



## Weekly Highlights

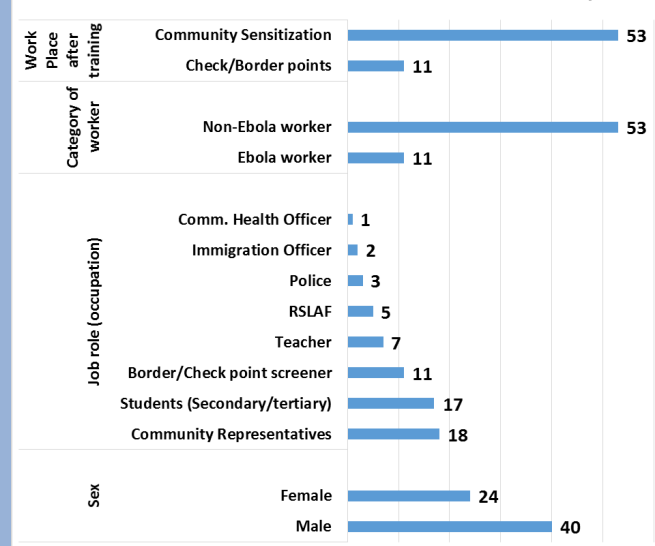
- As of 9 May IOM's National Ebola Training Academy in partnership with WHO, US CDC, COMAHS, and MOHS has now trained 6,895 health care workers in Freetown (6,041 at the Academy) and via mobile trainings (854 trained).
- A 2-day mobile training on Infection Prevention and Control was delivered in Koindu, Kailahun district after a request by the Mano River Union for 64 border and health officials. This week, 50 ambulance drivers in Kambia and 75 health care workers in Kono will be trained.

**IOM's Training Coordinator and Lead Clinical Trainer (2nd from right and center) take representative's from USAID's Sierra Leone team, USAID's Global Bureau of Health/Innovation Lab and Baylor College of Medicine on a tour of the National Ebola Training Academy's mock ETU on 8 May.**

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- **A total of 9 confirmed cases were reported in the week to 3 May, compared with 11 the previous week.**
- Two districts reported cases, compared with 3 districts the previous week. Of 14 districts that have ever reported a confirmed case since the beginning of the outbreak, 8 have not reported a confirmed case for over 6 weeks. The last time only 2 districts from Sierra Leone reported a confirmed case was May 2014.
- **5 confirmed cases were reported from the north-western district of Kambia, which borders the Guinean prefecture of Forecariah.** Of these, 4 cases were reported from the central Chiefdom of Magbema, with one additional case reported from the Chiefdom of Gbinle Dixing, which borders Magbema to the south and the Guinean prefecture of Forecariah to the north.
- **The remaining 4 cases were reported from the Moa Wharf area of the East 1 Chiefdom of Freetown.**
- Of the 9 reported cases, 3 were identified after post-mortem testing of deaths in the community, whilst only 2 of the 9 cases had been registered as contacts of a previous case. However, subsequent investigations have established an epidemiological link with previous cases for an additional 5 of the 9 cases. Both cases for which no link with a previous case has yet been established are from Kambia.
- Laboratory indicators continue to reflect a heightened degree of vigilance, with 1654 new samples tested in the week to 3 May. Less than 1% tested positive. Of the 1635 samples with a known processing time, 74% were tested within 1 day of collection.

**Mobile IPC trainees, Koindu, Kailahun district, 5-6 May**



- **The 3rd Health Emergency Simulation Exercise was held at Lungi International Airport on 8 May in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Airport Authority (SLAA), Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), US CDC and IOM.**
- **On 7 May a meeting between IOM, ACF and DfID was held in Kambia in order to discuss and harmonize the prepositioning of Interim Care Kits across 880 district communities.**
- **Kono continues to see high numbers of measles and late stage malaria patients. IOM partner Wellbody Alliance's Community Health Workers-trained in measles identification and referral protocols- are playing an instrumental role in encouraging sick persons to seek medical attention as early as possible.**

### National Ebola Training Academy

Over the past week **two 3-day Ebola basic Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) trainings** took place. In **total 113 health care personnel were trained**. Trainees came from Hastings Holding Center, Kerry Town ETC, Emergency Hospital, 34 Military Hospital, Murray Town Health Center and Save the Children.

