 3 the previous week. Additionally, half of new cases reported in the week to 19 April arose among known contacts of previous cases. However, laboratory indicators reflect a heightened degree of vigilance, with 1406 new samples tested in the week to 26 April. Less than 1% tested positive.
- A National Ebola Response Centre analysis of incoming calls to the 117 Ebola surveillance hotline suggests that the number of calls reporting potential EVD cases has declined steadily since the stay-at-home campaign at the end of March. The decline is particularly concerning in Kambia. In the week that included the stay-at-home period approximately 55 calls reporting potential EVD cases originated in Kambia, compared with 15 in the week ending 19 April.
- One new ETC run by the International Medical Corps opened in Kambia in the week to 26 April bringing the total to 13 in operation. No new health worker infections were reported over the same period.

Highlights

- 30 April marked the final day with IOM for Ebola Crisis Coordinator in Geneva, Bill Hyde. IOM Sierra Leone would like to sincerely thank Bill for his tireless efforts during the Ebola response.
- On 1 May the refurbishment of the Faculty of Nursing, College of Medicine and Allied Health Services began in Freetown. IOM is renovating the faculty over the next 2 months to coincide with the official reopening.
- As of 2 May IOM's National Ebola Training Academy in partnership with WHO, US CDC, COMAHS, MOHS and RSLAF has now trained 6,689 health care workers in Freetown (5,899 at the Academy) and via mobile trainings (790 trained).
- 3-day mobile trainings on Infection Prevention and Control and clinical care will be held next week in Koindu, Kailahun district for 64 border officials in collaboration with the Mano River Union.
- IOM's implementation partner, ACF, prepositioned kits in 147 villages in Moyamba district. In Kono, Wellbody Alliance has delivered 225 kits for pre-positioning to 26 different PHUs, with distribution expected to start next week.
- IOM, in partnership with World Hope International (WHI), conducted social mobilization activities focusing on school reopening, with a total of 2,130 pupils reached this week Ebola awareness messaging.

National Ebola Training Academy

Over the past week **two 3-day Ebola basic Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) trainings** took place. In **total 132 health care personnel were trained**. Trainees came from Hastings Holding Center, Police Training School 2, Connaught Hospital, 34 Military Hospital, Ola During Children's Hospital, Red Cross, Save the Children, Waterloo Community Health Center, Concern Worldwide, and the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital.

One 5-day Ebola clinical care course (3 day Ebola clinician IPC + 2 day simulated patient) took place. In total **34 health care workers were trained**. Trainees came from Ola During Children's Hospital, Connaught Hospital, Rokupa Government Hospital and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

Operational Highlights

The District Medical Officer (DMO) of Kono district requested IPC and clinical training for 85 Peripheral Health Unit's (PHUs) staff and the staff of Koidu Government Hospital.

The refurbishment of the Faculty of Nursing classroom building commenced on 1 May. The building and premises

have not been renovated since construction in the 1960's. There is no running water, power generation is limited, and in general the classroom building and adjacent 7-story dormitory and cafeteria are in need of new toilet facilities, repainting, re-flooring and removal of debris.

IOM's Training Coordinator met with the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and the Administrative Assistant of COMAHS to discuss their training request for students who will be returning this month and will be participating in clinical training in hospital wards.

IOM extends special thanks RSLAF

IOM Sierra Leone would like to extend its deep gratitude to the training staff of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) who have been working hand in hand with IOM trainers for the past 5 months. RSLAF trainers have been excellent and

enthusiastic providers of Infection Prevention and Control lectures and practical training to 1,000s of Sierra Leonean health care professionals. As of 27 April they will resume their regular duties.



Infection Prevention and Control trainees at the Faculty of Nursing on Saturday, 2 May 2015. For the remainder of May all training will be consolidated at Siaka Stevens National Stadium while the faculty renovation is ongoing.

Cumulative Training Academy/Mobile Training operational data for 01 December 2014– 2 May 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 care	19 (1)	513 (34)	352	865
1 day Ebola clinical IPC 2 day simulated patient care	4	26	59	85
1 day clinical augmentation	2	25	41	66
3 day basic IPC/PPE	50 (2)	4776 (132)	50	4,826
Mobile Training 3 day IPC/PPE/Clinical Decontamination/2 day modified IPC	25	790	0	790
1 day clinical pilot	1	33	24	57
Total	102 (3)	6,163 (166)	526	6,689

IOM Sierra Leone medical officer meets with IOM Guinea counterpart on Kambia border

On Friday, 1 May, Dr Aurelien Pekezou, IOM Sierra Leone's Senior Public Health Coordinator crossed over the Kambia border into Guinea's Forecariah prefecture, an area which has had the most Ebola cases in Guinea for several months. Dr Pekezou met with Dr Lamine Kaba, his counterpart with IOM Guinea, as well as representatives from WHO, Drs Stephane Nugonnet and Moctar Diallo, head of the WHO sub-office in Forecariah and Dr Cisse Ibrahim, UNICEF's border liaison officer.

