

Information Saves Lives



Citizens' Feedback

Welcome to the Internews Newsletter for humanitarian responders in Liberia. This newsletter is created with the intent to support the work of Ebola responders in connecting with the local population and understanding their information needs. Internews welcomes feedback, comments and suggestions from all organizations receiving this newsletter and invites you to forward, share and re-post this newsletter as widely as possible.

REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

POST EBOLA

Citizens say Ebola prevention measures are strictly respected in homes and public places such as schools and markets. However, they claim there are fewer health workers who could monitor its effective implementation.

Grand Cape Mount

Bomi residents claim that pupils and students are respecting Ebola-prevention measures in schools.

Bomi

People say the EVD prevention measures are strictly respected in schools but on the contrary, there is complacency within communities, as citizens no longer respect the measures.

Montserrado

Citizens say Ebola prevention measures are being respected in schools.

Grand Gedeh

Basic Ebola prevention measures are strictly respected in communities, citizens say.

Sinoe

Citizens say although humanitarian NGOs (Global Communities and Crusaders for Peace Organization) are promoting the fight against Ebola through their campaigns, complacency is still rife among citizens who do not practice safety measures.

Nimba

Some healed Ebola patients are suffering from all forms of discrimination including fear and stigma within their own communities, according to Montserrado citizens.

Montserrado

Citizens report that there has been no new Ebola case in their Country for several weeks, adding that there is no need to respect Ebola prevention measures anymore.

Grand Bassa

Radio interactive talk shows have been inviting experts from the Community Care Center to talk about their activities to the communities.

River Gee



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EBOLA VACCINE & TREATMENT UNITS

Parents say they will not receive the Ebola vaccine unless they must have been informed and educated about it.

Gbarpolu

Montserrado citizens claim Ebola is a man-made disease, adding that they would boycott the Ebola vaccine because it is a ploy by the Western governments to roll out the disease again.

Montserrado

Parents fear taking their children to clinics and hospitals where they would be immunized for fear that the Ebola vaccine could be given to them instead.

Margibi

According to the citizens, the River Cess ETU would shut down on 15 April 2015, raising doubts about possible treatment for any new Ebola case(s) triggered by the rainy season.

River Cess

Citizens say they would not go for the Ebola vaccine because they have not been educated about it.

Maryland



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

There is fear and mistrust among parents who have stopped their children from receiving food supplied by Mary's Meal Organization. They claim it may have been poisoned with Ebola.

Bomi

BORDERS

Citizens ask why the government opened its borders with Guinea and Sierra Leone although all they three countries have been badly hit by the pandemic.

Grand Kru

Citizens say opened borders would never free Liberia from Ebola.

Maryland

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Humanitarian Newsletter
Issue #5 - April 3 - 9



Launching the DeySay project!

Internews is proud to announce the launch of the “DeySay” project, an SMS rumors monitoring system that investigates rumors and perceptions spreading in the local communities in Liberia. The project is conducted in partnership with the Liberian National Red Cross Society, UNICEF and Project Concern International. Rumors reported in this section have been collected in real time by a network of trusted reporters, and namely by more than 1400 social mobilizers, religious leaders, Red Cross volunteers, health workers, and journalists around the country.

Organizations that are interested in accessing this data in an excel format can contact Tapang Ivo Tanku at tivo@internews.org



Rumors

EBOLA VACCINE TRIAL

It is being rumored that the Ebola vaccine is intended to infect many more Liberians.

Gbarpolu

HEALED EBOLA PATIENTS

It is being rumored that healed Ebola patients are intentionally spreading the virus by having unsafe sex with non-infected partners.

Montserrado

SCHOOLS

Citizens fear that any potential Ebola outbreak will target mainly children

Nimba

It is being rumored that teachers hire secret agents to infect their students and pupils with the Ebola virus.

Grand Kru

RAINY SEASONAL FEARS

It has been rumored that Ebola will resurface during the rainy season in River Cess County.

River Cess

Citizens rumor that all sick persons who were taken to the Community Care Center in River Gee County have never come back alive and their whereabouts are unknown.

