

Information Saves Lives

Humanitarian Newsletter
Issue #16 - July 4-10



Citizens' Feedback

f /internewsliberia

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.

POST-EBOLA RECOVERY

Plan Liberia has donated education materials to the Pleebo community in Todee district. The donation was part of their post-Ebola recovery plan.

Montserrado

CROSS BORDER SURVEILLANCE

Some citizens in Grand Cape Mount County believe that the border needs to close in order to make sure Liberia stays free from Ebola.

Grand Cape Mount

Some locals rumour that there are too many points to illegally cross the borders in the country.

River Gee

NEW CASES

Some citizens in Bomi County would like to know if 4455 is still active and if they should continue to report sick people in their communities. They would like to know because the borders in Guinea and Sierra Leone are still open. They also state that some locals are still bathing dead bodies.

Bomi

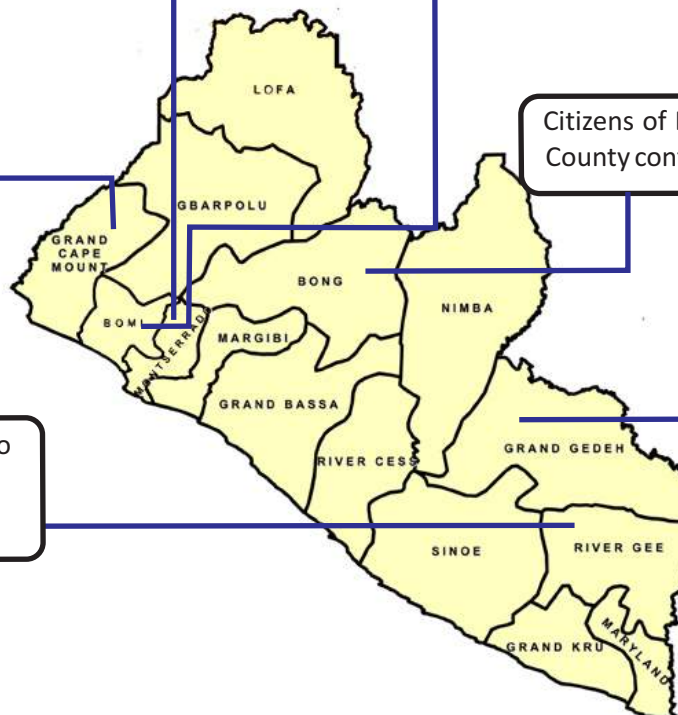
Citizens of Bong County wonder how the 17-year-old boy from Margibi County contracted the Ebola virus.

Bong

HEALTH CARE RESTORATION

Authorities of the Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital state that they have all the necessary requirements in place to fight Ebola. However, they do not have enough trained people for Infection and Prevention Control.

Grand Gedeh



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Citizens' Feedback

EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION

Citizens in Gbarpolu County rumour that the Ministry of Education has forgotten to give six schools in the Bokomu district textbooks during their distribution activities.

Citizens in Gbarpolu County state that the Ministry of Education has started distributing books in their county.

Gbarpolu

Residents in Grand Cape Mount County indicate that text book distribution has started in the county.

Grand Cape Mount

The distribution of textbooks by the Ministry of Education is ongoing and locals appreciate it a lot.

Margibi

Citizens in Bong County state that the Ministry of Education has started distributing books in the county.

Bong

Residents in Maryland County state that textbook distributions have started in the county: most of the schools have received their part.

Maryland



SCHOOL CLOSURE

Montserrado

River Cess

Locals in Grand Gedeh report that schools in the county have asked 12th and 9th graders to stay at home as they will not be promoted this year. Only 18 students from the Zwedru Multilateral High School are actively going to school after the government pronounced the schools to be closed by the 31st of July 2015.

Grand Gedeh

River Gee

Locals in Grand Kru County state that the schools should close immediately because of the new cases in Margibi.

