



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



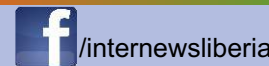
Internews
Local voices. Global change.



**HEALTH COMMUNICATION
CAPACITY
COLLABORATIVE**



**Humanitarian Newsletter
Issue #2**



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.

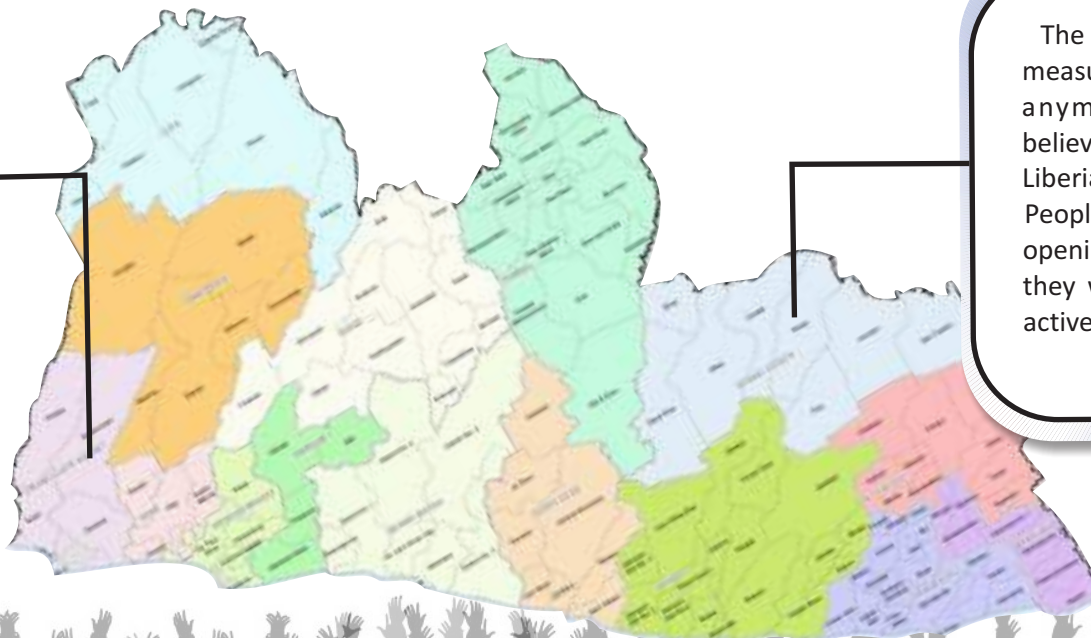
Journalist reporting feedback: Update since 6 March, 2015

People are happy that the border is open but they complain that only the Liberian side of the border is open. Sierra Leone and Guinea sides of the border are still closed.

Parents are afraid to send their children to school because the schools have not been sprayed as was with the case of the Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs).

Only few schools have now resumed, and students are attending classes without uniforms because their parents are jobless.

Cape Mount



The Ebola Virus Preventive measures are not being followed anymore because citizens believe there is no more Ebola in Liberia.

People are excited over the re-opening of the borders because they will once more start their active cross-border trade.

Grand Bassa

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.

For more information contact Anahi Ayala Iacucci - Internews Liberia Project Director - aayala@internews.org - 0770557985 / 0880950628 or

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Information Saves Lives



Citizens' Feedback

Since the uplifting of the curfew, people notice that crime has increase dramatically in Margibi. As of the re-opening of schools, parents are happy that their children have returned to school and all of the schools have received Ebola kits, that are actively being used by the students and pupils.

Margibi

People are happy that the border has open and they are still following all of the Ebola preventive measures.

Parents are happy the Government re-opened schools because their children will now have the opportunity to learn.

River Gee

The Ebola preventive measures are actively being monitored by school authorities and parents are satisfied that their children have returned to school.

Maryland



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Rumors

Journalist reporting rumors: Update since 6 March 2015

International Funding

Maryland County

Citizens of Maryland county complained that the Ebola Virus Disease was brought in by the Liberian Government in Liberia in order to get money from the international community.

Recommendations

More information should be provided to communities about the use and amount of Ebola funding, and how this funding will be used now that there are much less Ebola cases.

Ebola Vaccine Trial

Grand Cape Mount County

Citizens of Cape Mount County believe that the Ebola Vaccine is intended to infect people with Ebola and not to protect people from the disease, as claimed by the government

Recommendations

As confusion arises from the Vaccine Trial it looks like it is based on mistrust rather than the actual lack of information about the Vaccine Trial. It is suggested that more information should be provided about the presence of EVD in the vaccine, and how the vaccine works.

