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.

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

Residents in River Cess are reporting that the health ministry has been organizing awareness campaigns in their county on the differences between the Ebola and routine vaccines. They cite traditional chiefs, paramount rulers, and traditional elders of Zoe town, as some of the targeted people in the campaign.

In Nimba County, the people are reporting that an NGO called Crusaders for Peace and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare are now using local languages to educate traditional chiefs, paramount rulers, and traditional elders on the differences between routine and Ebola vaccines.

In Grand Kru County, Care International, UNICEF and the County Health Team are educating people on the differences between the Ebola and routine vaccines.

Citizens are reporting that the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Global Youth Organization trained 150 community volunteers on distinguishing between the routine and Ebola vaccines. They add that the exercise was aimed at helping them educate others elsewhere in the county.
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**RAINY SEASON**

In Gbarpolu County, the County Health Team and an NGO known as Child Fund have been using Everybody's Business, a radio talk show to discourage people from thinking that mosquito treated bed nets were impregnated with Ebola.

**SCHOOLS**

Residents are reporting a shortage of Ebola prevention kits in schools.

People say although Ebola prevention measures are being respected in schools, communities within Montserrado County are not respecting them.

**PREVENTION MEASURES**

Citizens of Tewor, a small district in camp three of Grand Cape Mount County, say they no longer wash their hands because their buckets are broken.

People say that residents are now practicing safe and dignified burials.

People are saying the Ebola prevention measures are not being respected in River Cess County because according to them, there is no more Ebola in Liberia.
Citizens are rumoring that among several foods distributed by the World Food Program, only salt contains Ebola. They say citizens should not consume it because they will be infected with Ebola.

Rumors

**RAINY SEASON**

- Citizens rumor those officials managing the Ebola funds are secretly planning for a possible outbreak of the disease during the rainy season. **Montserrado**

- Maryland citizens’ rumor that there will be another outbreak of Ebola during the rainy season. **Maryland**

- River Cess County residents rumor that the routine vaccine will weaken the immune system of their children and make them very vulnerable to another outbreak of Ebola during this year’s rainy season. **River Cess**

**PREVENTION MEASURES**

- Residents’ rumor that health workers in Gbarga, Bong County, are discouraging healed Ebola couples from engaging in unsafe sex because they could have an Ebola-infected newborn baby. **Bong**

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

- Citizens are rumoring that among several foods distributed by the World Food Program, only salt contains Ebola. They say citizens should not consume it because they will be infected with Ebola. **River Cess**

- Residents of Gbeapo, a district in River Gee County, are rumoring that the routine vaccine is not the normal one they have been receiving over the years. They say it is the Ebola vaccine, and are discouraging parents from allowing their children to receive it. **River Gee**

- Citizens also rumor that the Ebola vaccine will be given to children below five during the routine vaccination period. **Gbarpolu**

- Citizens rumor that the measles vaccine will infect children with Ebola instead. They also claim that some Kenyan doctors recently discovered that many of the routine vaccine will sterilize children. **Montserrado**

- Citizens rumor that the measles vaccine will infect children with Ebola. **Bong, Maryland, Grand Cape Mount & Sinoe Counties**

- Rivercess County residents rumor that the routine vaccine will weaken the immune system of their children and make them very vulnerable to another outbreak of Ebola during this year’s rainy season. **River Cess**

- It is being rumored that health workers in Grand Kru County will vaccinate children with the Ebola vaccine and not the normal routine vaccines which they have been receiving over the years. **Grand Kru**

- Residents of Gbeapo, a district in River Gee County, are rumoring that the routine vaccine is not the normal one they have been receiving over the years. They say it is the Ebola vaccine, and are discouraging parents from allowing their children to receive it. **River Gee**
**BEST PRACTICES**

1. In Margibi County, a community radio station called Radio Joy Africa, held a talk show named “Liberian Speak” on April 29, 2015. During the show, the presenter opened the lines for listeners to call in and participate, by airing their views on the upcoming routine immunization program. The majority of listeners confirmed that they now take their children to hospitals and clinics where they could receive the routine vaccines. They added that previous radio talk shows educated them on the importance of the routine vaccines and how they could distinguish it from the Ebola vaccine.

2. In River Cess and Nimba Counties, traditional chiefs, paramount rulers, journalists with Echo Radio and traditional elders were grouped together and trained by the health ministry and development partners including Liberian Crusaders for Peace, on the importance of routine vaccinations. These influential community members were targeted because they could easily engage community discussions at their local levels and dismiss fears of Ebola being further spread by routine vaccines.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. In Maryland and Nimba Counties, residents are recommending that the Liberian government and its partners decentralize the routine vaccination program to other popular areas within communities where parents will have easy access. They complain of overcrowding in hospitals and clinics that is discouraging parents from queuing up for several hours with their children on their backs.