River Gee

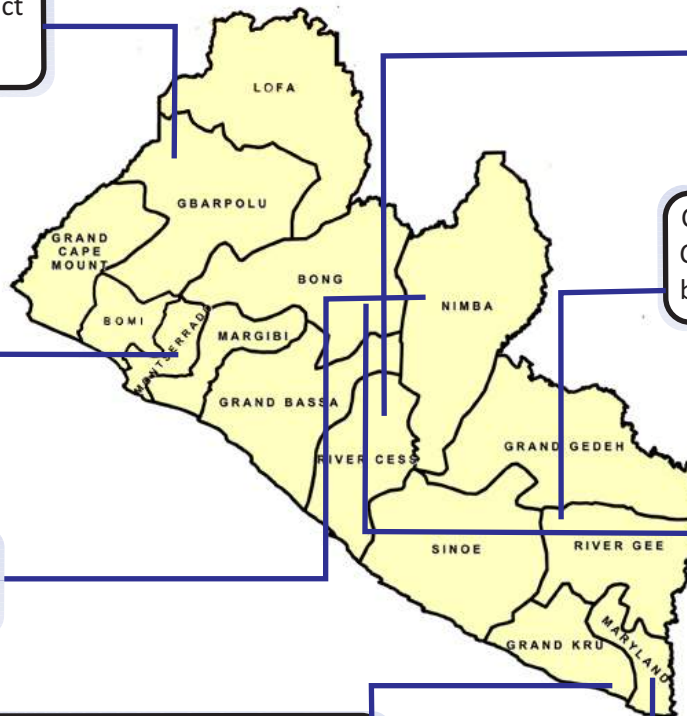
EBOLA FUNDS

It is being rumored that the Liberian government seeks more Ebola funds by deliberately infecting EVD materials provided to schools in Bong County.

Bong

Maryland citizens rumor that the government's decision to reopen its schools and borders with Ebola-stricken countries is a hidden agenda to seek more Ebola funds.

Maryland





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Internews
Local voices. Global change.



**HEALTH
COMMUNICATION
CAPACITY
COLLABORATIVE**



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Humanitarian Newsletter
Issue #5 - April 3 - 9



BEST PRACTICES

A radio report on healed Ebola patients on LACSA radio in Grand Bassa County, thrilled its audience and prompted the General Agriculture and Allied Workers Union of Liberia (GAAWU) to step into the County with huge material assistance to all healed Ebola patients.

LACSA radio is community radio station that has beefed up its ability to effectively report rumors and keep citizens safe from Ebola.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Citizens themselves are recommend that there is need for more EVD awareness in their communities, suggesting that *Attare shops*, palm wine bars and video clubs are well-suited open discussion platforms that directly target family heads and shape home-based perceptions on Ebola-related constraints.
2. Health and environment workers could jointly organize outreach exercises that would dismiss fears of any potential Ebola outbreak as the rainy season approaches. Increased awareness on the need to reinforce the Ebola prevention measures could be necessary to build trust in the fight against Ebola.
3. Citizens recommend that the borders should be closed until Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone are all declared Ebola-free. They add that teachers and students could be trained by health authorities on the EVD preventive protocols.
4. In River Gee County, the citizens recommend that regular updates on the national Ebola press briefings held at the Information Ministry should be relayed to them via their local media channels.

Information Saves Lives

Humanitarian Newsletter
Issue #5 - April 3 - 9

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Journalists reporting rumors from 15 Counties



