

# **Quarantine and the Ebola response**

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**Ground Truth: Sierra Leone**

**Round 12 – 06.05.2015**

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## **Data analysis for 12<sup>th</sup> weekly quarantine survey**

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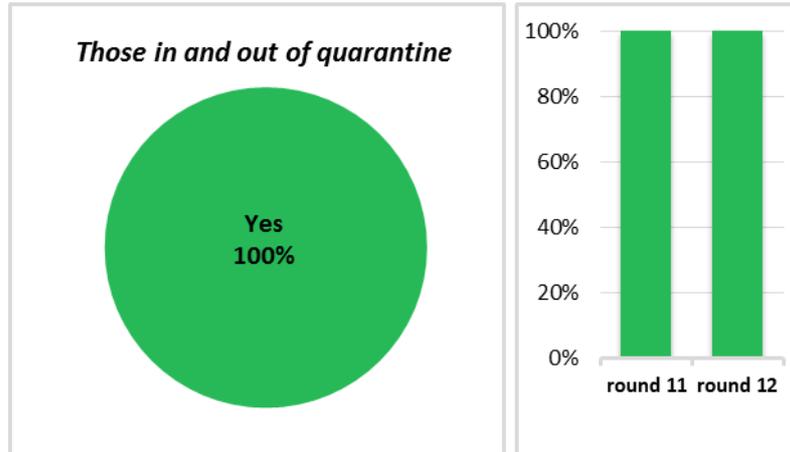
### ***Report highlights:***

- Perceived **post-quarantine social discrimination and exclusion** continues to rise.
- Families are concerned about not being able to generate income at pre-quarantine levels once they get out.
- Most people say they do not have to rely on their savings or on selling their belongings to survive financially in quarantine, although 13% say they do.
- People know whom to contact in the event of any problems during quarantine and how to contact them.
- People say they received only one bag of rice—corresponding to one food aid package—while they were in quarantine.
- People continue to express that their food needs are largely met, while their needs for water and medication are not. More people out of quarantine (17%) reported that their water needs are met, but 100% of respondents in quarantine need more water, especially for washing purposes.
- People seek **food for children and for special dietary needs**.
- They also seek medication for Ebola and Ebola-like symptoms, and—especially for those in quarantine—**medication to help manage their stress**.
- Compliance with quarantine remains high, due mainly to the strict security measurements in place. Those who break quarantine say they do so in search of children’s foods or foods for special diets.

### ***Recommendations:***

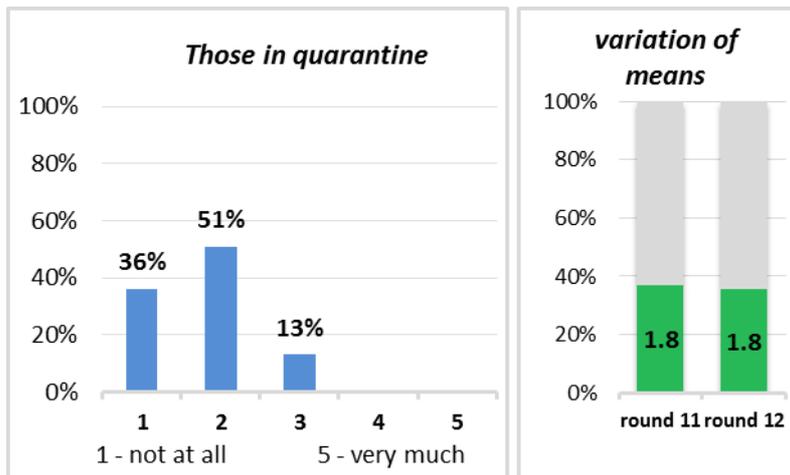
1. Leverage social mobilisation to combat post-quarantine social stigma. Better understand why perceived social discrimination and exclusion after quarantine is on the rise.
2. Provide support for families to transition back into sustainable livelihoods post-quarantine.
3. Assess possibilities of providing needed water, children’s foods and special dietary foods (especially an alternative to white rice), and stress medication to those in quarantine.

