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.

**CROSS BORDER SURVEILLANCE**

Locals in Zorzor district recommend that the border should remain open for cross border trade.

Locals complain that the border needs to be closed as new cases are still reported in neighboring countries.

Locals report that traders are being banned from going to Guinea, but that officers at the border do allow them to give their money to people across the border to purchase their goods.

Citizens of Grand Gedeh County complain that they have to wait at the border entry point for hours. At the end, they are often denied from crossing to buy their market. Locals complain that the screening process at the border is too intense.

**SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Residents of Bong county report that the Government should close schools because the rain is too heavy for the children. Locals complain that the rain is disrupting schools.

Government should observe illegal entry into the country from the border as Guinea and Sierra Leone are still reporting EVD cases.

**NEW CASES**

Locals fear that Ebola might resurface in the county because Guinea is reporting new cases.

**EBOLA TREATMENT UNIT (ETU)**

Locals are stating that the ETU in Fish Town will be turned into a ministerial complex: the medicines and other equipment’s have been transferred to the Community Care Center (CCC).
**POST-EBOLA RECOVERY**

MOE has started distributing books to schools in the county as part of the post-Ebola recovery plans. Locals complain that the rain is disrupting schools as water is leaking into the classrooms because of badly maintained roofs.

The County Health Team, as part of their post-Ebola recovery plan, have started recruiting health workers for the CH Rennie Hospital in Kakata. Also, old medical instruments were replaced.

Health practitioners complain that they have to walk long distances before getting to the medical center. Their lack of mobility makes it very difficult for them to respond to emergency health situations.

**EBOLA SURVIVORS**

Three EVD survivors that were thrown out of school because they did not pay their tuition to the BWI vocational institute were taken to the ICRC office in Monrovia Freeport community. They were given 17,000LD each by ICRC to pay their school fees.

**CELEBRATIONS**

Nimba celebrates the end of Ebola in the county. A monument has been built in Ganta in remembrance of those who died while fighting to save lives during the Ebola crisis in Liberia.

Tolbert Nyenswah encouraged locals at the celebration program to continue following the EVD protocols and dispel the rumor that there are Ebola cases in the county.

**BUSHMEAT**

Residents from Sinoe County would like to know, now that Ebola is gone, can they start eating bush meat again?

WHO County Health Coordinator in Sinoe encourages locals to continue to follow the EVD preventive measures.

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Humanitarian Newsletter
Issue #14 - June 20-29
Locals rumor that the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone is causing the government to close schools in June.

Residents of Bomi County rumor that the government will close schools in June. Citizens in Bomi County report that two schools in Senjeh District were washed away by the rain. Apparently the citizens of the Senjeh District are now using citizen residences in the county to continue academics.

Citizens in Margibi County report that the government will close schools by the end of June.

Locals rumor that schools will be closed late June and reopen in September.

Citizens in River Cess rumor that there are new Ebola cases in the country — that is the reason that the government is closing down the schools.

Residents of River Gee County rumor that the government will close schools in June.
Information Saves Lives

**Rumors**

**NEW EBOLA CASE**

- **Grand Cape Mount**
  - Some citizens in Grand Cape Mount County are shocked and worried about the new Ebola case. They are concerned that more people will get sick now Ebola is back in Liberia.

- **Bomi**
  - Some citizens in Bomi County rumour that there is a new Ebola case in Margibi County.
  - Some residents of Bomi county state that community members in the county are washing dead bodies again.

- **Bong**
  - Locals rumour that the Bong Mines Hospital had a suspected case of Ebola. Yesterday a girl visited the hospital with her parents. She vomited blood but was never treated. She returned home with her parents and died this morning. No burial team has visited her.
  - CDC has stated that the body has been swabbed by the burial team. They are still awaiting test results.

- **Margibi**
  - Some citizens in Margibi County are very worried about the new case that has been reported in their county. They say that the boy became sick in Guinea and travelled to Liberia.

- **Nimba**
  - A woman in Nimba County was arrested by the LNP after refusing health workers to immunize her child. She was convinced the Ministry was infecting her child with the Ebola vaccine.

- **Sinoe**
  - There are people who are refusing to take their children to the hospital for the Polio immunization campaign because they believe that the government is using the campaign as a way to infect people with Ebola.

- **Montserrado**
  - Some locals are saying that there is a new case in Margibi County. They are very concerned by the news because they believe that the Ebola task force no longer exists. They believe that the task force was disbanded after Liberia was declared Ebola free.

- **Grand Kru**
  - Some citizens are saying that Liberia has a new confirmed Ebola case.

- **Grand Gedeh**
  - Why has Liberia been declared Ebola free if Ebola is still in the country?

  - Some citizens believe that the government is reintroducing Ebola so they can get more money from international donors.

  - Some citizens in Montserrado County say that the boy who died of the Ebola virus in Margibi County caught the virus in Sierra Leone.

