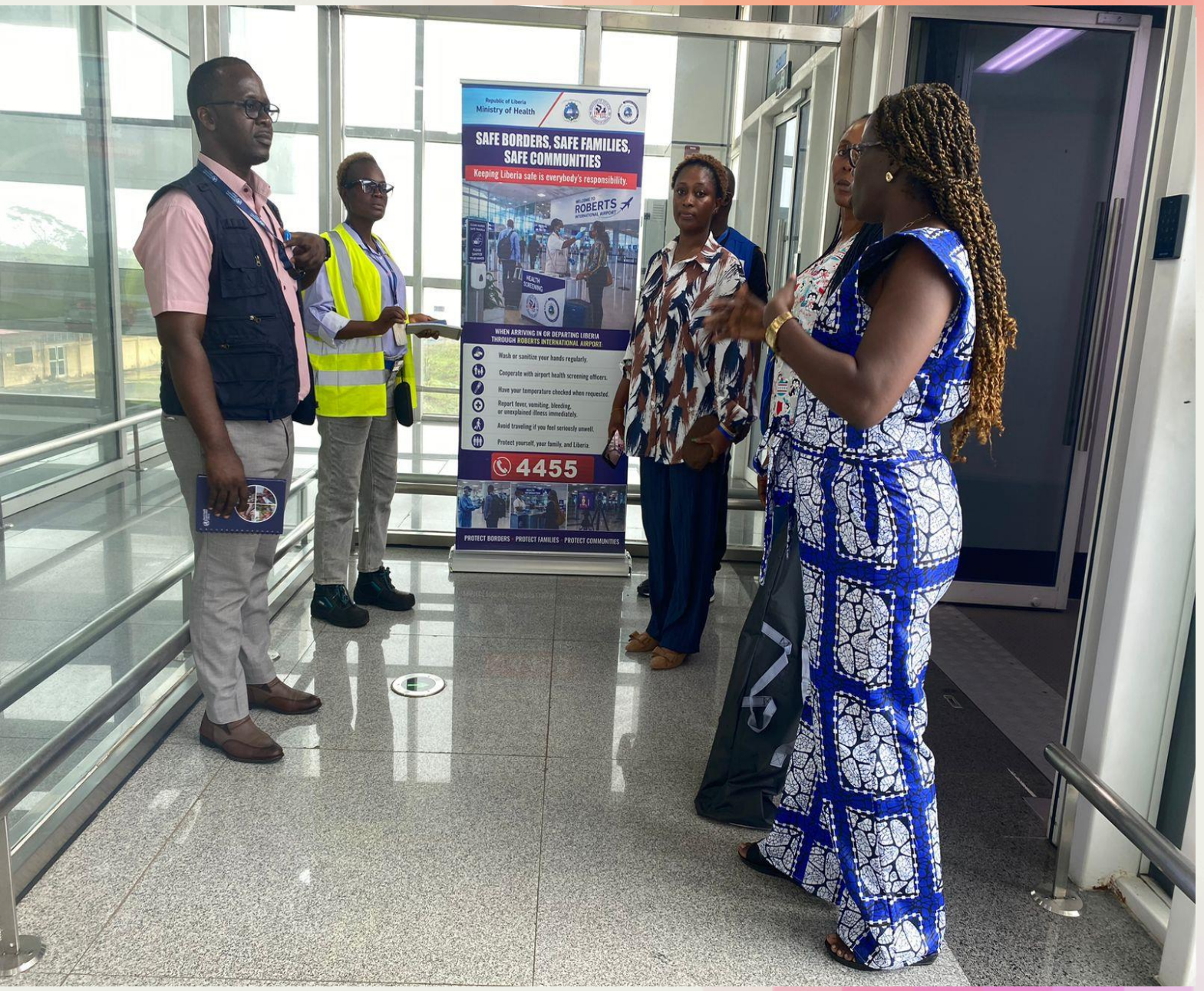

Ebola

The Liberian Experience (2014-2015)

