

Front line workers' views on the Ebola response

Ground Truth

Round 13 – 05.06.2015

Highlights of findings for 13th survey of frontline workers

Now that we are hopefully approaching the end of the crisis, we have conducted another round of data collection - one month after our last round – to see if things are improving in Sierra Leone.

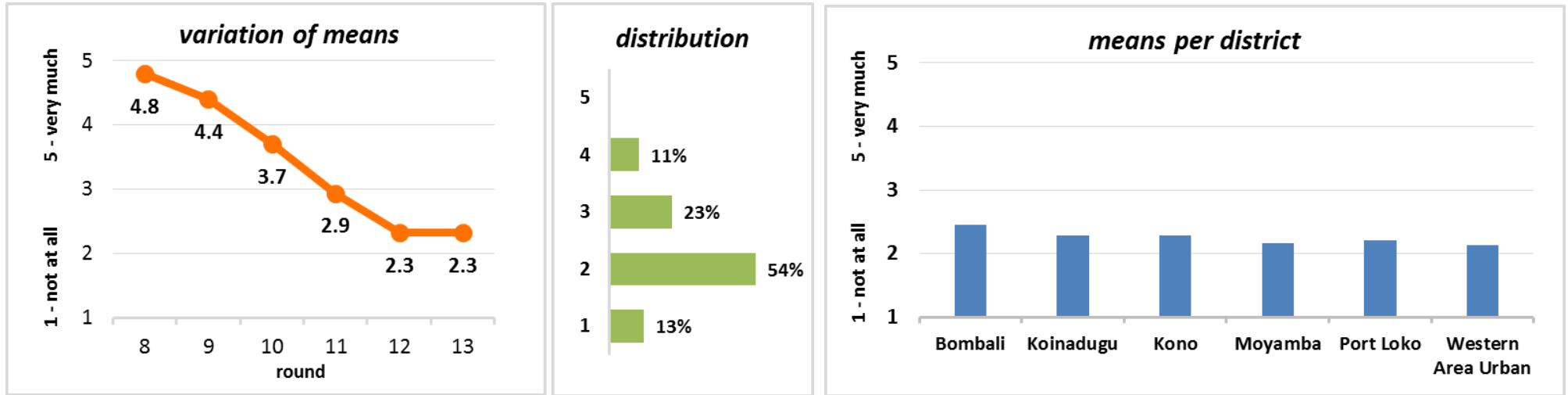
Highlights:

- Frontline workers are extremely positive on the success of the Ebola response (Q8). They also state that they feel better prepared for another similar health crisis with a mean of 4.5 out of 5 (Q7).
- But our data suggests complacency remains high. The mean score on the question about people following prevention protocols has fallen from 4.8 to 2.3 and plateaued on this level. (Q1).
- People are slowly getting more confident about seeking medical help for non-Ebola diseases (Q3). But for two rounds separate treatment for non-Ebola medical issues has been by far the most popular choice when frontline workers were asked about what else could be done to fight Ebola (Q6).
- 70% of respondents are stating gender-based violence has worsened since the onset of the crisis. (Some 46% of those who say it is getting worse know somebody who has encountered it - others have heard 2nd hand) (Q4).
- The emotional stress people are suffering from as a result of the crisis remains very high (Q5).

