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Highlights

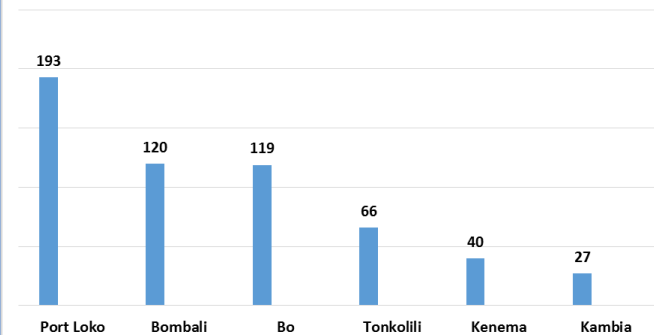
- As of 18 April IOM's National Ebola Training Academy has now trained 6,131 health care workers in Freetown and via mobile trainings.
- On April 16, IOM welcomed Dr Aurelien Pekezou to the team as senior Public Health Coordinator.
- Two 3-day mobile trainings on basic Infection Prevention and Control and clinical care were held for 68 healthcare workers in Bo from 13-15 April. This week mobile trainings will be held in Freetown for correctional officers, and in Pujehun and Jendema on the border with Liberia for border officials.

IOM's Dr David Davies guiding mobile training clinical care participants through case discussion during the patient screening process in Bo on 13 April.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- A total of 9 confirmed cases were reported in the week to 12 April, the same total as in the previous week.
- Cases were reported from 3 western districts: Kambia (4 cases), Port Loko (1 case), and Western Area Urban (4 cases), which includes the capital, Freetown.
- A total of 5 Guinean prefectures reported at least one confirmed case in the week to 12 April with transmission remaining confined to the western area, and is primarily focused on the prefecture of Forecariah, which borders Sierra Leone. In total, 8 prefectures/districts in Guinea and Sierra Leone reported a confirmed case in the week to 12 April, compared with 10 the previous week. This is the lowest number of districts to report a confirmed case since the end of May 2014.
- Response indicators from Sierra Leone continue to be encouraging. The number of EVD-positive deaths that were identified in the community after post-mortem testing remained at 3 in the week to 12 April. The low proportion of laboratory samples that tested EVD-positive (9 of 1338: <1%) and the increase in the proportion of cases that arise among registered contacts (67%) strengthen confidence that the downward trend in case incidence will continue.
- With technical guidance from WHO, national authorities have begun to implement plans for the phased decommissioning of surplus treatment facilities in Sierra Leone. A core capacity of high-quality Ebola treatment centers will be retained that are strategically located to ensure complete geographic coverage, with additional rapid-response capacity in reserve.

Mobile trainings by district, 27 Jan-18 April



- On 15 April, IOM's Health and Humanitarian Border Management team in collaboration with the US CDC, the Sierra Leone Airport Authority and the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority strengthened Lungi International Airport's health defence system with the construction of two isolation tents graciously donated by the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief.
- On 13 April, Oxfam held a training for 56 social mobilisers from World Hope International (WHI) in Makeni on the use of Interim Care Kits. WHI will distribute 500 kits within Bombali district in partnership with IOM.
- WHI carried out social mobilization activities on the first back to school day at 22 primary and secondary schools within Makeni to sensitize on EVD prevention and observe the Infection Prevention and Control standards utilized in schools. It was recommended that refresher training be conducted on and that interim care kits be provided and teachers trained on their use.

National Ebola Training Academy & Mobile Training



On 16 April, IOM Sierra Leone welcomed Dr Aurelien Pekezou to the team as senior Public Health Coordinator. Dr Aurelien brings over 6 years of emergency medical experience in Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and most recently in Guinea as a health advisor on the Ebola response. Dr Aurelien's expertise and

knowledge of complex medical emergencies will enhance and deepen IOM's response capacity in the fight to get to zero and stay at zero through the rainy season and beyond. "I am looking forward to contributing to the fight against Ebola and eventually to the rebuilding of the health system in Sierra Leone."

Training Academy

Over the past week two 3-day Ebola basic Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) trainings took place. In total 137 health care personnel were trained. Trainees came from National Emergency Response Centre, Police Training School 2, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Connaught Hospital, the Red Cross, Ola During Children's Hospital, the Psychiatric Hospital, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Concern Worldwide, and the Western Area Burial Team

One 5-day Ebola clinical care course (3 day Ebola clinician IPC + 2 day simulated patient) took place. In total 22 health care workers were trained. Trainees came from Police Training School 1, Connaught Hospital, Rokupa Government Hospital, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the United Nations Air Medical Evacuation Team (UNAMET).

