

GLOBAL COMMUNITIES ALERT WEEKLY REPORT

March 15 – March 21, 2015

SUMMARY

Global Communities activities this reporting period continue to be focused on **border surveillance and monitoring**. Two orientations on **Community Event Based Surveillance** were held in Nimba County and more are currently being planned for Gbarpolu and Bong Counties. Part of the Global Communities Team in Nimba will attend a cross-border surveillance meeting in Lola, Guinea during the next reporting period to discuss international cooperation between the two countries in terms of screening official border points and raising community awareness about community-based surveillance.

Burial and disinfection teams remain active in all counties and disinfection teams have already begun scaling down significantly. The details of IFRC's burial team scale-down in Montserrado County is still being discussed with IMS but Global Communities still expects to take responsibility for all Montserrado County burials. As of this reporting period, IFRC's burial teams remain fully mobilized.

Social mobilization activities continue in Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Cape Mount Counties. In addition, the Global Communities Monrovia Office M&E Team begun working more closely with the Ministry of Health and other Global Communities County Offices to improve data collection and reporting, especially on burial statistics. The results have been positive so far as reflected by the completeness of this week's data.

1. COUNTY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Bong

There were no new cases this reporting period and **border surveillance** and **social mobilization** remain the focus of Global Communities activities in Bong. This reporting period three clan meetings were held in both Zota and Panta, bringing together community leaders; Clans chiefs, general town chiefs, and town chiefs. Youth, traditional leaders, women leaders and other respected community members also attended.

The County Health Team has resolved to withdraw all county level Supervisors from **the active case search** list which was presented to Global Communities for incentive consideration this reporting period. An updated version of the list will be presented during the next period consisting only of district health workers. WHO/UNFPA will be responsible for paying incentives for all gCHVs at various crossing points with Guinea.

Global Communities and the County Health Team toured the various **border crossing points between Guinea and Liberia** to layout the triage and screening stations that are to be built this week. In addition, the County Health Team and Partners in the consortium have started a **joint clinical supervision** group to continue clan and community-based border monitoring activities.

Hygiene promotion continues under the Global Communities-UNICEF hygiene kit distribution program. To date, all 28 triggered communities have dug a total of 224 pits. This reporting period CLTS communities built 29 new dish racks, bringing the total to 387 in all communities. 24 new clotheslines were put up this period totaling 377.

Gbarpolu

Gbarpolu continues to have no new cases and contact tracers continue conducting **active case search**. This reporting period, contact tracers visited 630 households in 79 Gbarpolu communities and referred 75 other cases to various County clinics. Follow-up of the cases referred to clinics is ongoing in the county.

Three **burial teams** continue to operate in Gbarpolu yet most burials are done by family members. During the next reporting period, GC plans to conduct an orientation session on **Community Event Based Surveillance (CEBS)** in Gbarpolu.

Grand Cape Mount

With no new cases, GC continues to support **active case search** and **border surveillance planning activities**. This reporting period an evaluation meeting was held to look at the work of the active case finders. It was discovered that some were underreporting so a meeting was scheduled for March 24th to discuss possibilities for improvement. In terms of **social mobilization**, the GC Grand Cape Mount Field Team held its last CMDS meeting in Garwular district. Attendees from 28 communities were present including 112 people and 28 CHWs.

Safe and dignified burials continue to be supported but burial teams are to be scaled back. For now the full burial and disinfection teams in Tewor and Porkpa districts along the Sierra Leonean border will be maintained. For the other three districts, disinfection teams will be deactivated and a staff added to the burial team for disinfection.

This reporting period, a roll out of **border surveillance** training was discussed at the National Border Coordination Group meeting. It was recommended that GC and IOM work with County authorities to develop operational plan for border surveillance. GC has bought iron sheets to change the roof of booths built at Bo Water side that were previously covered by Tarpauln. Motorcycles for border surveillance are now been mobilized to the county as staff are deployed and waiting for logistics to start active work. Further assessments were done for two more legal entry points and materials are now mobilized to build new triages.

Lofa

Lofa County continues to report no new cases but the CHT, during the EVD County Task Force weekly coordination meeting, announced a reported measles case in Voinjama district. The case is being investigated and result should be provided during the next coordination meeting. **Border surveillance** continues to be the focus. GC staff participated in regular coordination meetings conducted in the county and provided updates on GC activities in the county.

Two bordering communities (Ndahun, Gesegba) with Guinea in Kolahun district received **border surveillance monitoring materials** (thermo-flashes, flash lights, ledgers, ink pens) which were given to gCHVs identified in the communities to record relevant data and monitor people entering the communities from across the border in Guinea.

The GC county CLTS Focus Person conducted a two one-day orientation exercises with 12 Natural Leaders each in Kolahun and Voinjama districts as a mobilization exercise for triggering communities to participate in the new five-year project (PACS) to be jointly implemented by GC, IRC, and PSI. The NLs were given LOIs for Nyagbelahun and Nyoquoitahun, two

communities which have expressed interest in conducting CLTS and which were hard hit by EVD during the peak of the outbreak last year.

GC-supported burial and disinfection teams continue to conduct negotiated **safe and dignified burials** in all the districts in the county. GC continues to provide transportation for the **safe collection and transportation of swabs** taken during burials and these swabs are taken to Gbarnga, Bong County for tests. All swabs taken this reporting period were confirmed negative

Margibi

Active case search activities are ongoing in the communities and at the various gates that GC has gCHVs assigned. This reporting period, GC provided incentive for 240 gCHVs (Mambakaba-40 and Firestone-200) working as **Active Case Searchers** in these two Districts in Margibi County. The incentive paid last week was for the Month of February 2015. Due to the challenges and resistance that case investigators face within the Communities, the Margibi CHT and Ministry of Internal Affairs are currently planning meeting with traditional leaders, the EVD taskforce and all decisions makers at the District and Clan level to plan strategies for community involvement in active case searching.

The Active Case Searchers in the Communities and those at the Borlorla gate in Margibi County identified and reported nine cases of sick persons. They were taken to the ETU for specimen collection but all results came out negative.

Specimens were collected from 11 bodies and sent to the lab but all were negative. The burials of these bodies were safely carried out by Burial Team in Margibi County. There was one **secret burial** done in Dennis' Farm on the Gibi road. The EVD Response Team immediately moved there with case investigators but the family claimed that the deceased had been taken to the ETU on February 28th before his death, and all results were negative. The record at the ETU confirmed this.

Maryland

Active case search and follow ups, including safe and dignified burials are some of the major activities currently implemented in the County by the CHT and partners as a means of responding to the prevention of Ebola. No new cases have been reported but results from specimens collected from four Ebola-suspected persons are still pending.

Maryland County is preparing for the upcoming immunization campaign targeting children across the county in response to the whooping cough outbreak in the Barrobo and Karluway district regions. WHO, WFP, UNICEF, IRC, MIA, Global Communities, CARITAS, DRC, EHealth Africa, Partners in Health (PIH) and other partners are directly involved with EVD response activities in the county

Nimba

During this reporting period the Nimba Team carried on the following activities in meeting the target of ZERO Ebola: participating in the County EVD technical meeting; Conducting border district meetings; supporting GCHVs, local structures and EHTs for community surveillance; providing EVD supplies in bordering communities and officials check points; constructing screening and triage stations at three official border check points and; supporting **safe and dignified burials** (four this period with all swabs testing negative). GC supports **border**

surveillance activities in 23 communities and two official check points. There are 46 **community volunteers** working to ensure proper screening and monitoring in and out of the border communities.

