

Citizens' views of the Ebola response

Ground Truth survey of general public: Sierra Leone

Round 17 – 05.06.2015

Data analysis for 17th citizen survey

Overall, a month after last round, there is some improvement, although certain issues still need attention.

Report highlights:

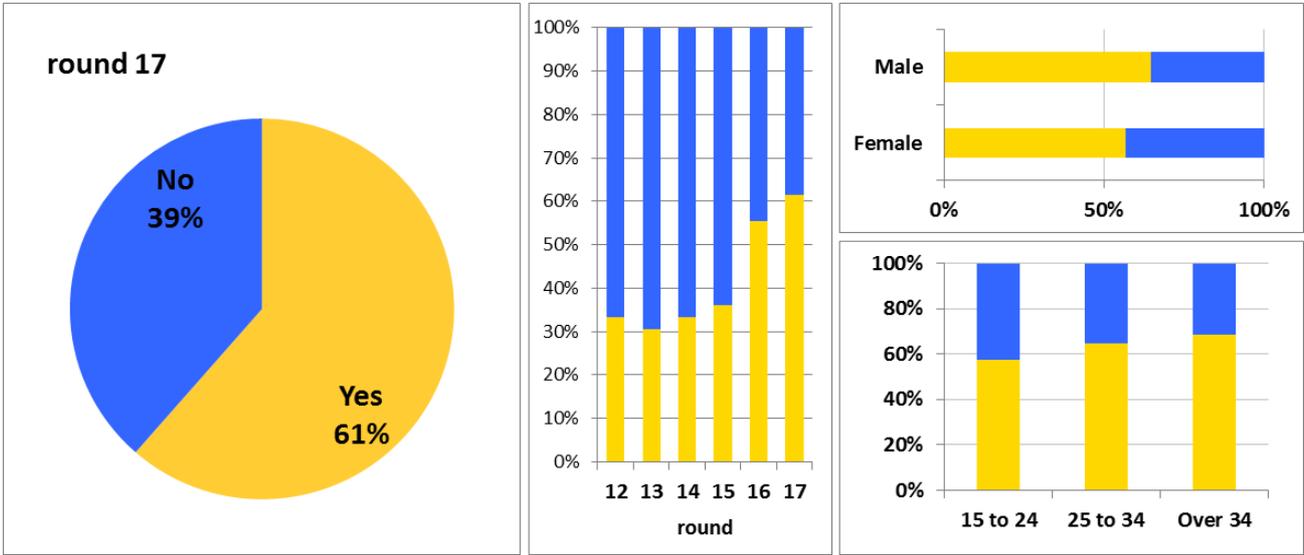
- People are getting more confident about sending their children back to school.
- Fear of visiting health care facilities for non-Ebola illnesses seems to be declining.
- Respondents are highly concerned about conditions in quarantine, only 16% of respondents state they are not.
- Responses suggest that discrimination after quarantine is a big problem; more than half of respondents state people experience discrimination. This data is corroborated by our quarantine survey¹.
- Citizens seem to be getting slightly more positive regarding their ability to make a living. More respondents state they can make a living, while less say they can't. Men are more positive than women (44% vs. 29% saying they can make a living) and respondents in Northern Province are more positive than those living in Western Area (50% vs. 34% saying 'yes').
- People's confidence in the progress against the spread of the disease is slightly lower this round.

Recommendations:

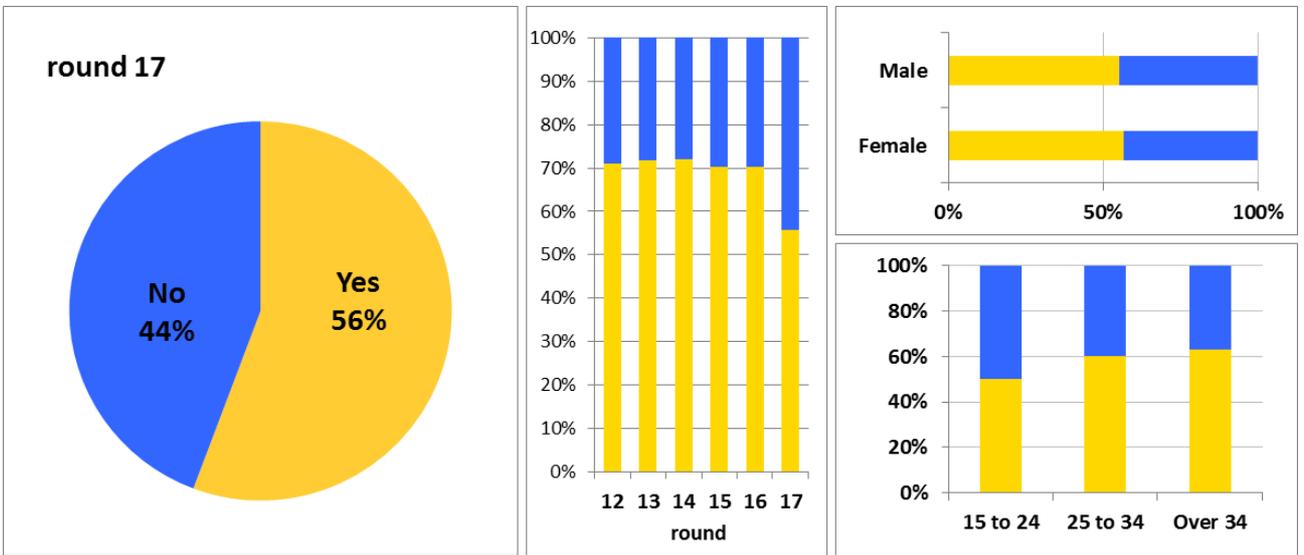
- Act on citizens' feedback concerning conditions in quarantine and communicate improvements to reduce fear of entering quarantine.
- Investigate what is the cause for ongoing post-quarantine discrimination and increase social campaigns and social mobilisation on this issue.
- Continue efforts on providing separate treatment for non-Ebola diseases.

¹ Ground Truth Quarantine Survey Round 12, page 6.

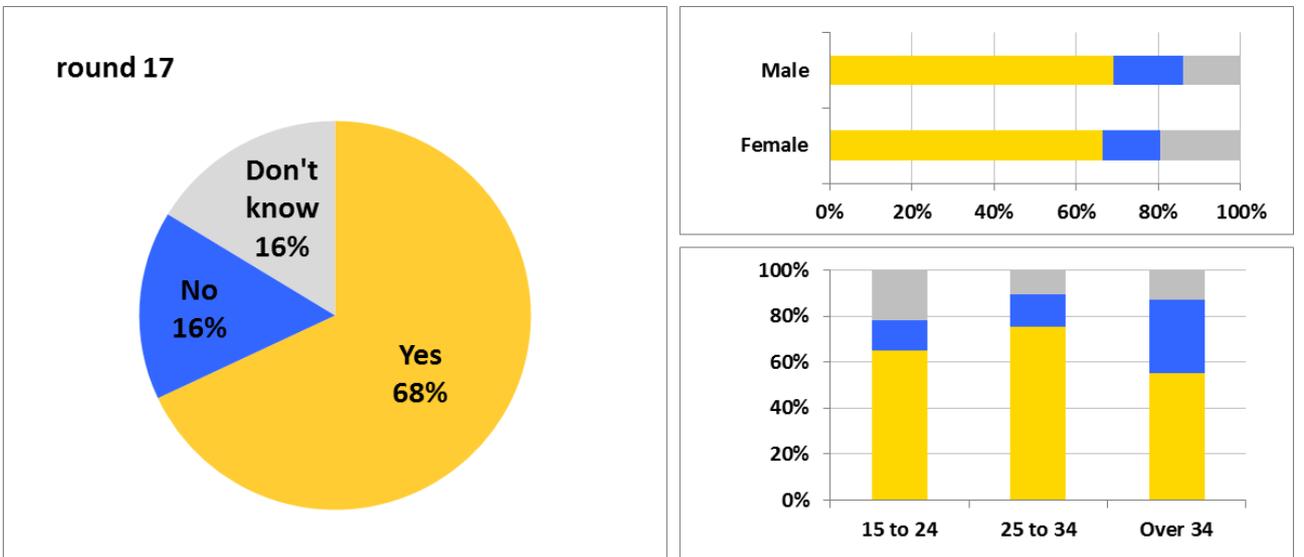
Question 1: Do people feel safe about sending their children back to school?



