

# **Citizens' views of the Ebola response**

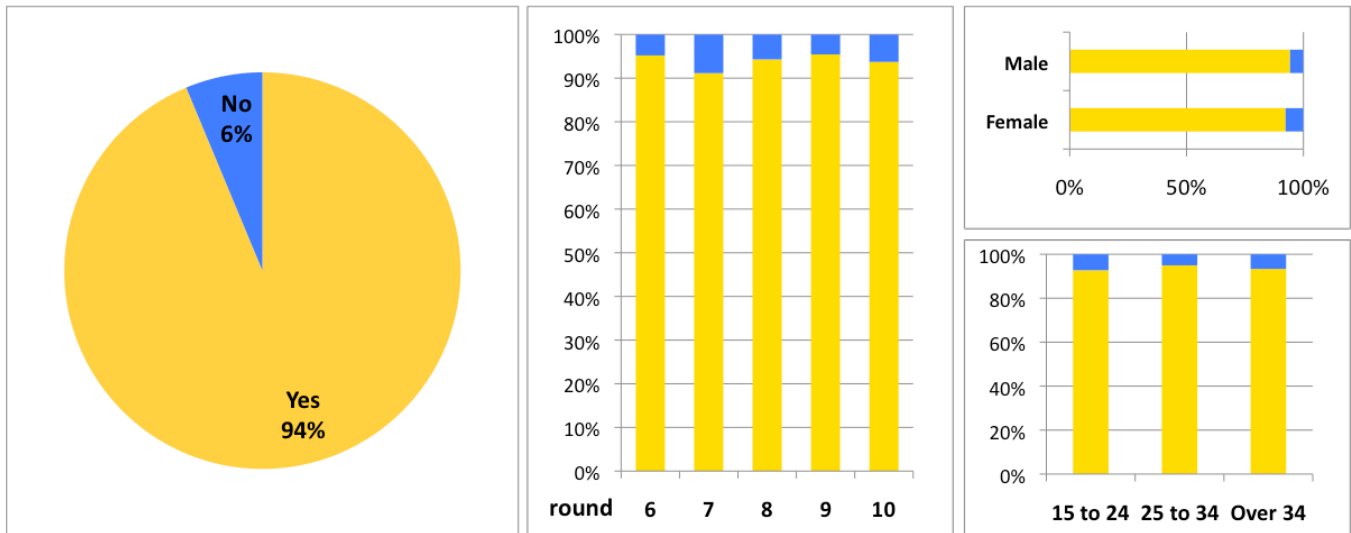
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**Ground Truth survey of general public: Sierra Leone**

**Round 10 – 08.02.2015**

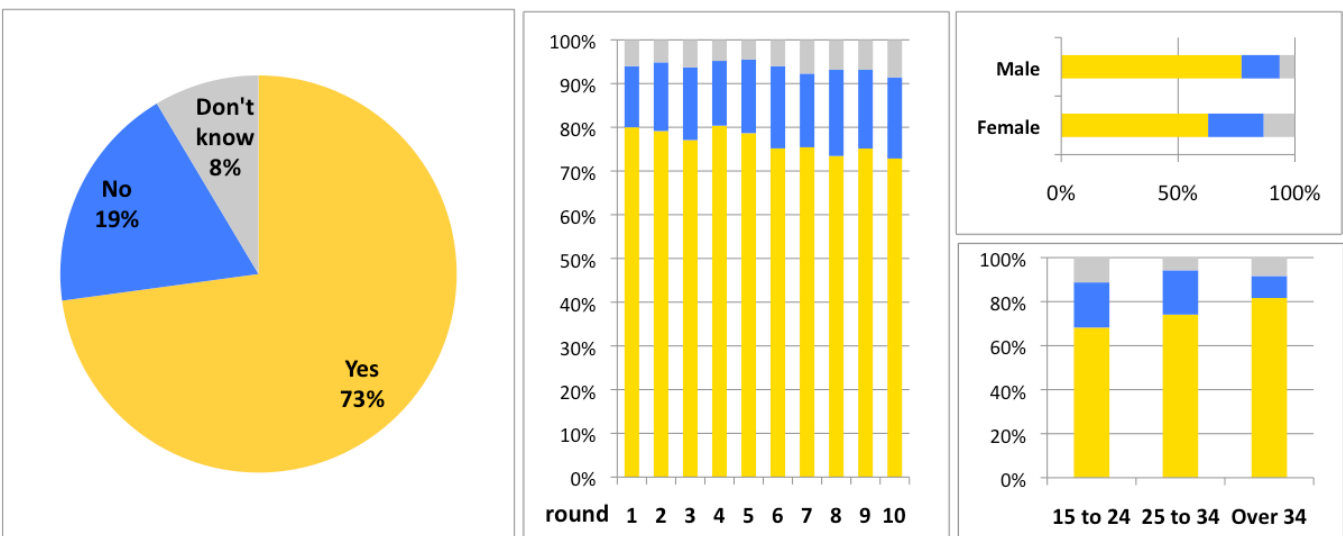
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**Question 1: Do people trust the information they get about how to prevent Ebola?**



