

. Citizens' views of the Ebola response .

Ground Truth survey of general public: Sierra Leone

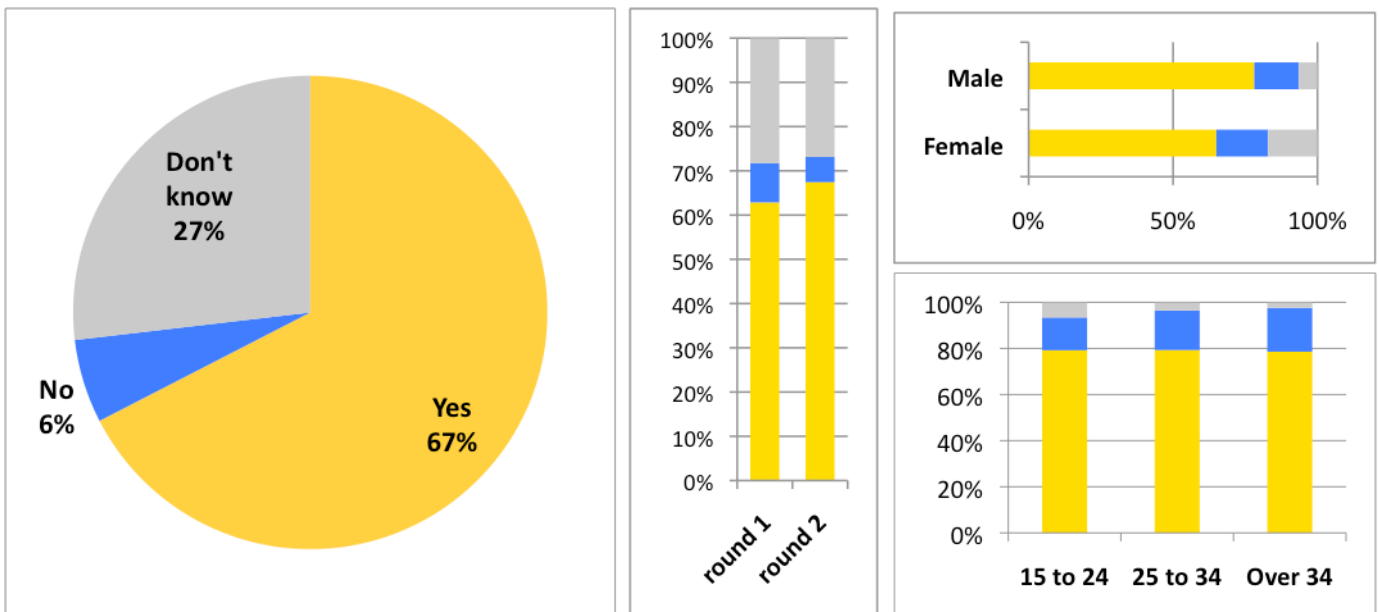
Round 2 – 14.12.2014

Round 2: citizen survey

Headline: The findings from the second general public survey (December 9, 2014) are as follows:

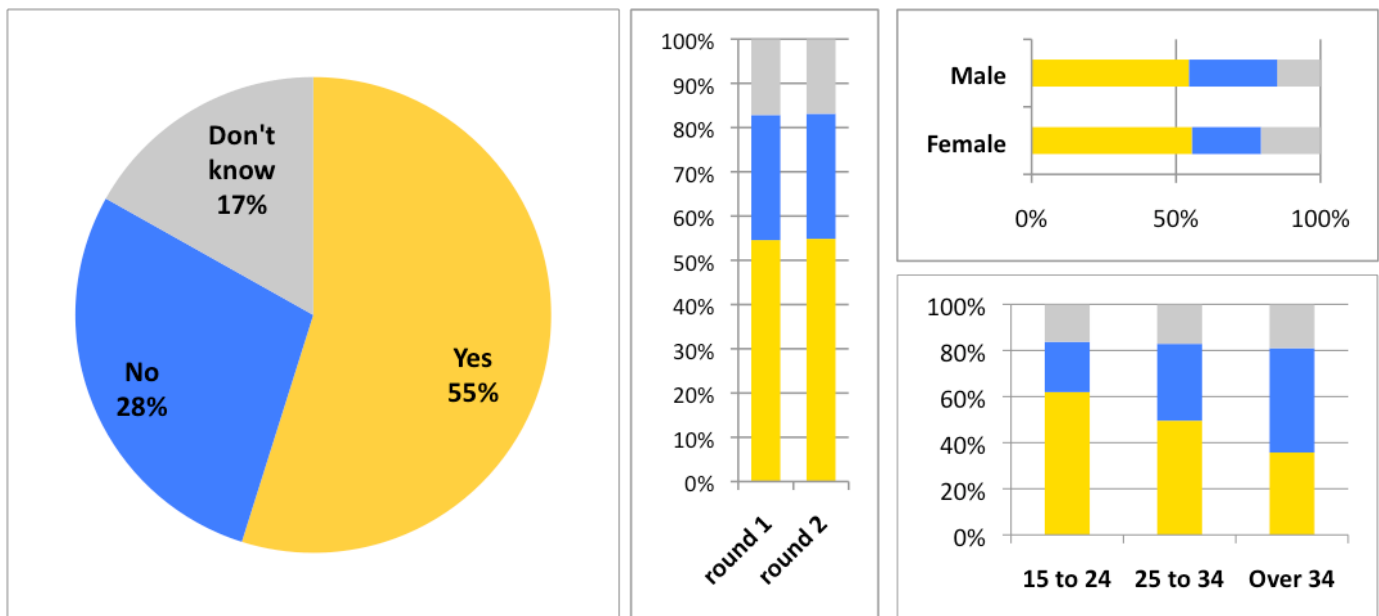
- **Stigma:** Stigma remains an issue. Although some 67% of people say they are ready to support Ebola sufferers in their communities, 27% are undecided.
- **Harassment:** There are serious concerns about harassment at checkpoints with the respondents in the Eastern region especially concerned.
- **Livelihoods:** The population remains evenly divided on whether they can earn a living. Some 45% say they can; 37% say they cannot.
- **Quarantine:** Lack of food and water remains a significant barrier to acceptance of quarantine restrictions.
- **Progress:** The number of people who are positive about the impact of the response is up from 71% to 74%.

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



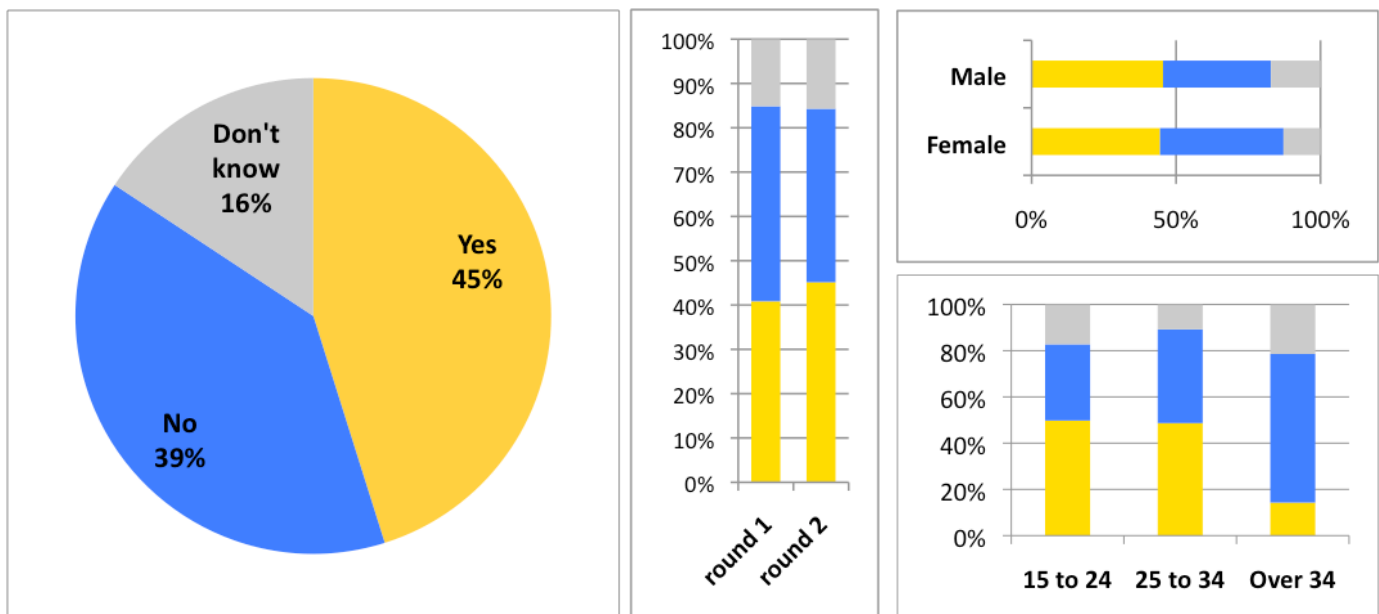
Stigma: There is an uptick in the percentage of people who say they are ready to support Ebola sufferers in their communities. Some 67% say 'yes', against 6% who say 'no'. But some 27% do not know. Regional differences: the Northern province is most positive with 83% saying 'yes' against 67% who answer yes in the country as a whole.