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**Humanitarian Newsletter**

**Issue #14 - June 20-29**

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Information Saves Lives

Journalists reporting rumors from 15 Counties

Franklin M. Flomo, Youth Talk (Zorzor, Lofa County)
youthtalkliberia@yahoo.com; 0777.594.766

Ibrahim M. Sesay, Radio Cape Mount (Sinje)
rahimsesay29@gmail.com; 0886.445.585

Foday Sesay, Radio Bomi (Dubmanburg, Bomi County),
dfoday70@gmail.com; 0777.008.527

Alfred Sirleaf, Daily Talk (Montserrado)
dailytalknews@yahoo.com; 0770.534.892, 0886.473.067
Moses Kollie Garzeawu
Liberia Broadcasting System (Montserrado)
mokgeta@yahoo.com; ytl4youth@gmail.com; 0888.609.081

Ben B. Togbah, Jr., Radio Joy Africa (Kakata, Margibi County)
bentogbah1997@gmail.com; 0888.711.919

Alpha Daffae Senkpeni, LACSA Radio (Grand Bassa)Front Page Africa –
County Correspondent, daffae82@gmail.com; 0886.432.042

Eric Opa Doue, Echo Radio (Jarpah Town, River Cess)
eric.voicefm@gmail.com; opa.voicefm@gmail.com; 0770038122,
0776483357, 0770461344

Emmanuel Mulbah, Bong Mines Community Station (Bong Mine,
Bong County) sdmulbah@gmail.com; 0886.594.913, 0777.670.476

Mac Samah, Voice of Flumpa (Nimba County),
wmksamah64@gmail.com; voiceofflumpa@gmail.com; 0777.286.315

Moses Geply, Smile FM (Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County)
toegeplyg@yahoo.com; 0880.748.253

Karway Suah, Voice of Grand Kru, Barclayville; 0776025769

Justice GaddehGee Radio, (Fishtown, River Gee County)
gaddehjustice@gmail.com; 0776.633.23, 0886.633.239

Max Klah, Voice of Sinoe (Greenville, Sinoe County)
maxkklah1962@gmail.com; 0886.816.314

Michael Wroh, Voice of Pleebo (Maryland County)
michaelwroh@gmail.com; 0880.795.504

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THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS IN THE GEOPOLL SURVEY
Information Needs Analysis

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM COUNTIES

BOMI COUNTY
What number of people have died of Ebola?

BONG COUNTY
What number of people have died of Ebola?
What is the future of Ebola?
What are the current updates on Ebola?
Is Ebola a real disease?

GRAND BASSA COUNTY
What are the non-Ebola related concerns?
What are the symptoms of Ebola?
What are the current updates on Ebola?

GRAND GEDEH COUNTY
What are the current updates on Ebola?
Is Ebola a real disease?

LOFA COUNTY
What are the non-Ebola related concerns?
What is the origin of Ebola?
What are the current updates on Ebola?

MARGIBI COUNTY
What are the symptoms of Ebola?
What is the origin of Ebola?
What are the current updates on Ebola?
What number of people have died of Ebola?

MONTSERRADO COUNTY
What number of people have died of Ebola?
Are healed Ebola patients stigmatized?
What are the current updates on Ebola?
What is the future of Ebola?

NIMBA COUNTY
What is the origin of Ebola?
What are the current updates on Ebola?
Is Ebola a real disease?
What are the current updates on Ebola?

RIVER GEE
What is the origin of Ebola?

SINOE
What is the origin of Ebola?
What are the stakes of the Ebola vaccine?
This report analyzes data from Users identified as Liberian citizens on Twitter.

### Twitter

218 Mentions
31 Tweets / day
1.30 Tweets / hour

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>@sarankjones</th>
<th>Liberian journalist and entrepreneur, global citizen. WEF Young Global Leader 2013</th>
<th>16,019 Followers</th>
<th>8/10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>@katiemeyler</td>
<td>Founder, More Than Me. I love Liberia. I fought Ebola now doing everything I can to make sure it doesn’t happen again.</td>
<td>10,253 Followers</td>
<td>7/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@UNMILNews</td>
<td>Official account of the United Nations Mission in Liberia</td>
<td>6,765 Followers</td>
<td>7/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@LiberianTimes</td>
<td>Liberia's Most Trusted News Source Since 2005</td>
<td>2,715 Followers</td>
<td>7/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@VickieRemoe</td>
<td>Managing Partner @MagicUnitld. Publisher @GoWomanAfrica Sierra Leonean US diaspora</td>
<td>3,957 Followers</td>
<td>7/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@HottFM</td>
<td>#1 Radio Station in Liberia</td>
<td>7,795 Followers</td>
<td>7/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@streetchild</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>3,316 Followers</td>
<td>7/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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or Ingrid Gercama - Health Communication Liaison Officer - igercama@internews.org - 077061348
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.

**Go! Urged to Save Liberia’s Forgotten People**

He is ever present on MacDonald Street where the office of the publishers of the Daily Observer newspaper is located in Monrovia. “Johnson is his name,” a passerby told our reporter... further depleted by the recent Ebola crisis, health officials are not talking about...

