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*IOM's lead trainers taking foreign medical workers wearing full Personal Protective Equipment through simulated patient care modules at the National Training Academy's mock Ebola Treatment Unit on 12 February*

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Following a steep decline from December to late January, weekly case incidence now seems to have stabilized. A total of 76 cases were reported in the week to 8 February, a decrease from the 80 confirmed cases reported in the week to 1 February, but higher than the 65 confirmed cases reported in the week to 25 January.
- The west of the country remains the area of most intense transmission. The capital, Freetown, reported 19 new confirmed cases, compared with 22 the previous week. The neighbouring district of Port Loko saw a continuation of its recent resurgence of cases, with 28 new confirmed cases which leads the country.
- The district of Kambia reported 11 new confirmed cases. Kambia borders the prefecture of Forecariah which leads Guinea with 26 new cases.
- Transmission remains widespread throughout the country. A total of 7 out of 14 districts reported at least one new confirmed case in the week to 8 February. In the south, Bo, Bonthe, Kailahun, and Pujehun have not reported a case for more than 21 days.
- The district of Aberdeen within the capital city of Freetown was placed under quarantine on February 13 after a rise in suspected Ebola cases.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Ebola Training Academy has trained a total of 3326 health care workers as of 14 February. This past week a 3+2 day Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) simulated patient training took place for medical workers and the third meeting of the Board of Governors was held. In the week ahead mobile training will continue in Bombali district for decontamination workers.
- 167 emergency interim care kits have been distributed in the Western Area under IOM's Emergency Care Kit project in Kontolloh and John Thorpe. A recent rise in cases has seen the area placed under quarantine.
- IOM in partnership with World Hope International (WHI), has initiated pre-engagement meetings in Bombali district to identify safe, culturally-sensitive burial practices. Meetings bringing together over 200 persons were held with traditional leaders in the chiefdoms of Gbendebu Ngowahun and Magbainba Ndowahun.
- IOM's Border Management team will conduct an inter-agency border assessment across Sierra Leone's seven border districts by the end of February. The proposed assessment team will include US CDC, the Mano River Union, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the National Ebola Response Center, UNMEER, UN Office of Drugs and Crime, UN WOMEN, Sierra Leone Office of National Security (ONS) and the Sierra Leone Border Police.

## National Ebola Training Academy & Mobile

### Operational Highlights

- 1x 3+2 day Clinical Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) simulated patient training was held for medical workers from the Kingtom Police Training School, UNMEER medical evacuation team, Princess Christian Maternity Hospital, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, and Partners in Health.
- 2 upgraded courses of 3 day basic IPC with revised slides from WHO were held for Action Contre la Faim, the British military, Connaught Hospital, Ola Doring Hospital, and the 34th Military Hospital.
- A meeting with WHO will be held to finalise the decontamination SOP followed by the extension of district level mobile training to Bombali district for the training of a decontamination team.



Mr Fonte Kargbo and Mr Gibril Kamara, Ebola survivors who work as patient experts at the Training Academy.

### Overall training evaluation by clinical care trainees from 1-31 January

Item	Frequency, n (%)				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. The training met my expectations	103 (81.7)	21 (16.7)	-	-	2 (1.6)
2. I will be able to apply knowledge learned	112 (88.9)	12 (9.5)	-	-	2 (1.6)
3. The training objectives for each topic were identified and followed	104 (82.5)	20 (15.9)	-	-	2 (1.6)
4. The content was organized and easy to follow	99 (79.2)	24 (19.2)	-	-	1 (1.6)
5. The materials distributed were pertinent and useful	99 (79.2)	22 (17.6)	2 (1.6)	-	2 (1.6)
6. The quality of instruction was good	103 (82.4)	20 (16.0)	-	-	2 (1.6)
7. Class participation and interaction were encouraged	107 (84.9)	17 (13.5)	-	-	2 (1.6)
8. Adequate time was provided for questions and discussion	84 (66.7)	39 (30.9)	-	1 (0.8)	2 (1.6)
9. The training venue and facility service	86 (68.8)	32 (25.6)	4 (3.2)	1 (0.8)	2 (1.6)

### Cumulative Training Academy operational data for 01 December 2014– 14 February 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	9 (1)	164 (43)	287 (10)	451
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	30 (2)	2532 (247)	17 (6)	2549
Mobile Training 1 day IPC	4 (1)	175	0	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>49 (4)</b>	<b>2922 (290)</b>	<b>404 (16)</b>	<b>3326</b>