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Bong

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Nimba

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Margibi

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Grand Bassa

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River Cess

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Gbarpolu

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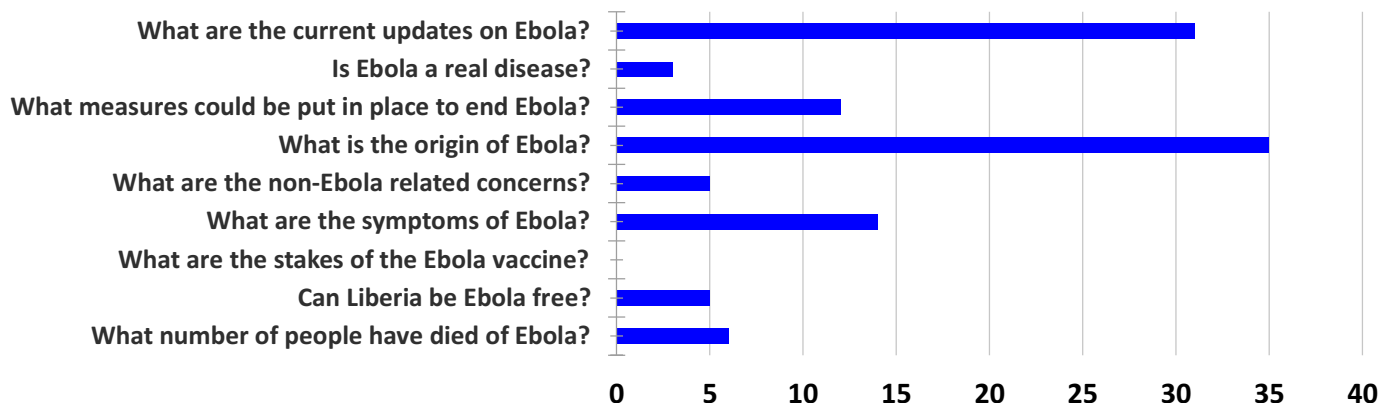
Sinoe

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Maryland

The most frequently asked questions in the Geopoll survey (April 2015)

Information Needs Analysis



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM COUNTIES

Sinoe County:

- When will Liberia be declared Ebola-free?

River Gee County:

- How many people have died of Ebola in Liberia since its outbreak?

Nimba County:

- How can Ebola be prevented?

Montserrado County:

- What is the origin of Ebola in Liberia?

Maryland County:

- When will Liberia be declared Ebola-free?

Margibi County:

- What is the origin of Ebola in Liberia?

Lofa County:

- How can Ebola be prevented?

Grand Kru County:

- Is Liberia Ebola-free?

Grand Gedeh County:

- Is Ebola a man-made disease?

Grand Cape Mount County:

- Is Ebola still present in Liberia?

Grand Bassa County:

- Did Ebola originate from a failed scientific laboratory test?

Bong County:

- Is Ebola still present in Liberia?

Bomi County:

- How long does it take for a country to be declared Ebola-free?

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Issue #5 - April 3 - 9

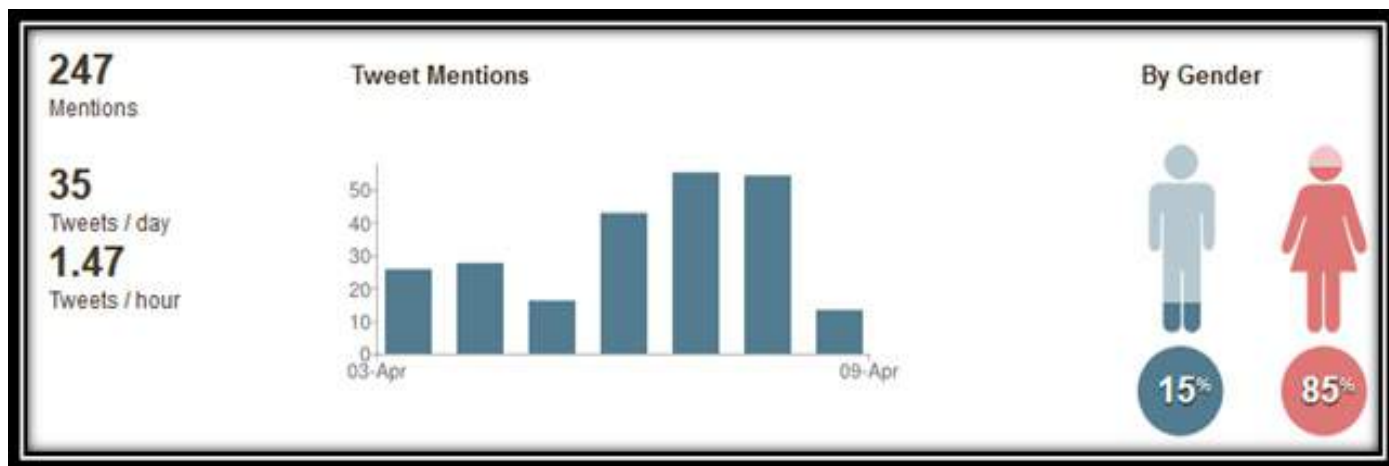
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Weekly Online content report: 3 - 9 April 2015