IOM's activities on both sides of the border were presented with a specific focus on health and humanitarian border management including health screening, flow monitoring points (FMPs), community mobilization and sensitization, training of national authorities and communities on EVD surveillance, and data management. It was emphasized to WHO and UNICEF colleagues that the intended scope of the intervention is regional and will continue to expand in the coming weeks and months.

Key achievements to date on cross border issues include a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between the Governments of Sierra Leone and Guinea in March covering surveillance, communication, security, logistics and laboratory resources sharing; information sharing between the countries and a screening

process on the border which involves both civilian and military actors in concert.

Despite these successes, intense challenges remain on implementation of the MOU, a lack of political engagement due to decentralized governance, irregular

cross border meetings and linguistic problems as Sierra Leone is English speaking and Guinea franco-phone.

Dr Pekezou and Dr Lamine agreed that IOM in both countries should work more closely together to ensure that their actions are complementary but the necessity for more frequent information

exchange and a regular visit schedule was clear. It was also agreed that Liberia should be involved in future discussions to drive regional dialogue and capacity building.

IOM Sierra Leone's efforts and presence in Kambia is scheduled to rapidly scale up after the opening of a sub-office in Kambia town over the coming weeks. Recently IOM staff from Freetown have made a number of visits to the area in support of this expansion in coordination with the Kambia District Emergency Response Center (DERC) and UNMEER.



Dr Aurelien Pekezou of IOM Sierra Leone (right) meeting with Dr Lamine Kaba of IOM Guinea at the Prefectural Emergency Operation Center (PEOC) in Forecariah, Guinea on 1 May.

Care kits pre-positioned in Moyamba and Kono

IOM's implementation partner, ACF, prepositioned kits in **137 villages in Ribbi Chiefdom and 10 villages in Bagruwa chiefdom, Moyamba district**. Training has been conducted for Community Support Group volunteers in each village. **In Kono, Wellbody Alliance has delivered 225 kits for pre-positioning to 26 different PHUs in Gbense, Tankoro, Fiamma and Kamara Chiefdoms, with distribution expected to start next week.** MedAir distributed **25 kits** this week to households in quarantined communities in Moa Wharf, Goderich, and Mabella, Western Area after an outbreak of 6 cases in Moa Wharf during the week to 25 April led to further transmission in Goderich and surrounding areas. In Port Loko district, Partners in Health distributed **27 care kits**. This week **54 kits** were distributed in total.



Wellbody Alliance staff deliver emergency care kits to a Community Health Center in Kamara chiefdom, Kono district.

WHI trains cultural liaison officers

IOM, in partnership with World Hope International (WHI), conducted social mobilization activities focusing on school reopening, with a total of 2,130 pupils reached this week with Ebola awareness messaging. In collaboration with the Burial Pillar, Bombali district, cultural liaison teams completed their training session. A total of 130 Cultural Liaison Officers (83 males, 46 females) were trained. With continuous social mobilization activities in the rural communities led by community-based social mobilizers, the Pillar rapid response team and other partners, the district can boast of having gone 36 days with no new confirmed cases as at 01 May 2015.

WBA responds to rise in malaria cases with health promotion

IOM and partner Wellbody Alliance-supported field Community Health Workers (CHWs) shared key Ebola messages to 10,388 households. In addition, the CHWs were able to refer 214 people to local Community Care Centers. As the Koidu Government Hospital has reported an increase in numbers of persons presenting

with late stage malaria, Wellbody's CHW teams have started to include health promotion messages encouraging community members with fever and other malaria symptoms to seek early care. On 24 April 2015, members of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) joined Wellbody's program managers for a site visit in Tombodu village. After watching social mobilization meetings and house-to-house visits led by CHWs, the OFDA team were very impressed with the quality of their work and remarked that the communities were very well informed.



Katrina Hann, IOM social mobilization project manager (2nd from left) with members of the Waterloo Market Women's Association at the launch of UNWOMEN's 'Getting to zero and staying at zero' campaign on 2 May.

Major News Headlines (click links for story):

[Too many dying in Sierra Leone as a result of Ebola response not virus itself, Guardian, 28 April](#)

[Education falls prey to Ebola in Sierra Leone, Al Jazeera, 30 April](#)

[Sierra Leone wraps up four-day health and vaccination campaign, WHO, 2 May](#)

["Salone will be better after Ebola" President Koroma vows, Awoko, 1 May](#)

[WHO to identify all Ebola cases by June to stop virus, US News, 28 April](#)

[New UN special envoy on Ebola response makes first visit to Sierra Leone, UN News Center, 29 April](#)

[Kenya airways to resume West Africa flights after Ebola outbreak, The Star, 27 April](#)

[In Ebola-hit Sierra Leone solar radios help extend education, UNICEF, 27 April](#)

[Leadership needed to keep pregnant girls in school, Huffington Post, 28 April](#)

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For more information on IOM's Sierra Leone activities please contact:
IOM Department of Operations and Emergencies | ebolareponse@iom.int |
IOM Sierra Leone Response | jbaker@iom.int | Public Information/Project Development | nbishop@iom.int
Please find IOM Sierra Leone on Facebook at www.facebook.com/iomsierraleone