



IOM conducts Ebola health screenings and collects migrants' data at a Flow Monitoring Point in Nougani, Mali © UNMEER 2015

OVERVIEW

Since the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was first reported in March 2014, to date, there have been **23,218** confirmed, probable and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) with **9,365** fatalities (40%), according to the current UNMEER report, dated 18 February 2015. IOM is continuing to implement local and regional Ebola response projects and activities in West Africa, to strengthen containment and control capacities to prevent the spread of EVD, reduce disease burden, and to contribute to “getting to zero cases.”



In partnership with World Hope International (WHI), IOM meets with community leaders and traditional healers in Gbedembu Ngowahun Chiefdom in Bombali district, Sierra Leone to promote safe, culturally-respectful burial practices.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The mobile outreach team from IOM’s ETU in Buchanan, **Liberia** provided routine vaccination and primary health care services to 115 villagers.
- IOM was named the secretariat of the Border Coordination Group, under the Chairmanship of the Government of **Liberia**’s Presidential Advisory Committee for Ebola.
- 167 emergency interim care kits distributed in the Western Area, **Sierra Leone**, in the Kontolloh and John Thorpe wards, recently placed under quarantine, due to a rise in EVD cases.
- IOM, in partnership with World Hope International (WHI), met with over 200 community leaders in the chiefdoms of Gbedembu Ngowahun and Magbainba Ndowahun in Bombali district, **Sierra Leone**, to discuss safe, culturally-sensitive burial practices.
- The National Ebola Training Academy in Freetown, **Sierra Leone** has trained a total of 3,326 health care workers as of 14 February.
- From 1-31 January 2015, a total of 71,195 travellers were screened and recorded at 15 Flow Monitoring Points throughout **Mali**.

LIBERIA

Community Outreach and Social Mobilization

IOM is supporting County Health Teams (CHT) in three counties by providing mobile clinics and community outreach programmes and training community health volunteers. Community members from the County, District, Chiefdom and Townships levels have been empowered by community outreach and social mobilization activities to drive the behavioural change, that have been critical in the recent progress in the fight against Ebola.



IOM Tubmanburg Outreach Team encourage migrants to use official crossing points to promote hand washing and EVD health screening

Buchanan ETU staff with the Grand Bassa CHT are conducting a weekly mobile primary care clinic outreach programme to vulnerable communities. Over two weekly visits, Buchanan ETU staff provided primary care and vaccination services to 65 villagers in Jonny Tutu Town. The mobile clinic also supported the Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization programme being led by the CHT, providing 50 vaccination services to villagers in No Way Camp. The routine immunizations included vaccinations for tetanus, whooping cough, and diphtheria.

The Sinje ETU social mobilization team is promoting awareness of the ETU and its activities amongst the community. The Sinje ETU staff conducted a Town Hall meeting with 43 religious leaders from Grand Cape Mount County on 5 February. General Community Health Volunteers (GCHVs) were trained by IOM's social mobilization team and were provided with **1,500** graphic stories and **600** feedback line fliers for distribution.

Health and Humanitarian Border Management

To prevent possible Ebola infection among migrants crossing between Bomi, Montserrado, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount counties, health workers are stationed at key border checkpoints. On market days, these border points record a sharp increase of up to 85 percent in migrants.



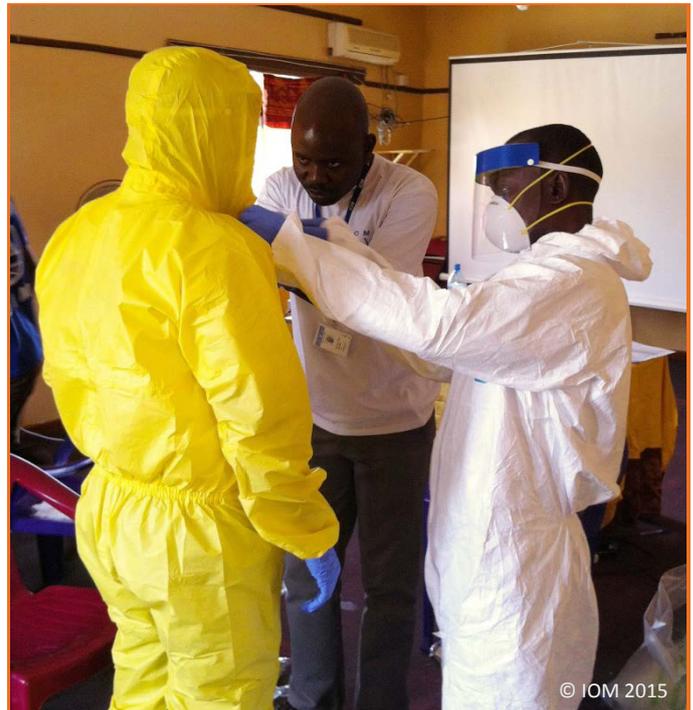
Migrant screened on market day at Klay Bridge in Bomi county, Liberia

To support active case finding and regular screening at these border points, the team of nurses who form the Outreach Team at the Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Tubmanburg, partner with the Bomi County Health Team. These health workers are equipped with thermometers, sprayer cans, and an ambulance on standby in case a suspect Ebola case is identified.