Grand Kru



Citizens' Feedback

EBOLA AWARENESS

The government needs to reinforce Ebola prevention protocols in the county, according to locals in Bong County.

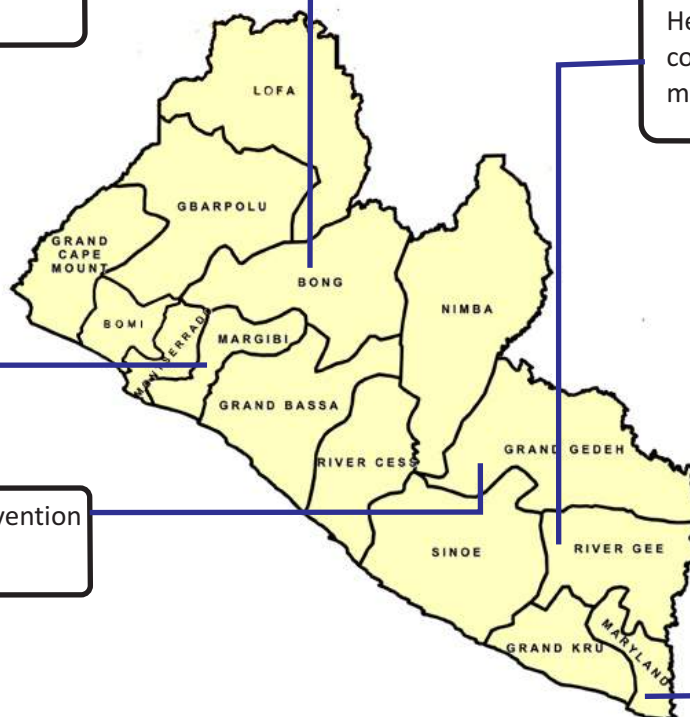
Bong

Citizens in Margibi report that the County Health Team is carrying out awareness in the county. The CHT is encouraging locals to continue following the Ebola protocols.

Margibi

Citizens in Grand Gedeh report that the Ebola prevention protocols should be reinstated in the county.

Grand Gedeh



Residents in River Gee County indicate that the County Health Team is resuming Ebola awareness activities in the counties. Task Force meetings have resumed and the group meets three times a week.

River Gee

Some citizens from Maryland County indicate that since the new Ebola cases have been made public, locals have returned to the washing of hands and respecting of other Ebola preventive measures.

Maryland

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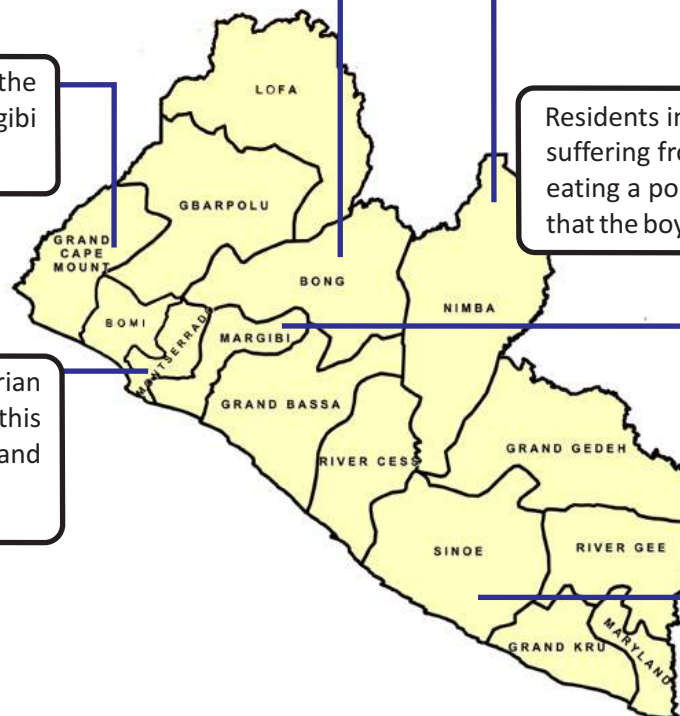
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Rumors

NEW CASES



Some residents in Bong county argue that the case in Margibi was not really an Ebola case but a way for the government to get more money from its partners. They also rumour that Ebola will be more harmful than before.

Bong

Residents in Nimba rumour that there is no Ebola in the country – it is just NGOs that are making up stories. They also believe that the 17yr old from Margibi County has died from eating a poisoned dog rather than from Ebola.

Nimba

Some citizens in Grand Cape Mount County believe that the 17yr old boy that died from the Ebola virus in Margibi contracted the virus from eating a dog that died of Ebola.

Grand Cape Mount

Residents in Margibi County claim that the patients in ELWA are not suffering from Ebola. According to them the 17-year-old boy died of eating a poisoned dog. The reason that the government proclaimed that the boy died of Ebola was to get more money from the partners.

Margibi

Citizens in Montserrado County rumour that the Liberian and USA governments are planning to bring Ebola back this rainy season. They also rumour that there is Ebola in Grand Cape Mount and Lofa County.

Montserrado

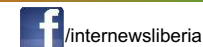
Some locals in Sinoe County believe that there will be a new Ebola outbreak on Independence day (the 26th of July).

Some residents in Sinoe County believe that there is no Ebola in Margibi County. They believe that the government is pretending that there is Ebola in the country to get more money from her partners.

Sinoe

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Rumors

NEW CASES

Locals in Gbarpolu County rumour that the government is using Ebola to get money from its partners. They also state that there are currently 26 contacts that are being checked by the Ministry of Health.

Gbarpolu

Some residents in Grand Bassa County state that the government is only pretending that Ebola is back in the county to be able to get more money from her partners.

Grand Bassa

Some citizens of Grand Kru County rumour that the Government brought back Ebola because Ebola brought money.

Grand Kru



SCHOOLS

Locals from Montserrado County rumour that the president has said that schools will be closed from September 2015 instead of July 31st, 2015.

Montserrado

Some citizens in Bong County rumour that the president has said that all schools should remain open until September.

Bong

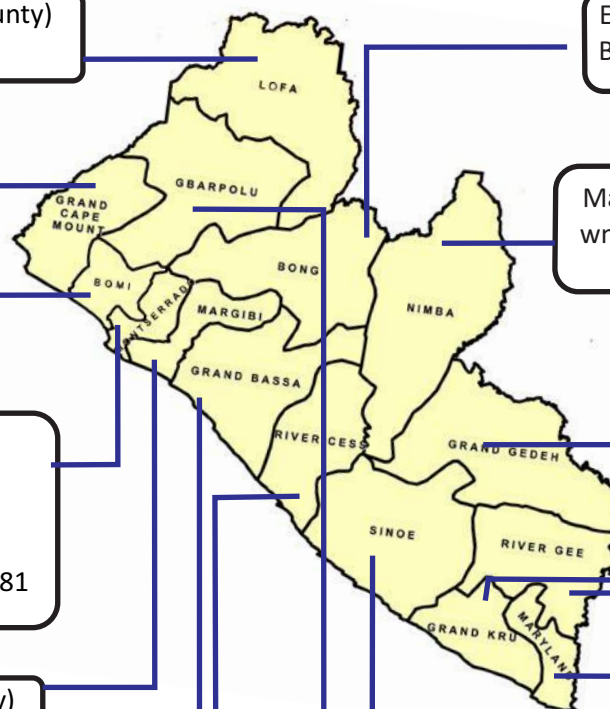
FROZEN FOOD

Residents in Nimba County rumour that the Ebola patients in Margibi County got infected with the Ebola virus by eating frozen food.

