

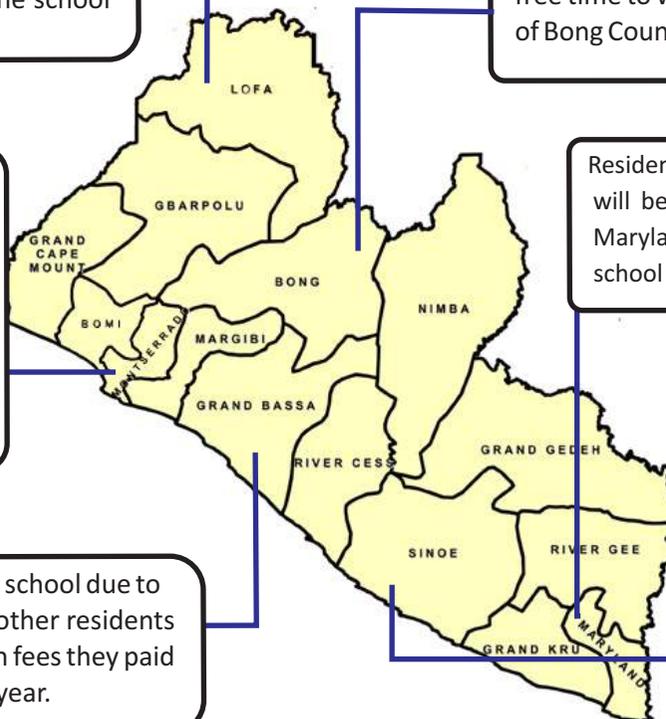
Information Saves Lives



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.

SCHOOL CLOSURE



Locals in Lofa are suggesting if the government decides to close the schools in June, students should be promoted to the next class. According to the locals, government should back pay all the school fees to the children.

Lofa

Students in Bong County are happy that the government is debating whether to close schools in June 2015. The students want to use this free time to work and earn extra money. In general, however, residents of Bong County would like to know why the schools are closing.

Bong

Citizens are concerned that the Ministry of Education will close the schools for the month of August. In Montserrado County, residents would like to know why the government is considering school closure when they've only opened the schools in March. Parents are concerned about the school fees they paid to register their children. Will they get the money back if the schools close in August?

Montserrado

Residents of Maryland County have been hearing rumours that schools will be closing by the end of June, only to reopen on September. Marylanders are worried that the government will not refund the school fees they paid in early March.

Maryland

Students of Grand Bassa County are reluctant to go back to school due to rumours about the school closure in August. Parents and other residents of Grand Bassa County are mainly worried about the tuition fees they paid to the school administration at the beginning of the school year.

Grand Bassa

Citizens of Sinoe County are concerned about the fate of children that missed the Measles vaccination campaign in the county. They are wondering in which clinics those children can still be vaccinated.

Sinoe

VACCINATIONS


Citizens' Feedback
TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Residents of Lofa County report that they believe that more teens have been getting pregnant since the end of Ebola.

Lofa

BORDER SURVEILLANCE

In Grand Cape Mount County, residents are worried about border surveillance. They would like to know what the Liberian government is doing to ensure that Ebola patients from Guinea and Sierra Leone will not enter the country.

Grand Cape Mount

EBOLA AWARENESS

YES Inc. has been conducting awareness raising activities in Bomi County. They hope to encourage locals to keep on taking the Ebola preventive measures.

Bomi

Residents of the county are concerned over the decision of the President to reopen the borders with Sierra Leone and Guinea.

River Cess

SAFE BURIAL PRACTICES

The Iman Council of Liberia has organized a retreat in Tubmanburg to encourage Muslims to continue to follow the safe burial protocols that were put in place by the Government of Liberia.