2. As Liberia draws near to 42 days of no new Ebola case, citizens are recommended that a public statement on the hunting, selling and eating of bushmeat should be made official to them. Most of them claim it is their source of livelihood and they think Ebola is absent in bushmeat. Prompt suggestions from organizations fighting Ebola could possibly stop another outbreak, as the people think they will return to their normal hunting habits after May 9, 2015.

3. The rainy season has started in Liberia and complaints of treated mosquito bed net rejection have been high in some counties. People fear that the bed nets have either been contaminated with Ebola or must have been taken from Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) and therefore were once used by Ebola patients. The Liberian government and partners could further educate citizens on the compulsory procedures required for the closure of ETUs and the safe disposal of any materials which have been contaminated.
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Humanitarian Newsletter
Issue #8 - April 25 - May 1

Information Saves Lives

Journalists reporting rumors from 15 Counties

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THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS IN THE GEOPOLL SURVEY

Information Needs Analysis

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM COUNTIES

**Bomi County**
- Is Ebola real?
- How can Ebola spread from one to another?

**Bong County**
- In what year did Ebola enter Liberia?
- How Ebola enter Liberia?

**Grand Bassa County**
- Is Ebola still in the country?

**Grand Cape Mount**
- Is Liberia free from Ebola now?

**Grand Gedeh County**
- What is Ebola?
- What are sign and symptoms of Ebola?

**Lofa County**
- When will Liberia be declared Ebola free?
- Are there already drugs against Ebola?

**Margibi County**
- When will Liberia be declared Ebola free? How many days or months?

**Maryland County**
- Is Ebola really a manmade virus as some people are saying?
- How did Ebola enter Liberia?

**Montserrado County**
- Is Ebola Man Made?
- How did Ebola entered Liberia?

**Nimba County**
- If Ebola comes back, how can we fight the disease again?
- When Ebola was discovered and where?
Online Content Report – Week April 25th to May 1st, 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 18 – 24 April 2015

Most tweeted Ebola topics

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[Links provided]
Most influential Liberian Twitter accounts streaming on Ebola

The influence of the accounts is measured by 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 Name</th>
<th>Followers</th>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>@sarankjones</td>
<td>15,946</td>
<td>8/10</td>
<td>Saran Kaba Jones, Liberia, governor &amp; executive director of @faceafrica, clean water advocate, social entrepreneur, change agent, global citizen, WEF Young Global Leader 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@UNMilNews</td>
<td>6,244</td>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>Official account of the United Nations Mission in Liberia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@LiberianTimes</td>
<td>2,627</td>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>Liberia's Most Trusted News Source Since 2005.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@VickieRemoe</td>
<td>3,870</td>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>Managing Partner @MagicUnltd, Publisher @GovWomanAfrica Sierra Leonean US diaspora export to Ghana w/ Columbia Journalism degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@UN_Liberia</td>
<td>2,024</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), 15 agencies, funds and programmes, and the World Bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@DoubleH78</td>
<td>1,416</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>HOTTFM 1079, Liberia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@scosi</td>
<td>1,948</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>StreetChild, Liberia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Below is a list of influential contents published by Liberian online news outlets. The contents’ influence is measured by the number of readers.

Red Cross Dissolves Ebola Burial Team in Liberia
1-May-2015 in www.frontpageafricaonline.com
SCD team demonstrates their course of work at a program held in Sinkor, Monrovia. As Liberia moves closer to being declared free of the deadly Ebola... of Ebola death was one of the most challenging aspects during the outbreak.

'Significant' Help: U.S. Decommissions Ebola Facility
1-May-2015 in www.frontpageafricaonline.com
Monrovia - As Liberia nears the end of the Ebola outbreak with days left to be declared Ebola free, many foreign interventions are gradually being rolled out. The latest intervention to come to an end is the American Public Health...

Pres. Sirleaf meets U.S. Surgeon General and deleg...
Ebola crisis. She emphasized that the country is looking forward to what she called the ‘Magic Day’ when the country will be declared Ebola free and fight against the deadly Ebola virus disease. ‘We appreciate the role played by...

CONHOL distributes mosquito nets
22 A non-governmental organization, Conhor... epidemic, was due to Ebola, adding most of the deaths could be... death was attributed to the Ebola Virus Disease. Mr. Stanke has meanwhile appealed...

Ellen hails US Ebola support
support and assistance rendered by the United States Government during the Ebola crisis. Its special Ebola Treatment Unit particularly built to treat infected health workers near... 42 patients from nine different countries, including 18 health care responders with Ebola...

Liberia, Ivory Coast forge cooperation
37 President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara have expressed the desire to organize another meeting of the Joint Council of Chiefs and Elders of border comm... of Liberia, deeply scour by the consequences of the Ebola virus disease and...

Liberia seeks EU Visas issuance
the Ebola recovery and stabilization plan. Mr. Ng‡tuan sees the EU-Liberia Dialogue as... billion euros to the overall fight against Ebola to which, he said,... Liberia... International Conference on Ebola in March this year. At which time Liberia and...

Key words: