

# The Experience of Front Line Health Workers with Infection Prevention and Control Training in Sierra Leone

Participatory behavioural change to reinforce infection prevention and control for Ebola virus disease in Sierra Leone:  
International Rescue Committee

“It was important to understand the experience of front line health workers with IPC in the context of Ebola and to see how we could improve practices. Our approach was participatory: the health workers would identify the problems and issues, and we would work with them to come up with solutions depending on what the baseline results showed—for example, a solution might be to increase health worker engagement with community members or it might be to rearrange layout of the health centre.

Many of these front line health workers had no knowledge of Ebola before the epidemic, but they remained dedicated to continuing to provide health services despite huge challenges—including facing stigma from many people in their communities. The IPC training provided by the MoHSW and the Ebola Response Consortium was crucial in that it gave them confidence, knowledge, and supplies that they didn’t have before to carry out their work in the most difficult of situations.”

LARA HO, PHD, RN,  
SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR FOR HEALTH PROGRAMS, IRC

## Programme Name:

Participatory behavioural change to reinforce infection prevention and control for Ebola virus disease in Sierra Leone.

## Key information

**Grant awarded:** £185,621

**Lead organisation:** International Rescue Committee

**Partnering organisation(s):**

Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Durham University, University of Sierra Leone, Kenema District Health Team.

**Project length:** Nov-14 to May-15

**Health sector:** Prevention

**Study location:** Sierra Leone

## Principal Investigator(s)

Dr Lara Ho



## Purpose

This study uses a participatory mixed methods approach to evaluate the processes that health workers take in adhering to standard precautions, after being trained and supplied with materials, in order to ensure the strict adherence that is necessary to prevent Ebola infection.

## Expected outcomes

The project aims to develop strategies to improve adherence to standard precautions through the assessment of knowledge, risk perception, self-efficacy, and barriers and enablers for standard precautions in primary health facilities. It will also enable better understanding of the perspectives of health facility staff and health committees on the use of personal protective equipment.

## Progress and outcomes achieved (March 2015)

The following milestones are complete: Contextual analysis, Development of strategies, Trialling of strategies. Data collection is now complete and the analysis phase has started.

Local dissemination has been taking place since inception with a presentation to National Ebola Response Committee (NERC) in February 2015.

<http://www.rescue.org/ebola-crisis>

[www.rescue.org/annualreport2014](http://www.rescue.org/annualreport2014)

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