GC conducted the first bordering district engagement meeting in Sanniquellie – Mah district on March 17th in Sehyi-Kimpa town hall to discuss strategies for **community-based border surveillance**, coordination with other districts, identifying possible cases and reporting them to the proper authorities for appropriate action. This meeting highlighted the importance each group plays in border community surveillance. The presenter explained how GC plans to engage the district regarding various actors' roles and responsibilities, implementing the action plans and working within districts to ensure coordination in reporting events as they occur.

GC supported a two-day **Community Event-Based Surveillance (CEBS)** orientation session in Ganta this reporting period. The CEBS session had the following objectives: To understand CEBS and how it fits into the existing system, to identify communities' role in supporting CEBS and develop and role specific action plans to implement CEBS. This orientation was viewed as a vast improvement from the first session held two reporting periods ago in Grand Cape Mount County. GC plans to roll out CEBS orientation and TOT sessions in all of the border counties. This coming reporting period, GC staff is attending a border monitoring joint conference held in Lola, Guinea to discuss international cooperation as it relates to surveillance.

Rivercess

The Nimba CHT continues to report zero new cases. GC staff attended an EVD coordination meeting on March 18th to review the activities of the county as it relates to the Ebola and each partner's role in the response. On March 20th, GC participated in the follow-up EVD coordination meeting to revise partner activities in the County. A **WASH coordination** meeting was also held on Friday to revamp the County's WASH sector. Prior to the EVD in the county, the WASH sector had a regular monthly meeting but since the occurrence of the EVD, there have been no meetings. Therefore, this meeting was meant to restructure the system.

Monitoring and supervision is ongoing for four communities in the UNCIEF/GC Hygiene Kit target district of Kayan. GC continues to support **safe and dignified burials** in Rivercess. This reporting period, two burials were supported and both swab tests came back negative.

Sinoe

The Sinoe CHT continues its regular EVD technical meetings to ensure EVD response activities in the County are on course despite there being **no active cases** since December 2014. There are currently no patients at the CCC or ETU. Partners are gradually scaling down Ebola response in the County but GC continues to support **safe and dignified burials**.

The GC Sinoe team is currently providing logistical support to the County response team with ambulance service and the county field logistician and administrative office served as Secretary to the Ebola technical team. This reporting period the County and partners developed a matrix to better organize responsibilities and duties from now until the end of the response.

2. CASE MANAGEMENT DATA

2.1 Ambulance Support

Current Ambulance Presence			
County	#	County	#
Bomi	2	Margibi	2
Bong	1	Maryland	1
Gbarpolu	1	Montserrado	1
Grand Bassa	2	Nimba	2
Grand Cape Mount	5	Rivercess	2
Grand Gedeh	0	River Gee	0
Grand Kru	2	Sinoe	2
Lofa	1	Total	24

The amount and location of ambulances remained the same from last reporting period.

2.2 Burial/Disinfection Team Support

Current Burial/Disinfection Team Support							
County	GC	IFRC	GC	County	GC	IFRC	GC
	Burial		Disinfection		Burial		Disinfection
Bomi	2		0	Lofa	4		0
Bong	3		2	Margibi	2		0
Disco Hill	7		2	Maryland	1		0
Gbarpolu	3		0	Montserrado	17	12*	7
Grand Bassa	3		0	Nimba	4		4
Grand Cape Mount	5		5	River Cess	2		0
Grand Gedeh	1		0	River Gee	1		0
Grand Kru	1		0	Sinoe	1		0
				Total	57	12	20