This report analyzes data from several online sources including Twitter and Liberian accounts.

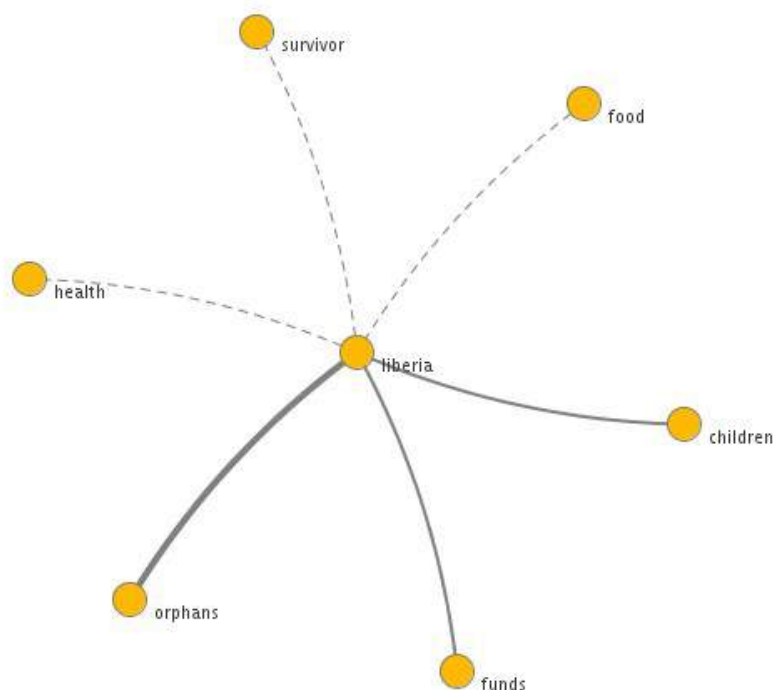


Twitter



Demographics of Twitter accounts from Liberia mentioning the word "Ebola" in the week from April 3 to April 9, 2015.

Most tweeted Ebola topics





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Most influential Liberian Twitter accounts streaming on Ebola

The influence of the accounts is measured on the number of its individual followers and the number of times their online contents have been re-tweeted or clicked.



@MoreThanMeORG More Than Me LIBERIA

We went from getting girls off the street and into school to fighting #Ebola. The MTM Academy reopened March 2nd!
morethanme.org

3,553
Followers

7/10

On #WorldHealthDay, let's end #Ebola & keep our girls safe @ school: <http://t.co/d2A57INNsI>
Donations matched 100%! @GblCtn @GlobalGiving

7 Apr 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@katiemeyler Katie Meyler MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO, LIBERIA

Hi, I'm Katie. I founded, More Than Me. I ♥ Liberia. I'm fighting ebola now, being a bystander to suffering is not an option. <http://t.co/LLS83fPQ7u>
www.morethanme.org

10,154
Followers

7/10

Having a ceremony to thank our ambulance team for their tireless #Ebola work. <https://t.co/PJjWkzAddH>

9 Apr 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@LiberianTimes TheLiberianTimes.com LIBERIA

Liberia's Most Trusted News Source Since 2005
TheLiberianTimes.com

2,589
Followers

7/10

Tell Ebola Survivors' Stories to Prevent Stigma' - PCI <http://t.co/xw6kYHivAT> #LIBERIA

9 Apr 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@philimena Royda LIBERIA

PR= Me! Building my Brand! @valiantprevents #avionnation
www.valiantpublicrelations.com