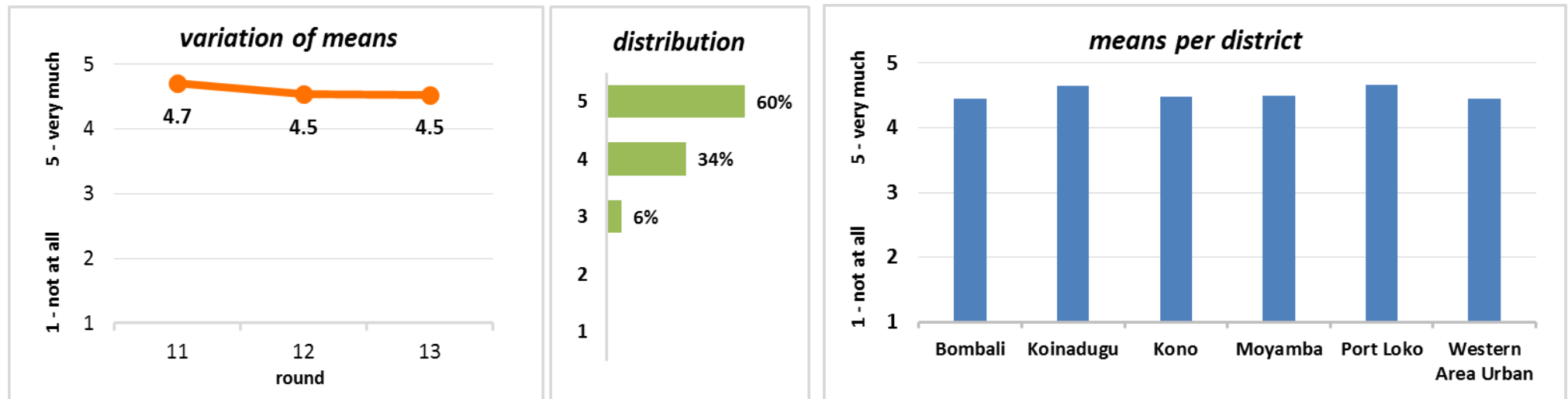
Recommendations:

- Immediate action needs to be taken to ensure people are adhering to protocols until the fight against Ebola has been won. Communication strategies need to focus on this issue.
- The rise of gender-based violence needs to be addressed appropriately and a strategy of prevention and support for women need to be established.
- The feasibility of separate treatment centres needs to be investigated and social campaigns, which are confirmed as successful means to influence people's behaviours by this survey (Q2), need to focus on establishing trust in the health system.
- Frontline workers suggestions on how to best fight the disease should be fed into program planning and implementation.
- Agencies should discuss the feedback with their frontline workers and explain how they are acting upon it.

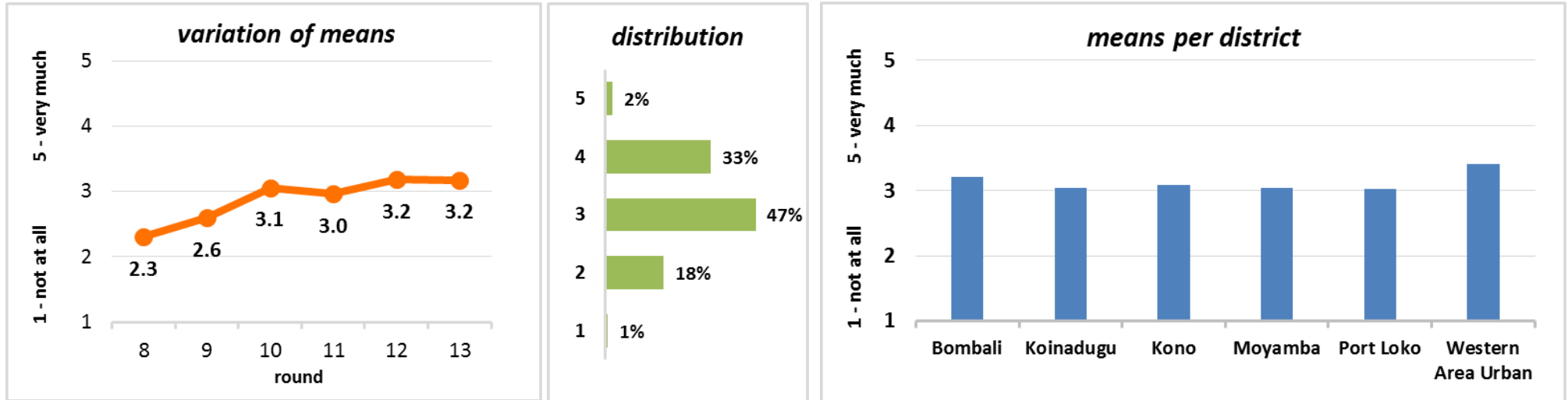
Question 1: Do people still follow protocols on Ebola, like washing hands and taking temperature?