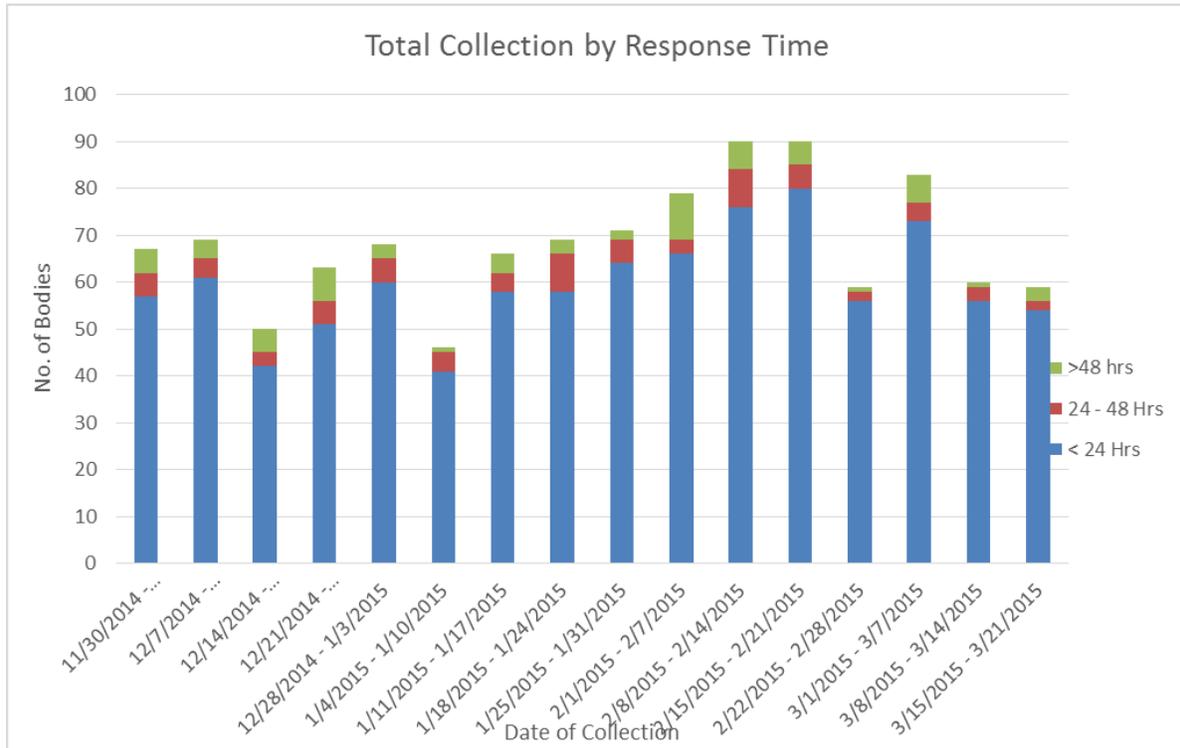
2.3 Dead Body Management

2.3.1 Overall Burial Statistics

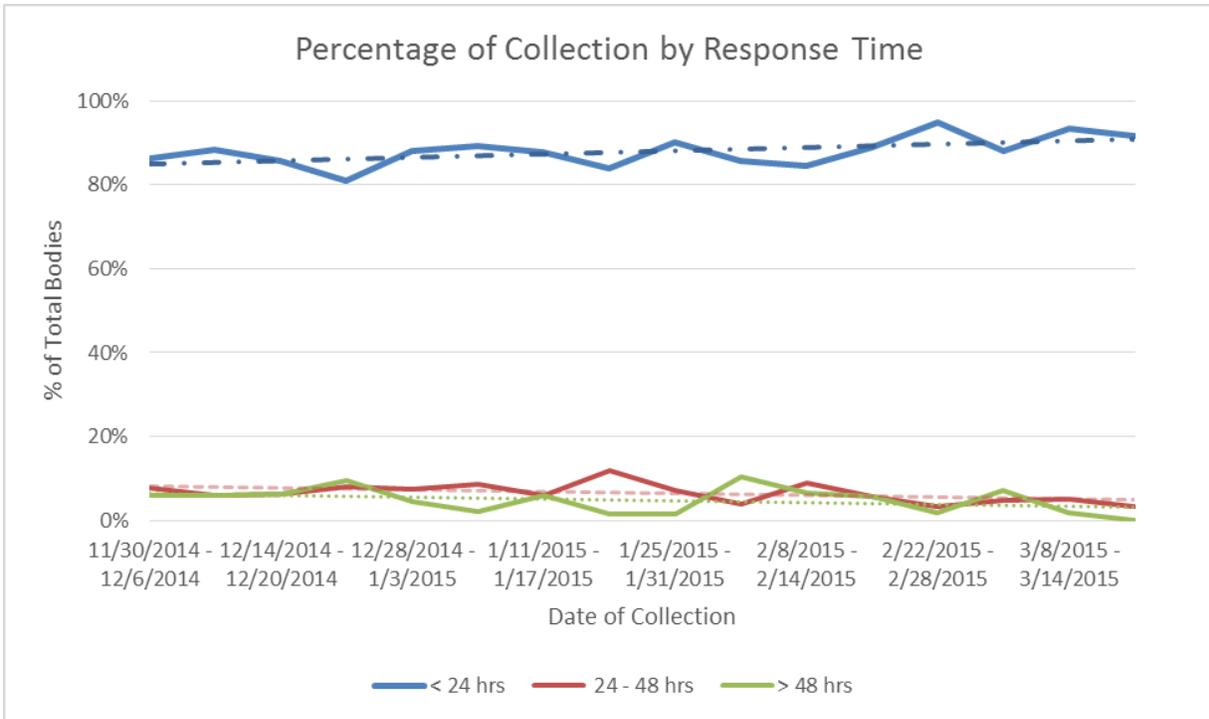
Total Burials Reported			
County	Total	County	Total
Bomi	4	Margibi	5
Bong	5	Maryland	0 reported
Gbarpolu	1	Montserrado	59
Grand Bassa	1	Nimba	4
Grand Cape Mount	7	Rivercess	1
Grand Gedeh	2	River Gee	3
Grand Kru	2	Sinoe	0 reported
Lofa	9	Grand Total	103

Updates	Prev. Reported	Update
March 8-14	67	140
March 1-7	127	181

2.3.2 Montserrat County Burial Statistics

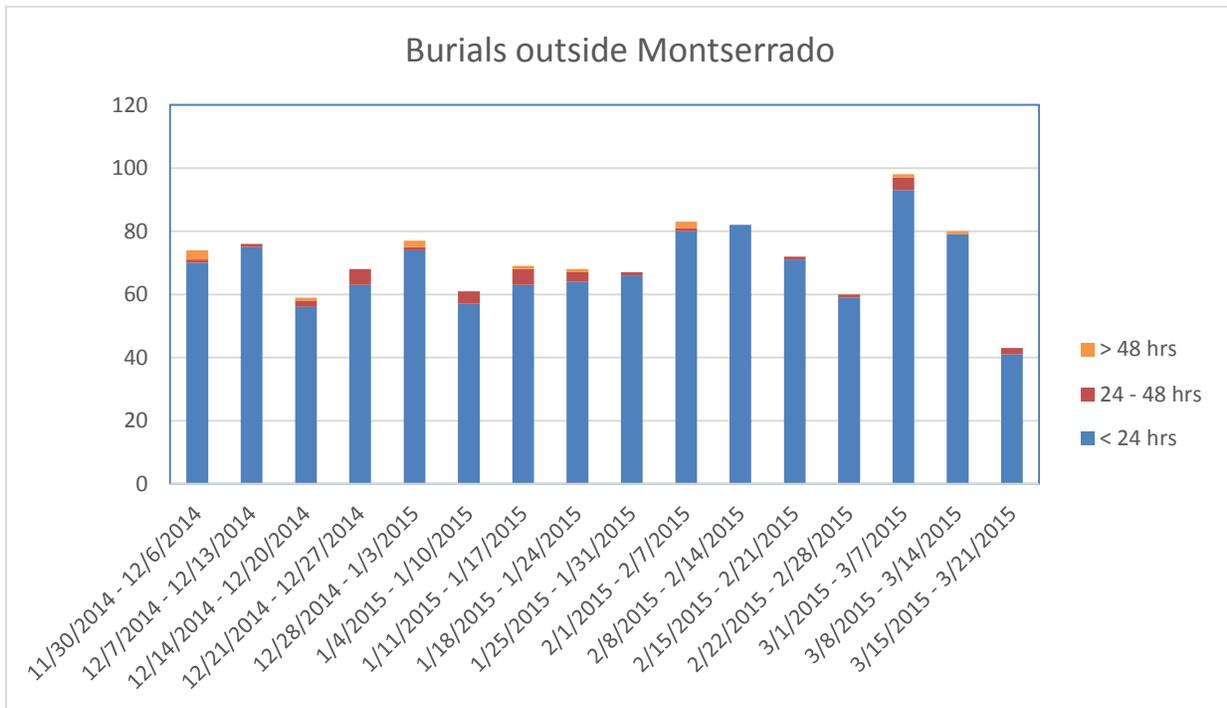


This reporting period, Global Communities supported 59 burials in Montserrat County. IFRC has not begun its scale down of burials but is still in the process of planning to do so.



92% of Global Communities-supported burials were completed within 24 hours of death this reporting period, a slight increase in response time from the last period.

2.3.3 Non-Montserrado County Burial Statistics

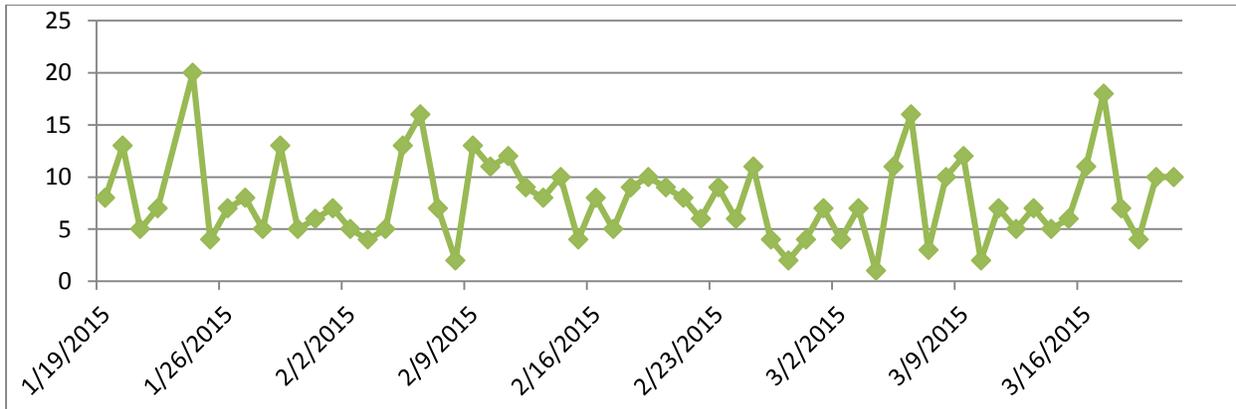


This reporting period, Global Communities supported 44 burials outside of Montserrat County with the highest numbers taking place in Lofa (9) and Grand Cape Mount (7). 41 of these burials took place within 24 hours of death.

2.4 Safe Burial Site

Date	# Buried	By Religion		By Sex			By Point of Origin		
		CH	M	F	M	Unrep.	ETU	Community	Hospital
Total	690	564	126	246	398	46	109	327	254
Percent	100	82	18	35	58	7	16	47	37

Burials per day at Disco Hill



This reporting period, Global Communities supported the burial of 66 bodies at Disco Hill, an average of 9.4 burials per day – almost three per day higher than the last reporting period. Two bodies came from an ETU and of the remaining bodies, 25 came from communities and 39 came from hospitals.

Construction activities at Disco Hill are ongoing for the perimeter road around the cemetery. The new electrical incinerator for medical waste is approaching completion as the electrical system has been installed and final touches are being applied.