**One 5-day Ebola clinical care course** (3 day Ebola clinician IPC + 2 day simulated patient) took place. In total **29 health care workers were trained**. Trainees came from the Police Training School, Partners in Health, Rokupa Government Hospital and Blue Shield Hospital.

### Faculty Refurbishment

The refurbishment of the Faculty of Nursing at the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences is progressing. After the first week, external scaffolding has been erected, landscaping has begun, old floor tiles and debris removed, wall painting has commenced, new light fixtures and doors are being installed and toilet facilities are gradually being renovated.

### Mobile Training in Kailahun

From 5-6 May, one basic 2-day IPC course was delivered to 64 trainees in Koindu, Kailahun district from the Sierra Leone Police, the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, border surveillance units, community health officers, social mobilizers and health screeners after a request from the Mano River Union. Participants received training and took part in practical simulations on “understanding Ebola”; principles of Ebola Treatment Units and screening; hand washing; proper donning and doffing of gloves and Personal Protective Equipment; chlorine solution preparation; site contamination, spill cleanup and waste management; and relevance of Ebola IPC knowledge for Cholera and Malaria developed by

IOM’s Senior Public Health Coordinator, Dr Aurelien Pekezou.

Trainees were evaluated through pre- and post-tests, practical skill assessments and end of course evaluation. The pre and post-test marks showed a remarkable progression in trainees’ understanding of the key concepts as the average grade rose from 53% to 80%. Attendance was 100% with 58 participants passing the final assessment and awarded certificates.

Mobile training will move to Kambia and Kono districts during the coming week. 50 ambulance drivers will be trained in Kambia after a an initial training in January of 27. Eventually a further 50 will receive the same training to ensure standardization across all district ambulance teams.

In Kono district, after a consultation between the District Medical Officer and heads of Peripheral Health Units, 75 health care workers have been nominated for training.



*IOM trainers, Patrick Tongu (left) and Gladys Mbabazi (right), demonstrate proper mixing of chlorine solution and donning and doffing of gloves to the paramount chief of Ganama chiefdom, Kailahun district on 6 May.*

**Cumulative Training Academy/Mobile Training operational data for 01 December 2014– 9 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	20 (1)	540 (27)	354 (2)	894
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	52 (2)	4,889 (113)	50	4,939
Mobile Training 3 day IPC/PPE/Clinical Decontamination/2 day modified IPC	26 (1)	854 (64)	0	854
1 day clinical pilot	1	33	24	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>105 (4)</b>	<b>6,367 (204)</b>	<b>528 (2)</b>	<b>6,895</b>

## IOM expanding border management in Kambia; 3rd Emergency Simulation Exercise held

On 4 May, IOM conducted an assessment of potential sub-office infrastructure in Kambia district and met with key stakeholders from the District Emergency Response Center, the UK Department for International Development, the UK Ministry of Defense, the Passenger Welfare Organisation and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces to discuss new Health and Humanitarian Border Management project initiatives. The Kambia, Sierra Leone - Forecariah, Guinea border zone continues to record the vast majority of EVD cases. As the lead agency on border management, IOM will activate new sub-offices in Kambia and Forecariah in order to rapidly deploy operations to support and strengthen health border management in order to get to/maintain zero EVD cases.



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The IOM border management team meets with (right to left) Major Henry Dowland of British Forces, RSLAF Liaison Officer Lieutenant Fofanah, Mohammed Jalloh from the Passenger Welfare Organisation and Family Liaison Officer and representatives from DFID.

The third **Health Emergency Simulation Exercise** was held at Lungi International Airport on Friday, 8 May to test and reinforce airport staff preparedness during realistic emergency scenarios. ***“These exercises are a vital component of the airport’s health defense structure and the ongoing fight against Ebola,”*** said Ben Potter, the Health and Humanitarian Border Management Project Manager. The airport is one of Sierra Leone’s most valuable assets, but at times during the outbreak, it has equally been one of the most vulnerable. In order to reinforce the health defense structure put in place by the Sierra Leone Airport Authority (SLAA), Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), US CDC and IOM, a comprehensive training program has been

### New distribution strategies afoot for care kits

In the Western Area, IOM Implementing Partner, ACF, has now distributed a total of 95 interim emergency care kits; 507 Care Kits have been prepositioned in Moyamba and an additional 6 in Kambia. In Port Loko district, Partners in Health distributed 23 Care Kits. In Kono, Wellbody Alliance (WBA) has now prepositioned a total of 475 kits in 47 Peripheral Health Units (PHUs), including remote and difficult to reach PHUs, in 7 chiefdoms. 2 other PHUs that are inaccessible by vehicle are scheduled to receive kits later this month.

