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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Internews
Local voices. Global change.

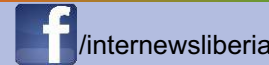


HEALTH COMMUNICATION CAPACITY COLLABORATIVE



Information Saves Lives

Humanitarian Newsletter
Issue #3



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.

Borders

They suggest that Guinea and Sierra Leone should close their borders with Liberia until they are officially declared Ebola-free.

Bomi

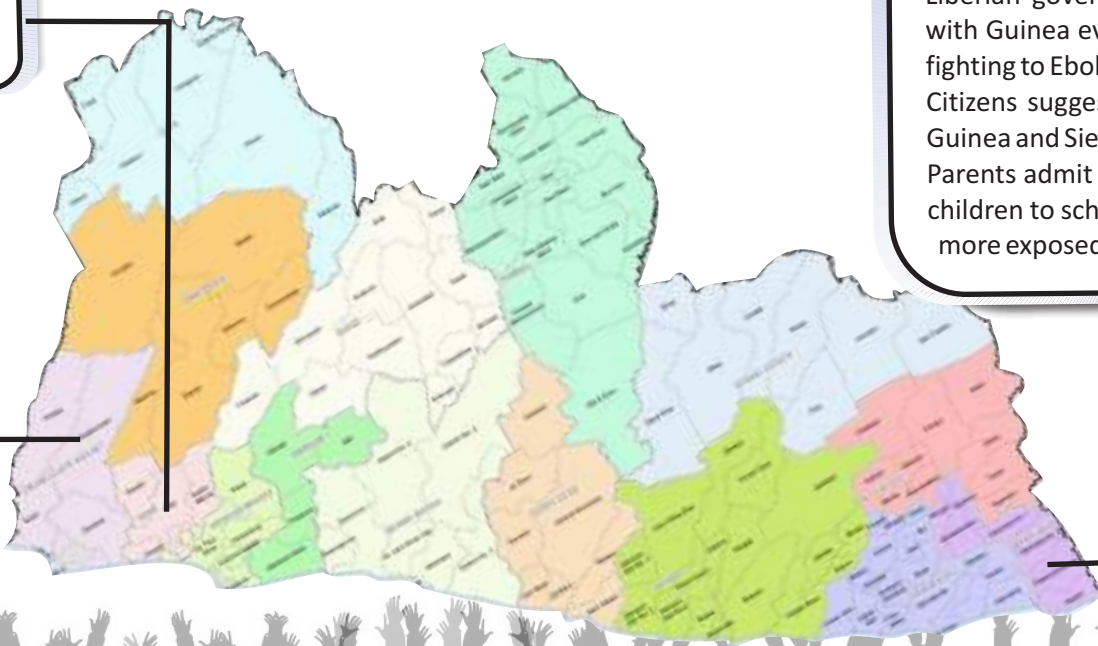
The local populations living along the borders say the number of Immigration Officers at the borders should be increased. They also advise the Liberian government to roll out plans for children orphaned by Ebola.

Cape Mount

Maryland citizens are asking why the Liberian government reopened its borders with Guinea even though the country is still fighting to Ebola.

Citizens suggest that Liberia's borders with Guinea and Sierra Leone should be closed. Parents admit that although they send their children to school, they fear the children are more exposed to the disease.

Maryland



Internews "Information Saves Lives" is a 6-month project implemented under the Health Communication Capacity Collaborative (Hc3) funded by USAID. The project aims at building the capacity of Liberian journalists to report accurately about the Ebola disease and to connect local media with the national and international Ebola response.

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Reopening of Schools

Citizens in Lofa County say the uplift of the curfew has increased crimes in the Foya district. They also claim that teachers in the country went on strike, demanding immediate payments of their unpaid EVD benefits.

Lofa

The people and the media in Grand Bassa say Ebola prevention measures are being strictly followed in schools. But they cast doubts on the Liberian government decision to reopen its borders with Ebola-affected countries.

Grand Bassa

Liberians who have returned to school say they are no longer practicing Ebola prevention measures. They question the government's decision to reopen borders with Guinea and Sierra Leone despite known cases of Ebola in those countries.

Rivercess

The local media is reporting that those citizens are complacent about an Ebola-free County and are not practicing Ebola prevention measures. They say nearly all schools have reopened and have been equipped with basic Ebola prevention kits.