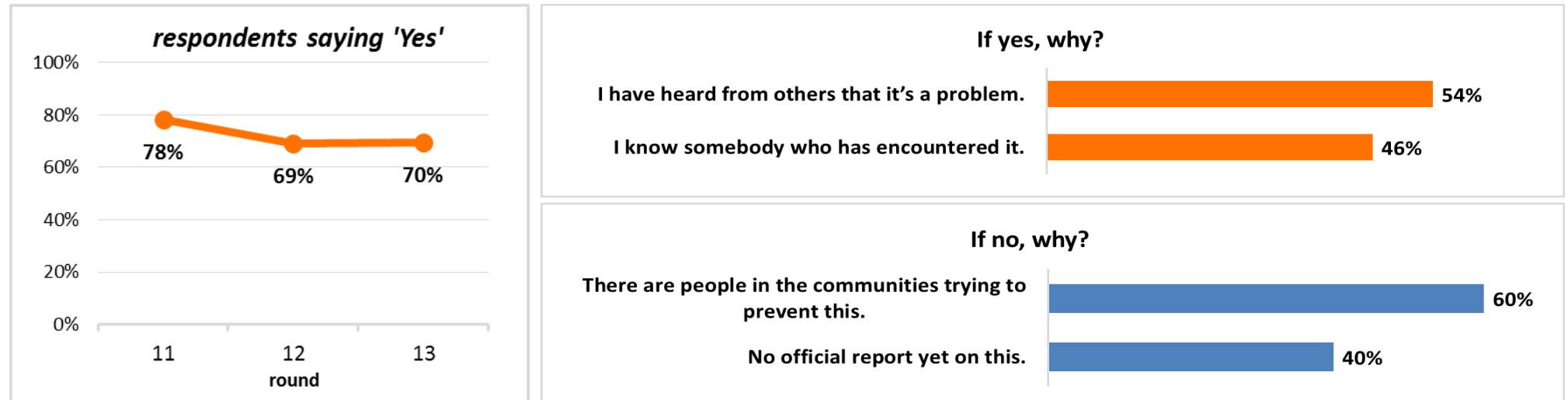
Question 2: Do communication activities and social campaigns influence people's behaviors?



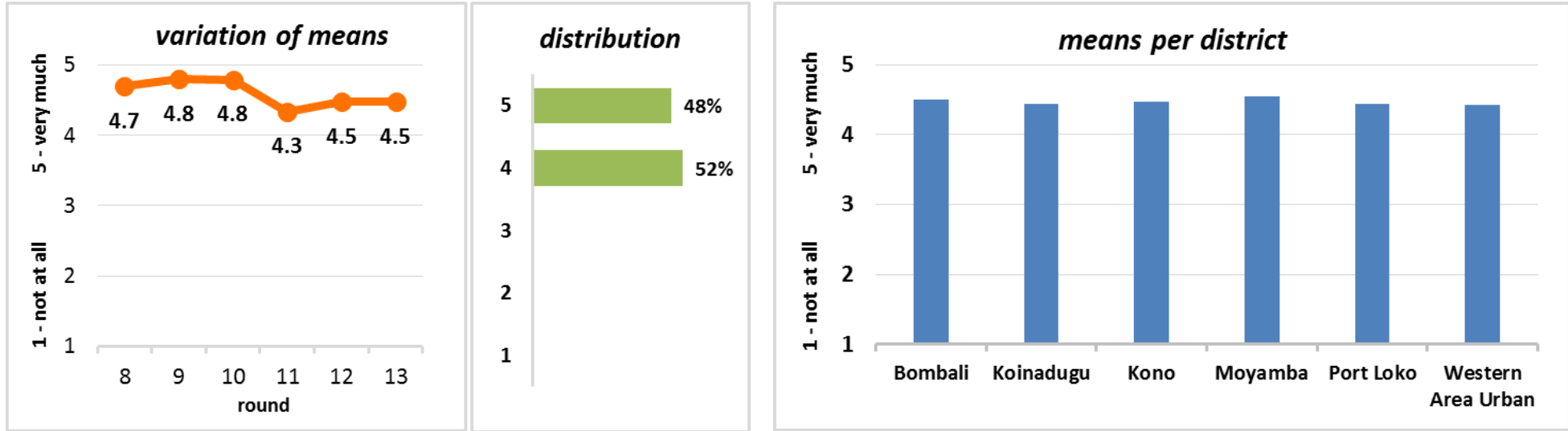
Question 3: Are people confident using health care facilities for non-Ebola illnesses?