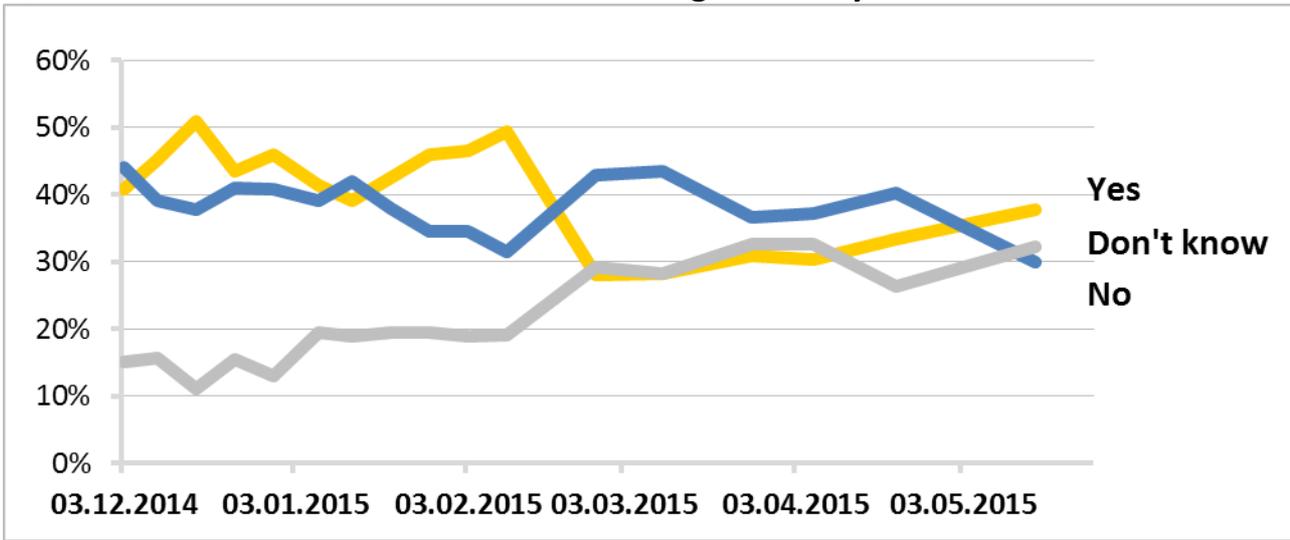
Question 2: Are people scared to visit health facilities for non-Ebola illnesses?



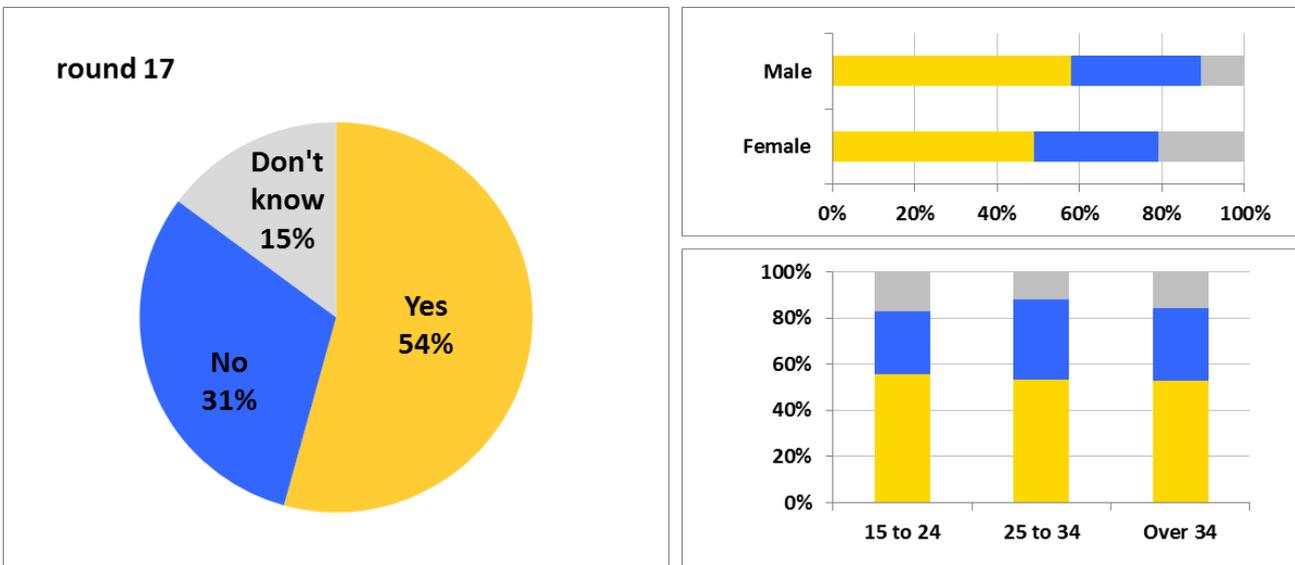
Question 3: Are people worried about conditions in quarantine?