1. While in quarantine, were you given the phone number of someone to contact if you had problems?



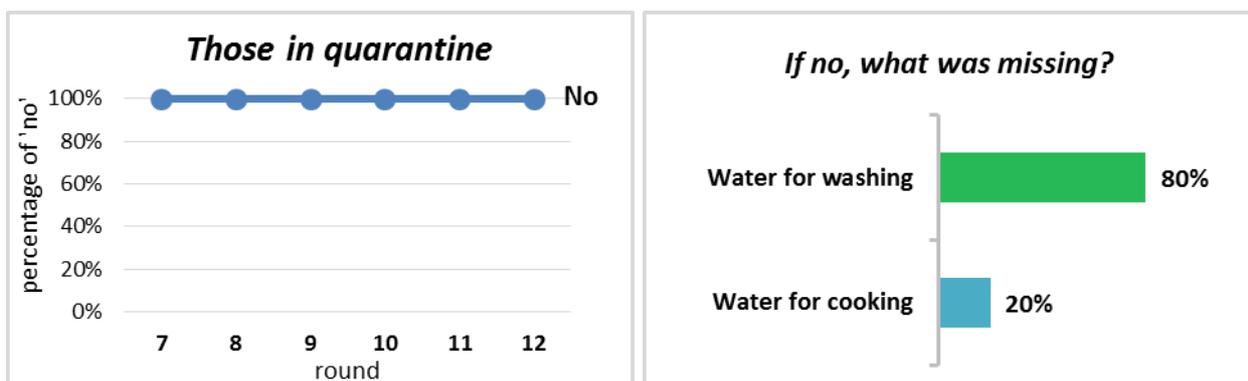
Respondents know whom to contact if any problems arise while they are in quarantine.

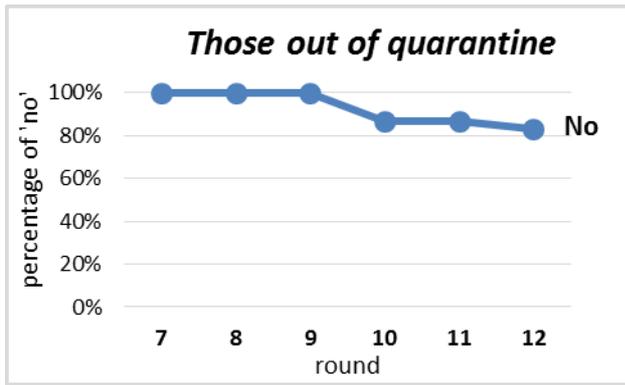
2. To what extent do you and your family have to use savings or sell belongings in order to survive financially while in quarantine?



Most respondents have not had to rely on their personal savings or on selling their belongings in order to survive financially while they are in quarantine.

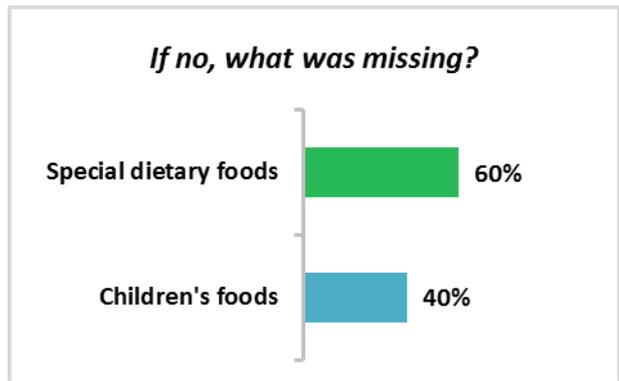
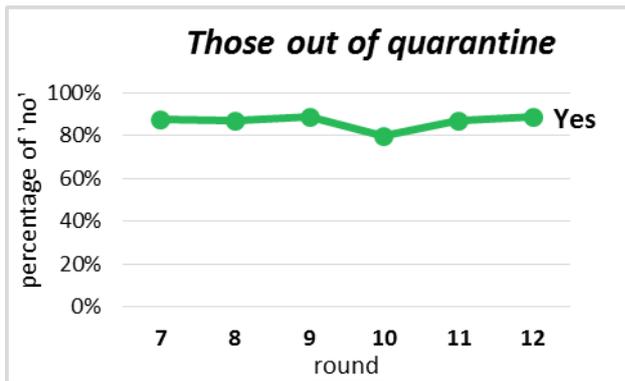
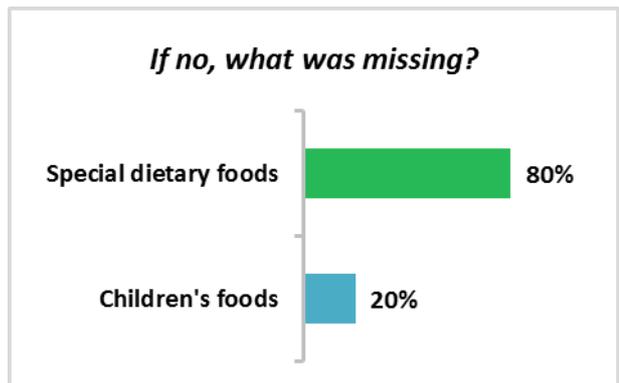
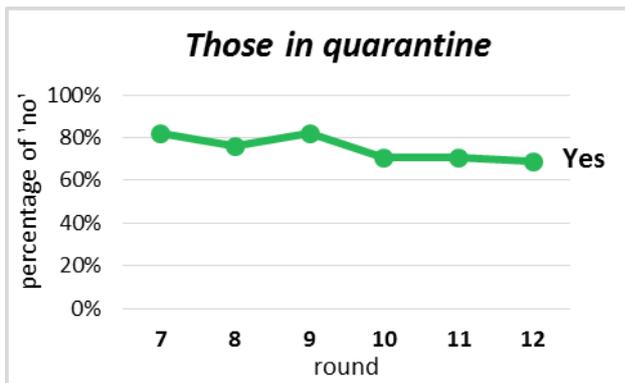
3. Are/were your family's needs for water for washing, drinking, and cooking met?





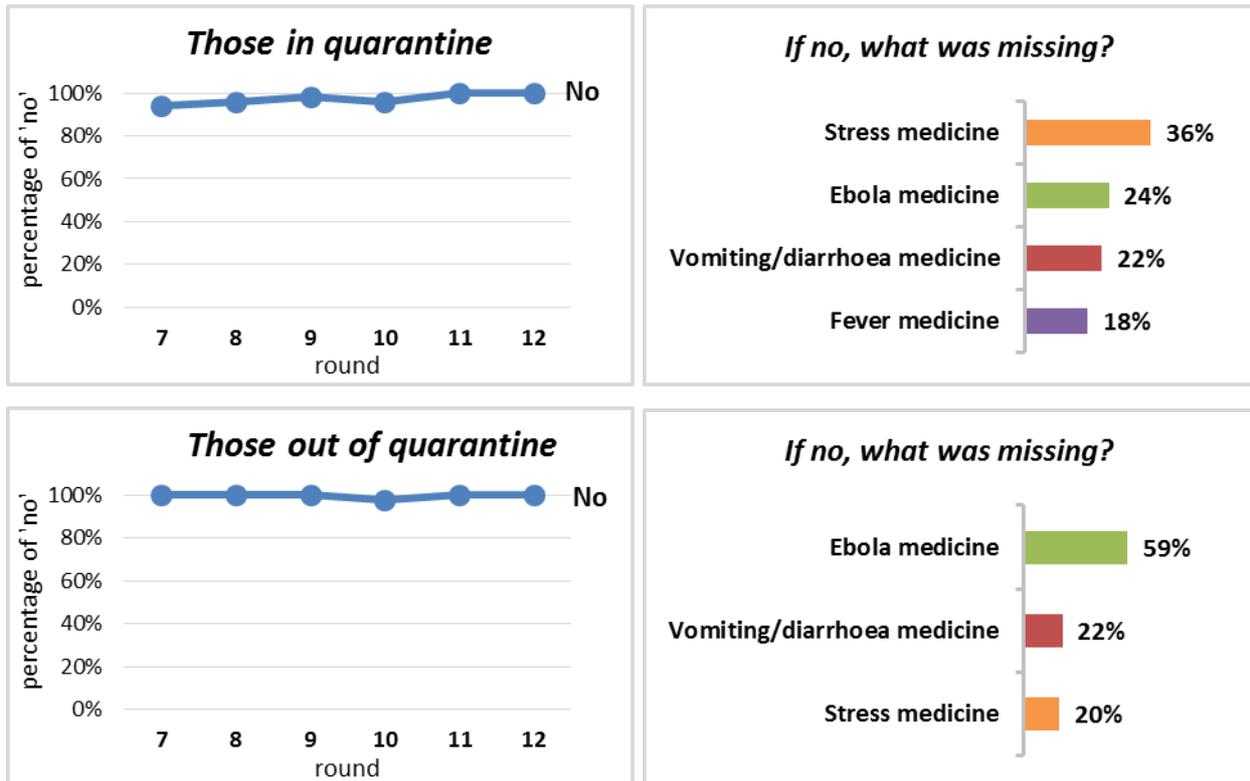
For weeks, people have reported that they seek additional water. The numbers appear to be improving for those out of quarantine, though 100% of respondents still in quarantine say their water needs are not met. In particular, people seek water for washing purposes.

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



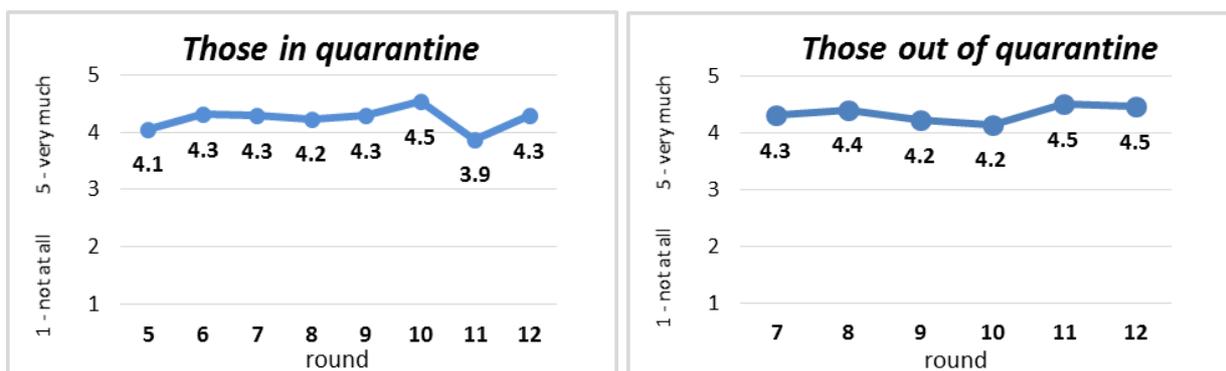
A majority of respondents feel their food needs are met. Those who do not seek foods compatible with special diets (e.g., a bulgur alternative to white rice for diabetics) and children's foods (e.g., milk).

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



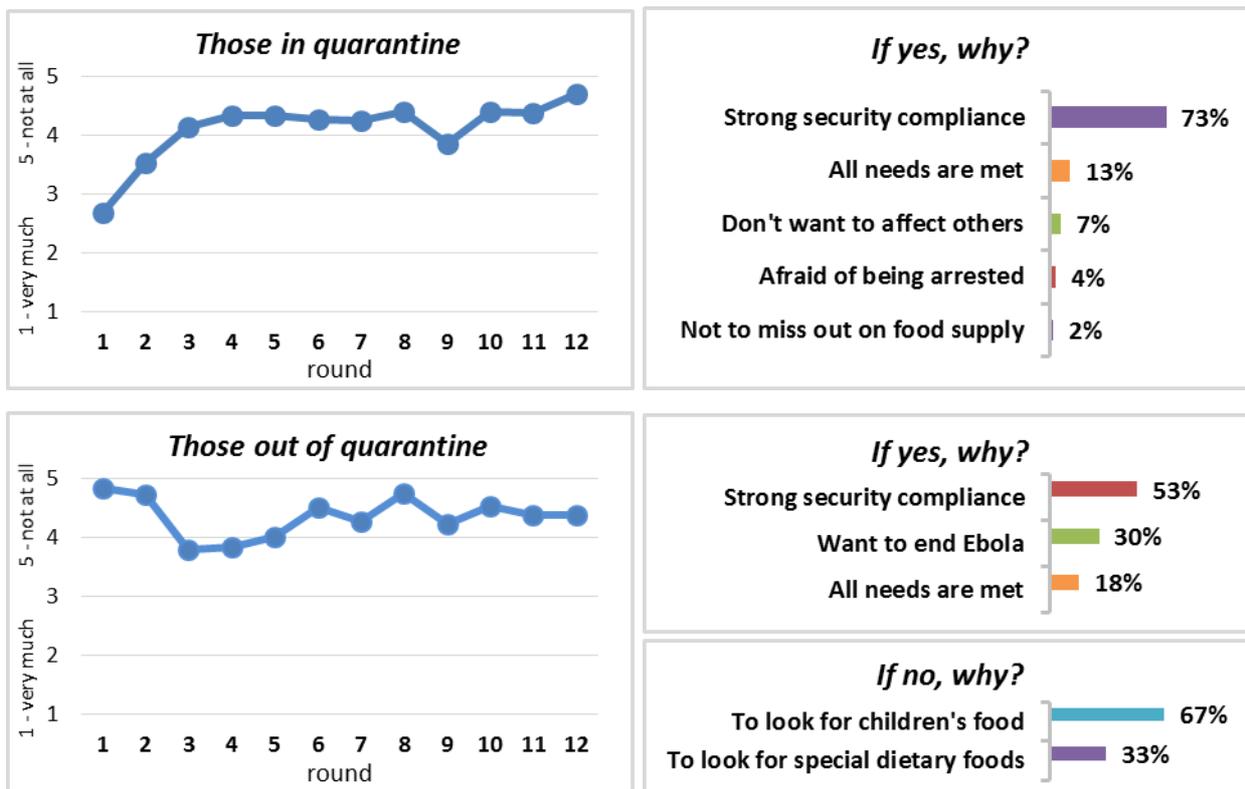
People feel their medication needs are not met. For those requesting medication for Ebola and Ebola symptoms (i.e., vomiting/diarrhoea, fever), it is not clear if people understand that they should call 117. People in quarantine also seek medication to help manage their stress.