**Gov’t Defers WAEC to 2016**

The national exams administered annually to 9th and 12th graders by the West African Examination Council (WAEC) has been deferred by the Ministry of Education (MOE) to 2016. In the absence of 2015... Minister Werner said a US$3.2 million Ebola Emergency Fund from the...

**Stop wearing PPEs**

He dispelled rumor that the Government of Liberia is hiding Ebola related cases from the public, noting that Ebola test is being carried out almost every... Ebola freed’, he added. Speaking on the morning radio magazine ‘Truth Breakfast Show....

**BWI celebrates 86th anniversary**

04 Massive preparations are going on for the 86th founding anniversary this Saturday of the Booker Washington Institute (BWI), Liberia’s premier agricultural, technical and voca... Day program following the Ebola crisis. Events marking the anniversary kick off today...

**Ganta Ebola Monument Center dedicated**

58 The Government of Liberia in collaboration with the Nimba County Ebola Task Force has dedicated a US$25,000 Ebola Monument Center in honor of great heroes and heroines (health workers), who fought the deadly Ebola Virus Disease...

**Israeli Ambassador Identifies With Liberia’s Post**
24-Jun-2015 in www.frontpageafricaonline.com ×

Monrovia - As Liberia strives to recover from the scars of the outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus, the government of Israel has donated a consignment of... the country recovers from Ebola. Read More....

**‘No Need to Close Border’: Liberia’s Deputy Health**
24-Jun-2015 in www.frontpageafricaonline.com ×

Monrovia - Tolbert Nyenswah, Deputy Health Minister for Disease, Surveillance and Epidemic Control has told the Liberian Senate not to order the closure of Liberia’s borders with neighbo... with Guinea and Sierra Leone to track suspected Ebola cases coming and leaving...

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’: lesson’s leaned, 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 essay that will be printed in the Internews Humanitarian newsletter will not exceed 500 words (photo optional). This week Internews presents Brooks Marmon from the Accountability Lab. The Accountability Lab partners with civil society organizations in the developing world to build sustainable tools for new and innovative approaches to bolster accountability. The organization works to generate cost-effective relationships based on trust and cooperation rather than co-optation and dependency. Brooks Marmon is a Program Officer with the Accountability Lab. For more information about the Accountability Lab: http://www.accountabilitylab.org/.

For more information contact Brooks Marmon at brooks@accountabilitylab.org.

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Media as a Tool to Empower, Educate, and Entertain: The Accountability Lab Experience

While there have been numerous international media initiatives to combat Ebola, it is not campaigns like Band Aid 30 that have made a splash in Liberia, but rather locally produced content. The soundtrack to Ebola in Liberia was curated, composed, and conducted by Liberians so that it matched the realities of the ways in which people experienced the disease.

The Accountability Lab, through its USAID Ebola Grand Challenge award winning Knowmore LIB campaign, mobilized creative media efforts such as the Save Liberia musical campaign and video efforts to deliver Holiday season Ebola awareness messages and most recently, a nationwide mobile screening campaign. These projects have featured the voices of Liberians – in the case of the films produced by the Liberia Film Institute - voices of Liberians that are not media superstars, but rather everyday people that the public can easily relate to.

The largest of these projects, a GIZ funded Ebola film school and outreach campaign is currently winding down. Administered by the Lab through our partner, the Liberia Film Institute (LFI), the program repurposed an existing Accountability Film School, enabling a rapid initiation of project activities. In a two month period, approximately 15 young filmmakers and editors received training on everything from script writing to acting techniques. The students produced a dozen short films, nearly evenly divided between documentary and drama styles. These have been shown at a film festival in Malawi, at numerous locations around Montserrado County (other locations to follow) and in early June, the films were screened at the University of Liberia, attracting a range of stakeholders that provided a forum for LFI to both market its services and skills and spread the messages of the films. Working with young Liberians to produce films on the Ebola crisis has made marked contributions on several fronts. Perhaps most importantly, the films, examining topics such as the impact of Ebola on public transportation, labor conditions, survivor's stigma, preventive measures in school, and the risks of sex with survivors, are educational, conveying important messages. The films constitute an important archival contribution that can be quickly deployed in the event that the Ebola virus resurfaces.

The films are also entertaining. Liberians can relate to the accents, the plot lines, and the sets. The mobile screenings rapidly attract an audience that engages with the films and the LFI staff screening them. Important to the long term development of Liberia, the film school is also an empowering experience. As Helena Chowoe, a single mother of two whose film was co-selected for best documentary noted, “People never had respect for me but now I am held in high regard because of my filmmaking.” Other students have leveraged their new technical skills for employment opportunities.

Media campaigns are well positioned to resonate and appeal to the general public. This has never been more true than when they are produced by members of that public. The Lab’s Ebola interventions relied on existing networks and projects, ensuring that activities would quickly launch and the capacity of our partners would be strengthened.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**River Cess County**

The government should construct a residential facility on the Timbo clinic premises where doctors and nurses are able to reside. In case of emergency they can then quickly respond.

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