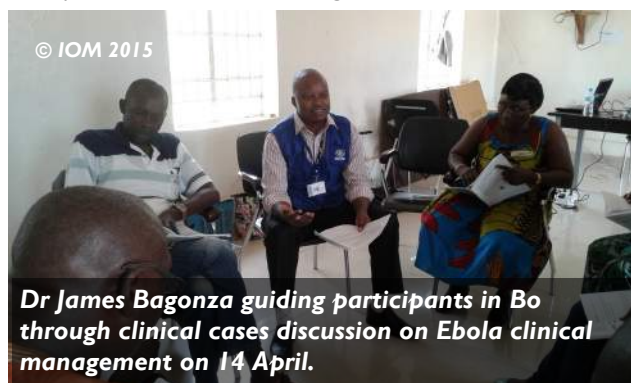
The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) recently confirmed that their unit will be withdrawn on 27 April. The Dean of the Faculty of Nursing also informed IOM that

the Faculty will begin registration in the coming week towards the reopening of the facility over the coming weeks.

Mobile Training

From 13-15 April, a clinical IPC course was delivered to 26 frontline healthcare workers (a 3-day basic IPC course was held for 42 others) in Bo district. The clinical group included 10 Community Health Officers (CHOs), 5 Community Health Assistants (CHAs), 7 Nurses, 3 midwives and 1 lab personnel mainly from Primary Health Units (PHUs) and Community Health Centres (CHC) where Ebola suspects are screened before they are referred to Ebola Community Care Centres and holding centres/units or ETUs.

Trainees received lectures on what Ebola is and how it presents, IPC (modified for clinicians) and PPE, organization of an ETU (plan, logic and flow), screening/triage and clinical management of Ebola. Trainees were also exposed to practical sessions which included hand hygiene, PPE on and off, and triage. This 3 days course was punctuated with case discussions on triage/screening and clinical management of Ebola and practical triage /screening on simulated patients. Trainees were evaluated through pre-tests, competence assessments on practical skills and end of course evaluation. All participants passed and were accordingly awarded certificates. The average pre and post test scores were **36.9%** and **84%** respectively demonstrating a significant improvement after training.



Dr James Bagonza guiding participants in Bo through clinical cases discussion on Ebola clinical management on 14 April.

Cumulative Training Academy/Mobile Training operational data for 01 December 2014– 18 April 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	17 (1)	454 (21)	349 (1)	803
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	46 (2)	4505 (137)	50	4555
Mobile Training 3 day IPC/PPE/Clinical Decontamination/2 day modified IPC	20 (2)	565 (68)	0	565
1 day clinical pilot	1	33	24	57
Total	91 (5)	5608 (226)	523 (1)	6,131

HHBM team continues to strengthen airport screening

Since November of last year, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) has generously funded IOM Sierra Leone’s Health and Humanitarian Border Management (HHBM) project at Lungi International Airport. For nearly 6 months, IOM monitoring teams in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the Sierra Leone Airport Authority and the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority have ensured correct Entry and Exit Health Screening practices for approximately 50,000 commercial, private and UN passengers. The robust health defence system developed in collaboration with the Airport Authorities and US CDC now includes 24-hour health screening by medical professionals in the terminal building. This is reinforced by a surrounding ring of checkpoints that conduct basic health screening for everyone entering the airport site.

On 15 April, the airport health defence system was further strengthened with the construction of two isolation tents graciously donated by the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief. This brings the total number of isolation areas up to five; strategically located throughout the airport site. Isolation rooms provide a controlled environment for secondary screening professionals to conduct further medical examinations of anyone identified as a possible Ebola patient. These two new secondary screening sites are a crucial upgrade to the health defence structure as patients need only be moved short distances in order to isolate them.

Furthermore, the airport’s outer ring of basic health screening checkpoints has undergone the first upgrade in preparation for the rainy season. One of the front gate health screening posts for drivers entering the air-

port has been completely reconstructed. This new structure provides much needed shelter from inclement weather for 24-hour health screening.



