Nearly a year after the deadliest Ebola epidemic began, we have learned important lessons about what we need to do to get to zero and improve our response. We must apply these lessons to ensure that a health catastrophe of this magnitude never happens again.

1 Local leadership is essential

- Community health volunteers must be a part of the conversation from the beginning
- Continued Ebola surveillance by communities must be robustly funded
- Safety kits must be distributed including buckets, chlorine, soap and fliers
- Gasoline must be distributed to make transportation possible

The IRC worked with community leaders and surveillance teams to help reduce the number of Ebola cases in Kenema District, Sierra Leone by 80% over one month.

2 Health care workers must be paid and properly resourced

- Health care workers must be paid a living wage, every month, on time
- Health care workers must receive ongoing training, monitoring, mentorship and supervision

In Lofa County, Liberia, the IRC is supporting the restoration of health services at 40 primary health care facilities.

3 Proper infection and prevention control (IPC) along with IPC trainings must be in place across the board

- All health facilities must be equipped with personal protective equipment, have access to clean water and proper waste management systems
- Health systems must be strong and resilient to keep both Ebola and general patients safe
- There needs to be an adequate supply of safe water and hand washing stations at schools
- Infra-red thermometers need to be distributed to all schools to monitor students for signs of Ebola

The IRC’s infection and prevention control trainings in Kenema District, Sierra Leone have been rolled out across the country.

To learn more, visit Rescue.org/EbolaLessons

#EbolaLessons