Bomi

MOSQUITO NETS

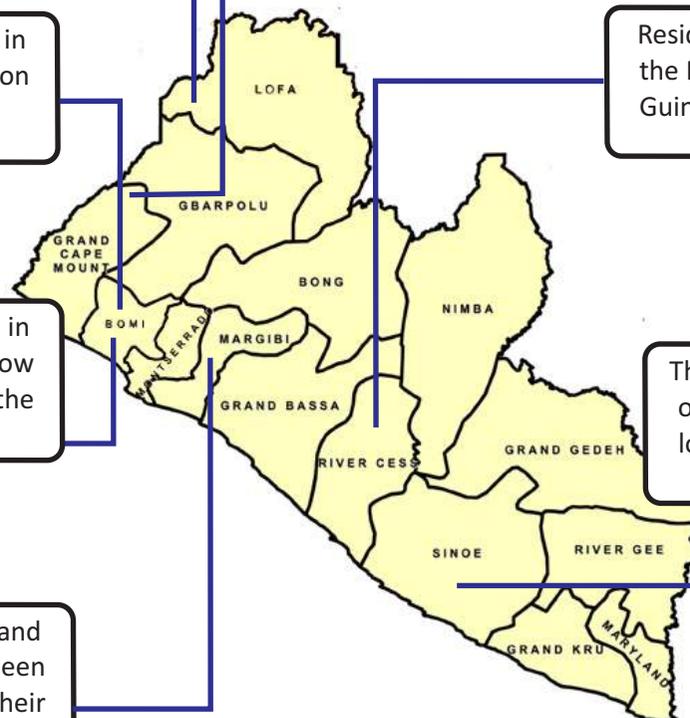
The Sinoe County Health Team has begun giving awareness on the use of Mosquito nets. They hope to encourage locals to stop using the nets as scrubs and fishing nets.

Sinoe

EBOLA SURVIVORS

Ebola survivors that go to the BWI vocational institute and the John Joseph High school report that they have been thrown out of school because they did not paid their tuition They call upon the government to help them.

Margibi




Citizens' Feedback
POST-EBOLA RECOVERY

Residents of Zorzor district report that the ETU has been demolished. The drugs and generator have been transferred to the Curran Lutheran Hospital.

Citizens in Lofa County wonder why the government closed down the only Ebola Treatment Unit that is located close to the border with Guinea. They would also like to know why the ETU was not turned into a health facility.

Lofa

The County Superintendent has started to connect the roads to the Barkolleh Health Center as part of their post-Ebola recovery plan.

Residents of Dolo's Town would like to see the Community Care Center in their town transformed into a clinic or hospital. They advise the government not to demolish the building.

Margibi

Citizens of River Cess County report that Last Mile Health has started distributing drugs and other preventive materials to Timbo Compound Clinic in Timbo district.

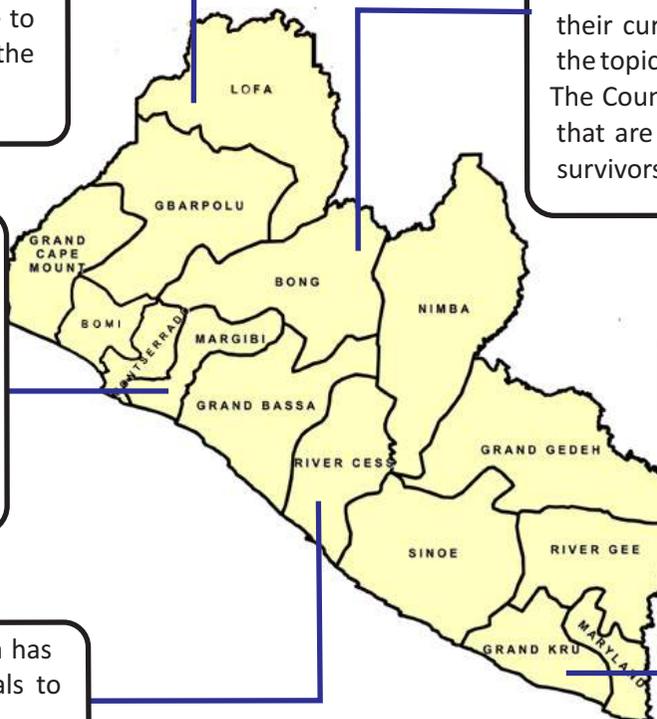
River Cess

In Nimba County, residents report that Global Communities and Chess have been giving out food and cash to households as part of their post-Ebola recovery program. The organizations, according to the locals, also intend to build pumps and pit latrines. However, their current awareness-raising activities continue to be around the topic of personal hygiene.

The County Health Officer in Nimba County advises organizations that are distributing medical and non-medical materials to Ebola survivors, to channel all donations via the County Health Team.

Nimba

In Forpoh Partuken district in Grand Kru County, Ebola survivors express disappointment with the Government and partners working in the county. They state that they have not been included in post-Ebola recovery plans of government or partners.

Grand Kru


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Rumors

SCHOOL CLOSURE

Citizens in Montserrado County rumor that all schools will be closed by the end of June.

Montserrado

Locals in Bong County rumor that the government will pronounce the schools to be closed from June 15, 2015.