1,422
Followers

6/10

RT @vicenews Guinea ramps up fight against Ebola as outbreak continues to burn: <http://t.co/qIqpusuzdd> <http://t.co/FYS5z3OepL>

3 Apr 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@scosi StreetChild LIBERIA

Our Goal: To help create opportunities through education for some of the most vulnerable children in the world living on the streets of West Africa.
www.street-child.co.uk

1,698
Followers

6/10

CEO Tom Dannatt talks live on BBC World Service this morning about out Ebola Orphan Report: <http://t.co/o5YqJ2L4Ve>

6 Apr 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@embassymonrovia US Embassy Monrovia MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO, LIBERIA

Embassy of the United States of America, Monrovia
monrovia.usembassy.gov

1,467
Followers

6/10

Moving Beyond Ebola: Rebuilding Liberia's Health Care System. <https://t.co/hB4twbBL2P> <http://t.co/MCrFlp1qN2>

9 Apr 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@Plaid_Sirleaf Plaid Ellen Sirleaf MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO, LIBERIA

The Plaid Avenger's updates for Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of Liberia. (Parody Account) (Fake!!!!!!)
www.plaidavenger.com/leaders

1,303
Followers

6/10

Even though there have been some recent occurrences of Ebola, Liberia is still overall on the right path to ending Ebola.

3 Apr 2015

[More Tweets](#)

Information Saves Lives

Humanitarian Newsletter
Issue #5 - April 3 - 9

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Online media

Below is a list of influential contents published by Liberian online news outlets. The contents' influence is measured by the number of readers.

William Booth School gets US\$140,155.00

9-Apr-2015 in www.thenewdawnliberia.com » Society: News, Education News

:18 The William Booth Salvation Army High School in Payne... **Ebola** Virus Disease that hit Liberia from neighboring Guinea in 2014, devastating every... facilitate private school teachers during the heat of the deadly **Ebola** virus disease...

Friday is Fast and Prayer Day

9-Apr-2015 in www.thenewdawnliberia.com » Regional: Liberia News

:13 President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, has by Proclamation declared tomorrow, Friday, April 10, 2015 as Fast and Prayer Day to be observed throughout the Republic as a ... much harm, devastation, destruction, particularly the deadly **Ebola** Virus Disease (EVD), from which...

MOH Post-Ebola Gets US\$25,000 Medical Supplies

8-Apr-2015 in www.liberianobserver.com » Sports: Latest

As Liberia's countdown against the **Ebola** virus disease (EVD) continues, the Ministry... designed to enhance the elimination of **Ebola** virus from Liberia. The medical supplies presented included surgical gloves, medical masks and other critical anti **Ebola** virus materials...

PCI launches Survived Ebola video

7-Apr-2015 in www.thenewdawnliberia.com » Regional: Liberia News

education NGO, has launched an **Ebola** Survived video in Monrovia to stop stigmatizing... abandoned relatives, who survived the **Ebola** Virus because of fear of contracting the... in order to increase and improve the living condition of **Ebola** survivors, they...

We are not virus

7-Apr-2015 in www.thenewdawnliberia.com » Regional: Liberia News

:32 Written by Ethel A. Twah -**Ebola** survivors An **Ebola** survivor here, Today... to him, **Ebola** survivors are energetic, ready and willing to work in society. Mr. Gallah, a first frontline responder in the fight against the **Ebola** virus...

Ebola survivors cry for help

7-Apr-2015 in www.thenewdawnliberia.com » Regional: Liberia News

:29 **Ebola** Survivors Network in Liberia, an umbrella organization that unites **Ebola** survivors.... The Chairperson for the **Ebola** Survivors Network, Patrick Falleh, said they have been... that **Ebola** survivors are not free to live with people in the community...

MSF opens new children's hospital

7-Apr-2015 in www.thenewdawnliberia.com » Regional: Liberia News

are also not available. "The **Ebola** outbreak has extremely weakened the public health... facing obstetrical complications also have suffered the same fate." Although **Ebola** management centers... the staff and the patients from any potential **Ebola** contamination. "A thorough triage..."

Key words:

