

Quarantine and the Ebola response

Ground Truth: Sierra Leone

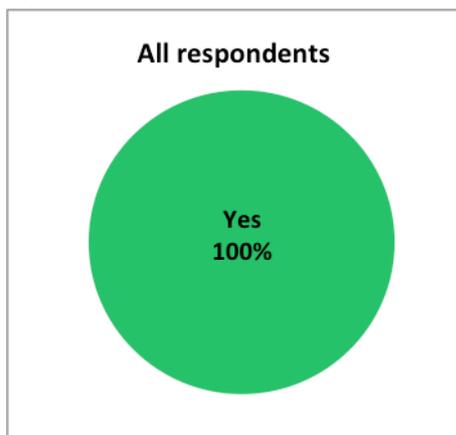
Round 11 – 21.04.2015

Data analysis for 11th weekly quarantine survey

Report highlights:

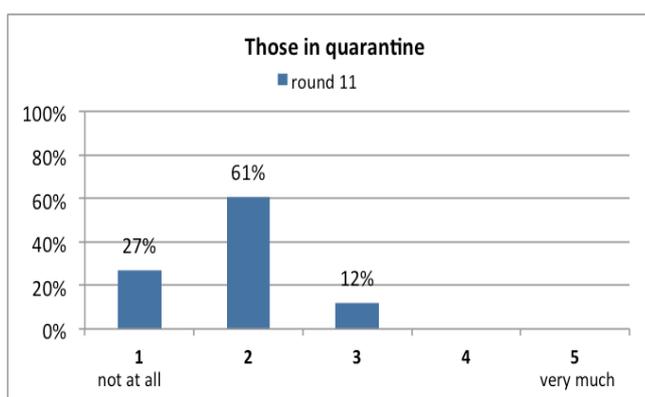
- People have been provided with the phone number of someone to contact in the event of any problems during quarantine.
 - While 12% of people in quarantine have had to rely on their savings or on selling their belongings in order to survive financially, most have not had to resort to these measures.
 - Families feel they will not be able to generate income at pre-quarantine levels once they get out of quarantine.
 - Respondents continue to report that their food needs are largely met, while their water and medication needs are not met. People seek additional **water for washing, children's foods and foods compatible with special diets**, and **medication for stress**.
 - Compliance with quarantine remains high, due mainly to the strict security measurements in place. Those who break quarantine do so to search for children's foods or foods to suit special dietary restrictions.
 - People increasingly face post-quarantine social stigma.
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1. While in quarantine, were you given the phone number of someone to contact if you had problems?



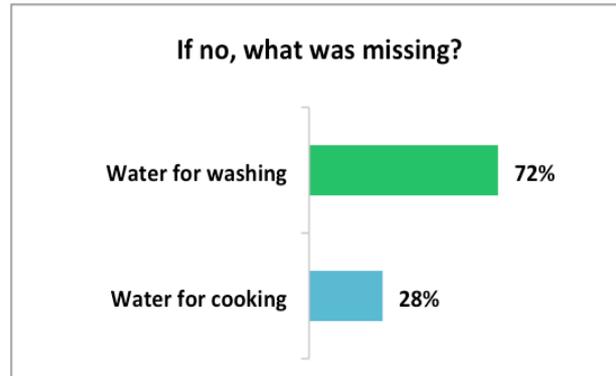
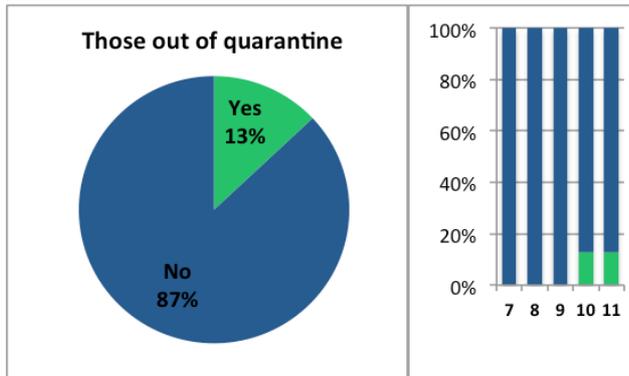
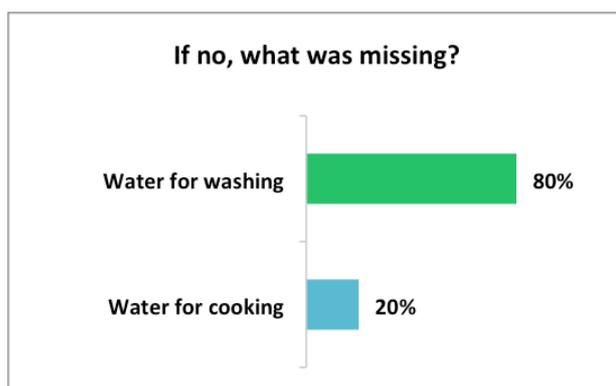
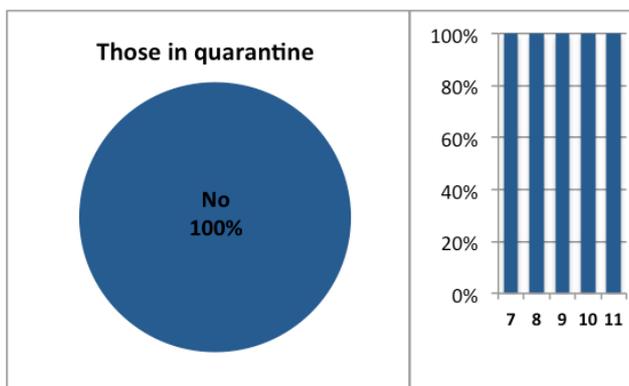
Respondents know whom to contact in the event of any problems arising while they are in quarantine.

2. To what extent do you and your family have to use savings or sell belongings in order to survive financially while in quarantine?



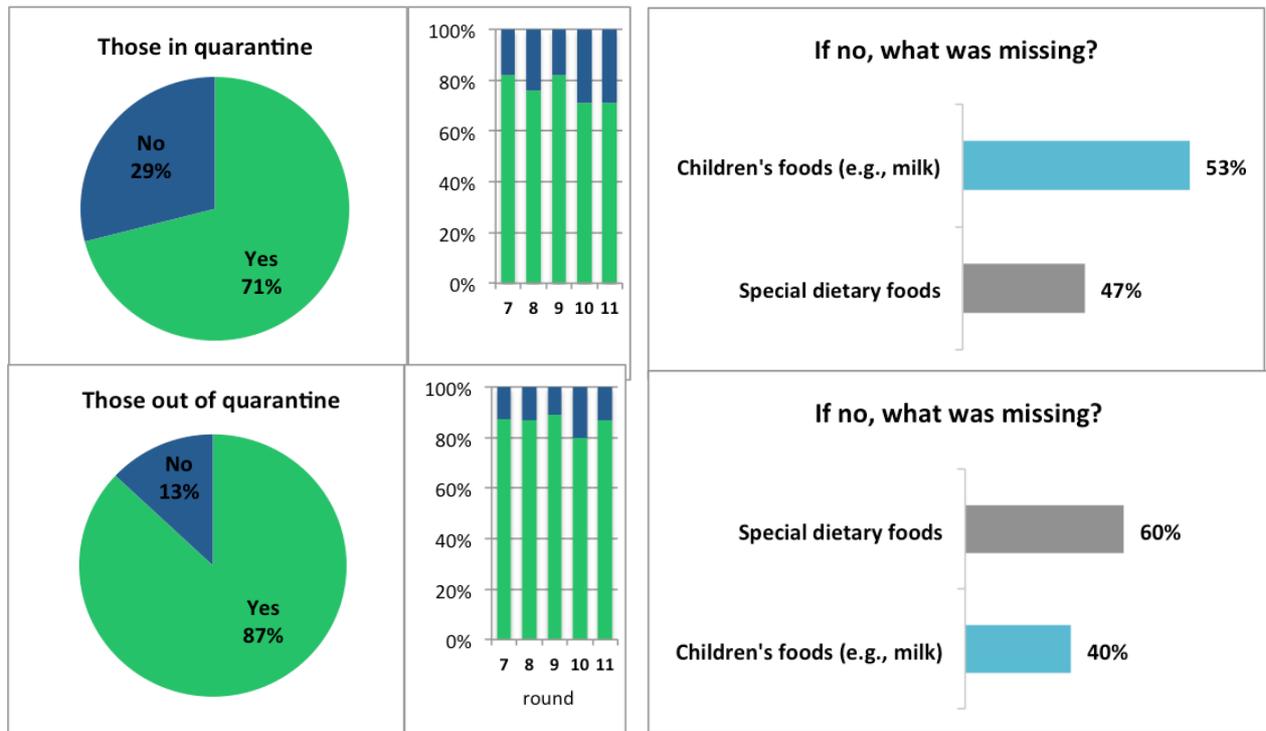
While 12% of people in quarantine have had to rely on their savings or on selling their belongings in order to survive financially, most have not.