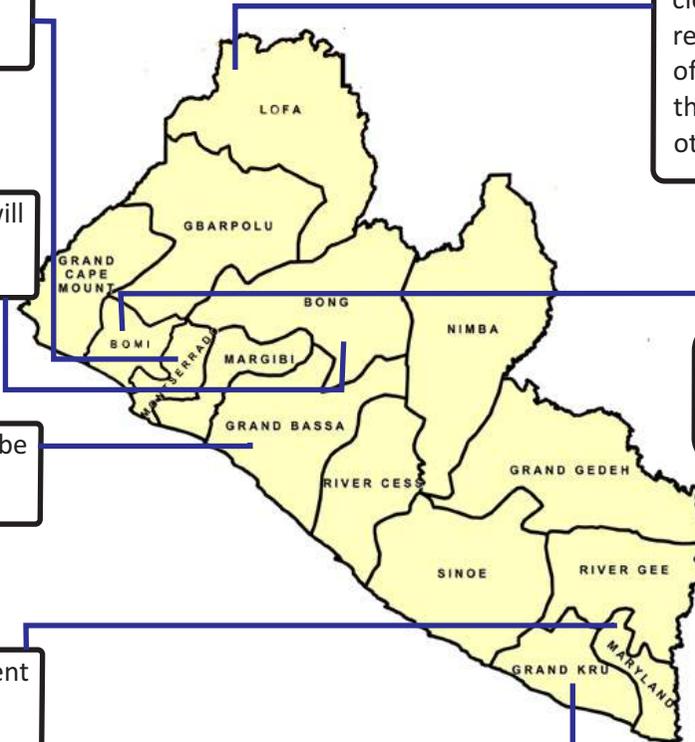
Bong

Locals in Grand Bassa County rumor that schools will be closed by the government only to reopen in September.

Grand Bassa

Locals in Maryland County suggest that the Government will close schools by June.

Maryland



Citizens from Lofa county rumor that the government will close the schools by the end of June until September. The reason for closing the school is, according to the residents of Lofa county, that the government wants to ensure that the Liberian children are learning just as fast as children in other African countries.

Lofa

CHLORINE

Locals claim that the spraying that was done during the Ebola outbreak is causing people to experience constant sneezing.

Bomi

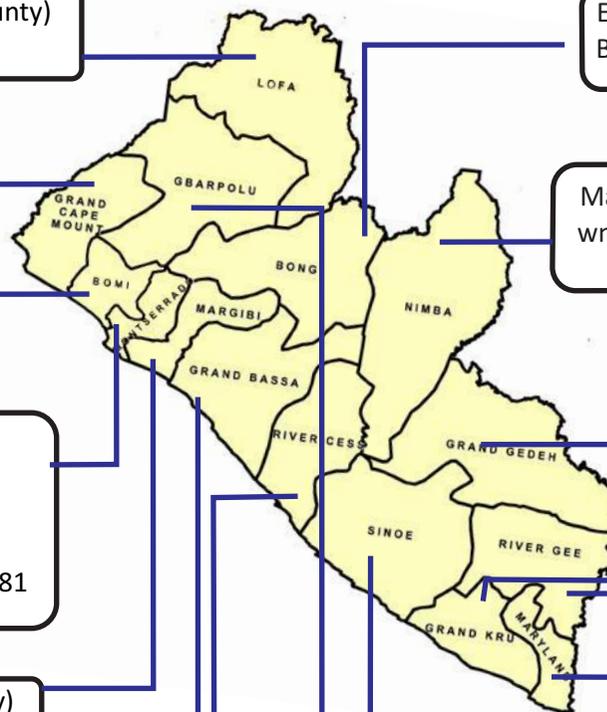
STIGMATIZATION

In Grand Kru County residents report that health workers who worked in the ETU during the Ebola crisis are being stigmatized by their community members.

Grand Kru

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Journalists reporting rumors from 15 Counties