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



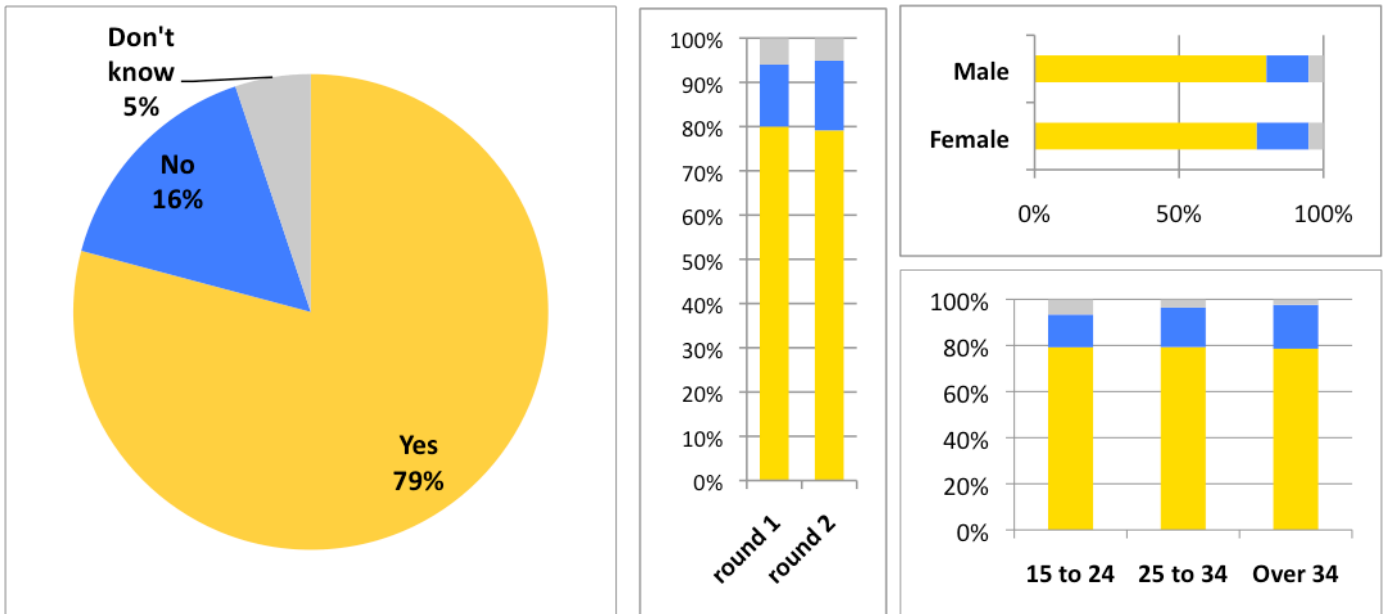
Checkpoints and harassment: There are still significant concerns about harassment at checkpoints. Some 55% of respondents say they are worried. People in Eastern province are most concerned while those in Western region are least concerned (only 44% say 'yes'). Districts where concern is highest are Bo and Kenema (69% and 73% say 'yes'). Younger people are still more worried than other age cohorts. There is a high proportion of 'don't knows' – with 45% of people 34 years and over in this category.

