



SIERRA LEONE SITUATION REPORT

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 9 August 2016



Highlights

IOM Head of Office hands over Deed of Donation to District Medical Officer in Kabala, Koinadugu District
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■ On August 1-2, IOM participated in a Joint UN Country Team, Office of National Security, and NGO Assessment of potential IDP sites for persons potentially displaced by flooding during the ongoing rainy season. Over the two days, the team conducted an assessment of seven sites in Freetown based on UN Sphere and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster standards for IDP sites

■ On July 28th IOM and the Government of Japan presented a historic donation of motorbikes, laptops, cellphones, and IPC supplies to the District Health Management Team, Peripheral Health Units, and Community Health Workers in Koinadugu District. These materials will be used to strengthen surveillance capabilities in vulnerable border chiefdoms.

Situation Overview

- On June 20, 2016, His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma launched the President's Recovery Priorities in Tonkolili. In this 10-24 month strategy, the President identified 13 results in 7 sectors (Health, Social Protection, Education, Private Sector Development, Water, Energy, and Government) that will drive socio-economic recovery and ensure Sierra Leone returns to the Agenda for Prosperity.
- A case of Lassa fever was reported at the Government hospital in Kenema on July 17 2016. The woman came from the Nyeyma village in the Jawei Chiefdom in Kailahun District, and died during childbirth while attended by 11 nurses. The 11 nurses were immediately quarantined and will remain in quarantine for 21 days and be observed on a daily basis. The District Health Management Team have sent a surveillance team to the woman's community to determine the source of the outbreak.

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IOM RESPONSE



IOM and Government of Japan present a historic donation in Kabala

On July 28, 2016, representatives from IOM and the Government of Japan presented a historic donation to the District Health Management (DHMT) in Kabala, Koinadugu District. Community members, paramount chiefs, DHMT, and members of the press all gathered to witness the handover ceremony of one of the largest in-kind donations in the district of 32 motorbikes, 270 cellphones, 13 laptops, and over 40 thousand USD worth of IPC supplies to representatives from the DHMT and 16 PHUs collaborating to support the delivery of



IOM Project Manager Kaori Nakasa gives speech in Krio to DHMT, CHWs, and community representatives in Kabala © IOM 2016 (Photo: Rachel Templeton)

essential health services to the border communities in Koinadugu District. As part of the Government of Japan-funded project, “Strengthening Health Systems, Capacity, Preparedness and Resilience in Border Chiefdoms in EVD-Affected Border Districts, Sierra Leone,” this donation will be used to strengthen the surveillance system of the border chiefdoms of Wara Wara Bajodia, Dembelia Sinkunia, Folasaba Dembelia, Sulima, Mongo, and Neya, and mitigate the risk of cross-border disease spread in future epidemics.

The program commenced with a speech from Mr. Masa Iida, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Ghana, who expressed the Government of Japan’s support for health systems strengthening and for the people of Sierra Leone during this critical Ebola Recovery phase. Speeches were also delivered by Mr. Sanusi Savage, IOM Head of Office; Dr. Francis Moses, District Medical Officer of Koinadugu District; the Paramount Chief of Folasaba Dembelia Chiefdom, Fendo Modo Camara II; Kaori Nakasa, IOM Project Manager; as well as representatives from the District Council and the President’s Recovery Priorities Unit. “To be sure, good health makes for good citizens,” stated Mr. Savage. “It is a pathway towards the prosperous productive life and good citizenship we will for all residents of Sierra Leone.”

In upcoming months, IOM will support the community-based surveillance training for Community Health Workers (CHWs), border health training for border community health personnel, simulation exercises for the Rapid Response Team, awareness

raising campaigns in collaboration with community-based organizations, as well as other daily support to DHMT in preventing, detecting and response to health threats in the border communities of Koinadugu District.



Border Communities in Kambia and Forecariah Meet to Take Infectious Disease Surveillance into Their Own Hands

On June 29th the inaugural Kambia-Forecariah District Cross-Border Monthly Coordination Meeting took place at Kambia Government Hospital. District Health Management Teams, Port Health Teams, community representatives, INGOs, stakeholders, and media from both the Guinea and Sierra Leonean sides of the border met to improve cross border coordination for disease surveillance activities. As part of the activities funded by the CDC in IOM’s regional “Health, Border, and Mobility Management” project, the second Cross-Border meeting took place on July 27th in Forecariah, and these meetings will continue to take place on a monthly basis, with the venue rotating between the Guinean and Sierra Leonean side of the border.

During these two meetings, stakeholders from both sides of the border shared border space preparedness and plans for cholera, a continuing threat for both districts during the rainy season, and discussed current challenges to cross-border cooperation. Recommendations were agreed upon, including conducting a joint assessment of existing border infrastructure utilizing a tool created by the group to assess the health system capacities of all border space. As border districts, both Kambia and Forecariah are particularly vulnerable to the spread of infectious diseases—these coordination meetings will contribute to a stronger surveillance system in both Guinea and Sierra Leone, ultimately protecting both countries from the spread of infectious diseases in the future.



