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

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.

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

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.

Citizens say Ebola prevention measures are being respected in schools.

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

POST EBOLA

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.

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

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.

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

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 Tapang Ivo Tanku - Health Communication Liaison Officer - tivo@internews.org - 0770461348
Parents say they will not receive the Ebola vaccine unless they must have been informed and educated about it.

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.

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.

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.

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

Montserrado

Margibi

River Cess

Maryland

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.

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.

Citizens say opened borders would never free Liberia from Ebola.

Bomi

Grand Kru

Maryland

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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

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**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 than 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

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

Information Needs Analysis

- What are the current updates on Ebola?
- Is Ebola a real disease?
- What measures could be put in place to end Ebola?
- What is the origin of Ebola?
- What are the non-Ebola related concerns?
- What are the symptoms of Ebola?
- What are the stakes of the Ebola vaccine?
- Can Liberia be Ebola free?
- What number of people have died of Ebola?

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?
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
### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Followers</th>
<th>Influence</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katie Meyler</td>
<td>Monrovia, Montserrat, Liberia</td>
<td>10,154</td>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>Having a ceremony to thank our ambulance team for their tireless work. Follow: <a href="http://bit.ly/2y57nNA">link</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@LiberianTimes</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>2,589</td>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>Liberia's most trusted news source since 2005. Follow: <a href="http://bit.ly/2y57nNA">link</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royda</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>1,422</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>RT @Quirenews Guinea ramps up fight against Ebola. Follow: <a href="http://bit.ly/2y57nNA">link</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Child</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>1,698</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>CEO Tom Donnatt talks live on BBC World Service. Follow: <a href="http://bit.ly/2y57nNA">link</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plaid Ellen Sirleaf</td>
<td>Monrovia, Montserrat, Liberia</td>
<td>1,303</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>Even though there have been some recent occurrences of Ebola, Liberia is still overall on the right path to eradicating Ebola. Follow: <a href="http://bit.ly/2y57nNA">link</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**

  
  "The William Booth Salvation Army High School in Paynesville, Liberia, received a $140,155 grant from USAID for the design of an educational facility for the school. The grant is expected to improve the school's capacity to educate students and provide them with the necessary facilities to succeed in their studies."

**Friday is Fast and Prayer Day**

  
  "President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has by Proclamation declared Friday, April 10, 2015 as Fast and Prayer Day to be observed throughout the country as a way of expressing much harm, devastation, destruction, particularly the deadly Ebola virus disease (EVD), from which..."

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

  
  "As Liberia's countdown against the Ebola virus disease (EVD) continues, the Ministry of Health continues to receive donations of medical supplies from various sources. The medical supplies donated 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
  
  "The 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**

- 6-Apr-2015 in www.thenewdawnliberia.com - Regional: Liberia News
  
  "Written by Ethel A. Tew 

  " Ebola survivors cry for help" 


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

**MSF opens new children's hospital**

- 6-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...

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**Key words:**