

GLOBAL COMMUNITIES ALERT WEEKLY REPORT

June 14 – June 27, 2015

At the time of this report submission, Global Communities has been involved in the investigation of the first positive Ebola case in over 100 days in Liberia. The case was discovered through the post-mortem swab test result that had been earlier collected by a Global Communities-supported safe burial team. While this result is a setback for Liberia, it demonstrated the effectiveness of the reporting system and the Ebola response units. The burial took place on June 28th in Margibi County, near the Disco Hill area. Details of the case are still forthcoming and will be reported during the next submission. As Global Communities was involved in the burial, we continue to support the Margibi County health team with logistics and information to thoroughly complete the case investigation.

SUMMARY

The ALERT program's activities continued without serious issue during the reporting period. Global Communities is emphasizing dialogue with communities as it moves forward in promoting safe and dignified burials, border surveillance and CLTS activities. Especially for border surveillance and CLTS, ALERT staff are engaging with communities regularly for monitoring and providing refresher trainings on issues that communities have already learned.

173 burials were reported throughout Liberia, including 113 in Montserrado and Disco Hill. Burial teams are continuing to successfully follow the safe, dignified burial protocols, which is particularly important in light of the recent new case of Ebola that was confirmed after the burial took place.

In Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa and Nimba Counties, border surveillance is continuing with an emphasis on maintaining regular communications amongst all stakeholders. During the reporting period, several media outlets reported that Liberians are demanding that borders be closed out of fear that Ebola will cross in from neighboring countries. Global Communities staff are communicating the importance of using formal checkpoints and continuing to use Ebola prevention measures, such as good sanitation and hygiene.

All counties are making progress with their CLTS activities, as communities continue to be triggered and are making progress towards becoming Open Defecation Free (ODF).

On June 12, Global Communities staff confirmed that an ALERT vehicle had stolen from Rivercess County. The vehicle was recovered in Guinea during the reporting period through the help of the GPS tracking system installed in each vehicle and has been returned to Monrovia. Law enforcement officials both from Liberia and Guinea assisted in the recovery and continue to support the security of Global Communities vehicles around the country. As a result of the Global Communities is working with its vehicle-tracking security company to improve its geofencing capabilities and bringing on additional security staff to better monitor the assets around the country.

1. COUNTY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

1.1 Bong County



Global Communities Border Surveillance Manager for Bong County presenting on (Partners-Event Based Surveillance)

Bong County border surveillance activities continue as usual, with the addition of Community Event-Based Surveillance (CEBS). Global Communities staff and other stakeholders participated in a one-day CEBS training sponsored by WHO to discuss lessons learned during the Ebola outbreak and to identify challenges and needs for enhancing and sustaining community engagement. Global Communities' Bong County Border Surveillance Manager presented on the roles and responsibilities that partners play in surveillance.

Participants left the workshop with improved strategies on how to work with communities on reporting suspected Ebola triggers and messaging for remaining safe and healthy. ALERT subsequently rolled out the improved CEBS strategies to 25 communities and provided visual handouts to gCHVs in those areas.

Participants left the workshop with

Monitoring and supervision of Community Surveillance Focal Persons continued in 36 communities and at three major border checkpoints along the Bong-Guinea border. This included a one-hour refresher training on use of the visual screening form and assessing if the thermoflash is working correctly. Additionally, ALERT hosted WHO and other health partners for a joint monitoring and supervision session.

As regularly scheduled, Global Communities staff held its weekly community cluster meetings with 244 people (53 females) from 56 communities at the first week's meetings and 210 people (49 females) representing 38 communities at the second week's meetings. UNICEF staff members and delegates from neighboring Guinea communities also participated.

63 people (5 females) attended a one-day cross border surveillance meeting on June 25. Global Communities organized the event and hosted international and national stakeholders, including leaders from 23 communities. During the event, participants discussed the status of Ebola in both countries and strategies for moving forward, particularly in managing formal and informal crossing points. Participants agreed



Group photo from the CEBS workshop

to increase distribution of visual aids, to play radio messages in local languages and to increase the number of health workers at informal border points.