Nimba

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Journalists reporting rumors from 15 Counties



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Montserrado

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Grand Kru

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Maryland

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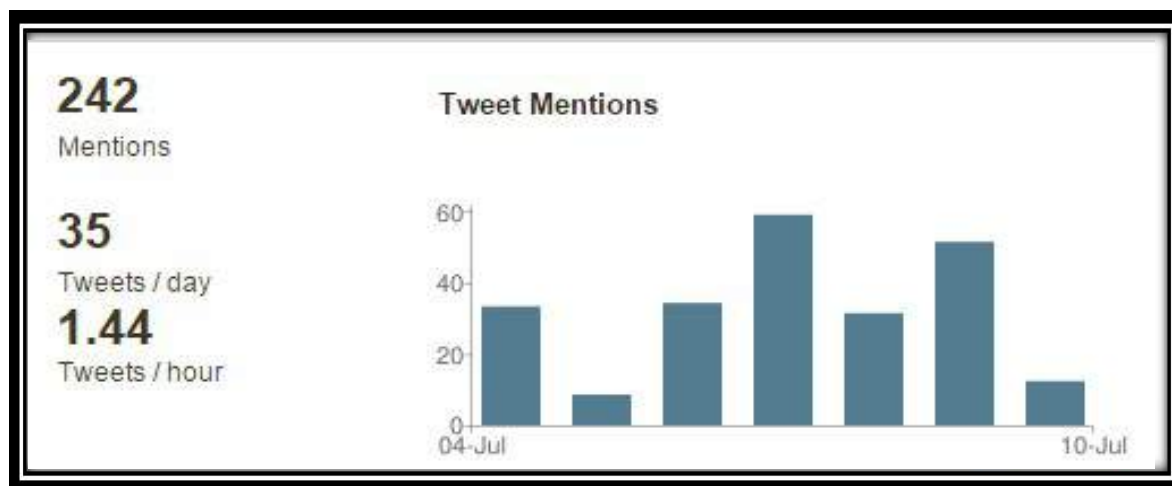
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ONLINE CONTENT REPORT Week July 4th to July 10th, 2015

