

Front line workers' views on the Ebola response

Ground Truth

Round 11 – 21.04.2015

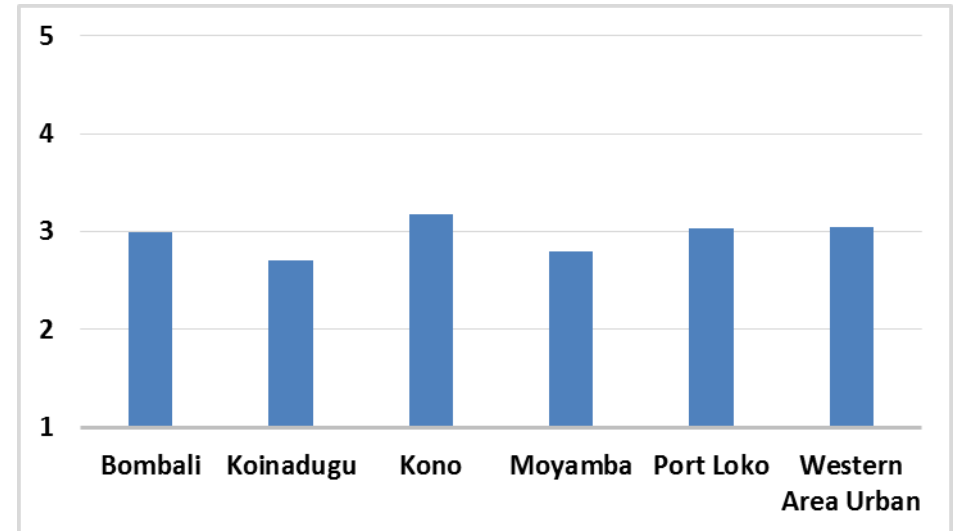
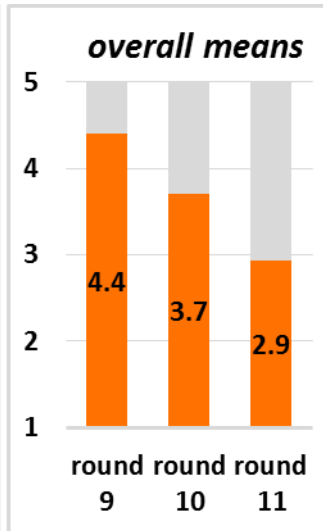
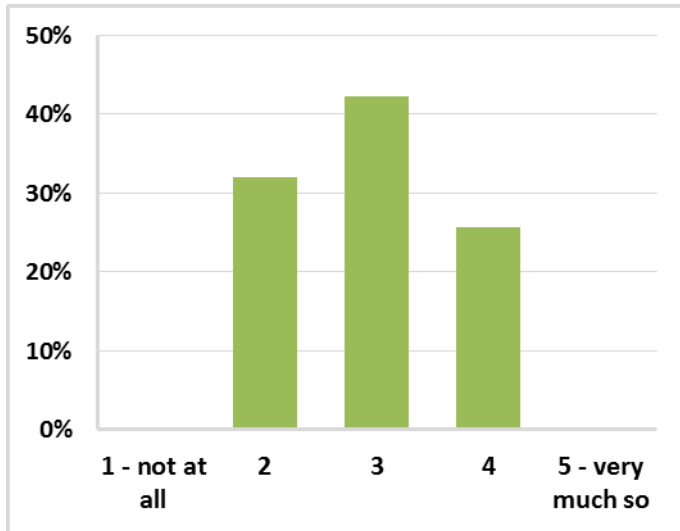
Highlights of findings for 11th survey of frontline workers

- Complacency seems to be a rising issue, with scores worsening in the last two rounds (Q1).
- Scores for people being confident seeking medical help for non-Ebola diseases are still not improving. (Q3) This is also mentioned as one of the highest stress factors (Q6) and separate treatment for non-Ebola diseases was a frequent choice, when respondents were asked what else should be done to fight Ebola (Q9).
- Gender-based violence remains an increasing problem. 40% of those who state it is getting worse, say they know somebody who has encountered it, the other 60% of those who say it is getting worse say they have heard it is a problem. (Q4)
- Emotional stress is still very high (Q5). When asked about the highest stress factor, two thirds of respondents cite 'making a living'. (Q6)
- Respondents state that the removal of checkpoints makes the fight against Ebola more difficult, but 40% state that it made sense to remove them. (Q7)
- Frontline workers are very confident that their organizations will take their feedback into account in adapting their actions. (Q8)

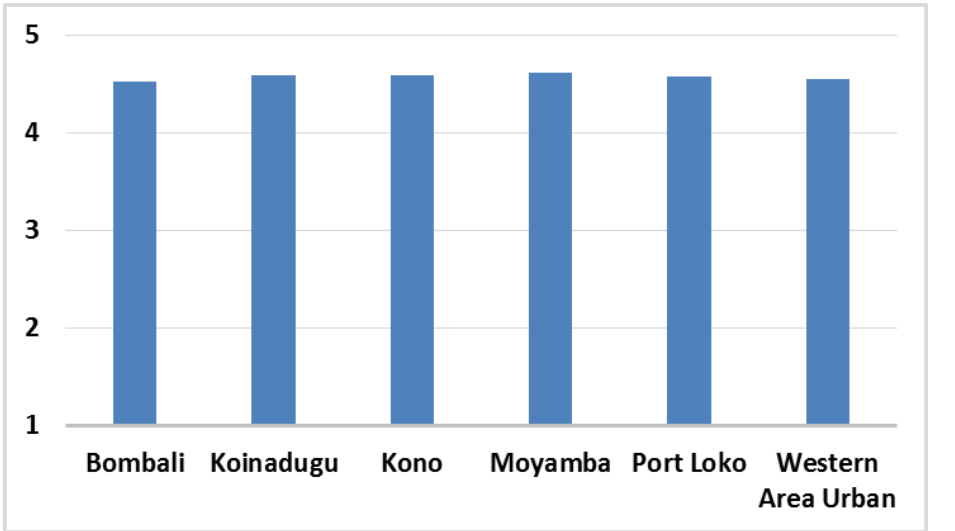
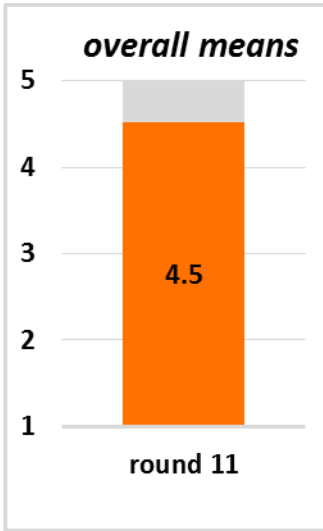
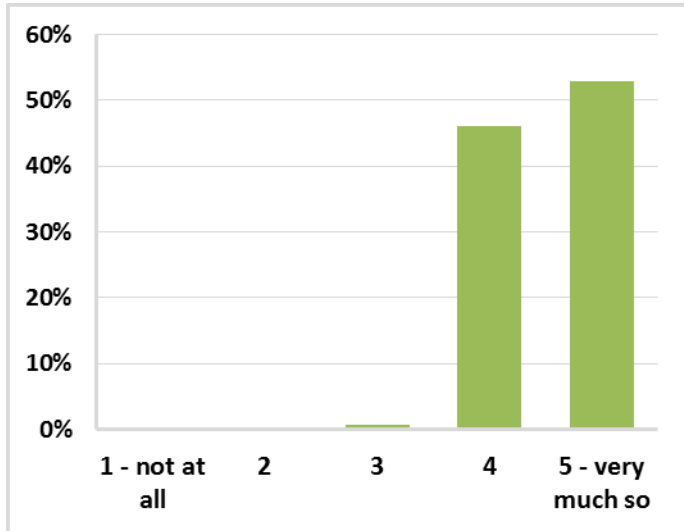
Recommendations:

- Explore why people are not adhering to protocols and campaign on the importance of following protocols until Ebola has come to an end.
- Provide more support to vulnerable women and conduct awareness raising on GBV.
- Ensure separate treatment for non-Ebola diseases.
- Alert relevant ministries and international organizations concerning the issue of making a living, in order to work on safety net interventions.
- Examine the suggestions made by frontline workers in question 9 on how best to fight Ebola.

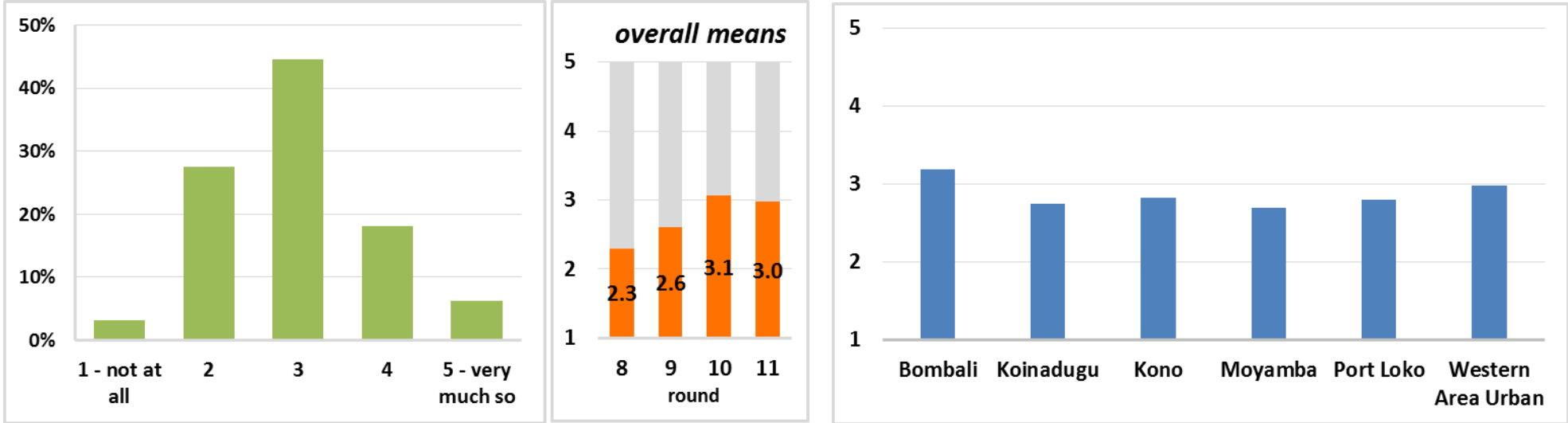
Question 1: Do people still follow protocols on Ebola, like washing hands and taking temperature?



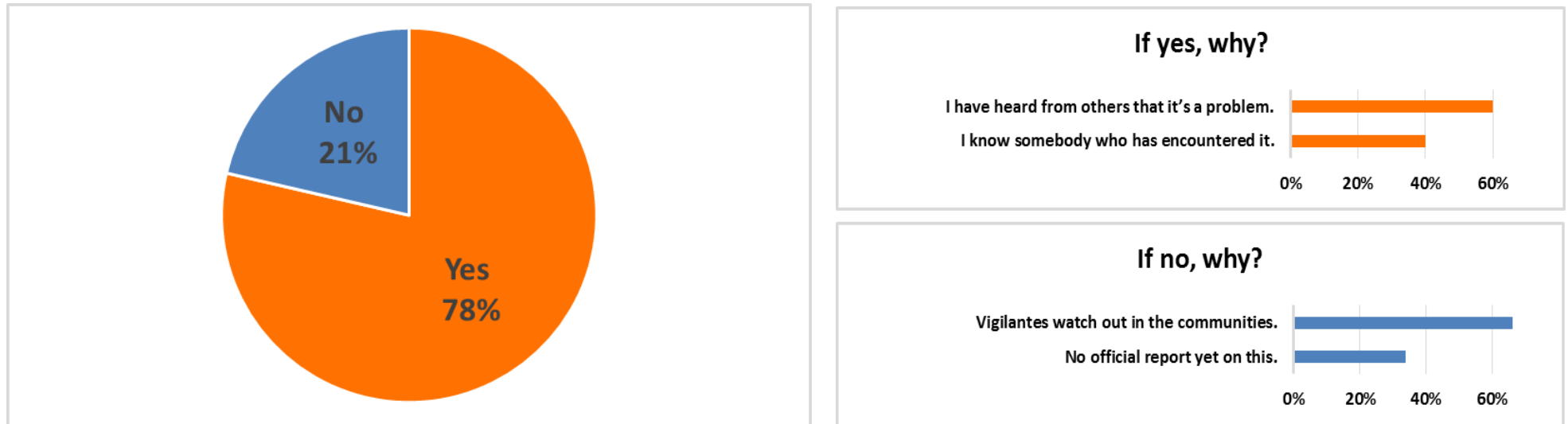
Question 2: Do communication activities and social campaigns influence people's behaviors?