In recognition of declining transmission rates, a meeting was held with care kit project donor, the US Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to discuss the possibility of repackaging care kits for other diseases and also for use as general hygiene kits once PPE and other contents are removed. Ahead of the rainy season the need for flexibility was acknowledged and in close coordination with District Emergency Response Centers and implementing partners new distribution strategies will be

initiated and real time emergency simulation drills serve to add a practical component to existing theoretical standard operating procedures.

Simulation exercises employ Ebola survivors as expert patients to act out different scenarios adding a degree of realism. The dedication and skill of the expert patients sets a realistic and pressurized environment for health screeners and airport staff to practice the skills they have acquired throughout the training program by encouraging them to react to the evolving environment and promotes flexibility in thought and action while allowing SLAA, SLCAA, US CDC and IOM to identify are-

as for improvement.

Friday’s Simulation Exercise was recorded by a professional film crew from Brand Sierra Leone TV. One 6 minute informational film will be produced for the Airport Authorities and International Partners to showcase the essential services being provided at Lungi Airport. Additionally, a number of training films will be produced and embedded into the training curriculum to increase the training program’s effectiveness, and later rolled out at land and sea Ports of Entry throughout Sierra Leone as IOM’s Health and Humanitarian Border Management project expands around the country.

explored. Similarly, on 7 May a meeting between IOM, ACF and DfID was held in Kambia in order to discuss and harmonize the prepositioning of Interim Care Kits across 880 district communities.



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WBA social mobilizers, joined by their supervisors and PHU staff, assisted with the delivery of interim care kits to 10 PHUs throughout Sandor chiefdom in Kono district.

### **Measles & malaria patients urged to seek treatment in Kono**

IOM's implementing partner, Wellbody Alliance (WBA) reached out to 11,004 households and held 309 large community meetings in the Fiama, Gbane, Nimiyama and Sandor Chiefdoms of Kono district.

The Kono District Emergency Response Center has lauded the efforts of the social mobilization pillar in keeping communities protected as 72 days have passed without a confirmed Ebola case in Kono. However, Kono continues to see high numbers of measles and late stage malaria patients in the government hospital and PHUs, so WBA's Community Health Workers (who have been trained in measles identification and referral protocols) are playing an instrumental role in encouraging sick persons to go to a medical facility as early as possible.



*IOM's social mobilizers in the Moa Wharf hotspot community in Freetown. IOM and partners have been active in the area promoting hygiene and distributing interim care kits.*

### **IOM reaches over 2,300 people in Freetown**

IOM's team of 32 social mobilizers visited a total of 304 households reaching 2,308 persons during their house-to-house campaign. Community engagement meetings were held in Kroo Bay and Aberdeen. Topics of discussion included- the reopening of schools; burials in Waterloo; migration by sea; hand washing; and when to call for an ambulance.

As transmission rates decline in Western Area IOM's social mobilizers will continue to reach out to low income coastal communities to provide information and training on disease awareness ahead of and during the rainy season on cholera and malaria- two of the most prolific illnesses affecting coastal communities in the Freetown. Distribution of hygiene kits will also commence in areas of need.

### **Major News Headlines (click links for story):**

[After nearly claiming his life, Ebola lurked in doctor's eye, NY Times, 7 May](#)

[Tracing the Ebola outbreak, scientists hunt a silent killer, NY Times, 5 May](#)

[Ebola on the ground Part 6: The Response, OkayAfrica, 8 May](#)

[Sierra Leone university holds ceremony amid Ebola fears, World Bulletin, 3 May](#)

[Ebola virus lives on hospital surfaces for days, Live Science, 6 May](#)

[Schools reopen but Ebola keeps pupils on the street, IRIN, 6 May](#)

[How Cuba's doctors could prevent the next Ebola outbreak, Foreign Policy, 6 May](#)

[Liberia set to be declared Ebola free, Guardian, 8 May](#)

[Ebola's silver lining: Guineans learn to have faith in hospitals, IRIN, 8 May](#)

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



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