**Trust in information:** Trust in information on how to prevent Ebola remains high, but female respondents' perceptions have deteriorated slightly (5% less state 'Yes'). Citizens' perceptions track the steadily rising scores on this issue among front line workers.<sup>1</sup> Respondents over 35 years old are more positive this round (+5%). In Northern province the trust in the information has fallen from 92% to 82%.

**Question 2: Does a lack of food and water make people worried about quarantine?**



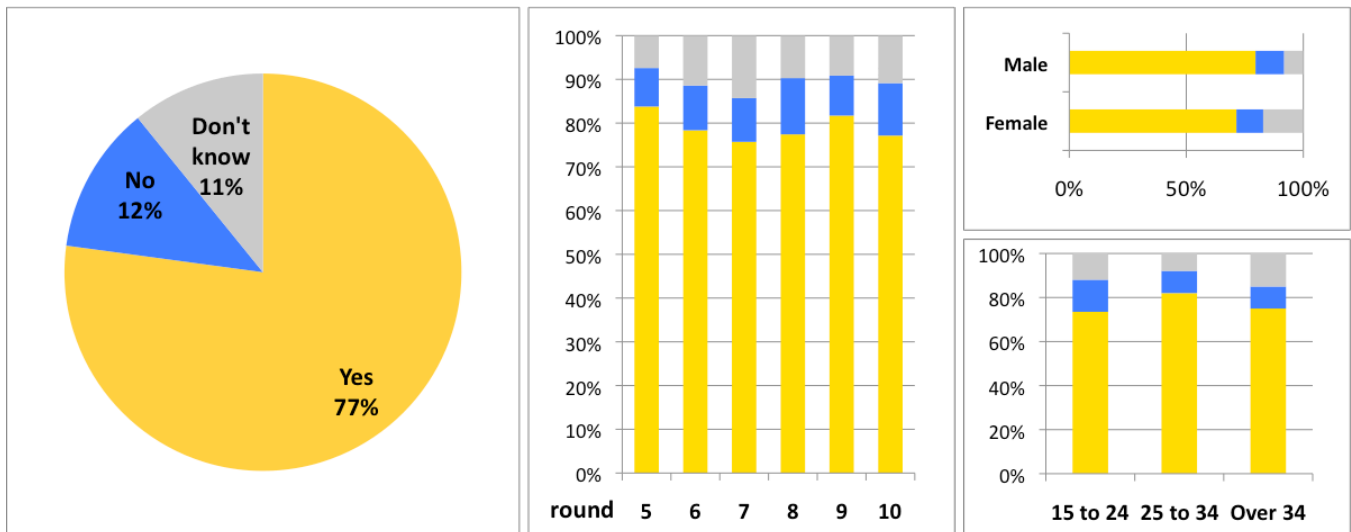
**Quarantine:** Concerns about conditions in quarantine are slowly but steadily decreasing. Overall, however, they remain at a high level. Men are especially concerned, with 77% responding 'Yes' (compared to 63% for women). Highest levels of concern are in Eastern and Northern province. Our data from frontline workers underlines quarantine related issues in Port Loko (Northern province)<sup>2</sup>. People in Southern province are least concerned, with 28% saying 'No'.

*See separate weekly survey of perceptions of people quarantined (and just out of quarantine).*

<sup>1</sup> Front line workers' views on the Ebola response. Round 6 – 01.02.2015, p. 3. <http://www.groundtruthsolutions.org/ebola-reports.html>

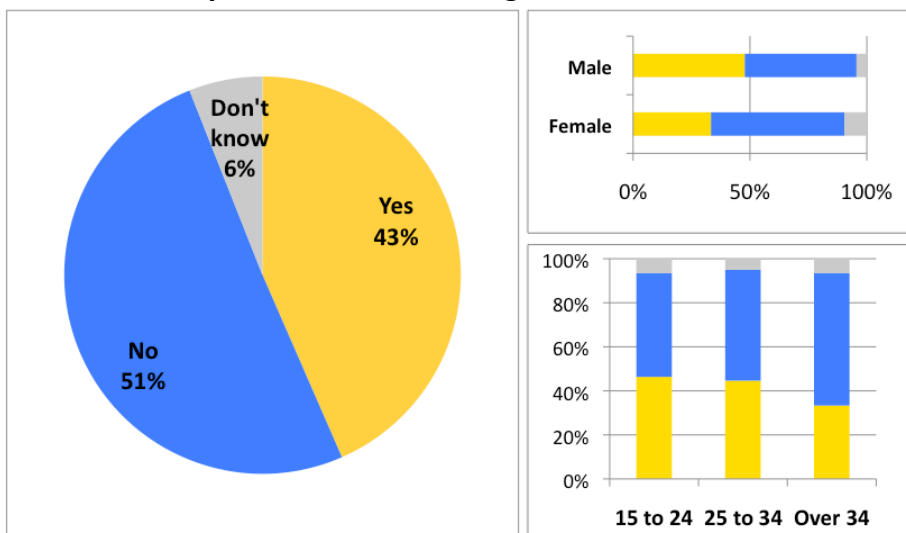
<sup>2</sup> Front line workers' views on the Ebola response. Round 6 – 01.02.2015, p. 6. <http://www.groundtruthsolutions.org/ebola-reports.html>

**Question 3: Are people ready to welcome Ebola survivors back to their communities?**



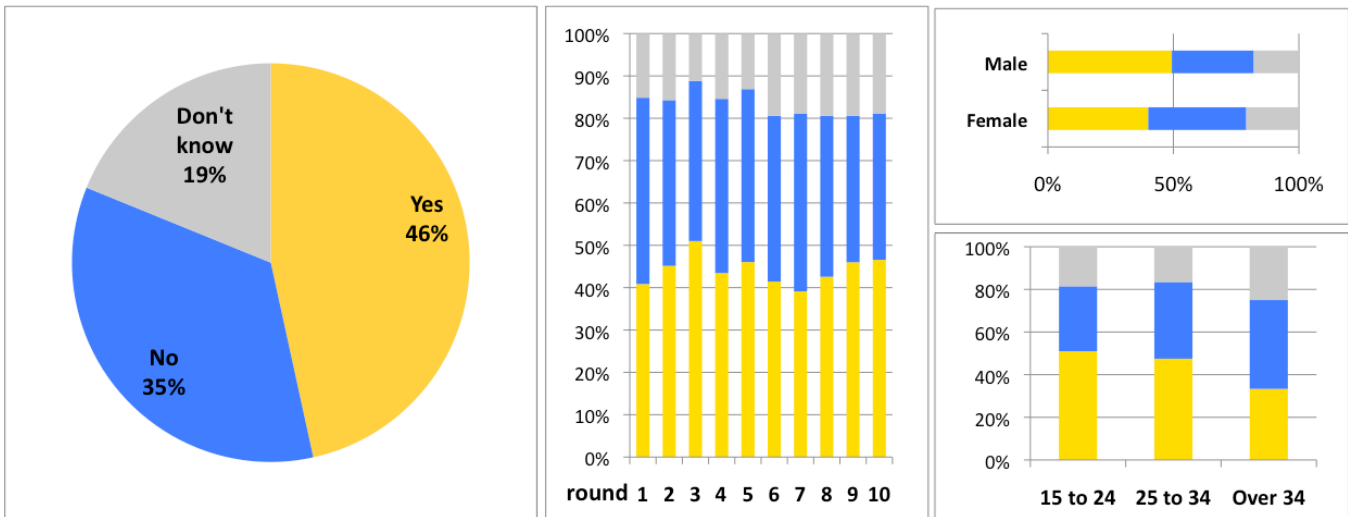
**Stigma:** People’s willingness to welcome survivors back stays at a high level. In Southern province the proportion of respondents indicating willingness has decreased (now at 75%).

**Question 4: Do you feel safer travelling now that roadblocks have been removed?**



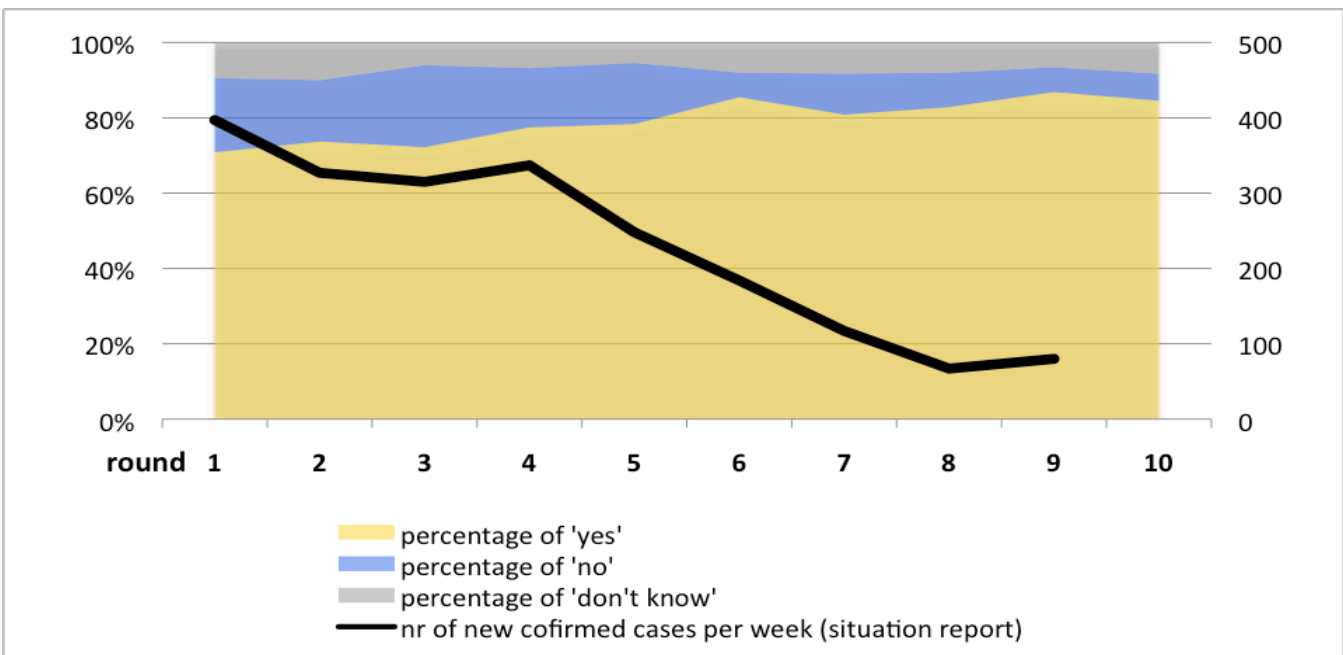
**Checkpoints:** This is a new question to replace the one on harassment at roadblocks that is no longer relevant since the lifting of internal travel restrictions. More than half of the respondents say they do not feel safer. Respondents in Northern Province and Freetown are particularly negative, while people in Eastern province seem to feel safer (62% answer ‘Yes’). In terms of demographic breakdown, women and respondents aged 35 years and over are most negative.

**Question 5: Are families able to make a living these days?**



**Livelihoods:** A majority say they can make a living, though the proportion of 'No' and 'Don't know' responses remain high. Men remain more positive than women. Perceptions in Eastern province are getting steadily more positive, with 65% responding 'Yes'. In Northern province only 41% say they can make a living.

**Question 6: Overall, is the Ebola response making progress against the spread of the disease?**



**Progress:** Perceptions of progress in the fight against Ebola has slightly declined in Round 10. In this graph, we track rising perceptions on progress against the spread of the disease with the number of confirmed cases. Of note this week is the percentage of people responding 'Yes' in Northern province has dropped. This may relate to the fact that in the district of Port Loko in Northern province the number of new confirmed cases has increased – as has the overall number of new cases in Sierra Leone from 67 in the week to Jan 25<sup>th</sup> to 80 in the week to Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> WHO (Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 2015): data on new cases per epi week for Sierra Leone. <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.ebola-sitrep.ebola-country-SLE-latest?lang=en>

## Note on methodology

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**Sample:** 350 people across Sierra Leone responded to the survey using an SMS survey instrument on the GeoPoll platform. Some 30% of respondents this round were female, 70% male. All districts of Sierra Leone are covered but in this round the 2 districts that make up Western Area, which includes Freetown, account for some 60% of the sample.

**Respondent selection process:** Respondents are selected randomly from a countrywide database and sent an opt-in message.

**Margin of error and confidence interval:** 5% margin of error at the 95% confidence level.

**Costs and incentives for respondents:** There are no costs to respondents and they receive a small airtime credit incentive.

**Language of the survey:** This survey is conducted in English. Although Krio is commonly spoken in Sierra Leone, few people write or read it. Best response rates in SMS surveys are achieved using English.

**Data presentation:** Respondents can answer 'yes', 'no' or 'don't know' to each question and these answers are captured in the pie charts for each question along with a breakdown of responses by age and sex. Each week we also include a graph comparing data in the current round with previous surveys.

**Background:** Ground Truth's surveys in Sierra Leone, which are conducted with support from DFID, provide agencies working on the Ebola response with data on the perceptions of the general public (weekly) and of frontline staff (bi-weekly). The goal is to track how perceptions evolve as the programme moves forward. Ground Truth's perceptual surveys complement epidemiological data and regular programme monitoring and evaluation. A survey of people under quarantine restrictions was added at the end of January and is administered weekly.

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