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Sinoe

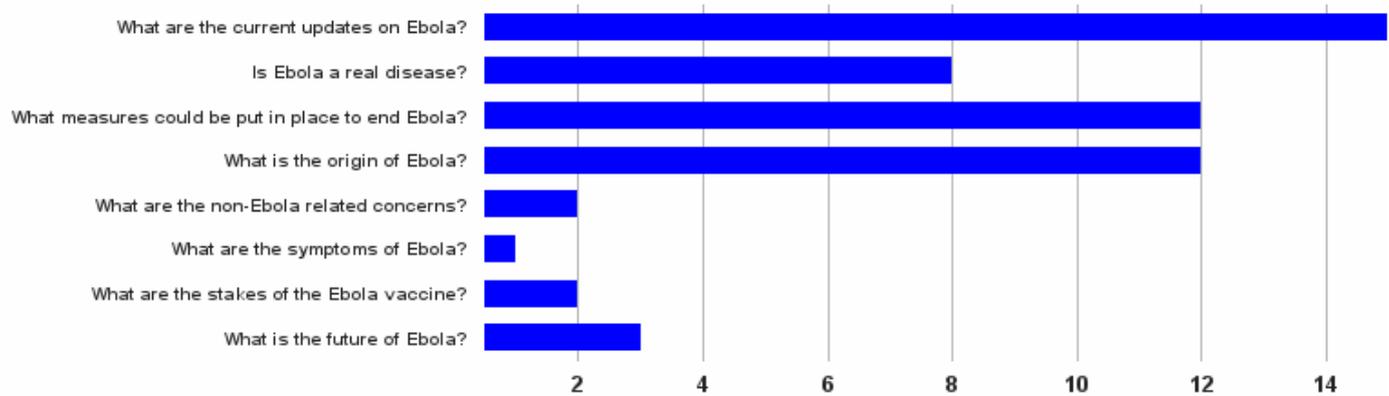
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River Cess

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Maryland

THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS IN THE GEOPOLL SURVEY Information Needs Analysis



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM COUNTIES

BOMI COUNTY

What are the current updates on Ebola?

BONG COUNTY

What is the future of Ebola?

What measures could be put in place to end Ebola?

GRAND BASSA COUNTY

Is Ebola a real disease?

What measures could be put in place to end Ebola?

What is the origin of Ebola?

GRAND CAPE MOUNT

What is the origin of Ebola?

GRAND GEDEH COUNTY

What is the origin of Ebola?

LOFA COUNTY

Is Ebola a real disease?

What is the origin of Ebola?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

MARGIBI COUNTY

What are the stakes of the Ebola vaccine?

What measures could be put in place to end Ebola?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

MONTERRADO COUNTY

What are the stakes of the Ebola vaccine?

Is Ebola a real disease?

What measures could be put in place to end Ebola?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

NIMBA COUNTY

Is Ebola a real disease?

What is the origin of Ebola?

What are the current updates on Ebola?

What measures could be put in place to end Ebola?

RIVER GEE

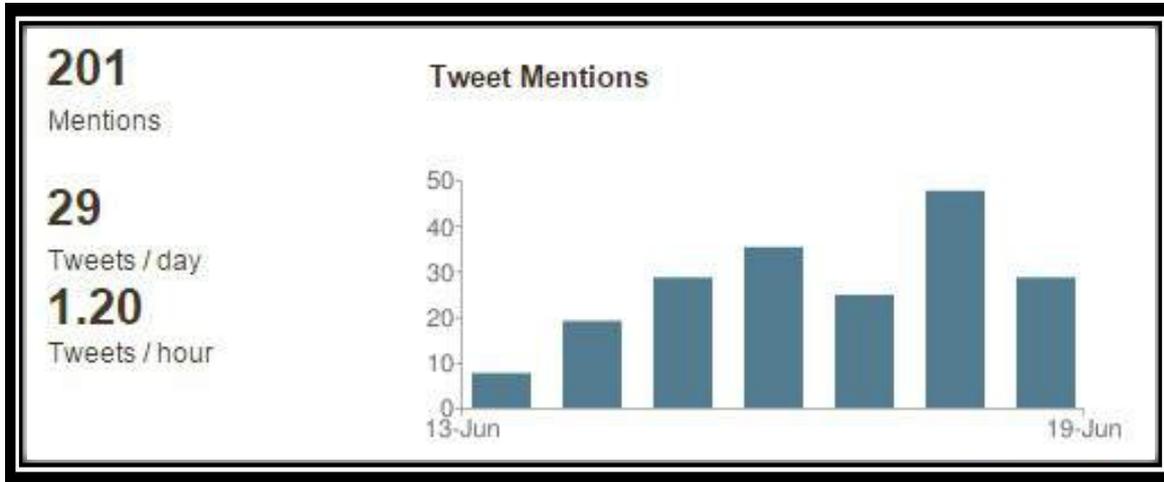
What measures could be put in place to end Ebola?

SINOE

What is the origin of Ebola?