3. Are/Were your family's needs for water for washing, drinking, and cooking met?



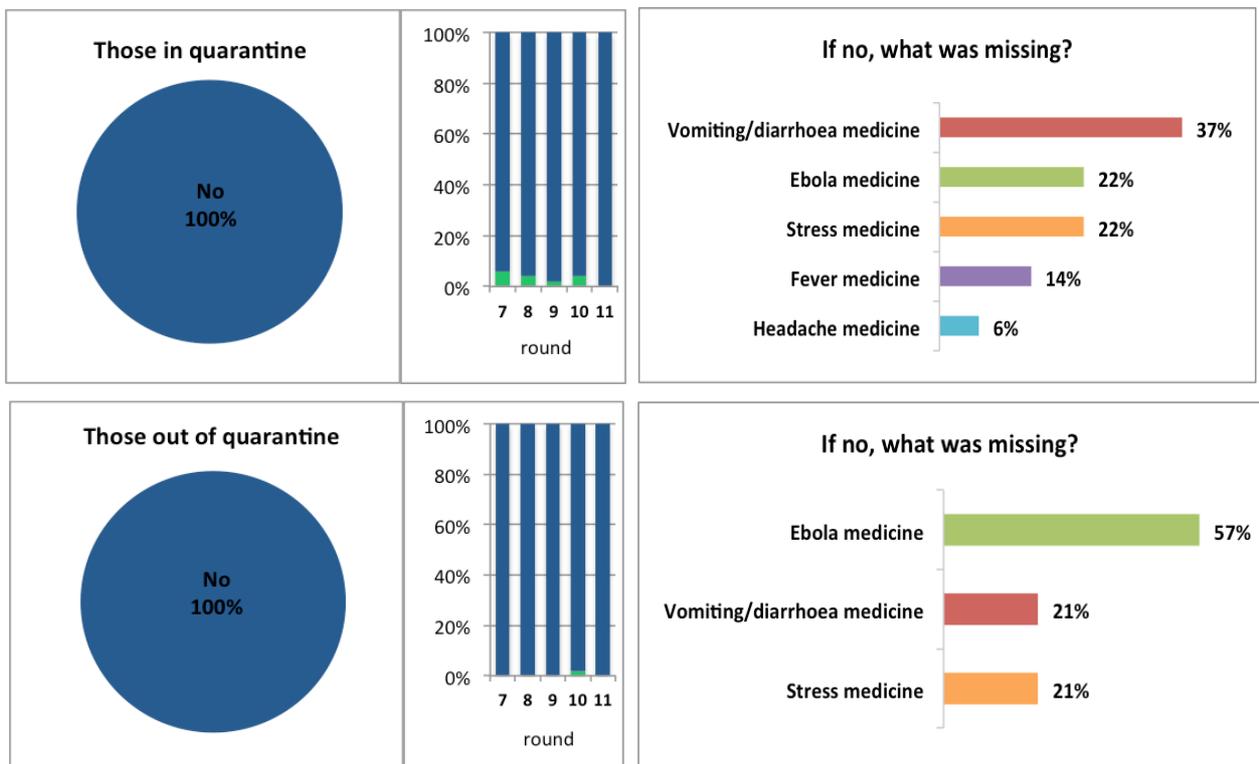
People in quarantine still seek additional water, especially water for washing.