Routine Immunizations

Lofa County

Parents are getting their children out of schools because they believe that the County Health Team is visiting campuses to perform routine vaccinations, which people believe is the Ebola Vaccine Trial and not a routine vaccination.

Recommendations

There is confusion about the Routine Immunization and the Ebola Vaccine Trial. More targeted information about the difference between the two should be provided. Organizations that have the capacity to do so are invited to make health experts available to respond to questions both in the host communities where immunizations are taking place, and on local media talk shows.

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Rumors

Journalist reporting rumors: Update since 6 March 2015

ETUs

River Gee County

Citizens of the county believe that the food distributed by World Food Program (WFP) to Ebola survivors in the ETUs is being poisoned with Ebola and it's intended to kill them.

Also, people of River Gee believe that the workers at ETUs are intentionally keeping people there because they want to continue benefiting from Ebola funding.

Grand Bassa County

People are concerned about why ETUs are still in their county when there is no Ebola anymore.

They also believe that the Ebola Virus Disease is being put together in the ETUs to continue killing people.

Gbapolu County

There are rumors that the ETUs have big pots that they use to burn people who are being carried to the ETUs for treatment.

Lofa County

There are rumors that more ETUs are being constructed because the Liberian government and its international partners want to infect more people with Ebola.

There are also rumors that the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) burned by the burial teams will leave the Ebola virus in the soil, so people will risk to be infected with the virus again.

Recommendations

It is suggested that more information should be provided to communities about future plans for the ETUs. Lack of "information about it" may be one of the reasons why speculations are being made about their use, especially now that there have been no new cases of Ebola.

It is also suggested that organizations managing the ETUs should provide more information about what actually happens in those buildings, and to be transparent to the host communities about the functions and the activities being carried out in the ETUs.

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Rumors

Journalist reporting rumors: Update since 6 March 2015

Origin of Ebola

Grand Geedeh County

People of Grand Geedeh county are saying that the Government pays people to poison the drinkable water with the Ebola Virus.

They are also rumors that infer it was a demon, Queen Sheba, who cast the Ebola virus on Liberia. According to those rumors, upon her departure from the country, she left the virus with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in a bid to reduce the population of Liberia, especially in the Montserrado county.

Montserrado County

People believe that Ebola is a curse from God who is angry with the high rate of sexual immoralities in the country.

Citizens also report that Ebola is a biological weapon made by white people to destroy black people, especially Africans.

Margibi County

Traditional heads in Margibi believes that Ebola is a Ginna (meaning Devil) sent from God to punish the Liberian people for not recognizing Liberia as a Christian state but rather taking it as a secular state.

Nimba County

There are also rumors that a pastor was infected with the virus when he laid his hands on a woman during prayers. But community dwellers believe that he was poison because he was a powerful preacher.

Lofa County

People believe that Ebola is a man-made disease brought to Liberia by the West.

Recommendations

Several speculations are being made about the origin of the EVD. Those speculations are strongly driven by mistrust towards the government and the overall lack of information about the actual causes of the disease and how it spreads in the country. There should be a shift in the conversations about the future, focusing more on how to prevent another outbreak rather than on the past, and on whom was responsible for it.

It is also suggested that more work should be laid on trust-building activities with communities especially looking at inter-religious and inter-racial dialogue. Tension between communities can be rife if preventive actions are not taken urgently to quell rumors on the "religious" or "racial" cause of the disease.

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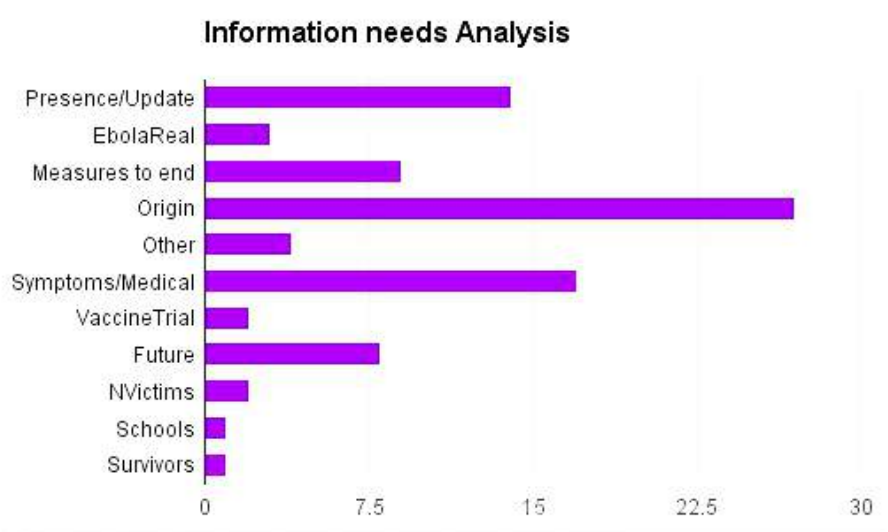
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NATIONAL EBOLA SURVEY RESULTS

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.



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

NVictims: 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

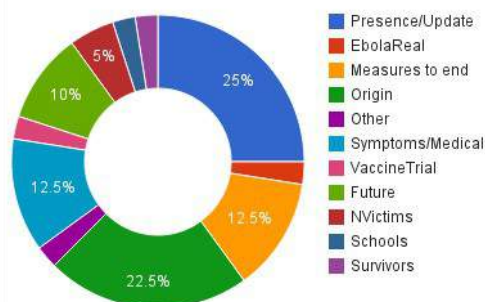
Other: Those are general questions that do not fall under any of the previous categories.

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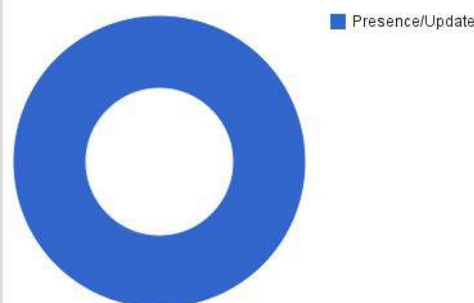
Montserrado



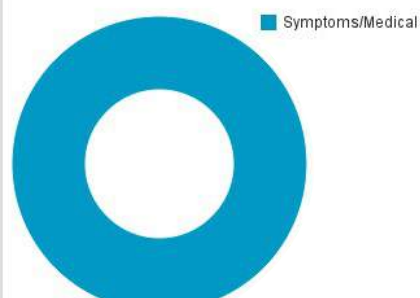
River Gee



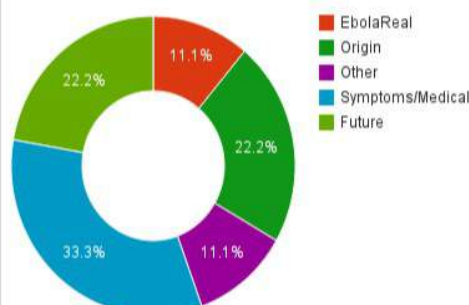
Bomi



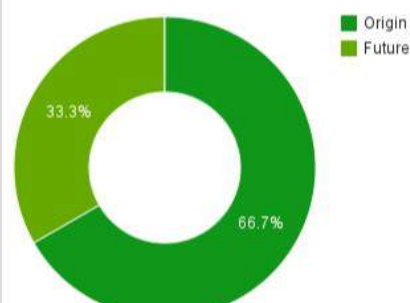
Sinoe



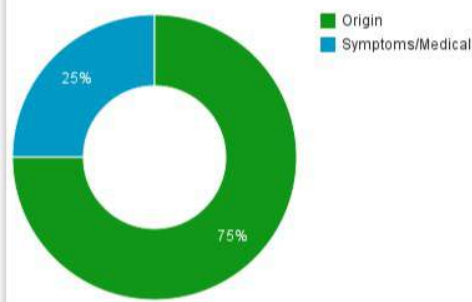
Grand Bassa



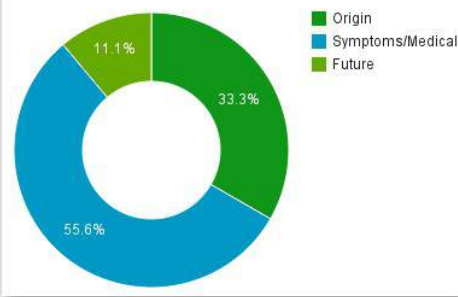
Rivercess



Mary land



Margibi



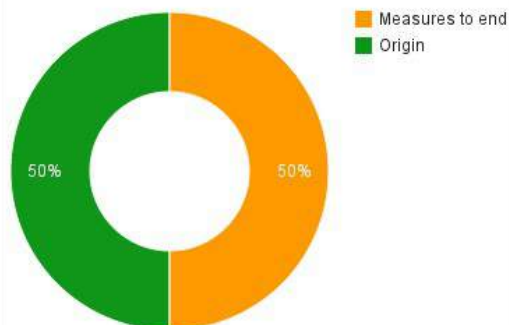
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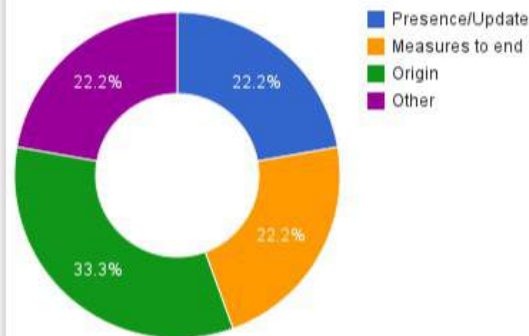


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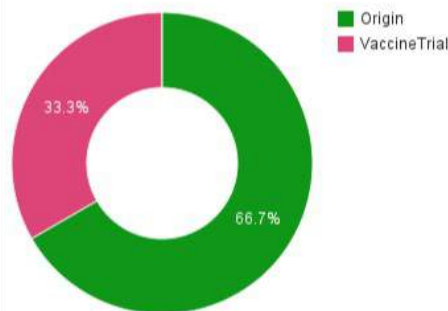
Grand Cape Mount



Nimba



Grand Geedeh



MAIN QUESTIONS PER CATEGORY:

Presence/Update:

1. Is Ebola still in Liberia?
2. What is the current status of the Ebola outbreak?