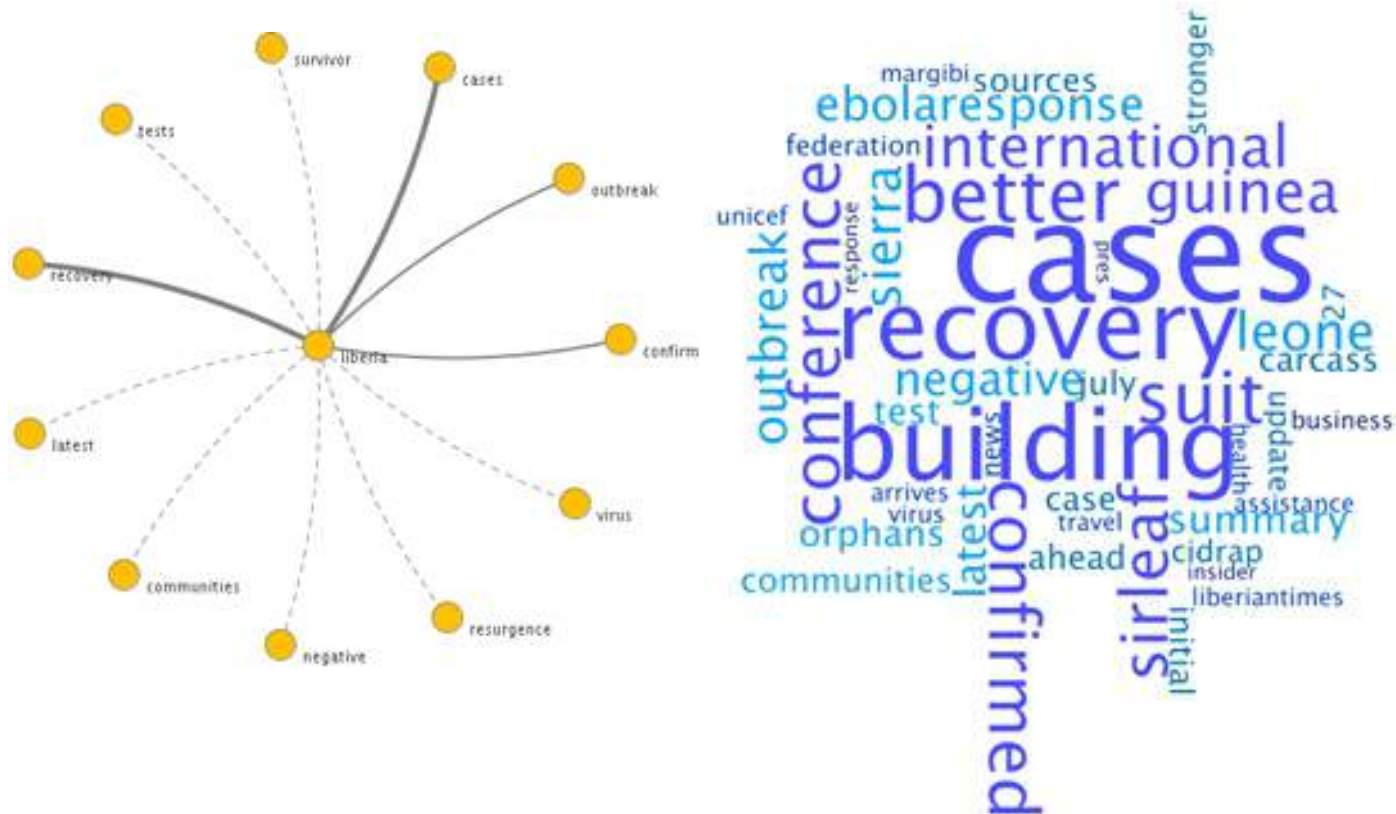
This report analyzes data from Users identified as Liberian citizens on Twitter.



Twitter



Most tweeted Ebola topics












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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.

	@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	16,042 Followers	8/10	RT @BBCWorld VIDEO: How Liberia's Ebola hospital was transformed http://t.co/bV4YUj7rcZ 10 Jul 2015 · More Tweets
	@MoreThanMeORG More Than Me LIBERIA We went from getting girls off the street and into school to fighting #Ebola. School is back open and we're ready to #dreamBIG. #WeMustDoMore Tweets by @ebell19 https://morethanme.org/i-see-you-fund.html	3,686 Followers	7/10	A reminder of the ties between the US and #Liberia via @nprnews #ebola #connected #goatsandsoda http://t.co/73iid6zXQ 6 Jul 2015 · More Tweets
	@UNMILNews UNMIL MONROVIA, MONTERRADO, LIBERIA Official account of the United Nations Mission in Liberia www.unmil.unmissions.org	6,946 Followers	7/10	We're in last mile of #EbolaResponse, job is not yet done - @UN Chief to host #Ebola Recovery Conference 9-10 July: http://t.co/g2vhsfMhy 9 Jul 2015 · More Tweets
	@LiberianTimes TheLiberianTimes.com LIBERIA Liberia's Most Trusted News Source Since 2005 TheLiberianTimes.com	2,748 Followers	7/10	Ebola Eradication Key - Zim Health Minister http://t.co/6SkfEIDEAh #LIBERIA 10 Jul 2015 · More Tweets
	@HottFM HottFM107.9 LIBERIA LIBERIA #1 RADIO STATION IN LIBERIA..... DA FIYAH!!! hottfm1079.com	7,825 Followers	7/10	RT @LiberianTimes Two more Liberia Ebola cases as Guinea, Sierra Leone log 27 - CIDRAP http://t.co/2EAyXqdoTE #LIBERIA 10 Jul 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	3,546 Followers	7/10	RT @artyliving Don't miss the @UN Ebola Recovery conference art exhibition curated by @KambaFineArt next Friday. Details here: http://t.co/lhsbug9bzn 6 Jul 2015 · More Tweets
	@VickieRemoe #SwitSaloneDotCom LIBERIA Managing Partner @MagicUnitd. Publisher @GoWomanAfrica Sierra Leonean US diaspora export to #Ghana w/ Columbia Journalism degree. #GoWoman gowomanafrica.com	3,969 Followers	7/10	RT @GoWomanAfrica GoWoman Salutes Nyamacoro Sarata Sillah a head nurse administrator at the International Medical Corps Ebola... http://t.co/xlCSTv5tb 9 Jul 2015 · More Tweets