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



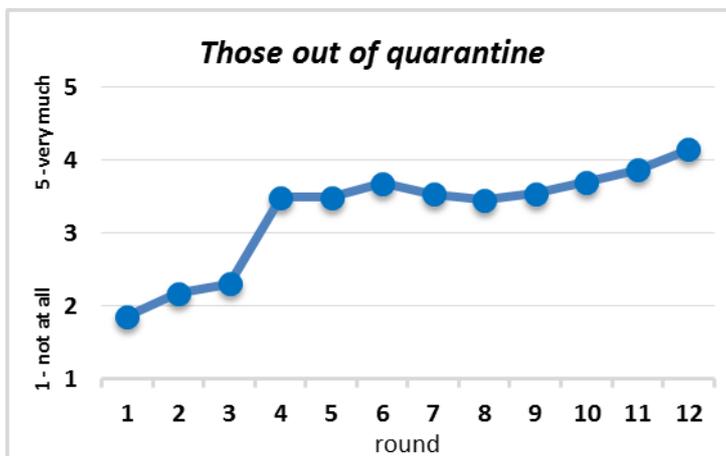
People feel they are treated with respect and dignity by the quarantine team.

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



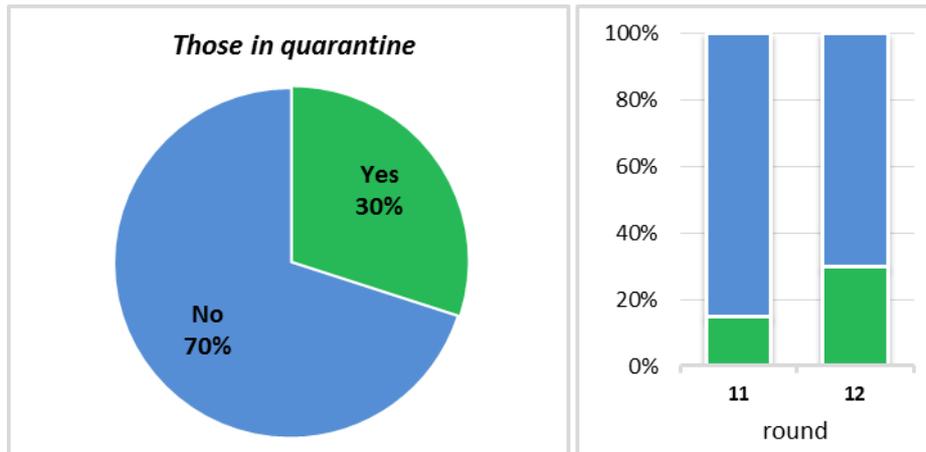
Compliance with quarantine restrictions remains high—the main explanation being the strict security measures in place. Out of quarantine respondents say people break quarantine to look for children’s foods and special dietary foods.

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



Still this week, there is an upward trend in people experiencing social discrimination or exclusion post-quarantine. *It seems this is a key area for intervention to help mitigate the stigma attached to people having been quarantined.*

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



While 30% of respondents say they believe they will be able to earn money at pre-quarantine levels after they get out of quarantine, 70% of respondents do not feel this way. The post-quarantine transition back into the workforce appears to be another area for potential intervention.

## **Ground Truth surveys and Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone**

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**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.<sup>1</sup> 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 twelfth round of data collection – during the week of 27 April – responses were collected in phone interviews from 91 people. Of these, 45 were still in quarantine and 46 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, 4, 5, 6, and 10 they are asked for simple 'Yes' or 'No' responses. For question 2, they are asked for a numerical response. For questions 3, 7, 8, and 9, they are asked to rate statements on a scale from 1 to 5. For questions 4, 5, 6, and 8, 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).***

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<sup>1</sup> The quarantine survey is administered bi-weekly and supplements Ground Truth's three other surveys in Sierra Leone that cover, respectively, the perceptions of frontline staff, the general population and people whose houses have been decontaminated.