

## GLOBAL COMMUNITIES ALERT WEEKLY REPORT

### May 17 – May 30, 2015

#### SUMMARY

As Liberia is maintaining its status as Ebola-free, ALERT is continuing its efforts in border surveillance, Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and safe burials in order to remain vigilance and promote continual preventive measures with beneficiaries.

All ALERT border county teams are moving forward with stakeholder engagement so that counties and communities feel ownership over the process of border surveillance. Coordination meetings are being held at the community-, district- and county-level in all areas that border on Guinea and Sierra Leone in order to establish policies and procedures to maintain safe border crossings and monitoring and registering informal border crossings. In addition, Global Communities is continuing to draft guidelines for community-led safe burials in the case that communities will need to complement and replace the ALERT-funded burial teams. Triage units have been completed and continue to monitor all travelers that pass through formal checkpoints on the Liberia-Guinea and Liberia-Sierra Leone. During all stakeholder meetings, ALERT staff continue to emphasize the importance of using formal checkpoints while providing guidelines for communities that experience travelers who cross informally.



*Global Communities staff and Bong County stakeholders return to Liberia through a recently-completed triage unit on the border between Bong County, Liberia and Yomou County, Guinea.*

CLTS efforts continue in all border counties and districts, including pre-triggering communities, holding trigger events, training Natural Leaders, assisting communities in all phases of CLTS and monitoring all engaged communities. The CLTS activities continue to be closely linked to border surveillance activities, as both require coordination with the same stakeholders at the community, district and county level.

## 1. COUNTY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### 1.1 Bong

The county-level meeting for the month of May was held in Bheta, Yomou County, Guinea. The Liberian Delegation included: the Bong County Superintendent, Bong CHO, President of Bong Technical College, Chief Medical Director of Phebe, County Social Mobilization Focal Person of Bong, Paramount Chiefs, District Commissioners, OIC, BIN Officials, County Surveillance Officer and international NGOs and UN organizations. Delegates from Guinea included: the Prefect of Yomou County, District Commissioners, Paramount Chief, CHO, Joint Security, Journalist, Principal, Town Chiefs and influential community members. The purpose of the meeting was to sensitize local community residents and promote adherence to border surveillance. Discussions highlighted the roles and responsibilities of each party in the monitoring plan and how partners can coordinate in both countries for effective cross border monitoring. The meeting emphasized that the same strategy in Liberia should be used to stop the spread of Ebola in Guinea.



*Photo: Bong County Superintendent Selena P Mappy and Yomou County Prefect Moustapha Forowe Conole gather with stakeholders from their community to discuss border surveillance.*

The weekly community cluster meetings are ongoing in Zota and Panta-Kpaai Districts with participation of major stakeholders from both county and district levels (Liberia/ Guinea). The meetings were held in four cluster belts (Shankpallai, Gbalatuah, Garmue and Jorwah) in Zota and Panta Districts on May 27-28, 2015 with a total of 195 participants. Border Communities are taking the lead in CLTS with community leaders promising to spread health messages in their communities, take the temperatures of people

entering the community, and community members engaging in the process by going to gCHVs for daily temperature taking and washing hands on a daily basis. Border surveillance included

the monitoring of community traveler registration forms and interactive sessions with gCHVs on the use of thermoflash.

A total of 30 communities have now been triggered in Zota and Panta-Kpaai Districtes. 14 communities were triggered this period, and previously triggered communities have started cleaning-up in and around their communities and digging pits. 12 communities completed latrine pits that have been documented in the ALERT communities. Natural Leaders were assigned to monitor the triggered communities until said communities achieve ODF status. In Panta-Kpaai District, Global Communities triggered 12 communities this period, bringing the total number of triggered communities in this district to 16. 6 of these triggered communities took immediate ownership and agreed to build 45 latrines. Previously triggered communities have also started digging pits for latrine construction in the district. Nine pits have also been documented in the Jorwah and Koryah communities. Monitoring of previously triggered communities, in Garmu Clan and Wrunah Clan, is ongoing along with regular community meetings.

With the start of the rainy season, it will be essential to ensure key staff have rain gear to allow them to continue their work and to take into account transportation delays due to worsening road conditions.

In the next reporting period, community meetings and monitoring of ODF progress will be ongoing in all communities. Four more communities are planned to be triggered in Zota.

ALERT currently supports 1 ambulance in Bong County and 3 burial teams and 0 disinfection teams. 1 individual was buried by the ALERT-supported teams during this past reporting period.

## **1.2 Grand Cape Mount**

Border surveillance activities continued and Global Communities discovered 4 new communities along the border, bringing the total to 46 border communities. These activities included monitoring in the hard-to-reach communities in Porkpa District between Liberia and Sierra Leone. During the reporting period, 13,021 persons travelled through formal Liberian checkpoints and 2,726 people travelled through informal Liberian crossings. This nearly included a 17-year old male from Sierra Leone who crossed informally into Liberia with a very high fever; the community reported the person and denied his entry so that he returned to Sierra Leone.

Currently, the team is planning its second border cross border meeting with Sierra Leone counterparts to be held in Tewor District, and ongoing community and district meetings on border surveillance continue to be planned and held.

CLTS trainings were held in two districts during the reporting period: Tewor and Porkpa. 64 people participated, including natural leaders, town chiefs, commissioners, paramount chiefs and Global Communities staff from Gbarpolu. Global Communities facilitated a visit of the National Technical Coordinating Unit to 15 border villages that the Foundation for All Ages Liberia (FAAL) had triggered previously in order to monitor their progress.



*CLTS Validation meeting, where community members and local governments commit to tangible sanitation improvements within their communities.*

Global Communities is supporting 3 burial teams and 2 disinfection teams in Grand Cape Mount, as well as providing 5 ambulances to the area. The teams buried 10 individuals during the reporting period.

### **1.3 Gbarpolu**

Border surveillance activities in Gbarpolu are ongoing in all communities. During the reporting period, 1,129 people passed through formal checkpoints. 116 people passed between Sierra Leone and Liberia informally during the period, and 100% of these persons were logged into the community log book during the week of May 17-23, 2015.

CLTS activities have continued in Gbarpolu, including verifying that border communities maintain their level of engagement. Community Development Promoters travelled to Kungba district to conduct pre-triggering exercises in border communities.

ALERT supported 2 burial teams and 2 disinfection team in Gbarpolu during the reporting period, along with 2 ambulance. The teams buried 3 individuals during that time.

### **1.4 Lofa**

CLTS activities are ongoing in Lofa County. Activities include CLTS Training of Trainers (TOT), holding stakeholder meetings, triggering communities and providing ongoing monitoring of participant communities. All communities are making progress towards becoming ODF.

Global Communities is maintaining an ambulance presence of 4 vehicles in Lofa County and 4 burial teams that have also been trained in disinfection. There were 0 burials reported during the biweekly period.

## 1.5 Nimba

CLTS activities are ongoing in Nimba County, which includes Natural Leaders meetings, CLTS community engagement activities, and pre-triggering and triggering activities. CLTS topics were also discussed in the border surveillance meetings (described below), in particular efforts to remove and/or fence pigs, monitor goats and sheep for diseases, and fine community members for open defecation.

During the reporting period, Global Communities conducted 7 border surveillance meetings, which included community cluster meetings, district-level meetings and a county-level meeting. 128 people participated in the community meetings in Glonotowee, Geipa, Bonla and Gblasonnoh. During the community cluster meetings, participants discussed issues such as a disease that killed more than 100 goats and sheep in a neighboring border community (Kinnon). A new local law was also communicated, which states that any travelers bringing goats from Guinea must report to a focal person in Yarmein Administrative District.

42 people participated in the district-level meetings held in Sehyikimpa and Baintowin during the reporting period. Each clan provided updates on border surveillance activities in their responsible areas so that their Administrative District Commissioner will be able to share the information in the next county-level meeting.

The latest county-level meeting for Nimba was held on Thursday, May 28 in Sehyikimpa. In addition to providing updates on the goat and sheep disease (and subsequent laws instituted), the Yarmein District Commissioner also shared that pig removal/fencing is underway, in line with CLTS. Upon finding resistance to temperature checks from the Guinean counterparts, the Liberian delegation emphasized the importance of hand washing and temperature checks. The Guinean delegation agreed to relay this messaging to Guinean border communities in recognition of the Liberian success in becoming free of Ebola. The District Commissioner of Gbehlay-Geh informed the group that their district will be fining individuals 500LD if they fail to report a stranger, and additional fines if poor sanitation is reported. The Sanniquellie-Mah District Commissioner stated that their border communities are observing all Ebola preventive measures. Also in Sanniquellie-Mah District, a Zone Chief died, which resulted in a large population transfer, but all individuals washed their hands with chlorinated water and were screened.

The surveillance teams continued to monitor border communities and triage crossing points and to coordinate with community-level focal persons on actions such as rumored cases of Ebola, informal crossing travelers, travelers who demonstrate Ebola-like symptoms and the number of travelers logged in community log books.

ALERT supports 2 ambulances in Nimba County, with 2 burial teams that have also been trained in disinfection. There were 0 burials in this area during the reporting period.

## 2. CASE MANAGEMENT DATA

### 2.1 Ambulance Support

Current Ambulance Presence			
County	#	County	#
Bomi	2	Margibi	2
Bong	1	Maryland	1

Gbarpolu	1	Montserratado	1
Grand Bassa	2	Nimba	2
Grand Cape Mount	5	Rivercess	1
Grand Gedeh	0	River Gee	0
Grand Kru	1	Sinoe	1
Lofa	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

## 2.2 Burial/Disinfection Team Support

Current Burial/Disinfection Team Support					
County	Burial	Disinfection	County	Burial	Disinfection
Bomi	2	0	Lofa	4	0
Bong	3	0	Margibi	2	0
Disco Hill	6	2	Maryland	1*	0
Gbarpolu	2	1	Montserratado	9	5
Grand Bassa	3	0	Nimba	2	0
Grand Cape Mount	3	2	Rivercess	2	0
Grand Gedeh	1	0	River Gee	1	0
Grand Kru	1*	0	Sinoe	1*	0
			<b>Total</b>		

\*Indicates teams that have increased in size as requested by county health team

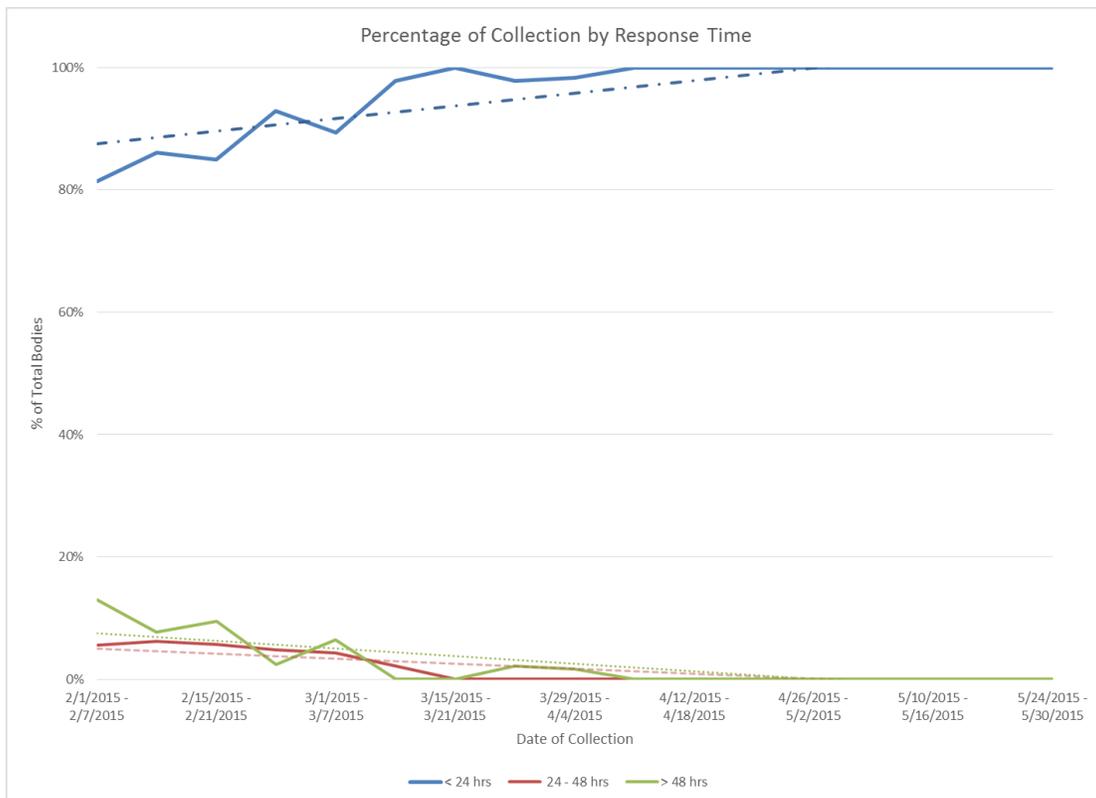
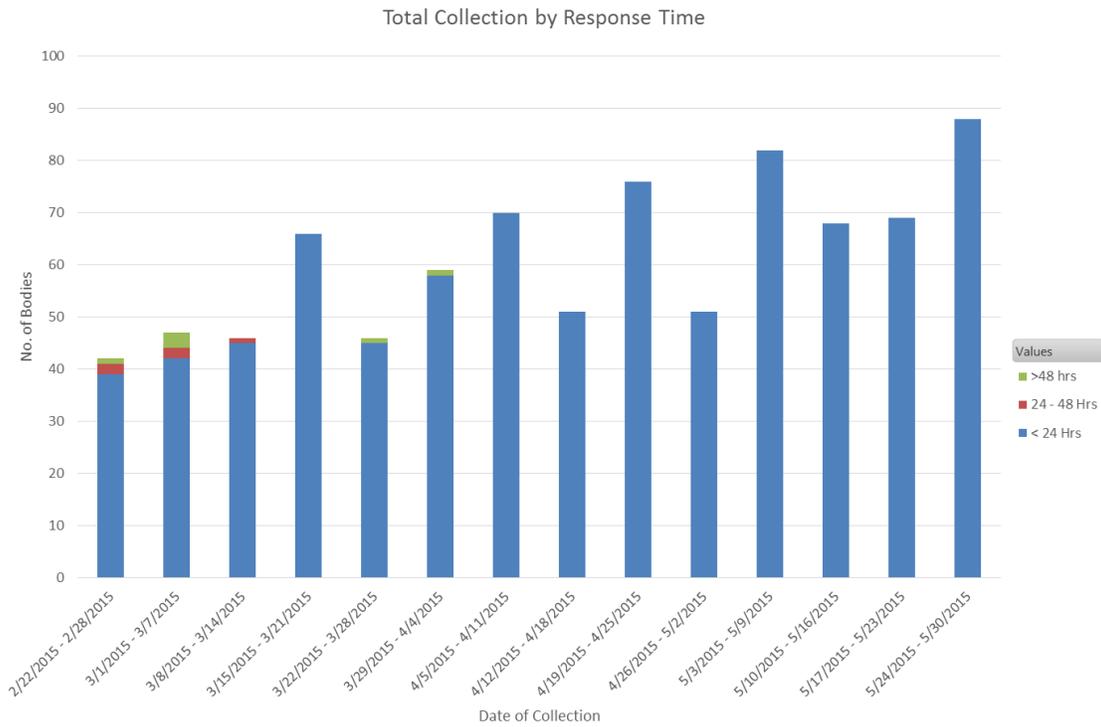
## 2.3 Dead Body Management

### 2.3.1 Overall Burial Statistics

Total Burials Reported May 17 – 30, 2015			
County	Total	County	Total
Bomi	0	Margibi	24
Bong	1	Maryland	0
Gbarpolu	3	Montserratado	157
Grand Bassa	1	Nimba	0
Grand Cape Mount	10	Rivercess	0
Grand Gedeh	1	River Gee	0
Grand Kru	0	Sinoe	1
Lofa	0	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>198</b>

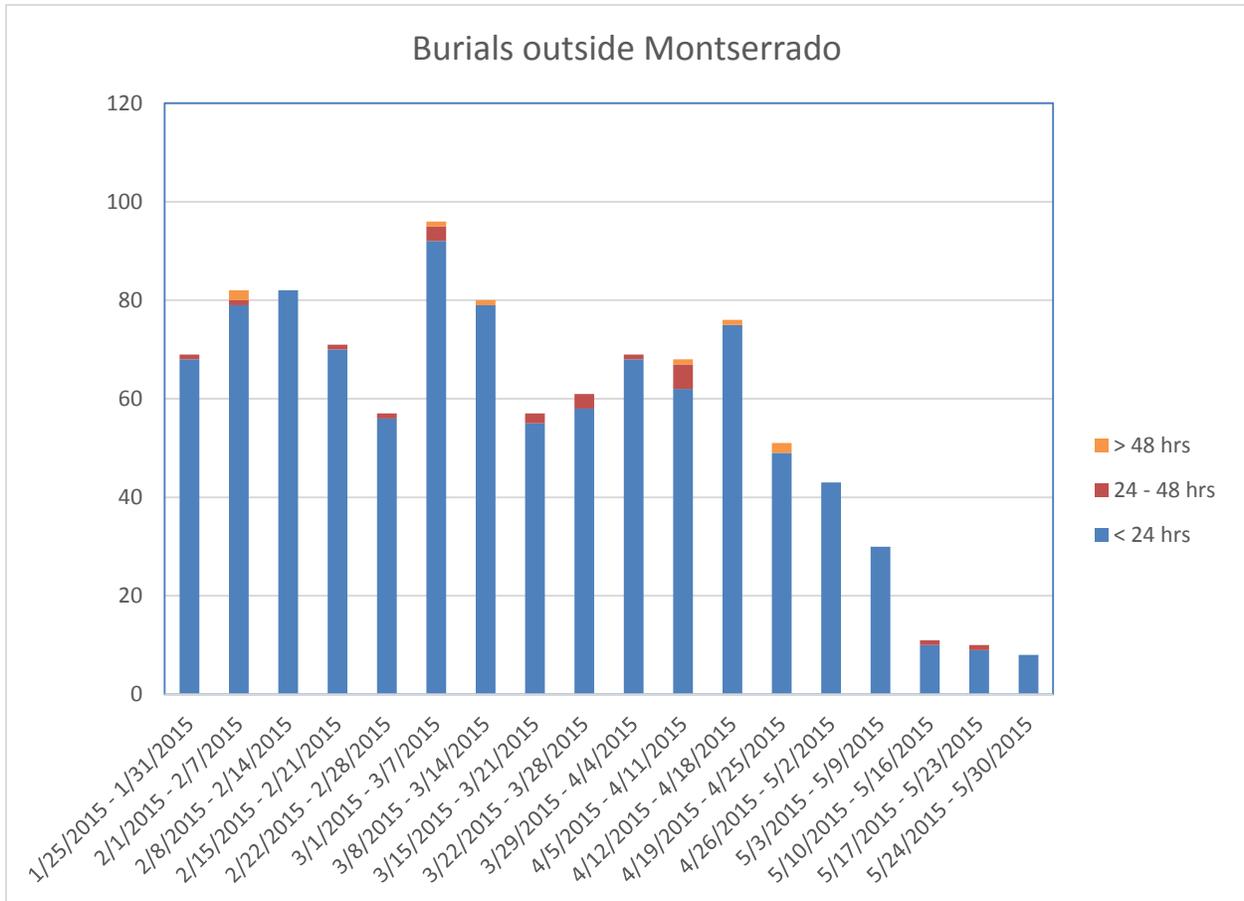
Total Burials Reported May 3 – 16, 2015	
Reported on May 19, 2015	175
Updated Data	192

### 2.3.2 Montserrado County Burial Statistics



157 bodies were buried in Montserrado County during the reporting period, of which 100% were buried within 24 hours of death.

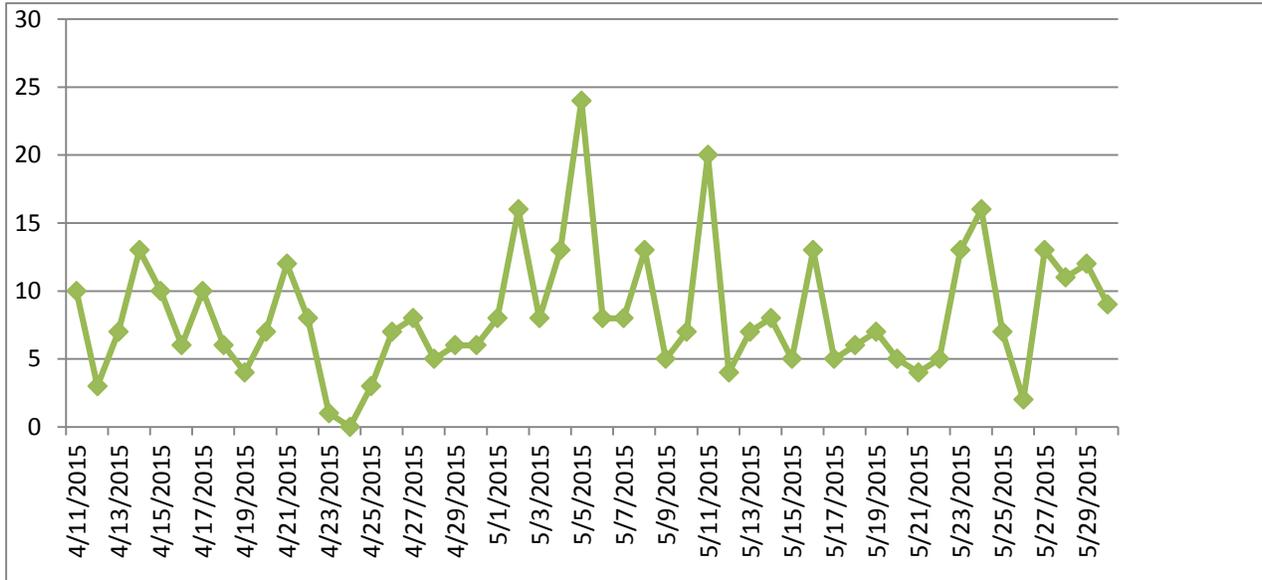
### 2.3.3 Non-Montserrado County Burial Statistics



97% of burials have been completed within 24 hours of death since January 25, 2015. Global Communities is waiting for more information on the most recent burials, which are not represented in the graph above.

## 2.4 Safe Burial Site

Date	# Buried	By Religion		By Sex			By Point of Origin		
		CH	M	F	M	Unrep.	ETU	Community	Hospital
<b>Total</b>	1194	986	208	461	663	70	117	490	587
<b>Percent</b>	100	83	17	39	56	6	10	41	49



103 bodies were buried at Disco Hill during the reporting period at an average of 7.4 bodies per day. Global Communities continues bury medical waste taken from area hospitals, as well.