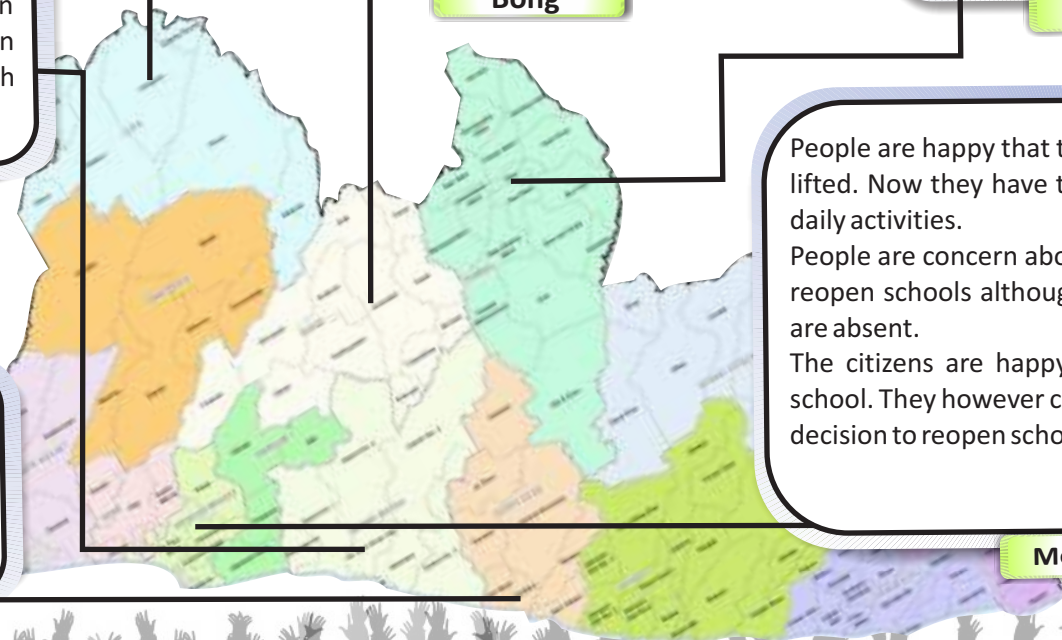
Bong

Parents have started sending their children to school because the County authorities are encouraging them to do so. Parents also admit that preventive measures are on on-going in the schools.

Nimba

People are happy that the nation-wide curfew has been lifted. Now they have the liberty to carry on with their daily activities. People are concern about the government's decision to reopen schools although enough Ebola prevention kits are absent. The citizens are happy that their children now go to school. They however complain about the government's decision to reopen schools, describing it as "hasty."

Monteserrado





Information Saves Lives

Ebola vaccine trail

Citizens asked why there is no on-going sensitization campaign about the Ebola vaccine trails. They claim that students and pupils are practicing Ebola prevention measures in schools.

Bomi

People are wondering why there is no on-going mass sensitization campaign about the Ebola vaccine trails. They say students and pupils at school are practicing Ebola prevention measures. Others suggest that the Liberian borders with Guinea and Sierra Leone should be close until both countries are officially declared Ebola-free.

Lofa

People are still very confused about the need for the Ebola vaccine trial. They also report about an increase in crime waves across the County, pointing to the government's decision to uplift the curfew.

