

HIGHLIGHTS

- The land borders between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia and Guinea remain closed.
- To help prevent potential cross-border spread of Ebola, IOM has conducted Ebola-preparedness training for border officials and health agents posted at 18 points of entry with Liberia, Guinea, and Mali.
- IOM continues to sensitize and to mobilize communities living along border zones with Liberia and Guinea on EVD-prevention and protection.

OVERVIEW

The outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea and the mounting threats to Côte d'Ivoire have underlined the necessity of emergency preparedness, specifically at border areas. IOM aims to strengthen the Government of Côte d'Ivoire's capacity to respond to these emergencies by improving its health and humanitarian border management (HHBM) systems. As of to date, the borders with Liberia and Guinea remain closed by Presidential Decree.

HEALTH AND HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT

Ebola-preparedness trainings for border officials & health agents

IOM has completed trainings along the Guinean and Liberian borders to strengthen the Ebola-preparedness capacity of border officials. The training teams are comprised of four trainers from the National Institute of Public Hygiene (INHP) and four IOM staff, including an Ivoirian doctor who is serving as a consultant on the project.

The two-day trainings focused on infection prevention control, EVD personal protection, detection and response, as well as health surveillance and screening. The training was in two phases: the first included classroom-led information session on the notion and prevention of Ebola and the second phase included simulation exercises and practical-based tasks at the border crossing points. Participants have been giving very good feedback to IOM and INHP trainers and appreciate the in-depth coverage of the subject.

In all, personnel from 18 Points of entry between Tabou and Odienné (located in 10 Departments) took part in the trainings along Côte d'Ivoire's western border: there were **192** border police, gendarmerie, customs, Eaux & Forêts agents and **43** health agents.

Refresher trainings for Points of Entry and INHP officials to prepare and prevent the spread of Ebola and other pandemics will be conducted in September 2015.

With IOM Development Funds (IDF), IOM Côte d'Ivoire delivered hand-washing stations, mattresses, personal-protective equipment and infection-control materials in the Departments of Tabou, Danané and Toulepleu to Points of entries along the western border with Guinea and Liberia. EPI kits have been distributed to administrative and security district officials (including some 550 nose-masks; 314 hand sanitizers of 60ml each; 318 hand sanitizers of 500ml each; 6000 toilet rolls; 300 bottles of liquid soap (1 litre); and bleach (1 litre,12%).

Infrastructure upgrades of Points of Entry/Departures to improve IPC

Overall, the initial border assessment conducted in April 2015 points to the lack of infrastructure, equipment and information management systems at border points.

As of today, **9 Points of Entries** have been upgraded through the Project to perform Humanitarian border management in hygienic and safe conditions. This includes the provision of basic furniture such as chairs and mattresses for border officials; the drilling of a borehole in Gpabeu; the set up of water and sanitation facilities etc. Infrastructure upgrades and establishment of isolation rooms will continue to take place in the month of September.

Furthermore, in close coordination with INHP and Districts Health Directors from Danané and Tabou, **30 health agents** have been identified and trained to pilot cross border epidemiologic data collection via smart phones. Ultimately, integrating evidence generated from mobility paradigm and element patterns with epidemiological data will provide for more robust and effective public health interventions, communicable disease response and border health interventions. Data collection will be effective at the time the borders are of reopened.



Border Officer testing the well at Gbapleu Entry Point



Reception of the well by the regional authorities



Simulated Health Screening training in Touba



Practical training at a hand-sanitizing station (Odienné)

Harmonisation of training modules related to EVD

IOM participated in a five-day WHO/MOH-organized workshop that was held in July to harmonize Ebola related training material and modules as well as operating procedures. IOM's Points of Entry and traditional practitioners and community agents' sensitisation training modules were been presented, discussed and officially adopted for any further related training activity.

COMMUNITY SENSITISATION AND MOBILISATION

Communities, notably those residing along the borders, play a key role in efforts put forward to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies. Targeted trainings have been conducted for community leaders, traditional practitioners and community health agents as well as local transporters from **70 bordering villages** from 6 Departments (respectively from south to north Tabou, Toulepleu, Danané, Zouan-Hounien, Touba, and Odienné).

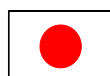
As of August 2015, a total of **280** key community individuals of which 120 are women have been sensitized and mobilized, including: some **120 community leaders, 70 traditional practitioners, 70 community health agents, and 20 local transporters** (motorcycle and car).

Training sessions were conducted in French and local languages to facilitate role play and interaction. Attendees are now in the process of mobilizing their communities and patients, disseminating messages and information flow and response procedures. Refresher and evaluation training sessions are also currently on going.



40 key community representatives trained in Booko in August 2015 (Touba Department)

IOM'S PARTNERS ON THE EBOLA RESPONSE IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE INCLUDES:



**From
the People of Japan**

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

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