SIERRA LEONE

National Training Academy & Mobile Training

To date, IOM and its partners have trained over **3,326** health care workers in Freetown, Bo and Kambia.



IOM instructors teach donning of Personal Protective Equipment at a Mobile Training course in Bo

Distribution of Emergency Interim Care Kits

Through their community-based active case finding activities in the Western Area, IOM's implementation partner, Oxfam, continues to distribute interim home care kits, which contain Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), water purification tablets, a tablespoon, soap, gloves, chlorine granules, buckets, and EVD awareness

pamphlets. **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 has extended to four additional hotspots in Congo Town, Thunder Hill, Robis and Mayenkineh due to the increase of reported cases in these communities. In addition, support of referrals continues in Kontolloh where eight probable EVD cases were referred to the local Community Care Centre. After all cases had negative test results, they were referred to the local peripheral health unit (PHU) for follow up care. Since Friday, 13 February 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.

Community Outreach and Social Mobilization

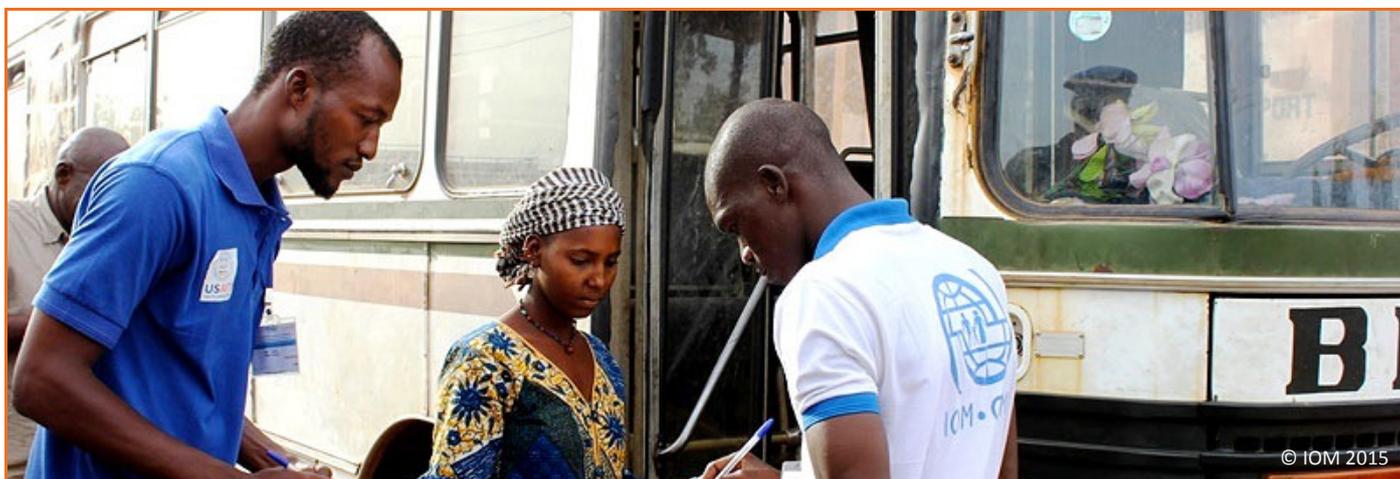
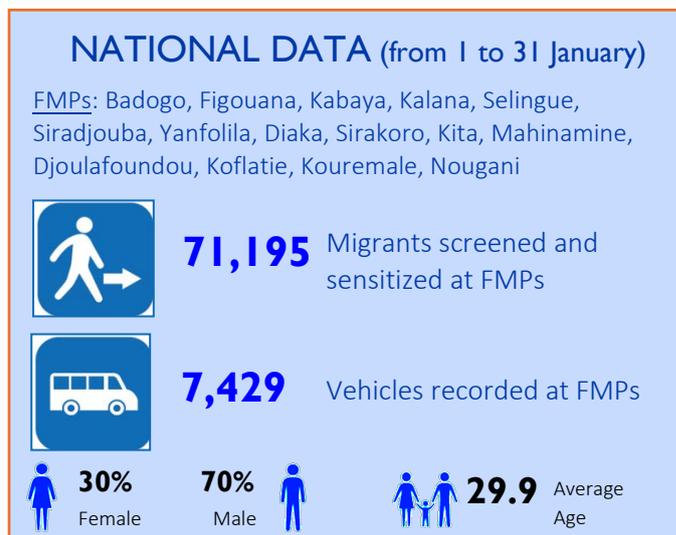
In partnership with World Hope International (WHI), IOM has initiated pre-engagement meetings in Bombali district to kick off efforts towards identifying safe, culturally-relevant burial practices. Pre-engagement meetings were held with traditional leaders in two chiefdoms, Gbendebu Ngowahun and Magbainba 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 for EVD prevention and other 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 ready and willing to work with stakeholders to end the EVD and that the community had tried to limit unsafe practices while emphasizing livelihood support.