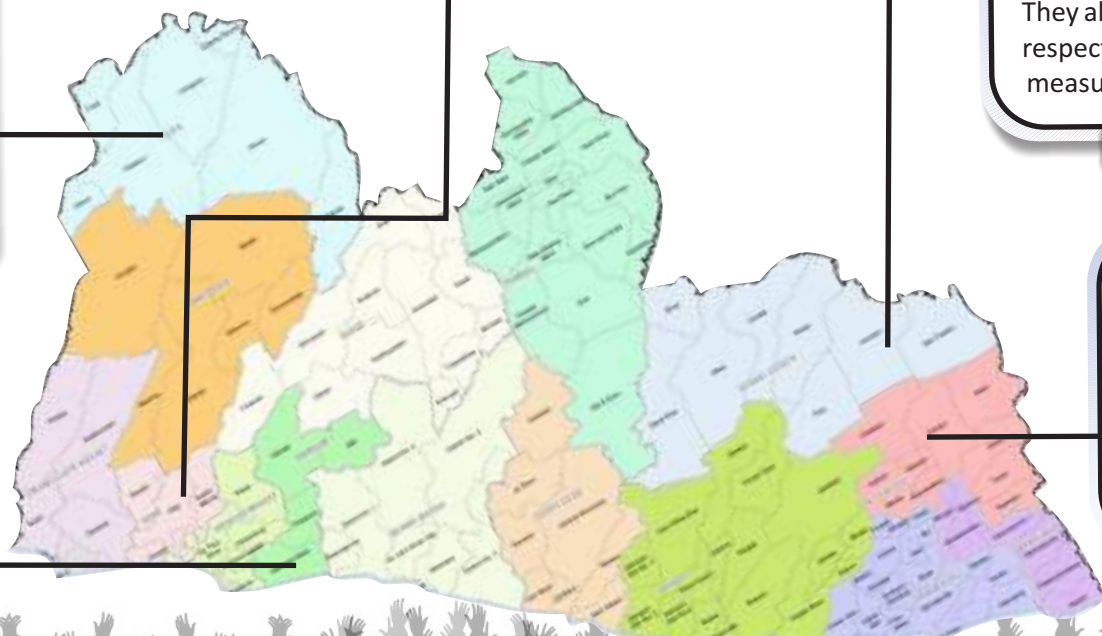
Margibi

People are asking if the Ebola vaccine trial is safe and will be done in the Grand Geedeh County. They also admit that all schools are respecting the Ebola prevention measures.

Grand Geedeh

The locals are talking about the need for sensitization campaigns on the Ebola vaccine trial in their County. They also say crimes waves have spiked after the nationwide curfew was lifted.

River Gee



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Rumors

Transparency of Ebola funds

Montserrado County:

Citizens rumor about the death of Ebola and claim that the government is deliberately delaying to announce an Ebola-free Liberia because they want to keep benefiting from international funds.

Margibi County:

It is rumored that President Ellen Johnson's recent visit abroad was to negotiate for resurgence the Ebola virus in Liberia and the need for a continuous flow of funds from donors including the international community.

River Gee County:

Liberians rumor that the vaccine is a government strategy to keep Ebola rolled out in the country and sponge on funds provided by the international community roll back the disease.

Recommendations

The Liberian government should increase information flow to local communities including those outside the capital, via local media channels, especially about the purpose of the President's recent visit abroad. As this rumor is clearly a consequence of the lack of trust in the system, it is important that communities feel that they are being kept informed about the process behind the declaration of Liberia as an Ebola-free country.

The government should touch base with the local media and the local population regularly and inform them on government measures to fight the disease and available sources of funding. It is suggested to make sure that the mechanisms for the disbursement of funding going to the Ebola response is transparent and that the local population trust the system behind it.

Complacency

Grand Geedeh County:

People rumor that Ebola is absent in bushmeat given significant drops in the Ebola cases across Liberia.

Bong County:

There is a rumor that bushmeat is now sold openly in the markets and consumed by families.

Bomi County:

It has been rumored that the Country Health Team is informing and encouraging people to cluster, shake hands and romance their lovers because Liberia is Ebola-free.

Maryland County:

In Saywokan, a town along the Cavalla river, Ebola is generally believed to be Liberian myth.

Recommendations

Clearly show to the public, the link between bushmeat and the Ebola virus. Also, it is important to reinforce campaigns against the consumption of bushmeat and clampdown on existing stocks if there are any in the markets.

Country Health Teams should focus on outdoor demonstration campaigns and also be available to respond to questions and to engage with local media to reinforce the message that Liberia is still not Ebola free and the risk of getting infected is still there. It is also suggested to investigate why this rumor has been spreading and what lies behind it.

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Rumors

Schools

Lofa County:

Parents rumor about the presence of Ebola in schools and fear sending their children to attend classes.

Grand Bassa County:

There will be an outbreak of Ebola in schools that have been reopened, according to another rumor.

Ebola vaccine trial

Grand Bassa County:

There is a wide-spread rumor that the Ebola vaccine trials isare intended to infect Liberians. There will be an outbreak of Ebola in schools that have been reopened, according to another rumor.

Nimba County:

It is rumored that the vaccine trial awareness were carried out in Zeonold town by a certain female health worker. Students and teachers fled the campus that day believing that she came to infect them with the virus.

Rivercess County:

It is rumored that the Ebola vaccine will be widely rejected in the Rivercess Country because its effects are unknown.

Nimba County:

It is rumored that the vaccine trials awareness were carried out in Zeonold town by a certain female health worker called Zoevah. Students and teachers fled the campus that day believing that she came to infect them with the virus.

Rivercess County:

It is rumored that the Ebola vaccine will be widely rejected in the Rivercess Country because its effects are unknown.

Recommendations

As this rumor is clearly coming form well funded fears of possible transmissions in between kids attending schools, it is suggested to organize testimonials of parents who send their children to school but also to show and discuss the measures that are being taken to protect the children and to make sure that schools are safe places for them.

Recommendations

There exists a communication gap between the local people and the authorities implementing the vaccine trial. As people still seem to be really confused about the trial, it is important to make sure that the eligibility for the vaccine and the criteria for the selection of the people getting the vaccine to be made more clear. Especially it is important to discuss the issue of EVD being present in the vaccine, and how this works.

It is also important to inform the local population about who's in charge of the vaccine trial and how they can be recognized/identified clearly. s.

Testimonies from Liberian volunteers who took the vaccine are very important. The volunteers should be integrated in widespread campaigns and it should also be restated that the vaccine is only given to people that voluntarily accepts to take it.

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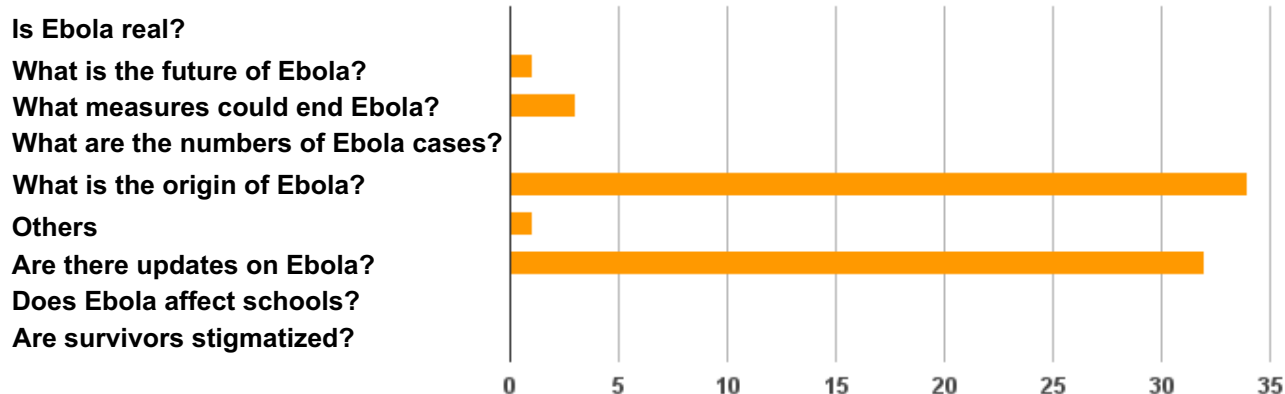
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NATIONAL EBOLA SURVEY RESULTS

Internews is conducting recurring Information Needs Assessment via SMS surveys. The data presented (above) is the result of nearly 120 surveys conducted in the entire country over the course of the past 2 weeks. This data in particular is the aggregated response to the question: "What is the main question you have about Ebola in Liberia?" The sample distribution by geographic location (county level) was aligned with national statistics as best as possible. However, with SMS surveys, the response rate tends to be skewed towards the younger and male population. The responses we obtained were higher for the group 25/34; 45% of the responders were from that group, 41% in between 15 and 24, and 9% over 35 years old. 37% of the responders were female and 63% male. Raw data is available for organizations that would like to use it upon request.

Information Needs Analysis



LEGEND

Presence/Update: Questions in this category are related to the need of updates about the current situation in the country, or about the number of people affected and the current status of the outbreak.

EbolaReal: Those are questions that ask if Ebola is really a disease

Measures to end: Those questions ask about measures to end Ebola in the country or in general measures that people can take to prevent from being infected.

Origin: Those questions are specifically addressing the need for information on where Ebola came from. The inquiries are both about the location and the actual origin in time of the disease.

Future: those questions are referring to the future of the country after Ebola. Questions in this category look for information about what is happening to the money invested on Ebola, and how things will change after Ebola

VaccineTrial: Questions in this category specifically address the need for information about the Ebola Vaccine Trial.

Symptoms/Medical: this category is referring to questions that request information about symptoms and effects of Ebola, post-effects of Ebola and side affects. All the questions in this category are of medical nature

Number of Victims: those are all questions that request information about the number of past Ebola cases and current Ebola cases, but also about total number of deceased people until now.

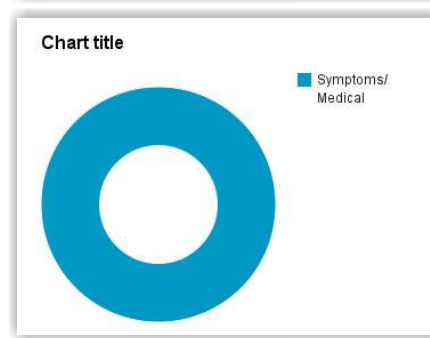
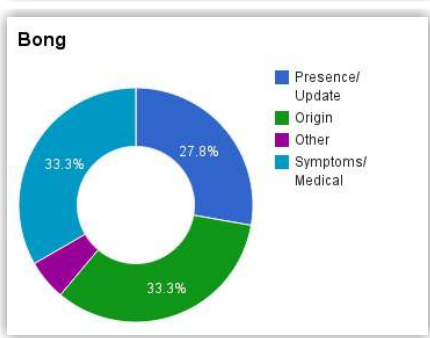
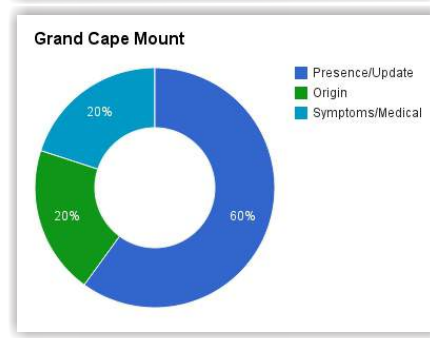
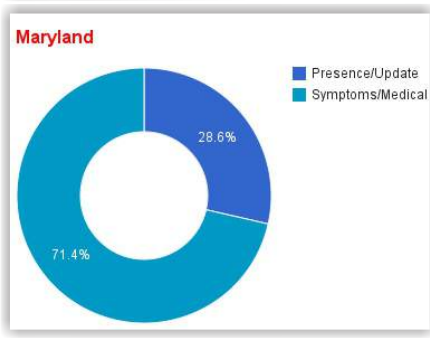
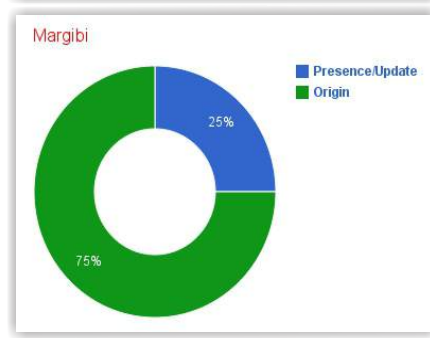
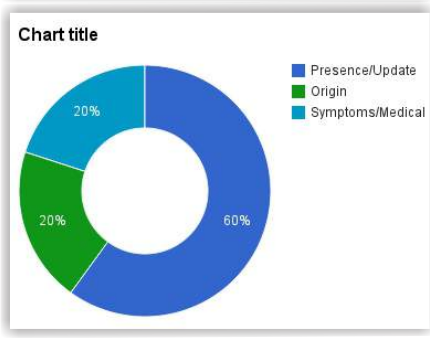
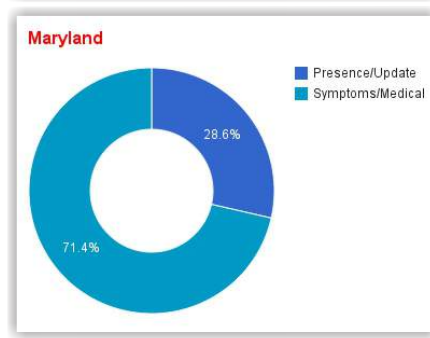
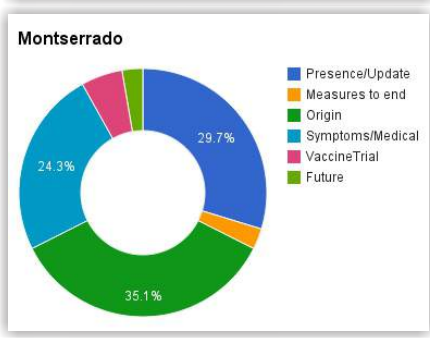
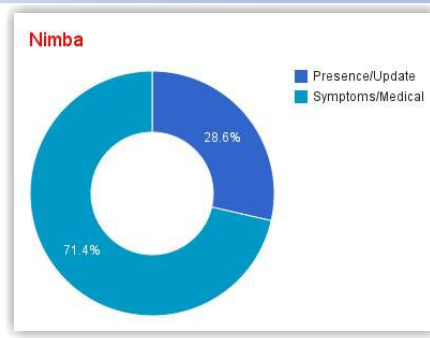
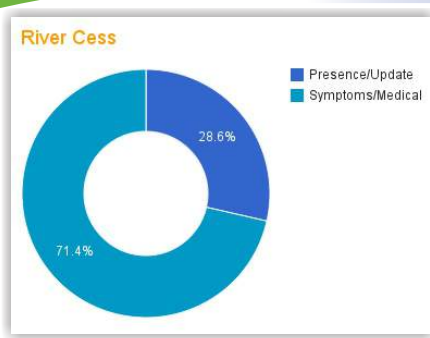
Schools: Those are all questions that related to the re-opening of schools.

Survivors: Those questions are related to survivors and stigmatization

Other: Those are general questions that do not fall under any of the previous categories.

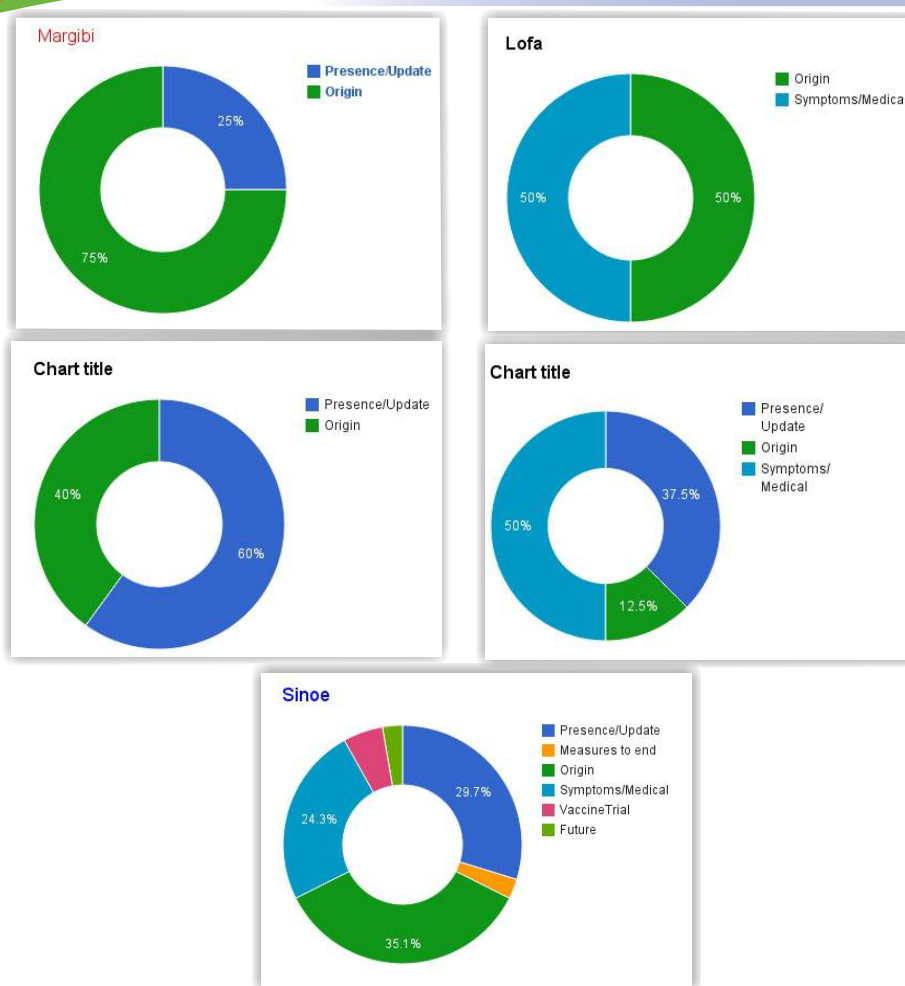
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The most frequently asked questions in the Geopoll survey

Origin:

- When was the first case of Ebola in Liberia?
- What is the main cause of Ebola?

Presence / Update:

- Is Ebola still present in Liberia?
- What is the current status of the Ebola outbreak?

Future:

- When will Liberia be declared Ebola-free?

Symptoms / Medical:

- What are the main causes of Ebola?

Origin:

- When did Ebola enter Liberia?
- What is the real cause of Ebola?