Online media

Below is a list of influential content published by Liberian online news outlets. The content's reach is measured by the number of readers.

New Jump in Ebola Virus Case – Seven in Treatment ...

10-Jul-2015 in www.frontpageafricaonline.com

Dr. Francis Kateh, Deputy Minister of Health Monrovia - Four more people have been confirmed **Ebola** positive the Liberian government said Thursday, increasing fears that the epidemic is once again taking hold in the country. **Ebola** killed more than 4

Still Unreliable: Liberia's Inability to Trace New...

10-Jul-2015 in www.frontpageafricaonline.com » Regional: Africa News, Liberia News

THE HEALTH SYSTEM of Liberia collapsed to the outbreak of the deadly **Ebola** virus beginning early 2014, the worse ever in the history of the virus. **EBOLA** SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE, killing people at home and in treatment units, clinics...

Gov't Confirms 2 More Ebola Cases

10-Jul-2015 in www.liberianobserver.com • Sports: Latest

confirmed two more new **Ebola** cases in the country. This brings the total... four are now receiving supportive treatment at an **Ebola** Treatment Unit. According to... workers are in control of the **Ebola** situation and several of them are...

Gov't Signs US\$100M Mineral Agreement

10-Jul-2015 in www.liberianobserver.com » Sports: Latest

The development of the Dugbe Gold Mine in Sinoe County, accelerated with the government yesterday signing a 25-year Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) with Hummingbird Resources-Liberia. 's confidence in doing business with Liberia. She recalled how the Ebola outbreak...

Report: Maternal mortality to rise in Ebola hit co...

9-Jul-2015 in www.thenewdawnliberia.com » Regional: Liberia News, Guinea News, Sierra Leone News

workers during the **Ebola** crisis in the three most hit West African countries... countries. The loss of health workers due to the **Ebola** epidemic in In... Worker Mortality and the Legacy of the **Ebola** Epidemic published in The Lancet.

New Ebola cases hit 5

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

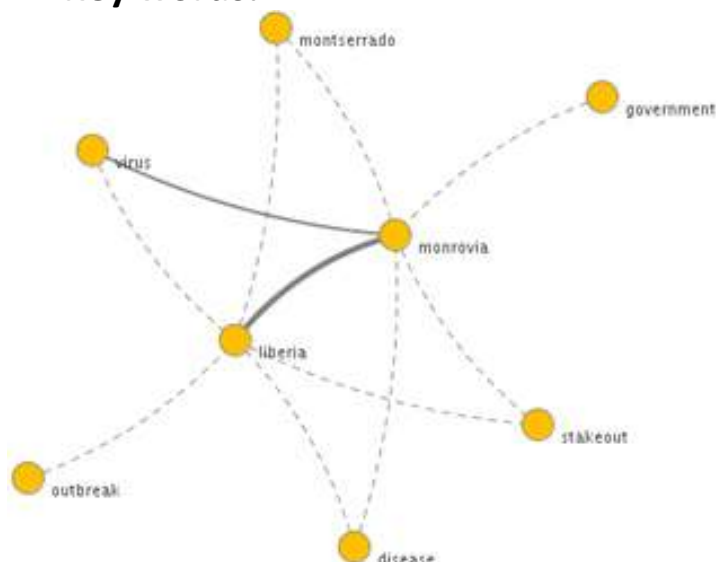
²⁶ Deputy Health Minister Dr. Francis Ketter has disclosed that the new **Ebola**... five new cases in Margibi County, four are currently in the **Ebola** Treatment... virus. Dr. Ketter urged media practitioners covering the **Ebola** virus to exercise professionalism...