Tray for new incinerator being installed on site.

ANNEX A: STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: REVISITED

This week we looked at 10 additional employees and asked what they have felt is most rewarding about their work with Global Communities and what else they hope to accomplish.



Name: Esther Newberry

Title: Office Manager

Tenure with Global Communities Liberia: 10 years

From: Lofa, Liberia

Esther has been with us since Global Communities (then CHF International) first came to Liberia after the war. She wanted to gain experience working with an international organization, especially one that empowers and develops the minds of local citizens.

What has been the most rewarding part of this job? “I have seen many projects that Global Communities and CHF have done. Our work in developing Peace Centers my home county of Lofa after the war was especially inspiring. The most rewarding thing for me is seeing how Global Communities has responded quickly to stop the spread of Ebola. Curing the disease is important but our ability to help stop the spread really claimed my attention.”

What else do you hope to accomplish? “Now that Ebola is going out, I hope we can continue to build the capacity of Liberian entrepreneurs. We have nearly defeated the virus and now we have the ability to empower people to be successful and educated. A healthy people is a happy people. I hope we can work with locals and really improve our society.”



Name: Hillary Dorleah

Title: Emergency Response Officer

Tenure with Global Communities Liberia: 7 months

From: Grand Cape Mount, Liberia

Before joining Global Communities' team, Hillary was working in South Sudan as an Infrastructure Officer with Mercy Corps. He has also worked in Darfur and Kenya. Last year he decided it was time to return to his family and home country to join the fight against Ebola.

What has been the most rewarding part of this job? "I enjoy constantly learning new things from the people I work with. I get calls on a daily basis to respond to all kinds of field needs. I really enjoy the running around of this job. The team here is amazing and we all learn new things from each other every day."

What else do you hope to accomplish? "I want to put in all I can put in each day. I want to see the work we have done grow and continue for a long time. We have already changed things a lot here and I want to keep that going."



Name: Ibrahim “Bimi” Cena

Title: Deputy Director of Finance and Administration

Tenure with Global Communities Liberia: 5 months

From: Prishtina, Kosovo

Bimi has worked in countless short and long-term assignments with CHF and Global Communities over the past 14 years and is our self-proclaimed resident veteran of the organization. He has served with us in Montenegro, Kosovo, Kenya and Afghanistan just to name a few and says he hopes to keep working with us long into the future.

What has been the most rewarding part of this job? “I like working with our field staff the most. I really enjoy training them so that they understand our systems and learn to manage our funds well. When I see accomplishments and results in the field, it is a really rewarding feeling. Working during this epidemic has not been an easy task. We work late but the teamwork here is fantastic.”

What else do you hope to accomplish? “I want us to stay here longer and work to improve livelihoods for as many Liberian citizens as we can. There is still a lot of work to be done in the field. I want us to continue with the success we’ve had with IWASH and our Ebola response and really see the way of life improved here.”



Name: Sinead Clear

Title: Senior Logistics Manager

Tenure with Global Communities Liberia: 3 months

From: Dublin, Ireland

Sinead joined our team after working with GOAL in South Sudan for 15 months doing field logistics. She saw working with Global Communities in Liberia as a new challenge to work with such a logistically complex program. As most of her experience was in Asia prior to South Sudan, she also saw this as an opportunity to take on more work in Africa.

What has been the most rewarding part of this job? “It is truly a privilege to work with an organization that’s done so much great work here, yet has been so humble in its approach. The people on the team here are seriously hard workers, working seven days a week and everyday under the sun with no complaints. The dedication by everyone is stunning and I feel great to be a part of it.”

What else do you hope to accomplish? “First and foremost I hope we can continue with zero Ebola in Liberia. I also hope to help set up more logistics capacity with our field teams and provide more support to field officers. Now that we’re expanding outside of the three current counties, it’s really exciting to see where we’re going to go. We are constantly gaining more capacity as an organization and I think we can do a lot with that.”



Name: Ishmael A. Smith

Title: IT Officer

Tenure with Global Communities Liberia: 4 years

From: Grand Cape Mount, Liberia

Until returning to Liberia in 2008, Ishmael lived in Ghana for over 10 years where he studied and began his career in Information Technology. Before joining Global Communities, he worked with the National Election Commission

What has been the most rewarding part of this job? “I am very passionate about working with an NGO that is working hard to bring livelihoods to our communities. During the Ebola response, it has been very challenging to meet the IT needs of over 100 people all at once but being a part of the team here and seeing everyone’s hard work gives me a great sense of pride in what I do.”

What else do you hope to accomplish? “When Ebola is defeated I hope to have more opportunities to serve the Liberian people. I have come to love this work and I look forward to more programs so we can keep up the good work in my country.”



Name: Gray Zewu

Title: Burial and Disinfection Team Trainer

Tenure with Global Communities Liberia: 6 months

From: Lofa, Liberia

Gray has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Chemistry. Before Global Communities he was Ebola Awareness Volunteer with MSF. He has also volunteered at hospitals and served as a WASH volunteer with CHF. He has trained over 75 burial and disinfection teams.

What has been the most rewarding part of this job? “This work has allowed me to get to know my entire country. I've been to places I never would have been without Global Communities. I've learned how to work with and train people who have received no formal education and don't speak English. I have learned more than I ever imagined here.”

What else do you hope to accomplish? “I want to leave my mark on Global Communities like it has done for me. I want people to talk about the work we've done for a long time. Above all, I want to make an impact on this team and be a positive force.”



Name: Johanchal “Joe” Wrobeh

Title: Inventory Officer

Tenure with Global Communities Liberia: 5 months

From: Sinoe, Liberia

After the Ebola outbreak last year, Joe was having trouble finding work do to the economic impacts the virus was having. He heard about this job on the internet and his interest in joining the team came from his own personal interest in responding to the Ebola Virus and bringing the epidemic to zero.

What has been the most rewarding part of this job? “For me it’s been rewarding to see the headways we have made in such a relatively short amount of time and at present, we have no new cases.”

What else do you hope to accomplish? “I hope to help Global Communities become even stronger so we will be able to respond to more emergencies. I want my contributions to make the logistics department the most effective and efficient department so we can respond to any crisis at any time.”



Name: Lorenzo Beyn

Title: Burial and Disinfection Team Coordinator for Montserrado

Tenure with Global Communities Liberia: 2 months

From: Lofa, Liberia

Previously Lorenzo was with the Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare doing Ebola response and Dead Body Management (DBM). He had experience working with partners such as Global Communities, IRC and Mercy Corps while working at MOH. After seeing the work we were doing, he wanted to join the team for a long-term position. Now he manages supplies for burial and disinfection teams in Montserrado County in addition to reporting DBM data.

What has been the most rewarding part of this job? “This work is fantastic and it’s very rewarding to do burial and disinfection team trainings with MOH and Global Communities. I’ve also gotten to see a lot more of my country and have learned important measures to prevent the deadly Ebola Virus Disease.”

What else do you hope to accomplish? “I just hope to do what I can to end Ebola for good in Liberia in the soonest possible time.”



Name: Omega Paye

Title: Monitoring and Evaluation/GIS Support Officer

Tenure with Global Communities Liberia: 9 months

From: Bong, Liberia

Omega worked with the Liberian Forestry Development Authority doing GIS mapping before starting with Global Communities. He loves being a GIS technician and is constantly working to further develop his skills

What has been the most rewarding part of this job? “This job has enabled me to go out into the field and be part of an important program that is doing a lot of good.”

What else do you hope to accomplish? “I hope to help develop a really strong mapping system with Global Communities after the Ebola epidemic. This crisis response has carried Global Communities a long way and I hope we can continue after. I want to keep developing my GIS skills and use them for good.”