Women crossing from Guinea to Sierra Leone wait to go through border health screening © IOM 2016 (Photo: Sanusi Savage)



Ghanaian High Commissioner Visits IOM Office to Express his Gratitude

On July 8, the Ghanaian High Commissioner, Major General Carl S. Modey, visited the IOM Head of Office to express his gratitude for IOM's assistance in repatriating stranded Ghanaian nationals in Sierra Leone earlier this year. On February 28 2016, four young Ghanaian men arrived in Freetown after having been trafficked from their homes in Ghana. Promised employment on a ship, they were enticed to leave Ghana and travel first to Cote d'Ivoire, then Guinea, where they were not paid for their labor and were not allowed



Mr. Savage and General Modey in IOM office
© IOM 2016 (Photo: Rachel Templeton)

to return to Ghana. This led them to flee to Sierra Leone by sea, where they were stranded for over two months. On a request from the Ghanaian High Commissioner, IOM repatriated the four men in early May.

In his visit with Mr. Sanusi Savage, IOM Head of Office, General Modey expressed appreciation for the assistance IOM rendered, and looked forward to future collaboration with IOM. Mr. Savage briefed the High Commissioner's office on current IOM activities in Sierra Leone, and discussed potential collaboration between the Ghanaian Embassy and IOM, particularly with regards to visas.

Although there is limited verifiable data, human trafficking takes place on a large scale in the region. IOM collaborates with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) and Sierra Leone Police (SLP) to assist victims of human trafficking, and with the Office of National Security to prevent cases in Sierra Leone and surrounding countries.



IOM Head of Office conducts Regional Visit to Kailahun

IOM Head of Office, Mr. Sanusi Savage, together with IOM staff, Dr. James Bagonza and Mr. Khalid Kivani, visited IOM-manned border crossing points in Luawa Chiefdom in Kailahun District between Sierra Leone on July 29-30 as part of Mr. Savage's official field trip to the region. Mr. Savage was received by IOM Senior Surveillance Officer Mr. Charles Williams and team at Bailu crossing point. The Head of Office was introduced by Mr. Williams to the Sierra Leone government security officials working alongside with the IOM team at Bailu. During this meeting Mr. Savage expressed IOM's appreciation to the Sierra Leone security officials for welcoming and his team to Bailu, as well as for the assistance and support given to the IOM staff in Kailahun.

The Head of Office and team then left for the Mofindor crossing point where he met the respective Sierra Leone security officials and expressed the same sentiment, encouraging them to be vigilant in their duty so as to prevent any epidemic in Sierra Leone.

The IOM team also had a discussion with Dr. James, the District Medical Officer of Kailahun and provided more guidance and technical support on health screening and surveillance needed, particularly with Guinea and Liberia still under the 90-day enhanced surveillance period for the Ebola Virus Disease. The IOM team also briefed him on the "Health Border Mobility Management" project, objectives and planned activities in Kailahun District. Once implemented, this project will improve the ability of the district to prevent, detect, and respond to health threats of international concern due to Kailahun's role as a major cross border transit and trade route between Guinea and Liberia. Additionally, the IOM team provided technical support to the field IOM monitors and the Community Health Workers (CHWs) conducting health screening at the Bailu and Mofindor crossing points.



Mr. Savage visits an IOM border surveillance point in Kailahun © IOM 2016 (Photo: Khalid Kiyani)

Hulaimatu's Story

A Freetown native, Hulaimatu Alghali, attended Fourah Bay College before diving headfirst into field work with international non-governmental organizations, including Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and Concern. She started working with IOM two years ago at the height of the Ebola outbreak. "Ever since I've been back from college my job has been a field job," Hulaimatu muses, "so I don't think I would be too interested at being at the office throughout the day—I like it in the field. For me, it gives me more pleasure to be in the field helping out in situations like dealing with poverty, dealing with children, especially girls who are very vulnerable to disease outbreak, and especially post disease outbreak. It's interesting to see that we can help, and that I can be part of it." Hulaimatu is definitely a "part of it" in her role as Project Assistant in the Government of Japan-funded project "Strengthening Health Systems, Capacity, Preparedness and Resilience in Border Chiefdoms in EVD-Affected Border Districts, Sierra Leone," where she is involved in mapping and observation of border areas vulnerable to the spread of infectious disease in Koinadugu and Bombali districts. For Hulaimatu, one of the most rewarding moments of her work was mapping out border crossing points in a chiefdom where only one formal border crossing point existed. As a result of population mobility pattern mapping, IOM teams mapped out 21 additional informal border crossing points, information that will be used to strengthen surveillance of infectious diseases on the border. Hulaimatu is proud to be part of IOM's work in strengthening health systems in Sierra Leone. "For me, that is very important because if a country has health, it is rich—if you have your health you can do anything you want to do."



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