OVERVIEW

Since the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was first reported in March 2014, to date, there have been 24,666 confirmed probable and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) with 10,179 fatalities (41%), according to the current UNMEER report, dated 18 March 2015. IOM is continuing its Ebola response in West Africa, which aims to strengthen containment and control capacities to prevent the spread of EVD, reduce disease burden, and to contribute to “getting to zero cases.”

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the start of the project in November 2014, IOM’s Health and Humanitarian Border Management team has screened over 30,000 passengers at Lungi International Airport in Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- 5,234 health care workers have been trained at IOM’s National Ebola Training Academy in Sierra Leone.
- Between 8-21 March 4,600 travellers have been screened at Bo Waterside crossing point, Grand Cape Mount County in Liberia.
- Implementing partner, Medair, distributed over 300 emergency care kits in quarantined areas of Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- 10,837 migrants screened at 3 new Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Kourémalé, Nafadj and Niani in Guinea-Conakry.
- Rehabilitation of 8 Provincial Emergency Operations Centres (PEOCs) has now been completed. With the recent addition of two additional PEOCs, IOM now logistically supports 20 PEOCs in Guinea-Conakry.
- 22 Flow Monitoring Point agents received tablets and training, as part of an initiative to streamline and expedite data collection at FMP sites in Mali.
**SIERRA LEONE**

**Social Mobilization & Community Outreach**

IOM’s implementing partner, World Hope International (WHI) have concentrated their social mobilization outreach at Rosanda village in Paki Masabom chiefdom. **14** teams are permanently deployed in the village, as well as five rapid response members from the social mobilization pillar to strengthen the mobilization efforts in this hotspot community. As a result, no new EVD infections have been identified and a total of 12 survivors have returned to their homes. Furthermore, 18 homes have completed their quarantine period.

WHI, the Needy Today, Caritas/Catholic Relief Services, and Health Poverty Action (HPA), and all implementing EVD response partners, held a DFID organized meeting at the DERC, identifying areas of similar intervention ensuring proper planning to prevent duplication of efforts.

Lastly, Wellbody Alliance/Partners in Health’s (WBA/PiH) social mobilization Community Health Workers (CHWs) reached **304** different communities by household visits. The visits emphasized the importance of seeking care at Community Care Centers (CCCs), when EVD symptoms present. **235** suspected cases were referred to their local CCC by CHWs in the past week. WBA/PiH designated 4 CHW workers to work within the District Health Management Team (DHMT).

**Health & Humanitarian Border Management: Lungi International Airport**

Since the start of the project in mid-November 2014, 

Social Mobilization team distributes Interim Care Kits to quarantined communities in Western Area, Sierra Leone
the Health and Humanitarian Border Management (HHBM) team has successfully monitored the health screening of over 30,000 passengers travelling through Lungi International Airport. Seven HHBM monitors have overseen the entry-exit screening process throughout this period. With the promise of returning airlines and steady increase in flights, two new monitoring teams have been recruited and are currently undergoing training in order to meet demand at the highest standards. The introduction of the two new teams will ensure 24-hour monitoring of the health screening process.

Additionally, 16 new Community Health Officers have been recruited to expedite vital health screening at the airport entrance. This screening process monitors not only passengers, but also nearly 2,000 airport staff, cargo workers, and drivers, who enter the site daily.

**Pujehun District Border Assessment**

From 16-18 March, an IOM-led inter-agency team visited border-crossing points in the Sorogbema and Makpele Chiefdoms, in Pujehun district, south-eastern Sierra Leone, all of which border Liberia.

The assessment aimed at understanding the movements of people across borders; identify needs of local communities, border officials and health authorities; and enhance health surveillance and the prevention of EVD transmission through targeted support. During the assessment mission, the team held focus group discussions with Ebola response stakeholders in Pujehun Town and community focus groups and participated in a joint border meeting with Liberian Security, Immigration, and Health officials.

**Liberia**

**Health & Humanitarian Border Management**

IOM has supported the Liberia Border Coordination Group (BCG) in preparing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines to assist the border counties in the prevention cross-border transmission of EVD and implement community based surveillance.

Operational and logistical support training was provided between 12-13 March in Grand Cape Mount County in cooperation with other BCG partners: UNMEER, Global Communities, WHO, UNICEF, BIN and CDC. During this event, IOM trained 24 border officials on health screening procedures at official points of entry. Furthermore on 18-20 March, IOM provided the same training session to 42 border officials in Nimba County, bordering Guinea.

**Social Mobilization & Community Outreach**

Social mobilization teams based within the ETUs work with communities in the three counties. Over the past two weeks, five meetings and trainings were held with 174 community members in Grand Cape Mount and Grand Bassa County. District-level social mobilizers received training-of-trainers and general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) received training on how to increase Ebola awareness, using IOM communication materials and small group interpersonal communication sessions.
communities in Camp Three, Gambia, Gondama and Pokondu were visited. 40 community leaders were trained on IPC protocols.

Sinje and Tubmanburg ETU staff continue to support daily screening of travellers crossing between Liberia and Sierra Leone at Bo Waterside, Grand Cape Mount County. Between 8- 21 March 4,600 travellers have been screened.

Buchanan ETU is supporting the Grand Bassa County Health Team to provide a weekly mobile clinic to vulnerable communities in Johnny Tutu Town. Since January the clinic has provided medical consultations and treatment to 329 patients in the community. Responding to a request from the County Health Team, the mobile clinic expanded to include Kpujinny Town where 78 patients received treatment. Tubmanburg conducted its first mobile clinics last week where 161 patients received consultations in two locations.

**GUINEA**

**Provincial Emergency Operations Centres**

In order to reinforce the capacity of the regional coordination in the fight against the EVD and to strengthen the coordination, IOM has provided logistic support to 18 Prefectural Emergency Operational Centers (PEOCs). Upon the recommendation of the national coordination, two additional new PEOCs have been added, making the total number 20. Rehabilitation works are still ongoing with eight PEOCs already completed. It is expected that all PEOCS will be completely rehabilitated before 30 March.

**Health and Humanitarian Border Management**

To promote safe migration and better health management, IOM carried out training at the three border Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Kourémalé, Nafadji and Niani. IOM distributed tablets, trained FMP agents in the collection of migrant data using the tablets, and installed tents at all three posts. Agents were further trained in sensitizing travellers about Infection Prevention Control (IPC) measures. The approach aims at addressing the public health imperatives of preventing, detecting and responding to infections along the mobility pathway, i.e. at origin, transit, destination and return points amongst migrants and promoting social mobilization and preventive health practices at the border community level.

**MALI**

**Health and Humanitarian Border Management**

Flow Monitoring Points

In order to streamline and expedite data collection at Flow Monitoring Points in Mali, 22 FMP agents received tablets and training at the FMPs in Yanfolila Pont, Kabaya, Kalana, Siradjouba, Selingué, Banankoro, Badogo, Djoulafoudou, and Fingouana. This allows IOM to collect data on mobile devices, aggregate the data, and generate useful reports for timely analysis. This ensures quality and avoids data collection delays.
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:

IOM Ebola Crisis Response Programme Coordination Office, IOM HQs | ebolaresponse@iom.int | +41 22 717 9111
Donor Relations Division, IOM HQs | drd@iom.int | +41 22 717 9271
IOM Regional Office, Dakar (Senegal) | rodakarebolacoordination@iom.int | +221 33 869 6200