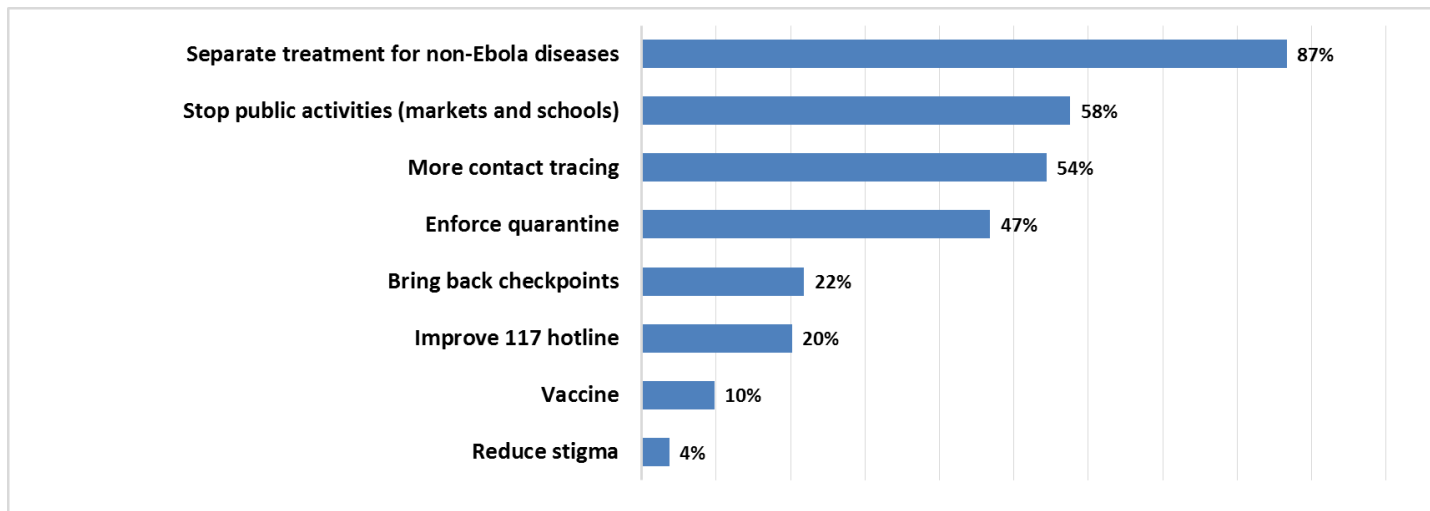
Question 4: In your opinion, has gender-based violence increased since the onset of the Ebola crisis?