## Distribution of Emergency Interim Care Kits

IOM's implementation partner, Oxfam, continues interim home care kit distribution through their community-based active case finding activities in the Western Area in seven wards. 167 emergency interim care kits have been distributed in the Western Area by Oxfam's teams in the John Thorpe and Kontolloh communities. Active case finding continues in these wards and extended to four additional hotspots in Congo Town, Thunder Hill, Robis and Mayenkinah due to increases in reported cases in these communities. Support of referrals continues. In Kontolloh, 8 probable EVD cases were referred to the local CCC. After all 8 had negative test results, all were referred to the local peripheral health unit (PHU) for follow up care. This week saw 16 probable cases identified, with all referred to care. As of Friday, February 13 the Freetown city ward of Aberdeen of which many of these communities are a part has been placed under quarantine due to a rise in suspected Ebola cases.

## Social Mobilization in Bombali district

IOM, in partnership with World Hope International (WHI), has initiated pre-engagement meetings in Bombali district to kick off efforts towards identifying safe, culturally-relevant burial practices. Pre-engagement meetings were held with traditional leaders in two chiefdoms, Gbendebu Ngowahun and Magbainba Ndowahun. Societal heads, comprising of Sowehs, Gbagbani, Poroh and traditional healers (herbalists), were in attendance together with their Paramount Chiefs and Section Chiefs. The gathering brought together over 200 persons. Sensitization and EVD messaging were delivered, along with a discussion on the current impact of EVD, and issues contributing to infection rates, including the late reporting of sick persons and unsafe burials. The leader of the traditional healers said that they are "eady and willing to work with stakeholders to end the EVD" and that "the community had tried to limit unsafe practices while emphasizing livelihood support". Follow on meetings are planned by the Social Mobilization Pillar in Bombali district.

## Health & Humanitarian Border Management

The President of the Republic of Guinea and Chairman of the Mano River Union (MRU), Professor Alpha Conde was welcomed to Sierra Leone on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 for a one-day Solidarity Visit with President Ernest Bai Koroma.

The Guinean president disclosed that the Mano River Union Secretariat organized a two-day technical and ministerial meeting for Friday and Saturday, February 13-14, 2015 in Conakry, Guinea which will focus on harmonizing the MRU's approach to "recovery" from the Ebola virus disease. A further MRU Summit, which brings together the Heads of State and Government of the four countries, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cotê d'Ivoire and host, Guinea, will also take place in Conakry, on Sunday, February 15, 2015.



Engaging with traditional leaders in Gbendebu Ngowahun chiefdom

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As with all arriving and departing passengers, the President of Guinea was processed through Lungi Airport's health screening system.



The President of Guinea, Prof. Alpha Conde, and the President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, pass through IOM's health screening procedure at Lungi Airport on Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

**HHBM continued...**

**Inter-agency Border Assessment Mission**

Guided by Sierra Leone’s Border Security Management Strategy, the HHBM team will conduct an inter-agency border assessment by the end of February. The proposed assessment team is intended to involve key stakeholders such as US CDC, the Mano River Union, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the National Ebola Response Center, UNMEER, UN Office of Drugs and Crime, UN WOMEN, Sierra Leone Office of National Security (ONS) the Sierra Leone Border Police and others.

The assessment will review the current state of key permanently manned land border crossing points (Class A) in Kambia, Bombali, Pujehun, and Kailahun districts. Additionally, the assessment will extend from these main ports of entry to examine the state of surrounding, partially manned (Class B) border crossing points while engaging with local leaders. Leveraging its institutional border management expertise, IOM will activate its land border assessment tool in order to comprehensively examine land border components such as health safety, security, economic factors and potential gender-based interventions.

**Class A border crossing points in blue; to be reviewed or built by government in green.**



**News Headlines** (click links for story/video):

**Ebola quarantine in Sierra Leone capital, Voice of America, 14 February**

Sierra Leone has quarantined a neighborhood in the capital, Freetown, following the emergence of several new cases of Ebola. The coastal district of Aberdeen, home to slums and upscale hotels, was shut down on Friday.

**Mano River Union to host extraordinary summit to end Ebola, Patriotic Vanguard, 11 February**

**Sierra Leone to prosecute fraudulent Ebola ‘ghost workers’, Reuters, 11 February**

**Ebola-hit Sierra Leone announces disease control agency, AFP, 11 February**

**Sierra Leone president to attend EU Ebola conference, Sierra Leone Times, 10 February**

**Shifting focus in Ebola countries, Voice of America, 10 February**

Direct Relief, an organization providing medical assistance to Ebola-affected countries is expanding its operations to include other health needs as fewer new Ebola cases are reported.

IOM Sierra Leone’s initiatives are supported by:



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

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