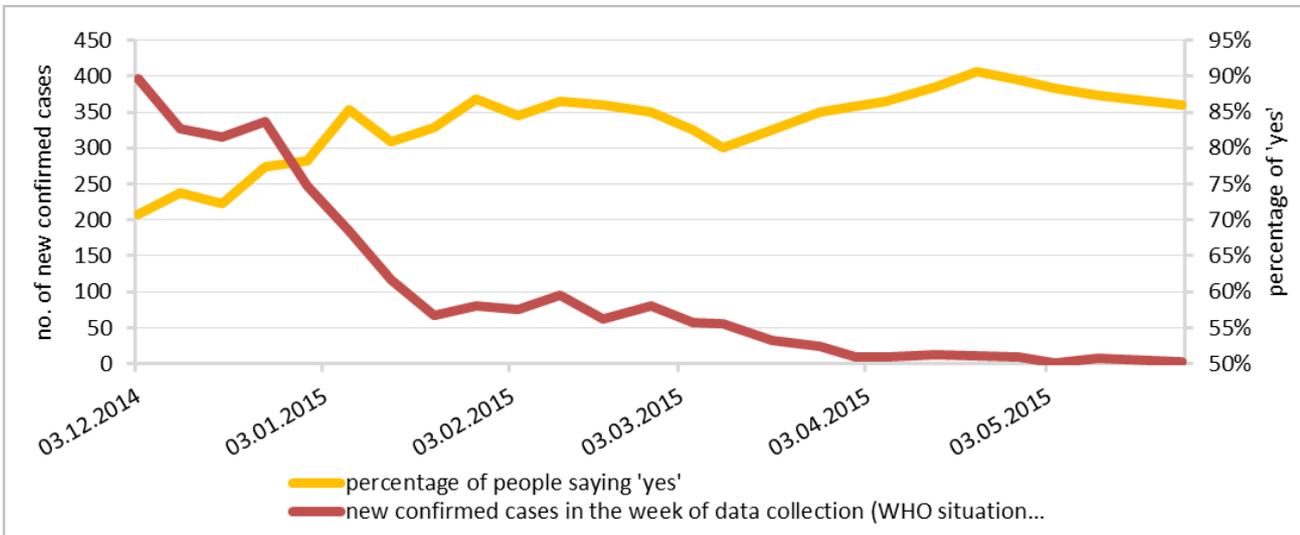
Question 4: Are families able to make a living these days?



Question 5: Are people facing discrimination from their neighbours after quarantine?



Question 6: Overall, is the Ebola response making progress against the spread of 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 41% of respondents this round were female, 59% male. 49% of the respondents are aged between 15 to 24 years, 40% are between 25 and 34 years old and 11% are aged 35 and above. In this round the districts of Bombali, Kambia, Port Loko and Western Area Urban and Rural were covered. The 2 districts that make up Western Area, which includes Freetown, account for some 77% 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.

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, frontline staff and people in quarantine. 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.

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