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Introduction

- In 2014 the largest Ebola Outbreak in West Africa occurred with three countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea) severely affected
- Liberia's index case emerged from Lofa county in March 2014, a week after cases in Guinea were reported
- Additional and increasing cases May June and subsequent months with rapid spread in populated urban areas heralded the country's worse ever disease outbreak
- Infection of expatriate health workers, and International spread to Nigeria , United States, and Spain and other countries and high case loads in the three countries drew widespread attention to Ebola as a threat to global health security
- On August 4, 2014 the US ambassador to Liberia declared a disaster; On August 6, 2014 , the president of Liberia declared a state of emergency and on August 8, 2014 the World Health Organization (WHO) called Ebola in West Africa a Public Health Pandemic of International Concern
- On May 9, 2015 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Liberia free of Ebola, 42 days after safe burial of the last known case-patient. However, another 6 cases occurred during June- July on September 3, 2015, the country was again declared free of Ebola
- 28103 cases and 11,290 deaths were reported from three countries that were heavily affected at that time.
- Essential component of the response included government leadership and sense of urgency, coordinated international assistance, technical approach guided by epidemiological data, transparency and effective communication,
- Priorities after the epidemic include surveillance in case of resurgence, restoration of health service, infection control in healthcare settings, and strengthening of basic public health systems

Summary Of Epidemiological Results from Liberia

Aspect	Details
Total Cases	10,672 Confirmed cases
Total Deaths	4,808
Case fatality Rate	Around 45-50%
Duration of the Outbreak	March 2014- September 2015 (initially declared Ebola-free in May 2015, but resurgence occurred later)

Overview of 2014 – 2015 Response

Phase I: Initial Response

Response Measures	Prevailing Situation
Formation of Isolation and treatment Units only where cases occur	Rapid Increase and spread of disease
Deployment of health workers with limited training to treatment units	Apprehensive and unwillingness of health workers to respond
Rapid acquiring of protective gears and medical supplies with onward immediate transport of supplies to treatment centers	Inadequate supplies
Call for International support	Inadequate coordination of the response

Phase II Coordinated Response

Response Measures	Prevailing Situation
Improved Governance and Leadership(Incident Management System (IMS) Established	Increased number of patients recovering and discharged from treatment units
Delegation of responsibilities to various pillars under the IMS (Community engagement, Safe burial, Surveillance Contact tracing and patient isolation, Infection Prevention and Control, Risk Communication, Case Management etc.)	Health workers trained and willingly responding at different levels Technical support from expatriate workers at varying levels
Enhanced Healthcare Response (Establishment of treatment units in every county, training of healthcare workers, provision of adequate supplies and protective gears, deployment of Ebola vaccine **rVSV ZEBOV** as well as institution of safe burials)	Adequate supplies provided to treatment unit Reopening of Health facilities for routine care with referral of all suspected cases to treatment or quarantine units
Coordinated International Support (Increased needs based technical, logistical and financial support from global partners)	Reduction in the number of infections
Decentralization of the response (each county established its own IMS with similar pillars and county led response0	

Post Ebola Recovery
(Measures to Ensure Health System Resilience)

General Measures

- Establishment of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia
- Increased Disease Surveillance and Response commencing at the community level
- Real time reporting of unusual community events (Triggers) with immediate investigation system
- Establishment of Emergency Operating Center in every county to enhance disease surveillance and response.
- Establishment of Isolation Units in each county
- Establishment of Rapid Response Team in every county that can be deployed in a short time (day to few days)
- A National Multisectoral Emergency response Plan produced with clearly defined roles for the various sectors
- Construction of Permanent Triage at every health facility with isolation rooms attached

Post Ebola Recovery
(Measures to Ensure Health System Resilience)

Civil Aviation Measures

- Coordinating Structures Established (IHR Coordination meeting, POE Coordination Meeting)
- Enhanced screening by Port health officers for departures and arrivals
- Regular review of health information sheet filled by travelers
- Ambulance system attached to a quarantine center
- Installation of a walk in body sanitizing scanner at the international airport
- Training of Port Health Officers in Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response

Preparedness

Ambulance with team stationed at port of entry readily available to transport suspected cases from port of entry to nearest quarantine sites for further evaluation

Installation of Walk in Sanitizing Scanner at the Roberts International Airport

On the 20th of July 2026, Roberts International Airport/Liberia Airport Authority hosted a tabletop emergency response exercise on epidemic preparedness, with a focus on Ebola response, at the Roberts International Airport (RIA), reinforcing the airport's commitment to public health safety, inter-agency coordination, and operational readiness in the event of a health emergency. Participants included representatives from the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA), National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), Ministry of Health (MOH), Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) and Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA). Also in attendance were Airlines Representative, managers and staff from RIA's Fire and Rescue, Public Relations and Media Services, and Safety departments, among others.

Passengers' Emergency Health Facility (PEHF) outside RIA terminal

FRONT VIEW

SIDE VIEW

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