On 15 April, the airport health defence system was further strengthened with the construction of two isolation tents donated by the German Federal Agency



One of the front gate health screening posts for drivers has been completely reconstructed.

IOM’s care kit implementing partners with total kits distributed 15 December– 18 April

Partner	Indicator	District	QTY current week	Cumulative Total	Targeted
ACF	Number of kits distributed	Western Area	87	161	200
		Kambia	6	6	45
		Moyamba	yet to commence	0	1200
Partner	Indicator	District	QTY current week	Cumulative Total	Targeted
Oxfam	Number of kits distributed	Western Area	7	343	400
Partner	Indicator	District	QTY current week	Cumulative Total	Targeted
IOM	Number of kits distributed	Western Area	0	3	2565
Partner	Indicator	District	QTY current week	Cumulative Total	Targeted
PIH	Number of kits distributed	Port Loko	36	87	600
Partner	Indicator	District	QTY current week	Cumulative Total	Targeted
WBA	Number of kits distributed	Kono	yet to commence	0	500
Partner	Indicator	District	QTY current week	Cumulative Total	Targeted
MedAir	Number of kits distributed	Western Area	Not available	336	500
Partner	Indicator	District	QTY current week	Cumulative Total	Targeted
WHI	Number of kits distributed	Bombali	yet to commence	0	500
				Cumulative Totals	
			136	936	6500

136 care kits reach quarantined homes

On 13 April, Oxfam held a training for 56 social mobilisers from World Hope International in Makeni on the use of Interim Care Kits. WHI will distribute 500 kits within Bombali district. In Freetown, Oxfam continued with active case finding and 7 suspected cases were identified in Rokel community and issued with care kits. Partners in Health distributed 36 kits in hotspot Kafu Bullom chiefdom, Port Loko district. ACF distributed 87 kits in Western Area and 6 in Kambia district. In total 136 interim care kits were distributed in the week to 18 April.

Community outreach continues as schools reopen

IOM's implementing partner in Kono, Wellbody Alliance's social mobilizers discussed EVD with 2,922 household and led 259 community meetings. On 11 April they gathered with over 100 religious leaders from throughout Kono district and their clinicians answered pre-submitted questions about EVD pathology, transmission and treatment followed by an open forum question and answer session. The gathering improved awareness of current community concerns and the information provided by clinicians will be shared with



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Wellbody Alliance meeting with religious leaders at the Community Centre in Koidu, Kono district, 11 April.

the congregations of religious leaders. Four of Wellbody Alliance's community health workers (CHWs) are maintaining a presence at two key checkpoints in Gbane that have significant transit to and from Guinea. These CHWs keep records of travelers and help to ensure that travelers receive necessary information on EVD prevention and early reporting.

In Bombali district, World Hope International (WHI) held EVD prevention and response sensitization meetings with traditional and cultural leaders in all 13 chiefdoms; a total of 958 persons (647 males, 311 females) attended. 130 members were selected to be trained to work on chiefdom burial teams and ensure safe and dignified burials. This continuing initiative is driving increased community responsibility in the fight against

Ebola. WHI carried out social mobilization activities on the first back to school day at 22 primary and secondary schools within the Makeni Municipality to sensitize on EVD prevention and observe the Infection Prevention and Control standards utilized in the schools. It was recommended that refresher training be conducted on IPC techniques for schools and that Interim Care Kits be provided and teachers trained on their use.

News Headlines (click links for story):

[WHO: Ebola Virus Found in Semen Six Months After Recovery, This Day Live, 16 April](#)

[Sierra Leone Schools End 8-Month Ebola Closure, Voice of America, 15 April](#)

[Sierra Leone: Ebola Trial Begins, NY Times, 13 April](#)

[Paper and phones could soon diagnose Ebola and HIV for \\$1, Newsweek, 16 April](#)

[Guinea finds 9 new Ebola cases near border with Sierra Leone, Reuters, 16 April](#)

[Avoiding Ebola– how one chiefdom in Sierra Leone did it, UNICEF, 15 April](#)

[As Liberia, Sierra Leone bounce back, women and youth struggle, IBT, 15 April](#)

[Sierra Leone's president bemoans Ebola's impact, Voice of America, 15 April](#)

[Pattern of safety lapses where group battled Ebola, NY Times, 12 April](#)

IOM Sierra Leone's initiatives are supported by:



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