Presence / update:

- Is Ebola still present in Liberia?
- What are the current updates on the Ebola outbreak?

Future:

- When will Liberia be Ebola-free?

Symptoms / medical:

- What causes Ebola?

Victims:

- How many people died of Ebola in Liberia?

Schools:

- What are the necessary measures put in place by government to stop the spread of Ebola among students and pupils?

Survivors:

- Did they say that Ebola victims have hopes of surviving?
- What are their chances of survival?

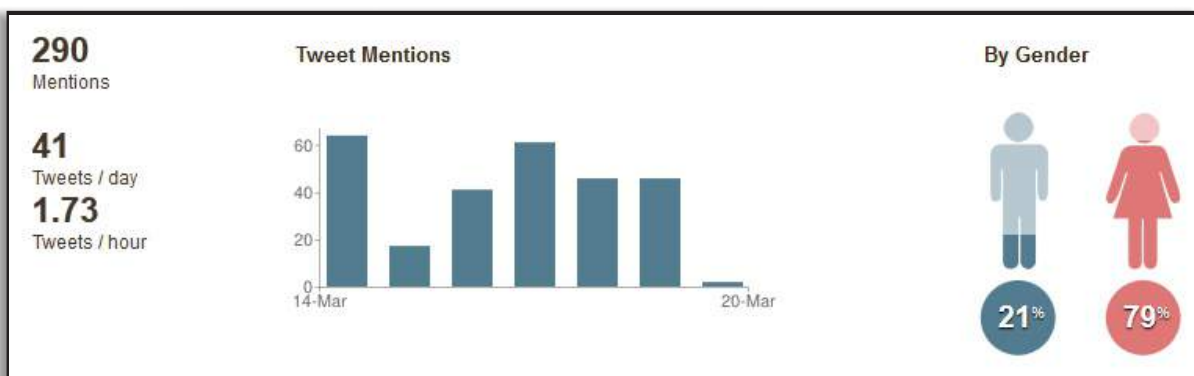
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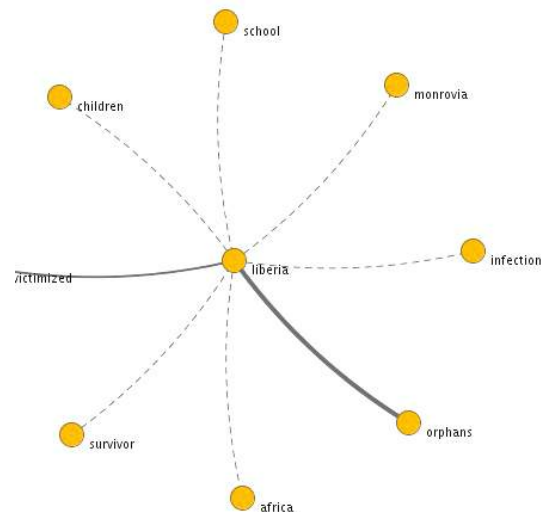
Weekly Online content report: 14 - 20 March 2015

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



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

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.



@UNMILNews UNMIL MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO, LIBERIA
 Official account of the United Nations Mission in Liberia
www.unmil.unmissions.org

5,997
Followers

7/10

Getting to Zero in #Liberia: Fighting #Ebola with #art. Watch this cool video of an artist's fight against EVD <https://t.co/eXBRznxvBO> @UN

14 Mar 2015 [↗](#) [More Tweets](#)



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

2,560
Followers

7/10

Beyond the Outbreak - What Can Ebola Crisis Teach Us? <http://t.co/0qbtvpCEqw> #LIBERIA

20 Mar 2015 [↗](#) [More Tweets](#)



@libobserver Liberianobserver.com MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO, LIBERIA
 This is the official Tweet of the Liberian Observer Corporation, publishers of the Daily Observer newspaper, Liberia's first independent daily.
www.liberianobserver.com

1,774
Followers

7/10

THINK, UNFPA, Partners to Document Female Ebola Survivors Experience... <http://t.co/BYZvFWLMY>

19 Mar 2015 [↗](#) [More Tweets](#)



@brettkeller Brett Keller DAR ES SALAAM, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
 Roving data guy w/ @ClintonHealth, global health blogger, alum of @WilsonSchool econ/policy, @JohnsHopkinsSPH global epi, & @TrumanScholars. Opinions my own.
www.bdkeller.com

2,621
Followers

7/10

U.S. healthcare worker with Ebola in 'serious' condition, NIH says <http://t.co/OAvGwDaz69>

14 Mar 2015 [↗](#) [More Tweets](#)



@scos1 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

1,678
Followers

6/10

RT @TropicalNurseCJ: My amazing friend NHS Ebola Fighters is #fundraising for @scos1. Donate to NHS Ebola's @JustGiving page <http://t.co/nTmuEQjpxY>

15 Mar 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

1,284
Followers

6/10

Today was day 1 of the first national Ebola conference. I'm glad this conference is in Monrovia so I don't have to travel far!