ONLINE CONTENT REPORT – June 13th to June 19th, 2015

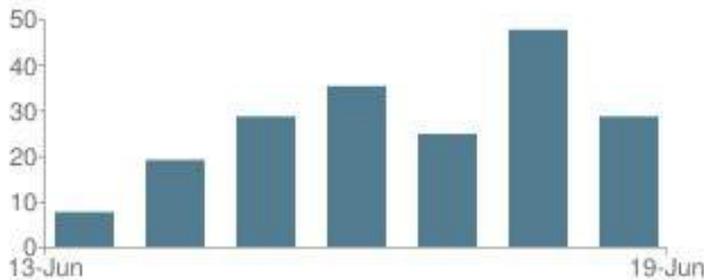
This report analyzes data from Users identified as Liberian citizens on Twitter.



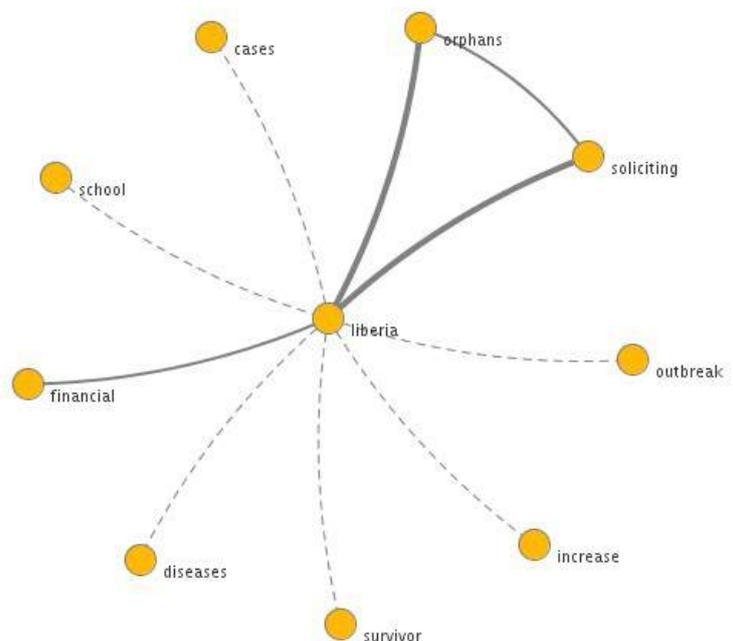
201
Mentions

29
Tweets / day
1.20
Tweets / hour

Tweet Mentions



Most tweeted Ebola topics



Most influential Liberian Twitter accounts streaming on Ebola

Authority is measured looking at how many followers the accounts have, how many followers their followers have and how many times their content has been re-tweeted or clicked on.

	@MoreThanMeORG More Than Me LIBERIA	3,669 Followers	7/10	RT @GdnVoluntary @MoreThanMeORG @katiemeyler it's head of community @instagram @mandydale - great story of bringing attention to human stories behind #ebola 19 Jun 2015 More Tweets
	@LiberianTimes TheLiberianTimes.com LIBERIA	2,700 Followers	7/10	Stop Harboring Sick People - Official Cautions Over Ebola - http://t.co/cmUCeUrv9 http://t.co/EFUfNbgXWk #LIBERIA 19 Jun 2015 More Tweets
	@VickieRemoe #SwitSaloneDotCom LIBERIA	3,946 Followers	7/10	Sierra Leone: GoWoman Magazine's women at the ebola front (Out Now) http://t.co/IFBty2vLKR 18 Jun 2015 More Tweets
	@HottFM HottFM107.9 LIBERIA LIBERIA	7,788 Followers	7/10	CNN: Dozens of new Ebola cases reported in West Africa http://t.co/F3zFrDEdt3 13 Jun 2015 More Tweets
	@scosi StreetChild LIBERIA	3,172 Followers	7/10	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 Tom Dannatt Street Child CEO will be part of an expert panel on the @GuardianGDP discussing SL's post #Ebola economic recovery between 1-3pm 18 Jun 2015 More Tweets
	@LakSMani Lakshmi Subramani MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO, LIBERIA	925 Followers	6/10	I breathe. I give. I love. I aim. I succeed. I fall. I rise. I live. Every moment is a gift. Tweets & Retweets in between RT @EbolaRR Ebola continues to shift, but grows no more fatal http://t.co/2dTKsQGSz2 18 Jun 2015 More Tweets
	@UNICEF_Liberia UNICEF Liberia LIBERIA	2,890 Followers	6/10	UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child in 190 countries and territories, with a special focus on reaching those in greatest need. www.unicef.org/liberia Communities helped #Liberia get to zero #Ebola cases. Similar efforts ongoing in Sierra Leone. One girl's story: http://t.co/ITmckZkoi8 15 Jun 2015 More Tweets

A letter from the humanitarian community

Internews is excited to launch a new column wherein we invite members of the humanitarian community to write about their experiences working in the Ebola response. We are particularly interested in pieces about communicating with communities and 'information as aid': lessons learned, success stories, challenges and experiences are all very much welcomed.