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



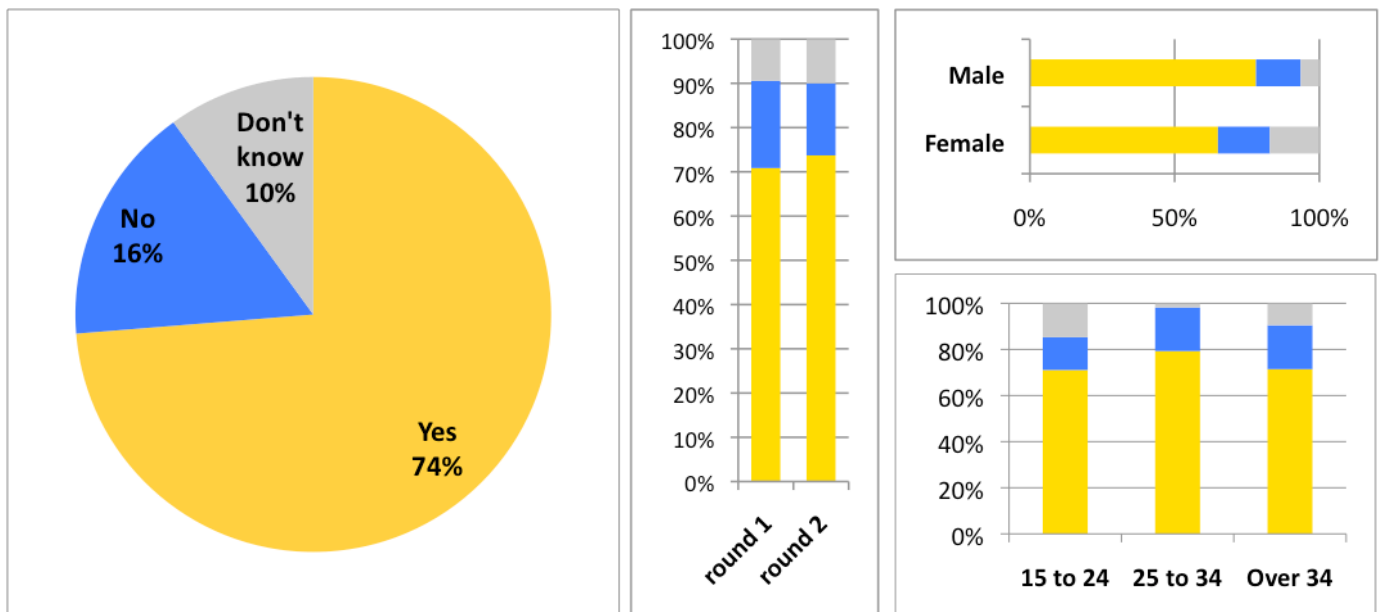
Livelihoods: There is a slight uptick in perceptions about families' ability to make a living. Some 45% now say 'yes' against 42% a week earlier. Respondents from the Northern province are more positive than respondents in the rest of Sierra Leone with 58% of respondents in Northern province answering 'yes' against 45% overall.

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



Quarantine: No change in perceptions that lack of food and water for people in quarantine remains a huge barrier to acceptance of quarantine restrictions. Some 79% of respondents say this is the case. Respondents across all age groups and regions are equally concerned.

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



Progress: There is a slight uptick in the percentage of people who are positive about progress in dealing with Ebola, with 74% of respondents answering 'yes'. The findings of the last two rounds contrast with the most recent survey of front line workers who are non-committal in their assessment of progress in tackling the disease.

Note on methodology

Sample: 350 people across Sierra Leone responded to the survey using an SMS survey instrument on the GeoPoll platform. Some 33% of respondents were female, 67% 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 52% 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'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.