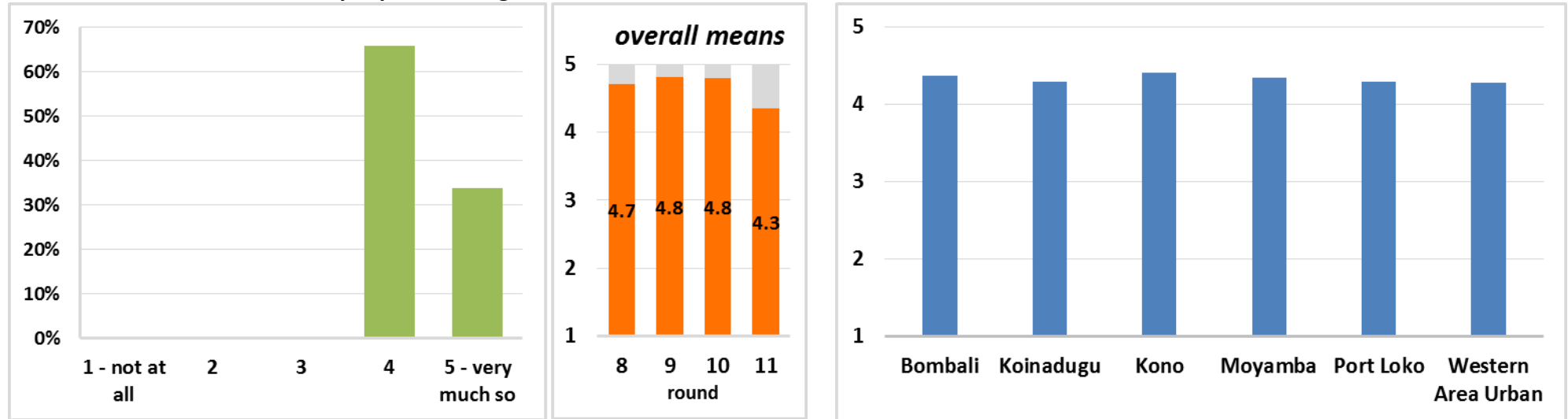
Question 3: Are people confident using health care facilities for non-Ebola illnesses?



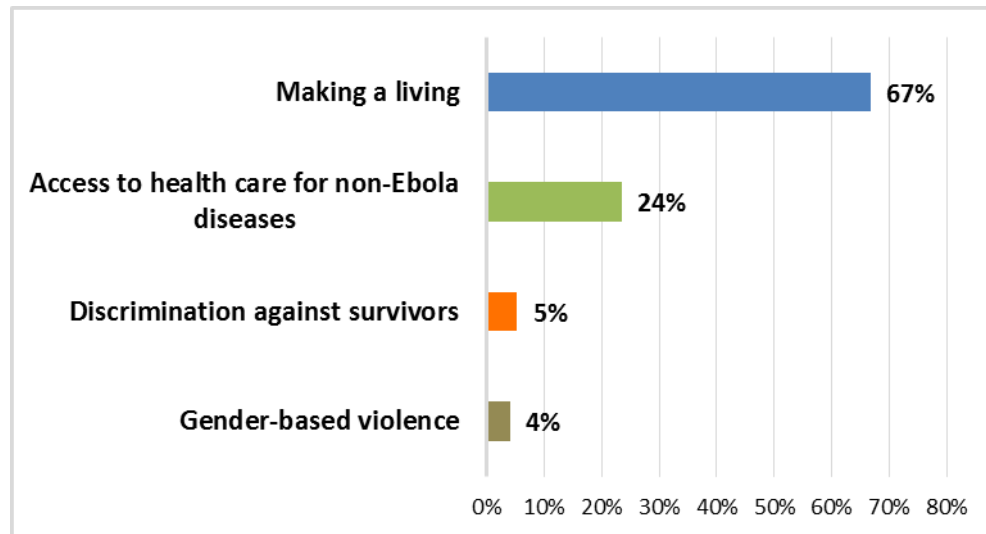
Question 4: In your opinion, has gender-based violence increased since the onset of the Ebola crisis?



