

Quarantine and the Ebola response

Ground Truth: Sierra Leone

Round 8 – 24.03.2015

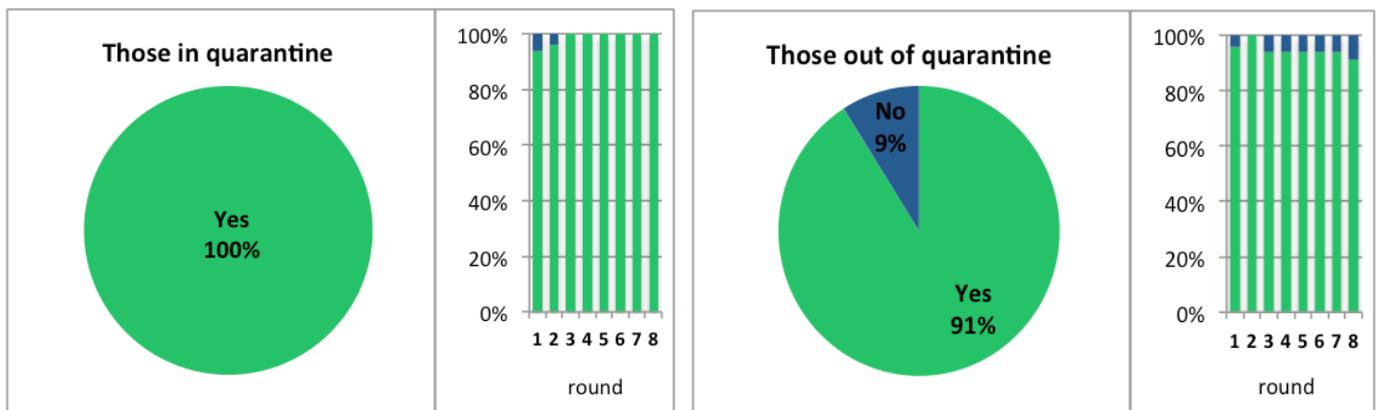
Data analysis for 8th round of quarantine survey

The eighth round of data collection took place on March 16. Phone interviews were conducted with 97 people: 51 in quarantine, and 46 out. Respondents in quarantine live in Western Area Urban. Those out of quarantine are in Western Area Urban, Kenema, and Bo regions. All are part of the quarantine support programmes managed by PLAN International and Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

Highlights:

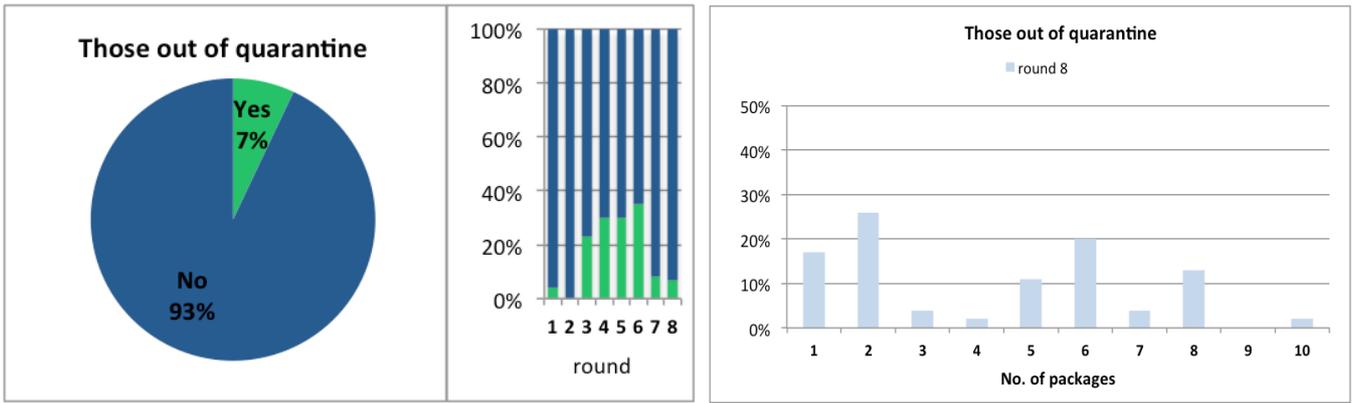
- Delivery of the first aid package within 48 hours of the start of quarantine is largely successful, though fewer respondents out of quarantine (91%) reported receiving their first packages this week.
- Only 7% of respondents say they received a repeat package.
- A majority of respondents feel their food needs are met (76-87%). Those who do not seek special dietary foods and children's foods, like milk.
- On the other hand, respondents feel their needs for water (especially water for washing) and medication are not met.
- Respondents report that most other households in their area comply with quarantine restrictions, due mainly to strict security arrangements and—for those out of quarantine—a fear of their noncompliance being reported by neighbours.
- People in and out of quarantine feel respected by quarantine workers.
- Most respondents out of quarantine say they face discrimination from neighbours.
- Respondents both in and out of quarantine primarily use a shared latrine outside their house. This may have implications for quarantine effectiveness.
- Emotional support comes mostly from family and friends, and from religious leaders.

1. Did you receive your food package within 48 hours of quarantine starting?



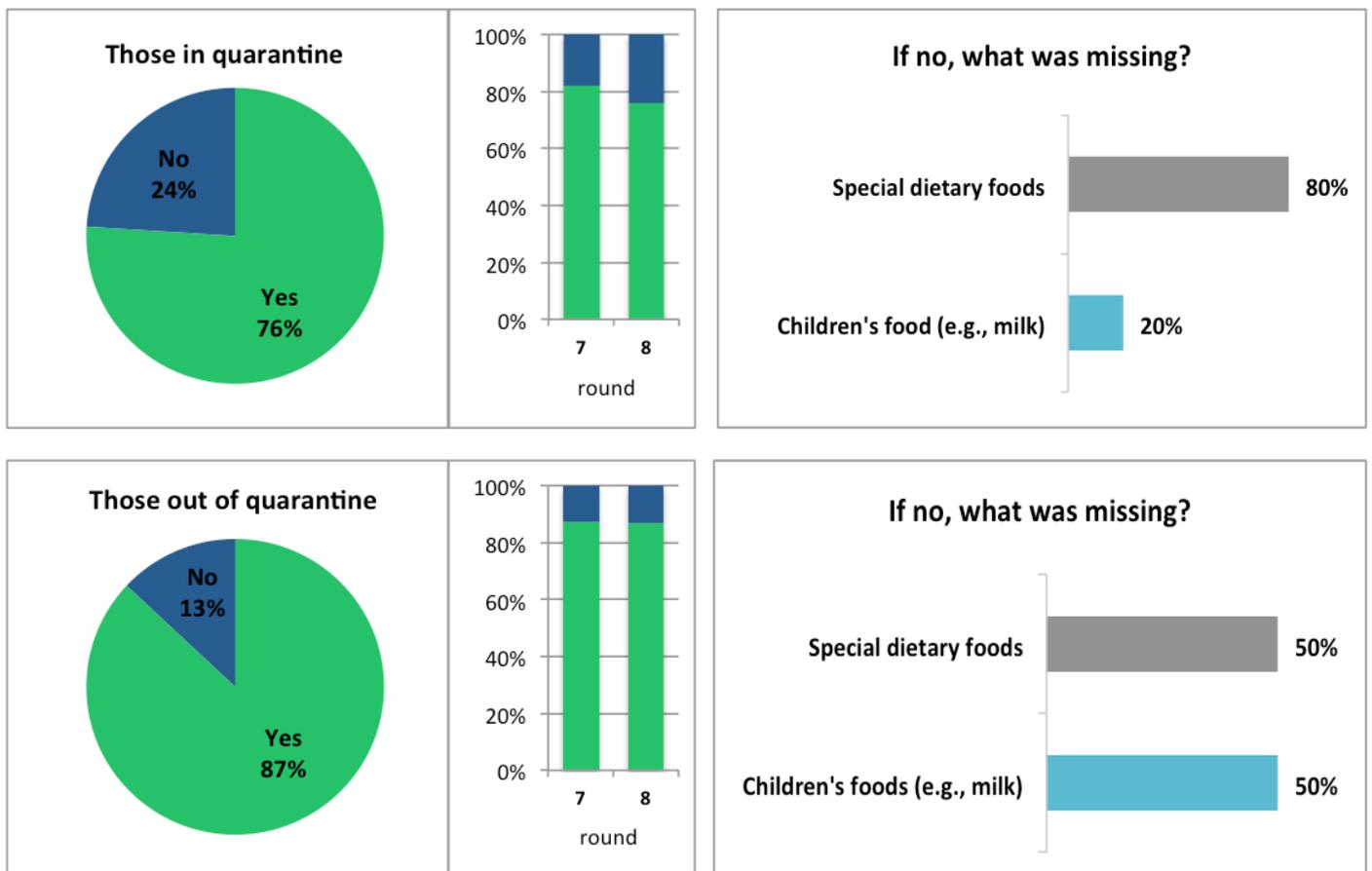
Delivery of the first package is largely successful, with 100% of respondents in quarantine, and 91% of respondents out, saying they received food packages within 48 hours. The out of quarantine figure represents a slight decrease from previous weeks.

2. Did you receive a repeat package during the three-week quarantine period?



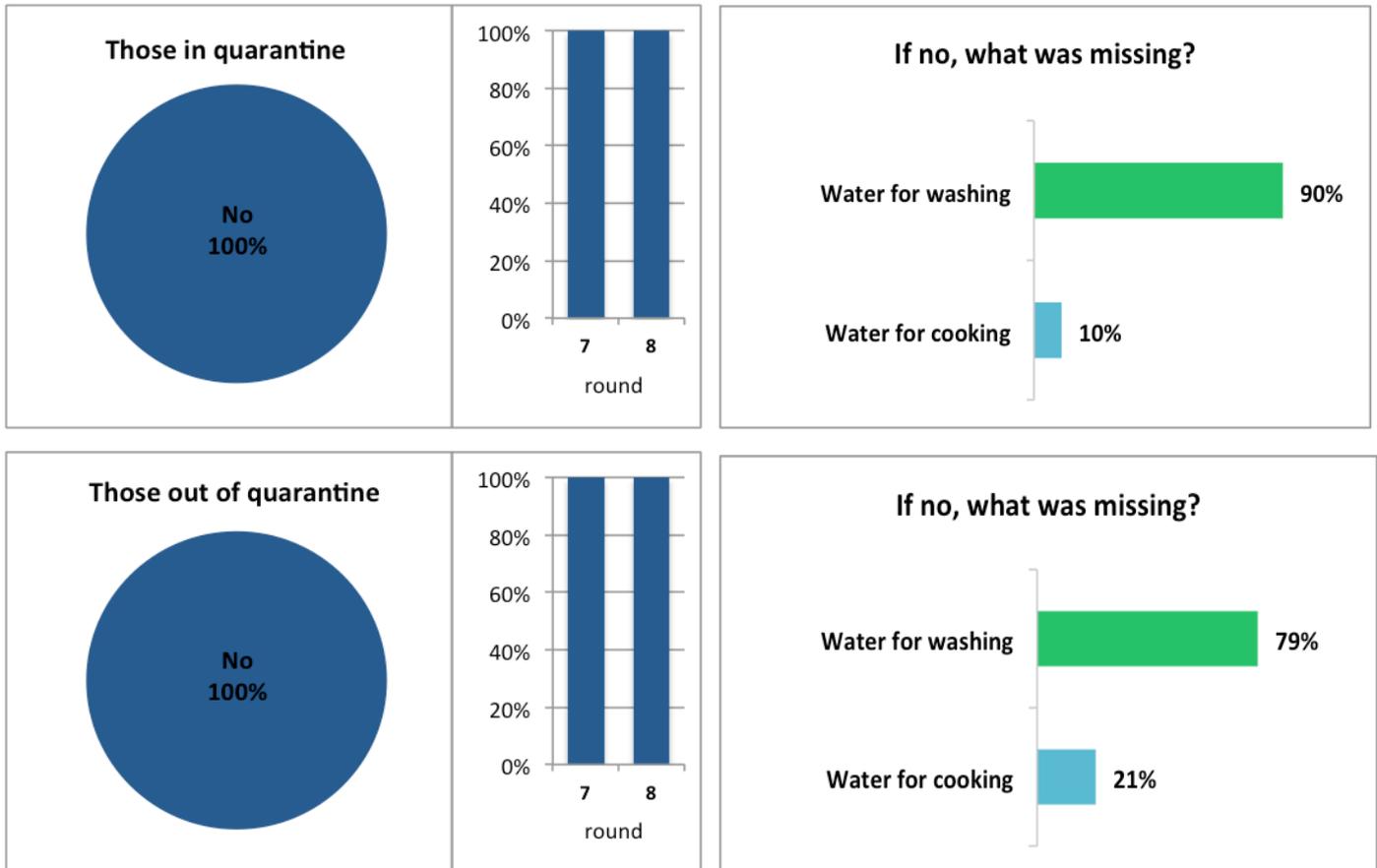
Fewer respondents report they received repeat packages. At the same time, respondents report receiving 1-10 total packages while in quarantine.

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



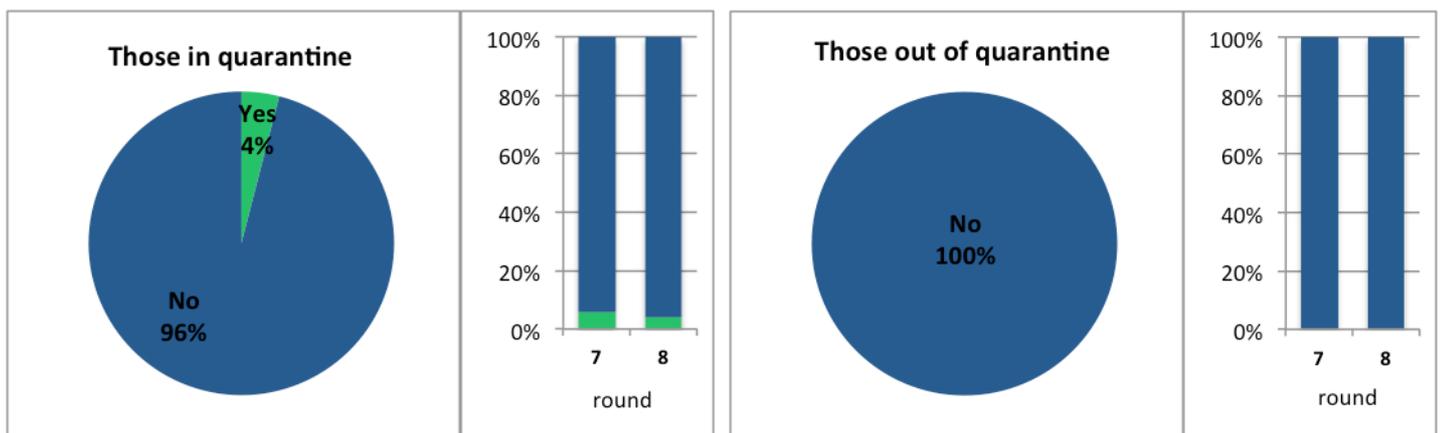
Most respondents feel their food needs are met. For those who do not, special dietary foods and children's foods like milk are the most commonly cited missing items from the food packages.

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



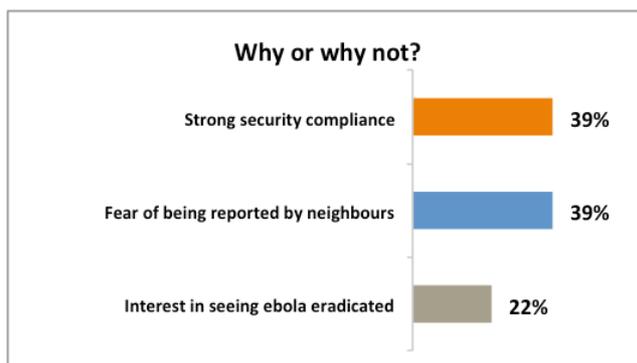
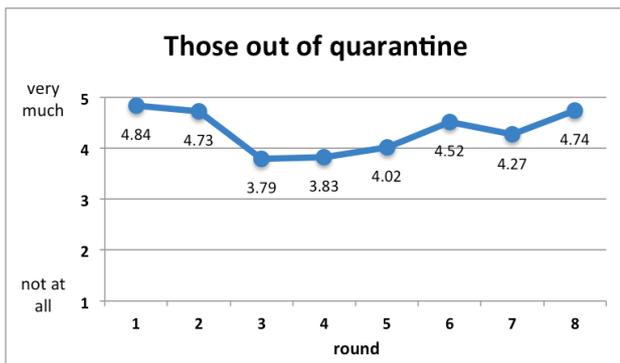
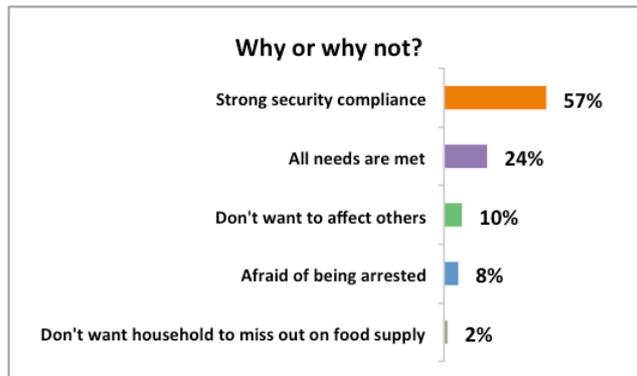
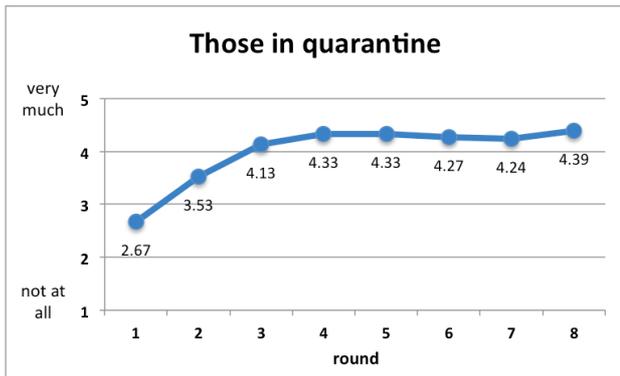
Respondents feel their needs for water are not met, especially their need for water for washing.

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



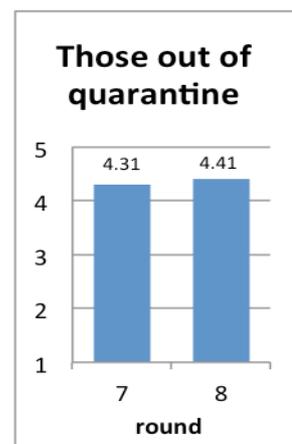
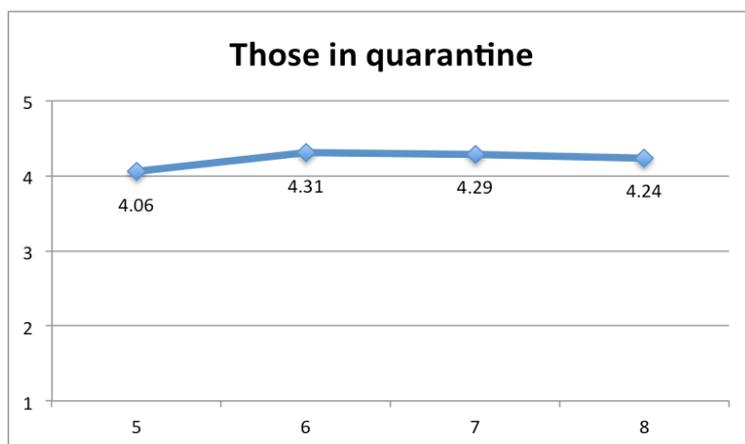
Most respondents feel their family's needs for medication are not met.

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



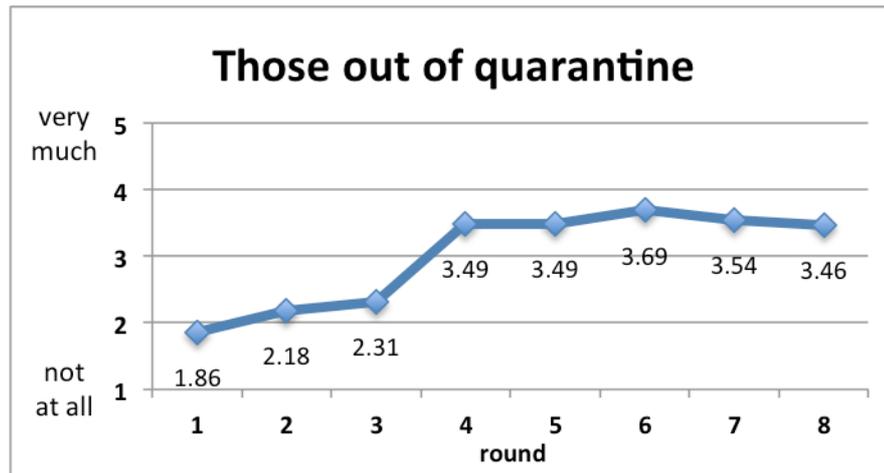
Most respondents say that other quarantined households comply with quarantine restrictions, mainly due to strict security measures, or—for those out of quarantine—a fear of their noncompliance being reported by neighbours.

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



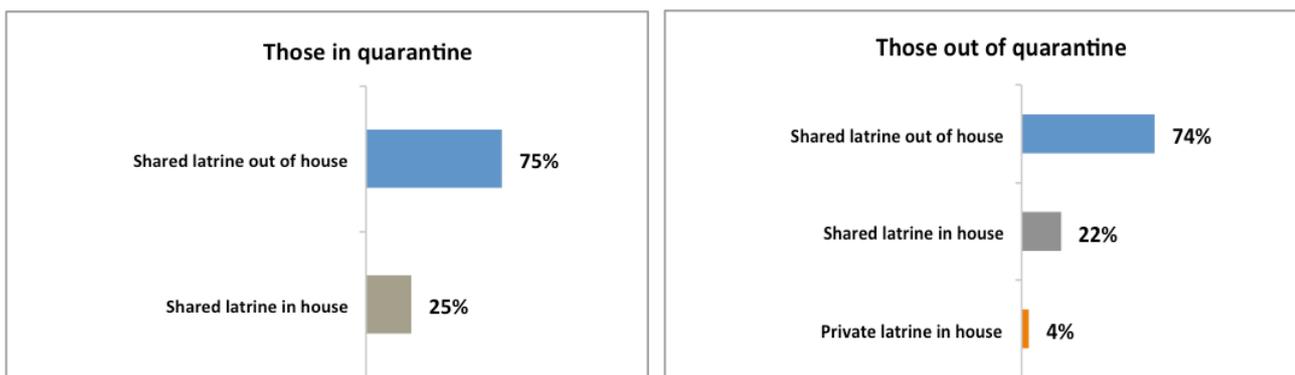
A majority of respondents feel they are treated with respect and dignity by the quarantine team.

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



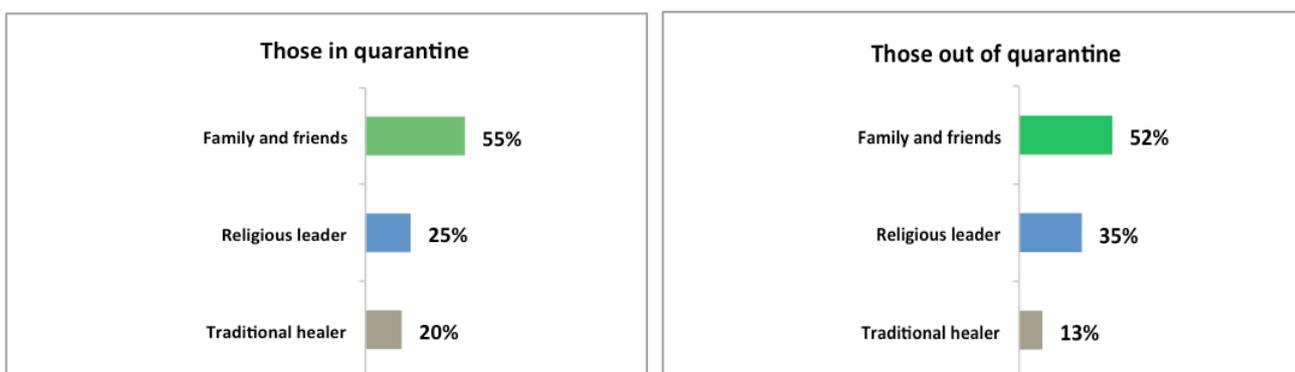
Most respondents report they experience some degree of social **discrimination or exclusion** as a result of having been quarantined.

9. What do/did you use for a toilet in quarantine?



The use of shared toilets outside the home is a concern with respect to the effectiveness of quarantine measures.

10. Who gave you the most emotional support during quarantine?



Family and friends are the primary source of emotional support for respondents, followed by religious leaders.

Ground Truth surveys and the 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 eighth round of data collection – on March 16 – responses were collected in phone interviews from 97 people. Of these, 51 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 in Western Area Urban, Kenema, and Bo regions.

Survey methodology and scoring: Every respondent receives a call from Accountability Alert, Ground Truth's data collection partner in Sierra Leone. They are asked for simple 'Yes' or 'No' responses for questions 1 to 5. For questions 6 to 8 they are asked to rate statements on a scale from 1 to 5. For questions 3, 4, and 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 questions 9 and 10 respondents are asked to select from multiple choice answer options.

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 other two surveys in Sierra Leone that cover, respectively, the perceptions of frontline staff and the general population.