If you would like to contribute please pitch your story (in max. 100 words) to our *Health Communication Liaison Officer* Ingrid Gercama

(igercama@internews.org). The selected essay that will be printed in the Internews Humanitarian newsletter will not exceed 500 words (photo optional).

This week Internews presents Wynfred Russel from the American Refugee Committee (ARC). Wynfred worked as the operations manager for ARC in Fishtown, River Gee County. The American Refugee Committee managed the ETU and CCC in River Gee County. Wynfred can be contacted at: wynfredR@arcliberia.org.

Winning the people's heart

By: *Wynfred Russell (American Refugee Committee)*

The call came in around 12 noon. The person on the other end of the line was Olasford Wiah, a physician assistant and the district health officer for Putupo District in River Gee County. A patient with Ebola-like symptoms was on the way from Killepo-Kanweaken. The call set in motion all systems here at the sprawling American Refugee Committee (ARC) compound called the "Fish Tank," perched on a hilltop, nearly a mile east of downtown Fishtown.

This is what the ARC team has been training for since arriving here in December 2014 to manage the Fishtown Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) and help stop the spread of the deadly Ebola virus disease.

The patient arrived via ambulance at 4:00 p.m. and was greeted by the medical team in full personal protective equipment. It was obvious that some of the clinicians looked nervous; this would be their first possible Ebola patient. Their concern about the risk of themselves getting infected permeated everything.

Since the ARC medical director, Dr. Alfredmy Chessor, was away, her next in command, Dr. Julius Monday, assessed the patient and determined she met the case definition for suspected Ebola. She was admitted to the Community Care Center (CCC) that ARC now runs in addition to the ETU.

On examination, the patient's temperature was 100.1 F degrees (37.8 C), with a fast/weak pulse and low blood pressure, said Dr. Monday. He noted that the

patient was dehydrated, had stomach pain, skin rash but no conjunctivitis or any form of bleeding.

Four hours after she was checked in, ARC staff received a call that approximately 50 community members had come to the CCC and were asking for the release of the patient. The police were called to help defuse the situation, but they were unable to deploy on such short notice.

The group came from Fishtown and the periphery of the CCC and included some close relatives of the sick woman. They were earnestly afraid for the safety of the patient, and they wanted us to deliver her into their care.

Throughout the commotion, the ARC medical team remained calm and collected. The doctor and nurses stayed with the patient to make sure she had what she needed. Meanwhile the rest of the team worked out a solution.

We sent for the patient's husband, who is the town chief of Killepo. He was directed to the visitor's ward to speak with his wife. He asked her if she was being well treated and she said, "Yes." He asked her how she was feeling and she replied, "Great." We then asked him to go out and tell the assembled crowd what he had seen. He did, and the group dispersed. Connecting the husband face-to-face with his sick wife had averted a potentially volatile situation, calming the nerves of concerned family and community members.

A letter from the humanitarian community

The lead physician ordered two blood and tissue tests, which were sent to a US Government-run lab in Tappita, six hours away, for analysis; both returned negative for the Ebola virus. By day three of admission, the patient was symptom-free and clinically stable. She received her negative lab results and stayed an extra day at the CCC to receive psychosocial counseling. Afterward, she received a discharge package and was escorted to her community by ARC's psychosocial team and local county health officials with an advance group that prepared the community for reception to prevent her stigmatization.

As the teams drove away, we looked back and saw about two dozen people, including the children,

huddled around the symptom-free patient – clutching her arms, her legs, the edges of her clothes, and pouring through her discharge basket. This was a joyous moment for townspeople to see that someone can leave a CCC and return alive and smiling.

With collaboration, ARC, the county leadership and the patient's family made the entire process a success, but the incident highlights the need for still deeper understanding and outreach in Liberia about the realities of Ebola. The next steps now will be to promote more community engagement activities and increase Ebola educational messages using the radio and village-based dramas in communities as well as among women and youth organizations in the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS

School closure

Grand Bassa County

The citizens of Grand Bassa county recommend the government to subsidize private schools if they decide to close the schools in June.