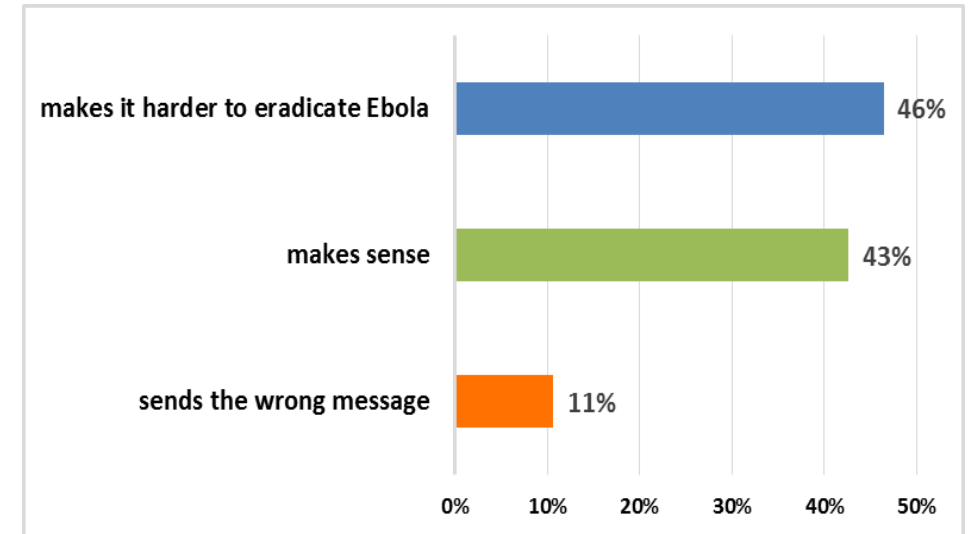
Question 5: To what extent are people suffering from emotional stress as a result of the crisis?



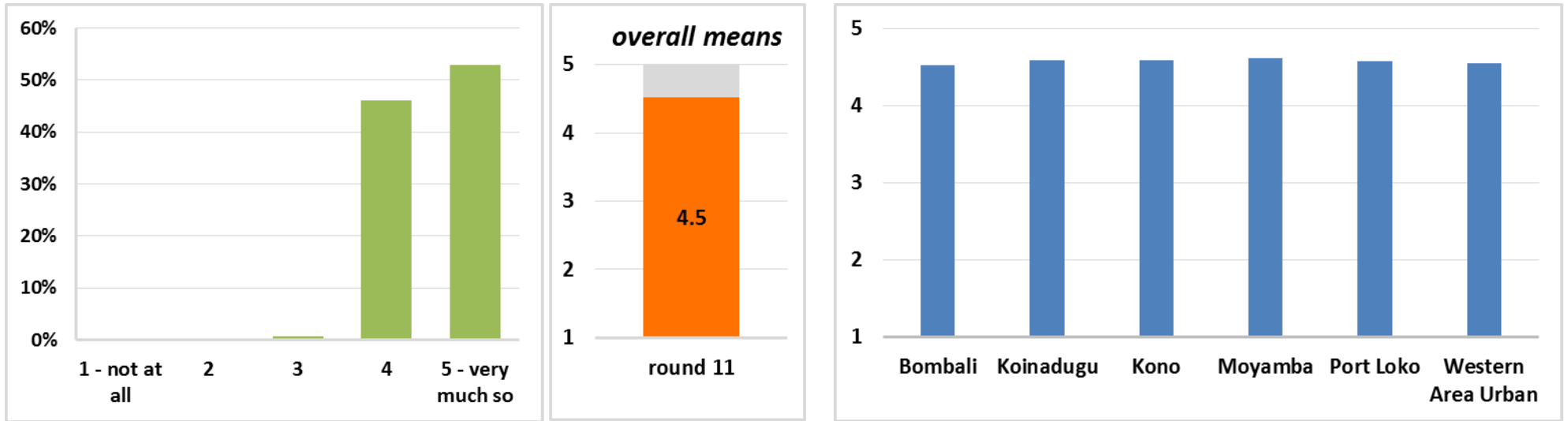
Question 6: What is the highest stress factor?