4. Are your family's needs for food met?



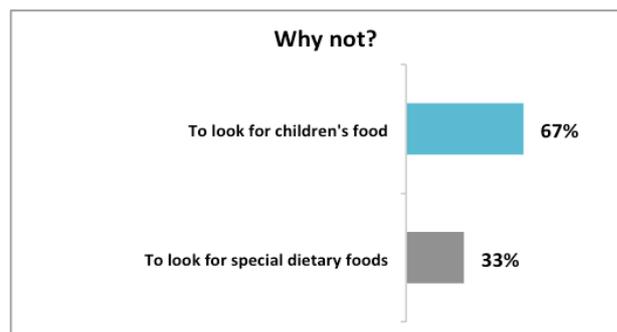
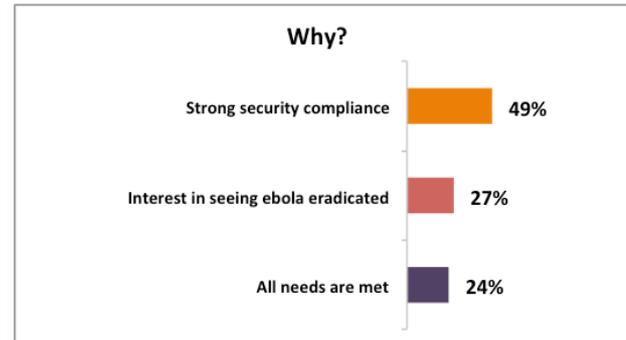
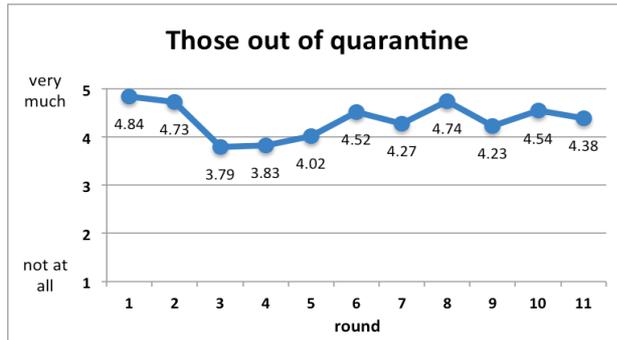
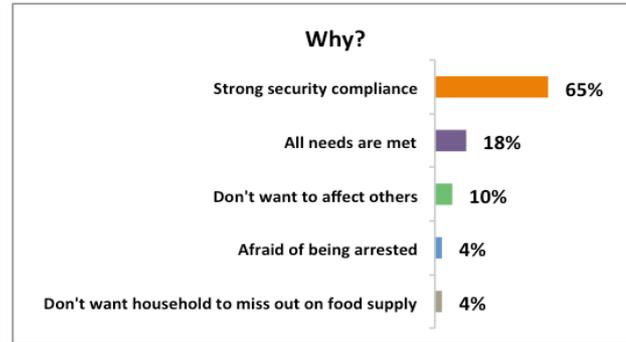
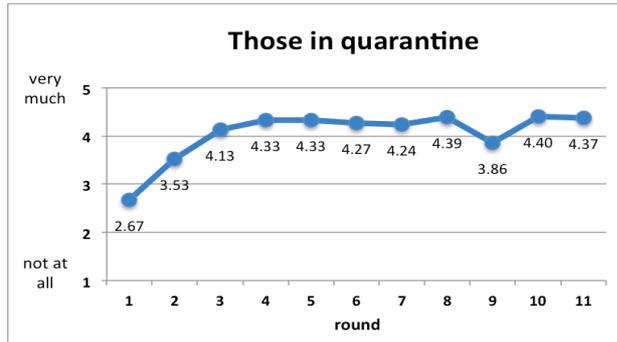
Most respondents feel their food needs are met. Those who do not seek children's foods like milk, and foods compatible with special diets (e.g., bulgur alternative to white rice for diabetics).

5. Are your family's needs for medication met?



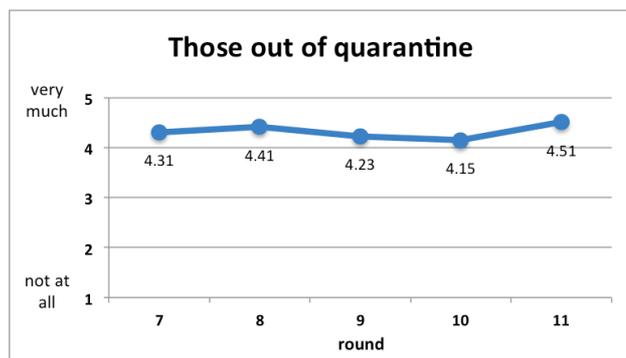
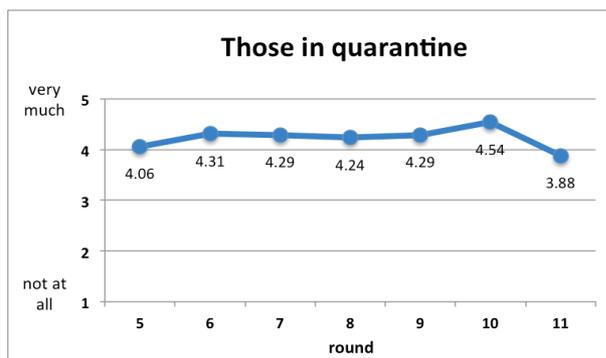
People feel their medication needs are not met. They seek medication for Ebola and Ebola symptoms (vomiting/diarrhoea, fever). It is not clear if people understand that they should call 117 regarding the treatment of any Ebola-like symptoms. People also seek medication to help manage their stress.

