

. Citizens' views of the Ebola response .

Ground Truth survey of general public: Sierra Leone

Round 1 – 03.12.2014

Round 1: citizen survey

Headline findings:

- **Stigma:** Stigma is an issue but some 63% of people say they are ready to support Ebola sufferers in their communities.
- **Harassment:** There are serious concerns about harassment at checkpoints.
- **Livelihoods:** The population is fairly evenly split between 44% who say families cannot make a living and 41% who say they can.
- **Quarantine:** Lack of food and water appears to be a significant barrier to acceptance of quarantine restrictions.
- **Progress:** Most people are positive about the Ebola response, with 71% of respondents saying there is progress.

Survey date: This round of data collection took place on December 3, 2014 and will continue at weekly intervals.

Sample: 350 people across Sierra Leone responded to the survey using an SMS survey instrument on the GeoPoll platform. Some 45% of respondents were female, 55% male. All 12 districts of Sierra Leone are covered by the survey but in this round 2 districts that make up Western Area, which includes Freetown, account for some 57% 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.

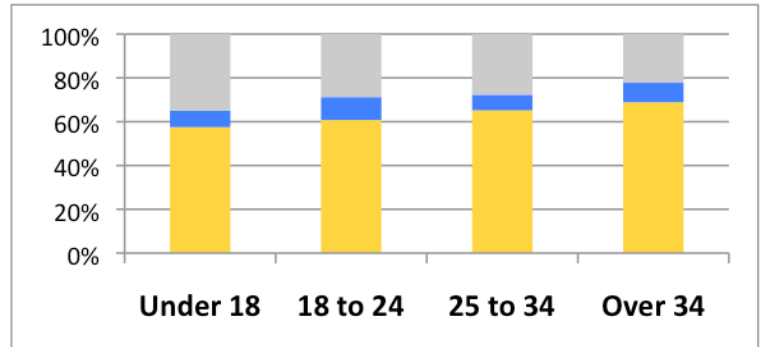
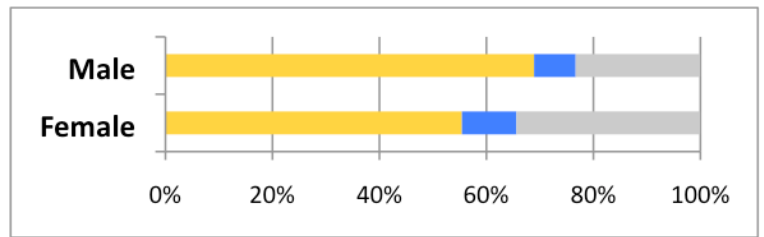
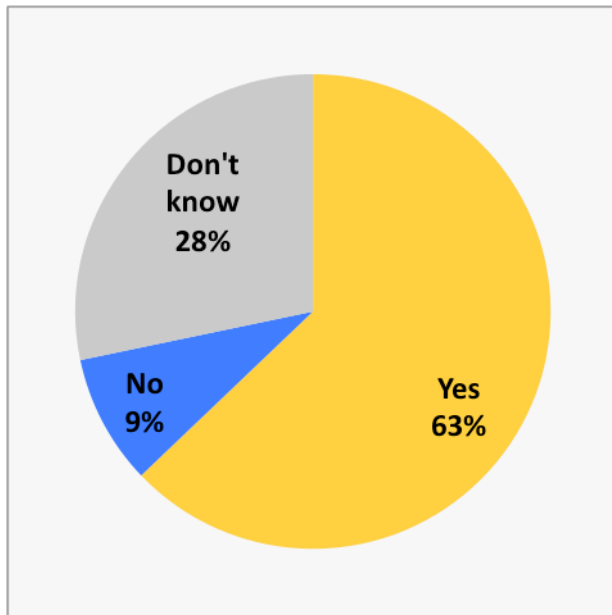
Costs and incentives for respondents: There are no costs to respondents and they receive a small airtime credit incentive.

Language of the survey: English. Although Creole is commonly spoken in Sierra Leone, best response rates in other SMS surveys have been achieved using English.

Methodology: Respondents can answer 'yes', 'no' or 'don't know' to each question.

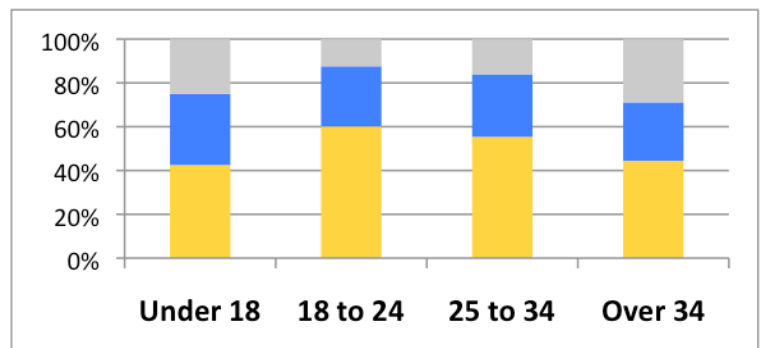
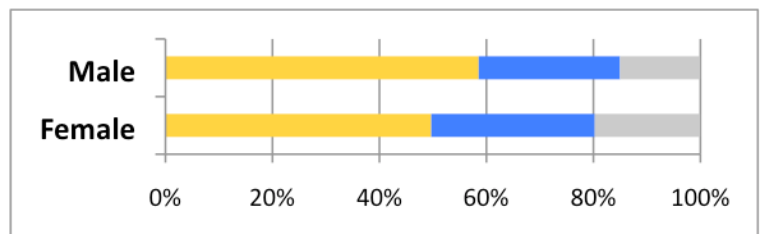
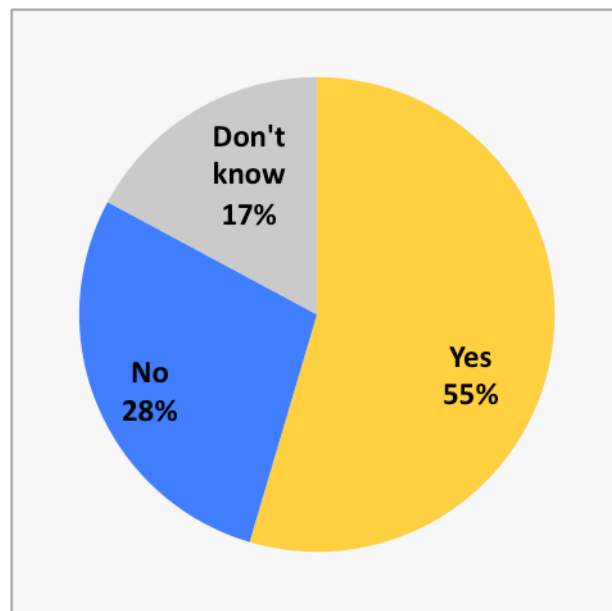
Background: Ground Truth surveys in Sierra Leone, which are supported by DFID, provide agencies working on the Ebola response with data on the perceptions of the general public (of which this is the 1st of what will henceforth be weekly reports) and of frontline staff (bi-weekly) on questions related to the response. The goal is to track how these perceptions evolve as the programme moves forward. Ground Truth perceptual surveys complement epidemiological data and regular programme monitoring and evaluation.

Question 1: Are people in your community ready to support the families of Ebola sufferers?



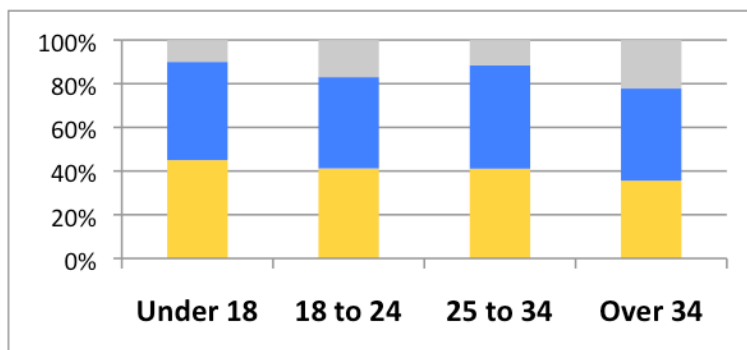
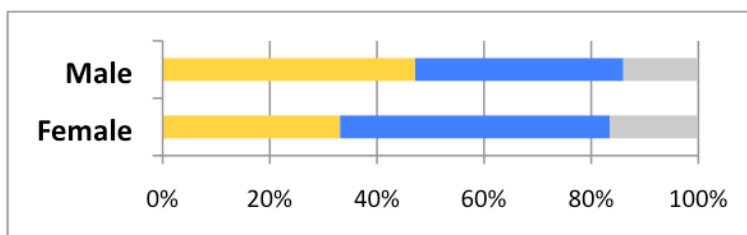
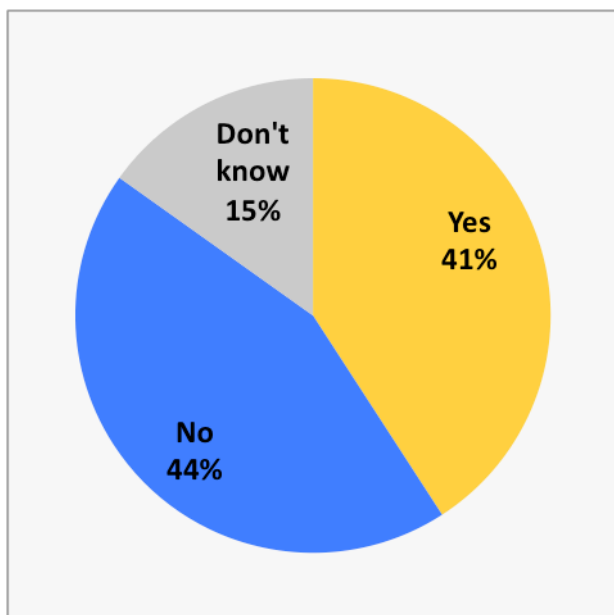
Most people say they are ready to support Ebola sufferers in their communities but while 63% say ‘yes’, some 9% of respondents say ‘no’ and 28% do not know. There are some regional differences with 37% of respondents in the urban district of Western Area saying they don’t know against 28% overall. Meanwhile, 69% of men give positive answers against 55% for women. Older people are more positive than younger people. (The most recent survey of front line workers, which was carried out the same day as this citizen poll, suggests that stigma is still a big obstacle to reporting Ebola cases).

Question 2: Are people worried about harassment when passing through checkpoints?



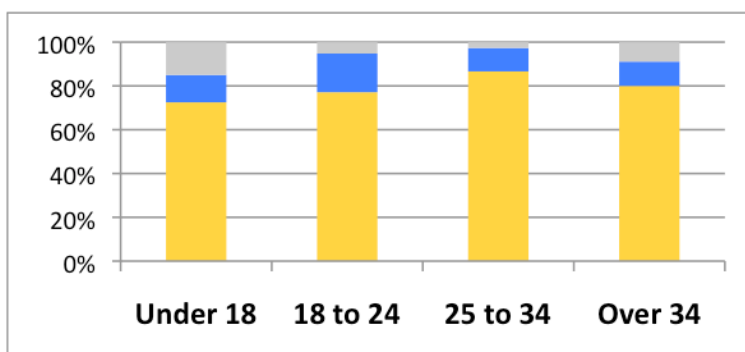
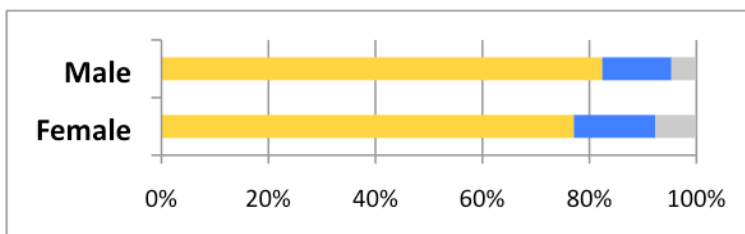
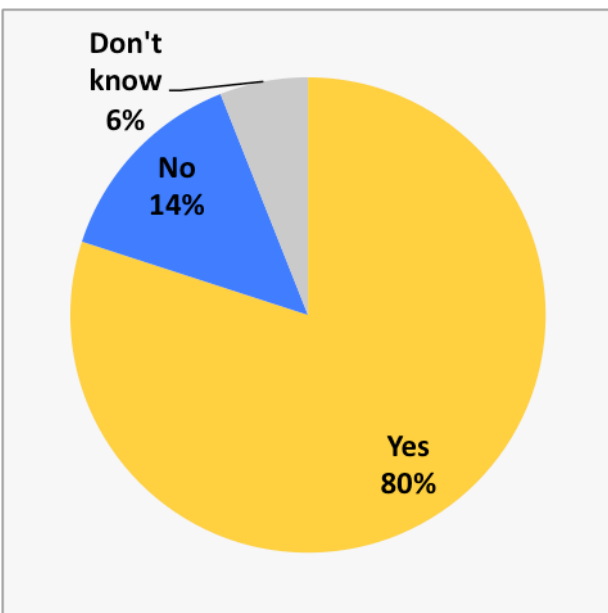
There are serious concerns about harassment at checkpoints, with 55% responding ‘yes’ to this question. People between 18 to 34 years of age are more worried than other age cohorts. There is a high proportion of ‘don’t know’ – with 29% of people 34 years and over in this category. Men are more worried than women.

Question 3: Are families able to make a living these days?



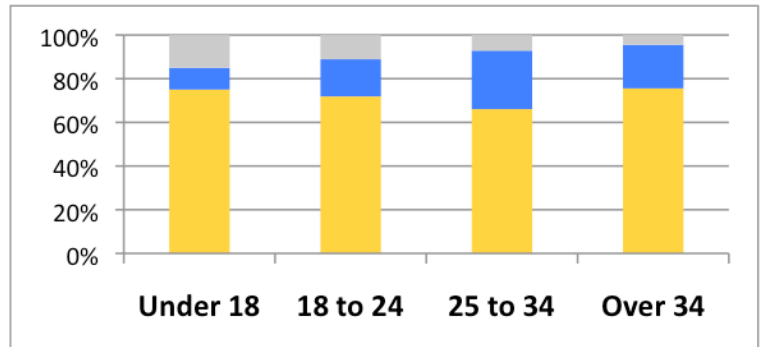
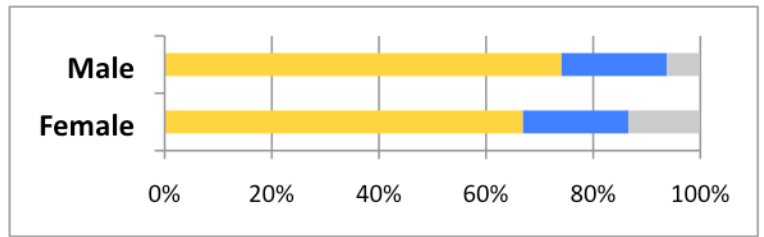
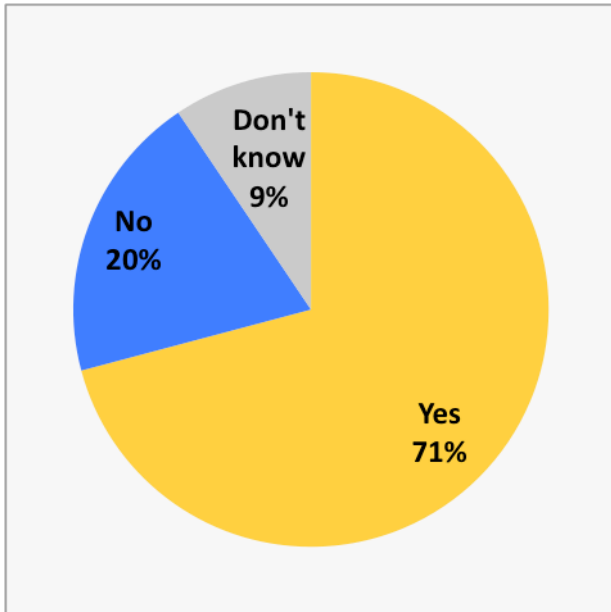
The population is fairly evenly split between 44% who say families are not able to make a living these days and 41% who say they can. Men are significantly more positive than women, with 47% saying 'yes' compared to 33% of women.

Question 4: Does a lack of food and water make people worried about quarantine?



Lack of food and water appears to be a significant barrier to acceptance of quarantine restrictions, with 80% of respondents confirming that this is the case. Greatest concerns are recorded among 25 to 34 year-olds of whom some 87% answer 'yes'. These findings support data from front line workers (see Ground Truth Front Line worker survey of December 3, 2014). In terms of geography, levels of concern are equally spread across districts. The exception is Southern Province where some 71% of respondents say they are concerned about lack of food and water in quarantine.

Question 5: Overall, is the Ebola response making progress against the spread of the disease?



Most people are positive about progress in dealing with Ebola, with 71% of the respondents answering 'yes'. The 25 to 34 year-olds are least positive, with 27% answering 'no'. In terms of geographic distribution, respondents in the Eastern province are more positive than other areas (87% 'yes'), while respondents in the Western province are least positive (66% 'yes'). These findings contrast with the most recent survey of front line workers who are non-committal in their assessment of progress in tackling the disease