19 Mar 2015 [↗](#) [More Tweets](#)



@UNICEF_Liberia UNICEF Liberia LIBERIA
 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

2,462
Followers

6/10

RT @UNICEF: Our Goodwill Ambassador Orlando Bloom does an #Ebola handshake with an Imam on his visit to Liberia. @UNICEF_Liberia <http://t.co/i6XelmvqsV>

18 Mar 2015 [↗](#) [More Tweets](#)

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Traditional 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.

LFA Super Cup: BYC vs FC Fassell At The Blues Field

20-Mar-2015 in www.frontpageafricaonline.com » Sports: Soccer News, Latest

Who will win the first silverware in this season's traditional curtain raiser? Monrovia - Barrack Young Controllers and FC Fassell will square-off in the Liberia Football Association (LFA) Super Cup on Friday in the season's traditiona... **Ebola** pandemic. Read More....

10,000 Ebola Survivors Receive Cash from SC Intern...

19-Mar-2015 in www.liberianobserver.com » Sports: Latest

The Liberia office of Save the Children International has begun a cash distribution of over one million United States Dollars to survivors and relatives of those affected by the deadly **Ebola** virus disease. The international aid agency is targeting...

Countdown to Zero: Liberia's Goal For Ebola-Free C...

19-Mar-2015 in www.frontpageafricaonline.com »

Liberia's Goal for an Ebola-Free Country Could Be Realized in a Matter of Weeks Monrovia - Liberia's path to being declared Ebola-free seems a little complicated than many Liberians think is simple. M... from an **Ebola** Treatment Unit in the country on March 5, 2015 and...

Ellen Decries Diminishing Donor Support

18-Mar-2015 in www.liberianobserver.com » Sports: Latest

\$1.2 million to combat the deadly **Ebola** virus in the country, might... while the **Ebola** outbreak probably strikes the upper-most in everyone's minds in... ECOWAS Community. He said the outbreak of the **Ebola** Virus in some part...

Chinese Provide \$35K Funding for Ebola Orphans and...

15-Mar-2015 in www.frontpageafricaonline.com »

to help **Ebola** orphans and survivors in Liberia. The funds generated were made... against **Ebola**. "The Wenzhou people do not know Liberia or anyone that will be receiving this donation but they know **Ebola**," LingLing said. **Ebola** is going...

DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN BASSA Nabbed

14-Mar-2015 in www.liberianobserver.com » Sports: Latest

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Detachment in Grand Bassa County has apprehended several drug traffickers with L\$95,500 worth of the illegal substance. The county commander of the DEA in Grand Ba... explained that while it is true that the deadly **Ebola** virus is real...

Key words:



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Key conversations:

Below are the most read, clicked and used sentences coming from online media outlets in Liberia.

monrovia - beatrice yardolo, 58, was all smiles as she walked out of the chinese-run ebola treatment unit in monrovia.

she was presented a bouquet of red flowers and a panda teddy bear as she exited the etu in the skd community in paynesville.

her brush with the deadly ebola virus left a chilling effect on her and members of her immediate family.

monrovia - the human trial of a drug expected to fight against the deadly ebola virus disease began on friday in monrovia.

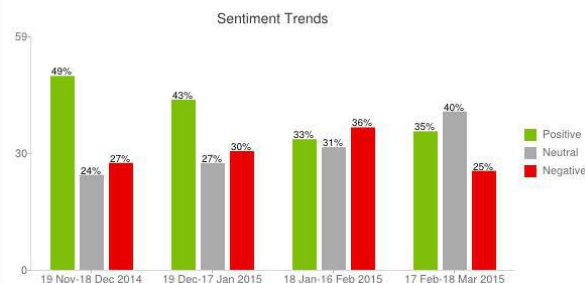
Sentiment trends on Ebola-related media content

Overall Sentiment



50% Positive + 33% Neutral + 17% Negative

Sentiment Trends



Overall Sentiment Pie Chart