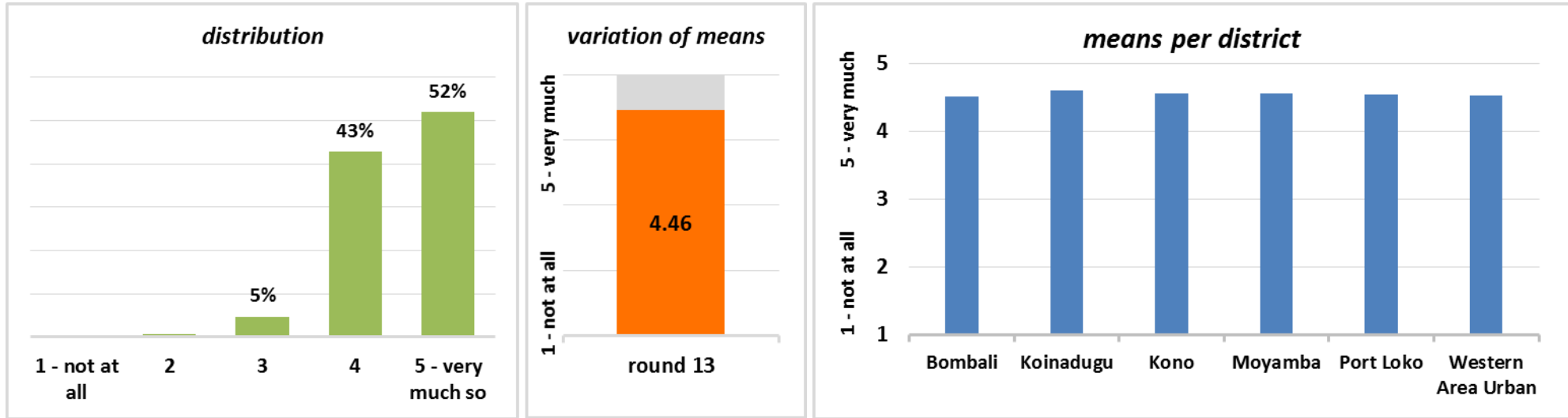
Question 5: To what extent are people suffering from emotional stress as a result of the crisis?



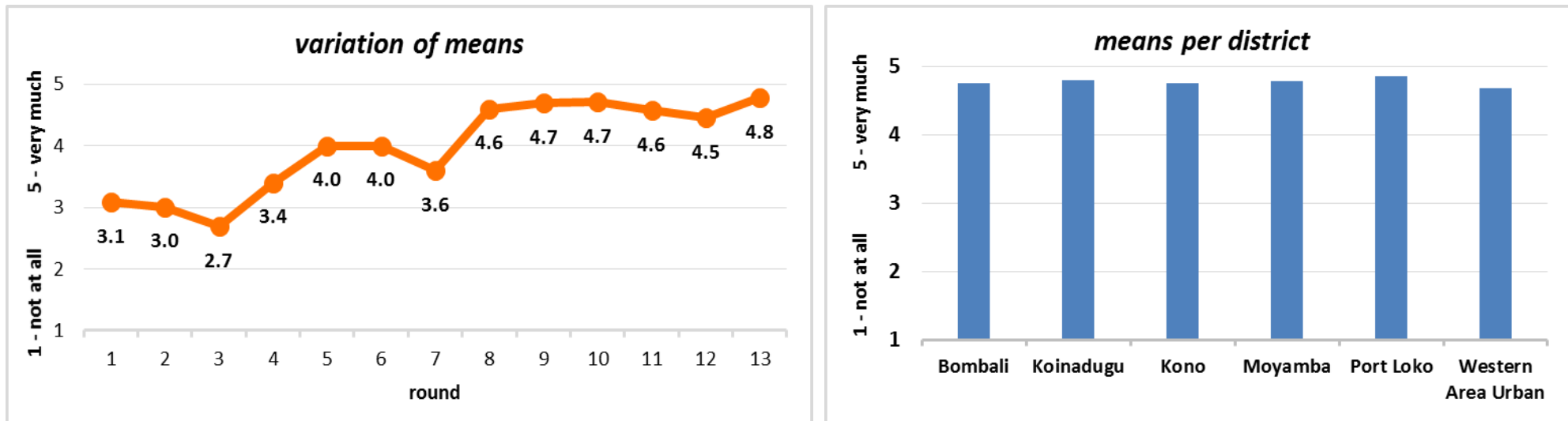
Question 6: What else can be done to fight Ebola?



Question 7 - Given the experience of recent months, is Sierra Leone better prepared to deal with another major health crisis in the future?



Question 8: Overall, is the Ebola response making progress against the disease?



Survey methodology: For the 13th round, data was collected by phone calls in the week beginning on May 25th 2015 from 316 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 May 24th 2015, new confirmed cases occurred in Western Area Urban(6), Port Loko(4) and Kambia(1).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 WHO: Data published on 27 May 2015

<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.ebola-sitrep.ebola-country-SLE-20150527?lang=en>