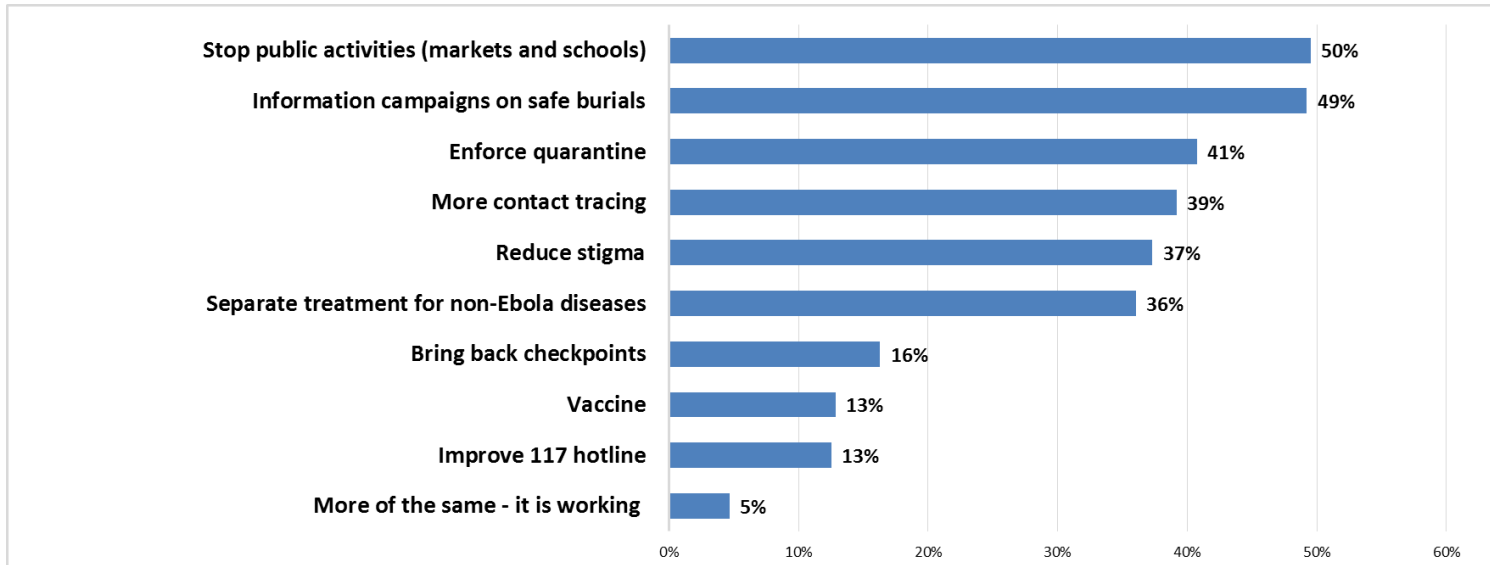
Question 7: The removal of checkpoints



Question 8: Do you feel your feedback has influenced the actions of your organization?



Question 9: What else can be done to fight Ebola?



Survey methodology: For the 11th round, data was collected by phone calls in the week beginning on April 13th 2015 from 319 front line aid workers with ChildFund, PLAN International, Well Body Alliance, Save the Children, Oxfam and others. Districts covered: Bo, Bombali, Kambia, Kailahun, Kenema, Koinagudu, Kono, Moyamba, Port Loko, Pujehun and Western Area Urban and Rural.

Respondents were asked to rate questions on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is: 'not at all'; and 5 is: 'very much so'. The mean score relates to the propensity of the sample to agree or disagree with each question. For some questions they were asked to choose from several options or to answer with 'yes' or 'no'.

Objective: Ground Truth surveys in Sierra Leone, which are supported by DFID, provide agencies working on the Ebola response with data on the perceptions of front line staff, the general population as well as people in quarantine on questions related to the response. The goal is to track how these perceptions evolve as input to programme management. Ground Truth perceptual surveys complement epidemiological data and regular programme monitoring and evaluation.

Sample size: Sample size at the district level is not representative but provides a sense of how perceptions are evolving in these localities. In the regional breakdown we only include districts where we have more than 20 responses.

Note: In the last 2 weeks prior to April 12th 2015, new confirmed cases only occurred in Western Area Urban, Kambia and Port Loko. Kambia had most cases with 13, followed by Western Area Urban with 9 and Kambia with 5.¹

For more information about Ground Truth surveys in Sierra Leone, please contact Kai Hopkins (kai@keystoneaccountability.org) or Eva Erlach (eva@keystoneaccountability.org).

¹ UNMEER: Sierra Leone: Ebola Outbreak – Cumulative cases (as of 15 April 2015)
http://nerc.sl/sites/default/files/UNMEER057_SLE_CaseData_42d21d14d7d_v62.pdf