EbolaReal:

1. Is Ebola real?

Measures to end:

1. What can we do to prevent Ebola?
2. What can we do to stop Ebola?

Origin:

1. How did Ebola enter Liberia?
2. What is the real cause of Ebola?
3. Is Ebola man-made or natural?

Future:

1. When will Liberia be Ebola free?
2. What are the plans for all the organizations working on Ebola in Liberia now?

VaccineTrial:

1. When will the vaccine be available?

Symptoms/Medical:

1. What causes Ebola?
2. What are the real symptoms of Ebola?
3. Is Ebola a physical disease?

NVictims:

1. How many people died of Ebola in Liberia?

Schools:

1. What are the necessary measures the government has put in place in schools to stop the spread of Ebola among students and pupils?

Survivors:

1. Why did they say that Ebola victims are "useful?" What are their advantages?

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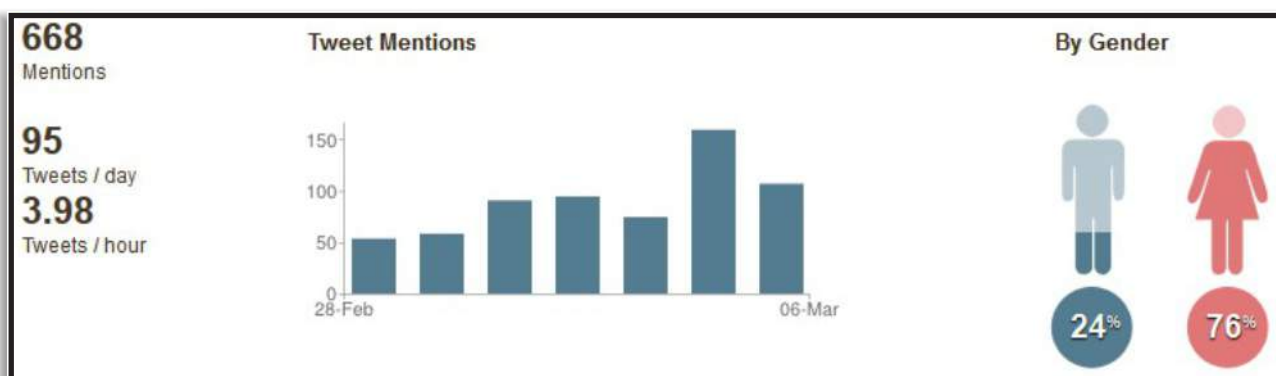


Weekly online content report (28 February – 6 March 2015)

This report contains data analyzed from Twitter and traditional online media contents in Liberia.

