IOM REGIONAL RESPONSE TO EBOLA CRISIS

EXTERNAL SITUATION REPORT
23 January 2015

OVERVIEW
Since the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was first reported in March 2014, to date, there have been 21,724 confirmed, probable and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) with 8,641 fatalities (40%), according to UNMEER reports. IOM is currently implementing 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.

HIGHLIGHTS
- IOM delivered 6,500 Emergency Interim Care Packages for suspected Ebola cases to implementing partners in Sierra Leone on 16 January 2015.
- IOM conducted field visits to Port Loko and Makeni in Sierra Leone on 15 and 16 January 2015 to meet with implementing partner Oxfam at their field offices to map out next steps on training and coordination with each District Ebola Command Centre (DERC).
- IOM began installation of generators, WIFI and IT equipment to retrofit 15 Provincial Emergency Operations Centres in Guinea-Conakry.
- IOM conducted a border assessment in Grand Cape Mount County in Liberia.
- IOM conducted Active Case Finding and Ebola prevention outreach at the Gba-Jakeh Marketplace in Senjeh district in Liberia.
- IOM’s Flow Monitoring Points on the Guinea-Conakry/Mali border screened 43,626 travellers for Ebola between 3-19 January, an average of 2,500 travellers per day.
- IOM delivered EVD training to 60 officials at the Tema and Takoradi sea ports in Ghana.
**LIBERIA**

**Community Outreach & Social Mobilization**

A social mobilization team educates Gba-Jakeh market visitors about EVD infection prevention in Senjeh

In close cooperation with the Market Association in Senjeh district, Bomi County, IOM is conducting active case finding (identifying vulnerable people who may not be in touch with health care services) and social mobilization outreach. One of the markets is Gba-Jakeh market, which attracts approximately 700 visitors daily. IOM teams conduct an assessment to make sure the numerous market visitors are able to practice infection prevention measures. Hand washing buckets and chlorine were given to the market Chairperson for use within the markets, and nearby mosque and church.

“We work with the leaders in the community to observe any existing gaps so we can help in preventing infection. We found that they do not have points to wash hands so we came with big buckets and chlorine”

*Eric Peti, Outreach Team Leader*

**Ebola Treatment Units support County Health Teams**

Tubmanburg Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) is supporting Bomi Country Health Teams (CHT) active case finding activities. ETU staff accompanies the CHT on regular visits to villages to assess communities for potential risks. Suspected Ebola cases are referred to the IOM managed Tubmanburg ETU. Furthermore, IOM also provides primary health care through mobile clinics for identified, non-Ebola health concerns.

Sinje and Buchanan ETUs have been approved to begin providing similar support to respective CHTs. Lastly in coordination with the CHT, IOM has begun to establish triage areas and provision of Infection Prevention Control trainings for 20 health care facilities in Bomi County. IOM has provided ambulance management and triage training to health care workers and the ambulance team of the Bomi County Hospital. Moreover, IOM has provided triage upgrades at the Tubmanburg Hospital.

**Health and Humanitarian Border Management**

IOM is leading a border assessment in Grand Cape Mount County, a hotspot for Ebola in the country. The assessment is being conducted in coordination and partnership with the national Authorities, UNMEER and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The border assessment began on the 19 January and is scheduled to conclude on the 25th. The team includes social mobilization, border management, health and WASH experts. The team is visiting 8 Grand Cape Mount border towns and villages and aims to assess physical infrastructure (border crossing points, health care facilities, WASH facilities) and community perceptions of border activity, community surveillance, and Ebola.

**SIERRA LEONE**

**National Training Academy**

To date, IOM and its partners have completed the training curriculum with new clinical modules and have trained over 1,900 health care professionals.

**Distribution of Emergency Interim Care Packages for Suspected Ebola Cases**

IOM conducted field visits in Port Loko and Makeni on 15 and 16 January 2015, respectively. IOM met with Oxfam’s field offices to map out next steps on training and coordination with each District Ebola Command Centre (DERC). Key DERC staff and partners were engaged in each district to coordinate interim home care kit initiatives to ensure that implementation fit into on-going Ebola response services. In addition, IOM also delivered 6,500 interim home care kits to implementing...
partners, ACF and Oxfam field warehouses on 16 January 2015 for distribution in the Western Area, Bombali, and Port-Loko districts. Oxfam field offices will continue to liaise with each DERC and District Health Management Team (DHMT) to ensure follow up and relevant data capture.

**GUINEA-CONAKRY**

**Provincial Emergency Operations Centres**

To support the Government of Guinea-Conakry to effectively fight against Ebola at the Prefecture level, IOM completed its distribution of generators and the first batch of protective supplies and office supplies to 15 Provincial Emergency Operations Centres (PEOCs). IOM procured additional office supplies (white boards, flip charts, flash lights, etc.) identified during its assessment and began distribution to the PEOCs in the Conakry area. From 16 January, IOM began installation of a generator, two stabilizers, a WiFi router, six laptops and a printer/scanner per Prefecture. The power and IT system have been set up in Conakry, Boffa, Coyah, and Forécariah PEOCs.

**Health and Humanitarian Border Management**

Based on the findings from IOM’s border management assessment in Siguiri Prefecture from 8-14 January, IOM Guinea-Conakry is working with IOM Mali to support the officials and the communities in the border area to strengthen their border management system. IOM is initiating its activities at three main border points in Nafadji, Kourémalé, Mandiana. To prevent infection and spread of Ebola in the border area, IOM is training selected border police officers, military officers, health workers, as well as members of the community surveillance committees. The purpose of the training is to improve their understanding of Ebola, its transmission, prevention and control principles, and to improve knowledge and skills on data collection, and community sensitization.

**GHANA**

In order to build the capacity of the government officials on Ebola Virus Disease Infection Prevention and Control at some major entry points, IOM Ghana organized a two day training workshop on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) preparedness, for 60 key officials from Ghana’s two major sea ports-the Tema Port and the Takoradi Port, on 21 to 22 January. The workshop covered topics, such as case definition of the Ebola Virus Disease, donning and removing EVD personal protection equipment, Standard Operating Procedures for screening of travellers, and ship sanitation in the event of an EVD outbreak. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the workshop.

"We knew how serious the Ebola Virus Disease was and we were always scared on the job, as we did not know much about infection prevention and control. This workshop has given us the necessary practical skills to screen travellers without being nervous."

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A participant from Ghana Port Health Unit

**MALI**

**Health and Humanitarian Border Management**

Established to monitor migration patterns and raise travellers’ awareness about Ebola, IOM’s 11 Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) at the Guinea-Conakry border in Mali screened 43,626 travellers for Ebola between 3-19 January, an average of 2,500 travellers per day.
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:

- USAID
- CDC
- AmeriCares
- UKaid
- World Health Organization

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