6. Do/did other households in your area comply with quarantine restrictions by staying within the house and compound boundary?



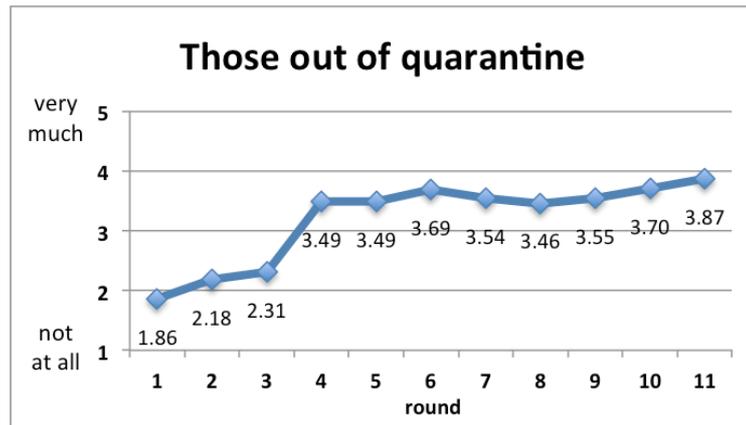
Respondents continue to report that most households in their area comply with quarantine restrictions—due mainly to strict security measures. Those out of quarantine say people break quarantine in order to look for children’s foods or foods for special diets.

7. Are/were you treated with respect and dignity by the quarantine team?



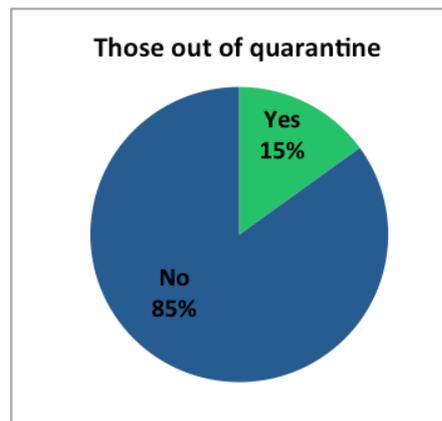
People feel respected by the quarantine team, though fewer people in quarantine reported feeling this way this week.

8. Are you facing discrimination or exclusion from your neighbours after being in quarantine?



It seems cause for concern that people increasingly feel they face social discrimination or exclusion post-quarantine.

9. After quarantine, will your family be able to earn money at the same level as before quarantine?



Most respondents (85%) say their family cannot generate income at the same level after quarantine.

Ground Truth surveys and Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone

Quarantine survey: This survey tracks the perceptions of quarantine restrictions. It includes feedback from those currently in quarantine and those who have completed their 3-week quarantine period.¹ People in quarantine are surveyed twice during the 21-day period of restrictions; those out of quarantine once.

Objective: The goal of the broader Ground Truth programme in Sierra Leone is to get feedback on key aspects of the response from the general public, from frontline workers and, in this survey, from people in and out of quarantine.

The surveys are intended primarily for people managing the response but are made available to all agencies involved in the response, to donors, and to others interested in program implementation and impact.

Focus of this survey: By providing light-touch continuous feedback from people in and after quarantine, the goal is to provide real-time evidence as the basis for responsive management of the programme. The data relates to perceptions and is presented in the form of metrics that we track on a weekly basis. This perceptual data complements and counterpoints objectively verified information collected through other forms of monitoring and evaluation.

Sample size and location: In the eleventh round of data collection – during the week of April 13 – responses were collected in phone interviews from 98 people. Of these, 51 were still in quarantine and 47 had completed the 21-day period of restriction. All are included in the quarantine support program managed by PLAN International and Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

Respondents in quarantine are based in Western Area Urban. Respondents out of quarantine are also based in Western Area Urban.

Survey methodology and scoring: Every respondent receives a call from Accountability Alert, Ground Truth's data collection partner in Sierra Leone. For questions 1, 3, 4, 5, and 9 they are asked for simple 'Yes' or 'No' responses. For questions 2, 6, 7, and 8, they are asked to rate statements on a scale from 1 to 5. For questions 3 to 6, respondents are asked to explain why they answered as they did, and the data from these follow-up questions are then coded and presented as a metric.

For more information about Ground Truth surveys in Sierra Leone, please contact Kai Hopkins (kai@keystoneaccountability.org) or Kayla Svoboda (kayla@keystoneaccountability.org).

¹ The quarantine survey is administered each week and supplements Ground Truth's two other surveys in Sierra Leone that cover, respectively, the perceptions of frontline staff and the general population.