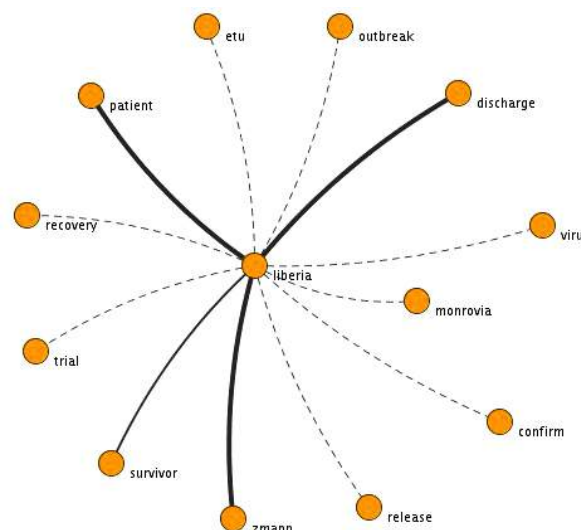


Twitter



The figure above shows twitter demographic accounts in Liberia that mentioned the word – “Ebola” between 28 February and 6 March 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.



@sarankjones **Saran Kaba Jones** LIBERIA

founder & executive director of @faceafrica. clean water advocate. social entrepreneur. change agent. global citizen. WEF Young Global Leader 2013

www.faceafrica.org

15,835

Followers

8/10

RT @BBCAfrica: The last known #Ebola patient in #Liberia has been discharged. She said she's "one of the happiest persons on earth today."

5 Mar 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@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

3,525

Followers

7/10

RT @kathyzucker Eradicate Ebola – @shortyawards #Activist finalist MT @aiwra Inspiring @katiemeyler story of starting @MoreThanMeORG! <http://t.co/t1YvWTmQye>

6 Mar 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@katiemeyler **Katie Meyler** MONROVIA, MONTERRADO, 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

10,121

Followers

7/10

Their are no new known Ebola cases left in Liberia, what a long road but what an exciting moment... <https://t.co/lzfbnLuZAf>

6 Mar 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@UNMILNews **UNMIL** MONROVIA, MONTERRADO, LIBERIA

Official account of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

www.unmil.unmissions.org

5,953

Followers

7/10

"Operation Stop Ebola" is in full force. Listen to this @UNMEER #EbolaResponse update: <http://t.co/XwU5ecMzux> <http://t.co/4K4DuYwnID>

6 Mar 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@LiberianTimes **TheLiberianTimes.com** LIBERIA

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

2,539

Followers

7/10

Claremore Nurse Returns From Stint In Liberia Caring For Ebola Workers - News On 6 <http://t.co/L3q6u6xd2n> #LIBERIA

6 Mar 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@VickieRemoe **#GoWoman #IBIM** LIBERIA

Managing Partner @MagicUnltd. Publisher @GoWomanAfrica Sierra Leonean US diaspora export to #Ghana w/ Columbia Journalism degree. #GoWoman

gowomanafrika.com

3,780

Followers

7/10

Someone just texted me that the VP's bodyguard died of hemorrhoids that the ebola story was a set up to get him to quarantine #SierraLeone

6 Mar 2015

[More Tweets](#)



@Yadelbba7 **Yadel Nimley** MONROVIA, MONTERRADO, LIBERIA

Big Brother Africa Stargame- Liberia Rep. Actress, Radio Host, TV Talk show Host, Model.

2,569

Followers

7/10

Last patient to b released from the Ebola treatment center today. For the past 12days, no new cases. #liberiaisbecomingebolafree #God

5 Mar 2015

[More Tweets](#)

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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.

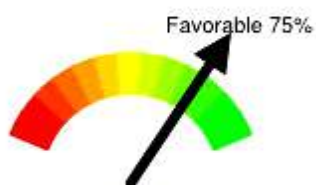
she was presented a bouquet of red flowers and a panda teddy bear as she exited the etu in the skd community in paynesville.

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.

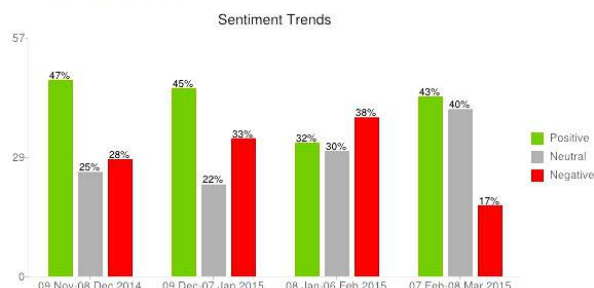
Sentiment trends on Ebola-related media content

Overall Sentiment



25% Positive + 50% Neutral + 25% Negative

Sentiment Trends



Overall Sentiment Pie Chart