Ellen off to US, Ethiopia

9-Jul-2015 in www.thenewdawnliberia.com » Regional: Africa News, Us News, Ethiopia News, Liberia News

colleagues from worse **Ebola** hit countries, including Guinean President, Dr. Alpha Condé and Sierra Leonean President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma to attend an international **Ebola** Recovery Conference... on the need for targeted investments to support **Ebola** recovery priorities over a...

Key words:



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 essays printed in the Internews Humanitarian newsletter will not exceed 500 words (photo optional).

Fighting Fear with Facts: Kriterion Monrovia

Contact us at: kriterionmonrovia@gmail.com

Kriterion Monrovia is a student-led NGO based in Montserrado County. Kriterion Monrovia has established itself in 2013 as an independent art-house cinema with a focus on local culture. Kriterion Monrovia has since been screening art house movies and organizing cultural events, but with the outbreak of the deadly Ebola disease in early 2014, Kriterion Monrovia has given its full attention to awareness-raising campaigns and activities.

We at Kriterion Monrovia are a motivated and highly pro-active group of University students who work together to promote culture and cinema in Liberia. In February 2014 we organized Liberia's first ever Film Festival, entitled 'Image of Liberia'. For this program we screened national and international films in communities in Monrovia. We also organized a Liberian film and documentary competitions for young film-makers and a diverse set of workshops. We were even planning to open a cinema...

But then, Ebola broke out... and with schools and universities closed and social gatherings prohibited by the President, promoting local culture could no longer be our priority. Our students wanted to take action! Since we live in affected communities and have been working in others for such a long time, the fight against Ebola became personal. From community to community we went: talking to market sellers, youth, housewives, men, children, town elders and town chiefs. Our teams have worked tirelessly over the past 6 months to help their fellow Liberians... through the rainy season, across dusty roads and in infected communities, our students have taken many risks to help contain the Ebola virus disease.

We started with the basics: a bucket, a no-touch-policy and some professional training that we received about the Ebola virus. Then we set to work, fighting fear with facts. We started informing our fellow Liberians on how to recognize the signs of Ebola and ways to prevent further infection. We showed the family members how they could best isolate yet care for their loved ones whilst waiting for the health communities. It was so important during the Ebola outbreak to keep on treating people as humans rather than just patients.

During the Ebola outbreak we went to affected communities. Sometimes communities protected us by preventing us from entering. Then we did drama about violence in the Ebola outbreak and how communities should work together to overcome stigmatization. We also made our own songs about the Ebola virus. In communities that were not yet affected, we first met the town chief to ask permission to go from door to door. Then we went around the community with a megaphone and met the community members 'under the palaver hut'. We also went to the food markets to educate people about the virus. People listened to us because we are their own children – we are Liberian and we can speak their local dialect.

Today in Liberia the trend of the Ebola-infection rate has decreased significantly; communities are responding with their own mechanisms to fight the virus, denial is reducing, and action is replacing fear. The communities we worked in made their own Ebola screening procedures, starting with informing a chief and then isolating a victim under the palaver hut before help comes. We, the student volunteers of Kriterion Monrovia, celebrated with this village their fight against Ebola for reaching zero cases in December, after too many deaths. It is possible that we go back to zero once again!



TOGETHER WE CAN STOP EBOLA!



Rain or shine, Kriterion Monrovia's student volunteers work together with communities in Monrovia to raise awareness on Ebola prevention



Kriterion Monrovia celebrating Liberia being declared Ebola free.