MALI

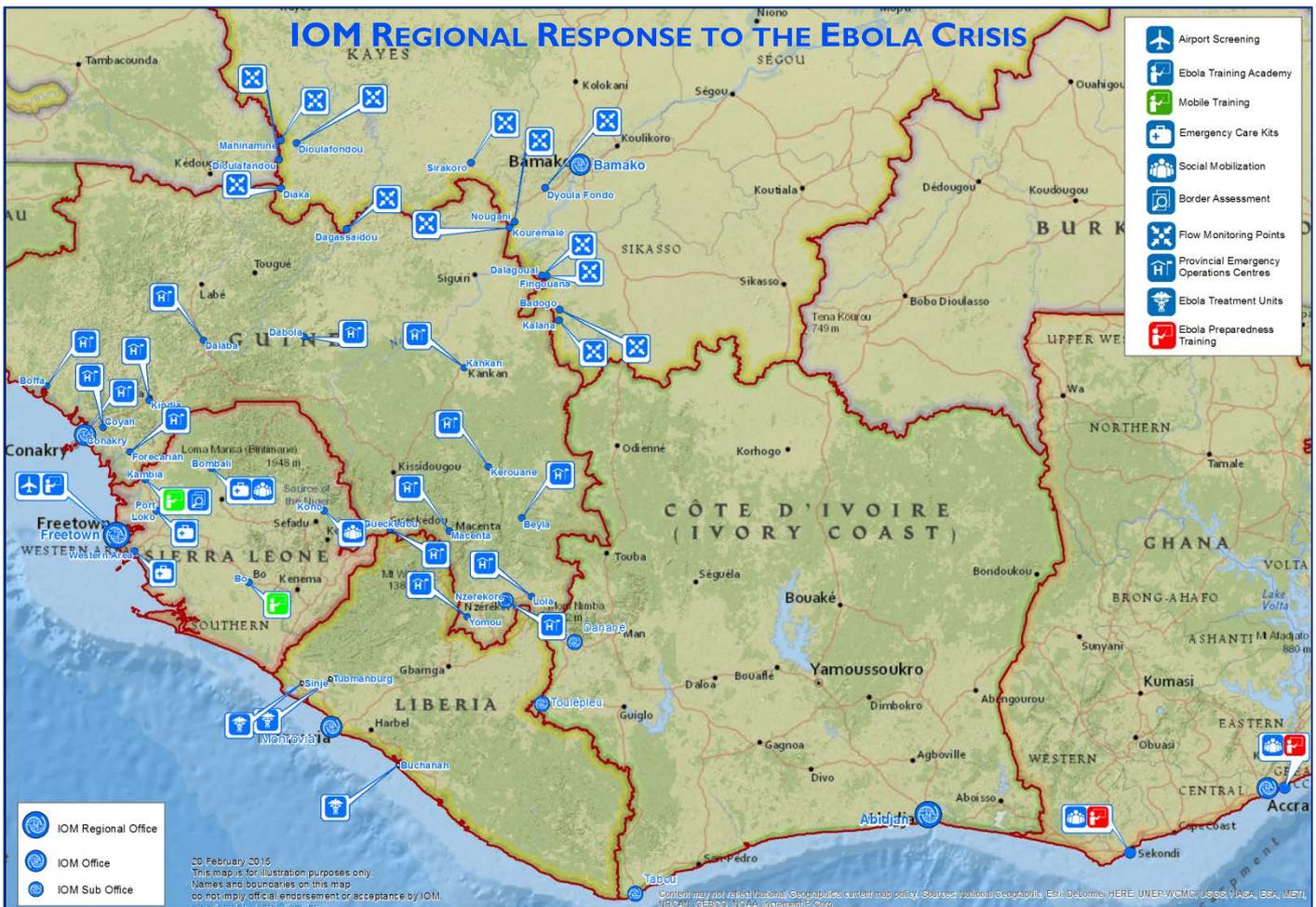
Health and Humanitarian Border Management

To ensure the epidemiological surveillance of migrants from countries affected by EVD, in coordination with the Mali Ministry of Health (MoH), IOM has implemented health screening and data collection at **15** Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) at the Guinea border in Mali on major road, river, and rail entry points. Each FMP has at least two health workers recording temperatures, as well as collecting demographic and travel data. This is done with support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID / OFDA).

From 1-31 January, a total of **71,195** migrants were screened at all 15 FMPs for a combined total of **100,974** migrants since 22 November 2014. Overall, nearly **2/3** of migrants (64.5%) recorded are Guinean; 25.1% are Malians, and 3.1% are Senegalese. The remaining 7.4% mainly come from other neighbouring countries



IOM staff collect a migrant’s information for contact tracing at a Flow Monitoring Point in Mali



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:



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

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