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A social Mobilization officer engaging community members on Ebola awareness in Liberia

OVERVIEW

Since the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was first reported in March 2014, to date, there have been 22,057 confirmed, probable and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) with 8,795 fatalities (40%), according to UNMEER reports. IOM continues to implement Ebola response activities in West Africa, focusing on health and border management strategies to strengthen control and response capacities to prevent the spread of EVD.



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IOM staff members celebrating the discharge of survivors in Liberia from an ETU.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mobile Training by the national training Academy begins in with a team deployed to train 11 swab collectors in Bo District **Sierra Leone**
- IOM's Emergency Care Kit distribution continues in the Western Area wards of John Thorpe, Kontolloh, Rokel and Thunderhill in **Sierra Leone**
- IOM has completed the distribution and installation of all IT equipment/internet in all 15 PEOCs in **Guinea-Conakry**.
- To ensure health system revitalization, IOM conducted an outreach training of local health care in **Liberia**.
- IOM has initiated activities for a safe migration and better health management at three border points between **Guinea and Mali**.
- 16 Flow monitoring points are now fully operational in **Mali**
- IOM's Director of Operations and Emergencies, Mohammed Abdiker, and Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Carmela Godeau, visit **Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea Conakry**

LIBERIA

Community Outreach & Social Mobilization



Child survivors return to their communities in Liberia

In order to support Ebola survivors to reintegrate into their communities, psychosocial teams from the IOM Ebola Treatment Units (ETU) in partnership with local County Health Teams (CHT) have provided recovery support to child survivors by finding an appropriate home for those children orphaned by Ebola. To reduce the impact of stigma on survivors, ETU team members communicate with the local communities about the facts of the Ebola disease, and the safety of survivors, prior to their reintegration.

Health System Revitalization

Buchanan ETU Staff are supporting County Health Team efforts to strengthen the capacity of health care workers in Grand Bassa County to provide EVD appropriate services. Four ETU staff (two nurses and Infection Prevention Control personnel) provided EVD triage training to 10 county health care workers which included theory based learning followed by practical scenarios.

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

IOM conducted a border assessment in Grand Cape Mount County in coordination and partnership with the County Authorities, UNMEER and the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC). A multidisciplinary team was sent to Tewor and Porkpa District made up of border management, health, WASH and social mobilization experts. The technical team assessed six official border crossing points, nine health care facilities, and nine WASH facilities. The social mobilization team facilitated two district and eight community focus group discussions meeting with 94 community members (including traditional leaders, members of vulnerable groups and private sector representatives).

SIERRA LEONE

Mobile Training Kicks Off in Bo District

On 26 and 27 January, IOM carried out a training of 11 swab collectors after a request from CDC/WHO and the Ministry of Health at the district Ebola Response Centre in Bo. This marks the start of de-centralized trainings to be conducted cross-country in response to ongoing training and retraining needs on Ebola-centric Infection Prevention and Control. IOM's mobile training team is made up of three trainee doctors and a coordinator from the National Training Academy in Freetown. As more knowledge of the disease has become available over the course of the outbreak training guidelines have changed and improved, thus retraining and ensuring more targeted trainings to guarantee uniformity of standards. As case numbers decrease, IOM's focus on centralized training in Freetown is slowly being shifted to a district-based approach in coordination with WHO.



Engaging community members on the dangers of Ebola in Freetown area, Sierra Leone.

Community Outreach & Social Mobilization

Contributing to the overall efforts in raising awareness about the dangers of Ebola and preventative measures, the Ward Committee and Task Force members in the targeted communities were hired and trained to conduct a door to door Ebola sensitization campaign. The project targeted low-income coastal communities in Western Area Urban, stretching from Cline Town to Lumley in the Freetown area. Throughout the process, IOM messaging emphasized behavioural change and best practices in caring for the sick and the deceased.

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

The Health and Humanitarian Border Management team delivered a joint IOM/CDC/Sierra Leone Aviation Authority (SLAA) presentation to the National Ebola Response Center and CEO Paolo Conteh on 30 January.

The team also briefed the National Ebola Response Center and on the current health security at Lungi Airport.

A joint plan of action for moving the health defence system forward was presented and focused on four key areas: strengthening airport management capabilities and structures; continuous training of airport staff through monthly health emergency exercises specialist trainings for ambulance workers, health screeners and hygienists; and reinforcing the airport infrastructure by developing a secondary screening site at the front gate. This last measure would develop better lines of communication between the receiving GOAL-run ETU and the airport management, for patients who need medical evaluation prior to re-entering the airport site.

GUINEA-CONAKRY



IOM staff installing IT equipment and Internet in Nzerekore, Guinea Conakry

Provincial Emergency Operations Centres

To support the Government of Guinea (GoG) to combat the Ebola Virus Disease, IOM is providing logistic support to Provincial Emergency Operation Centres (PEOC) nationwide. The IOM team is also liaising with the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) for the provision and identification of three additional sites to be used as PEOC. This will be followed by a rapid assessment mission to ascertain the needs of these PEOCs. As of 3rd February, all office material and IT equipment have been procured have been delivered with and installed in 15 POECs.

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

In order to support safe migration and better health management, IOM has initiated activities at the border between Guinea and Mali to enhance capacities border officials in the understanding of the Ebola virus, its

spread as well as its prevention. The focal points will also be trained as community mobilisers and sensitization agents.

MALI

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

16 Ebola Flow Monitoring Points at Malian Health Checkpoints are now fully operational and data collection and travellers' awareness has been activated. These Points were set to monitor migration patterns and raise travellers' awareness about Ebola; IOM Mali also recruited two new teams of data entry clerks to improve the database room equipment to accelerate the data entry.

REGIONAL TOUR



IOM Director for Operation and Emergencies, Mohamed Abdiker, with Regional Director, Carmela Godeau, visit the ETU units in Sinje Liberia.

DOE and Regional Director Visit Ebola affected countries

Mohammed Abdiker, DOE Director, accompanied by West and Central Africa Regional Director, Carmela Godeau, travelled to the Ebola affected West Africa region from 20-27 January visiting Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea Conakry where he met with regional mission and country offices, as well as key partners in the respective countries. In Sierra Leone he held a meeting with H.E Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone who expressed appreciation for IOM's support provided in terms of training frontline care workers and in manning border crossing points, and in particular for maintaining the standards and protocols at the airports.

IOM EBOLA CRISIS RESPONSE IN SIERRA LEONE



With the assistance and support of donors and implementing partners, IOM delivers an ongoing coordinated response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa, including such services as:

- Management of three Ebola Treatment Units in **Liberia**
- Training airport staff to screen passengers for Ebola at Lungi International Airport and educating frontline responders to work safely and efficiently with Ebola patients in **Sierra Leone**
- Rehabilitation and equipping of Provincial Emergency Operations Centres in **Guinea-Conakry**
- Distribution of hygiene kits and home health kits to mitigate the spread of Ebola



FUNDING FOR IOM'S EBOLA CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAMME IN WEST AFRICA IS PROVIDED BY:



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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON IOM'S EBOLA CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAMME, PLEASE CONTACT:

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