Global Communities staff monitoring CLTS structures in Panta-Kpaai District

Informal crossing points remain a challenge to date. One Guinean woman passed through an informal crossing and was later found in a border community with a bloody nose, an immediate red flag. She told the community leaders that she was going straight to a clinic, but it was later discovered that she did not go to a clinic. ALERT is using this as a case study for cluster meetings so that communities have the opportunity to discuss

practical responses that are in line with protocol. Additionally, Global Communities is discussing the construction of two additional triages at major crossing points in Zota District.

CLTS activities continued as usual with monitoring in 30 triggered communities and triggering an. 4 additional communities. Staff have reported that the communities are making significant progress along their path to being ODF. ALERT also held Natural Leaders Cluster Meetings on June 25, with 96 participants representing 16 border communities.

One challenge that the CLTS team faces in Bong County is the overlap of other partner activities in CLTS communities. A local NGO has distributed building materials to communities in Zota District, which are being used for latrine construction. CLTS is predicated on the principle of no subsidy or external input so that communities are able to maintain, improve and rebuild structures without governmental or partner support. The communities are inclined to use the cement, steel rods, zinc, etc. to construct the ALERT CLTS structures, but will be unable to replace them as they wear. The team is consulting with MIA and County Steering Committee (CSC) on the issue.

1.2 Disco Hill

In addition to regular burial activities at Disco Hill, ALERT is also continuing to develop additional land within the original allotment and expand the Muslim burial section. It is also building a more permanent office structure and is installing a fence around the original 25 acres.

1.3 Gbarpolu

Border surveillance activities in Gbarpolu are ongoing, with regular cluster meetings and District-level meetings. During the District-level meeting, chaired by the District Commissioner and District Health Officer, the participants discussed issues identified at the community cluster level and receive updates presented by clan chiefs. Notably, Global Communities learned that

roughly 75% of the population in Kongba goes to Sierra Leone for medical care, which is one reason for high numbers of people crossing in that district. ALERT staff and partners are monitoring this issue and looking for ways to mitigate risks to Liberians, as cases of Ebola may continue to increase in the neighboring Sierra Leone districts.

ALERT held a CLTS Natural Leaders Training, facilitated by the CSC, and all participants have indicated that they fully understand their roles and responsibilities. Global Communities staff also conducted regular monitoring and supervision for triggered communities, and indicated that communities are making adequate progress through the CLTS methodology. ALERT staff noted that some triggered communities have been making much slower progress than expected, mainly due to community members dedicating more time to livelihoods activities (such as mining, hunting and farming), and so Global Communities is engaging district authorities and town chiefs to reinforce the importance of CLTS. In the case of farming activities, ALERT and community members held meetings and organized themselves into groups in order to trade off responsibilities so that each community gets the benefits of both farming and CLTS.

1.4 Grand Cape Mount

Global Communities continues to monitor border communities to ensure that they and the local formal crossing points are following border crossing protocol. Staff found that communities are registering travelers in their log books regularly and are monitoring travelers' health according to protocol. During the reporting period, the formal checkpoints registered 40,789 crossings, and community focal persons registered 14,247 informal crossings (of which many may be individuals making several crossings).

The ALERT staff continue to hold regular community cluster meetings in the border communities. These meetings focused on activities to keep border communities safe, such as hand washing and following safe, dignified burial protocols. To that end, Global Communities also distributed provisions to aid communities that do not have hand washing facilities.

CLTS activities are ongoing in Grand Cape Mount, with regular monitoring for the 9 triggered communities and 7 new communities triggered during the reporting period.

1.5 Lofa

Global Communities continued regular border surveillance activities in Lofa County during the reporting period. Staff visited 18 border communities for routine monitoring and to encourage community members to take preventative measures. As usual, staff also distributed materials during their monitoring visits such as batteries, hand washing materials, face masks, etc.

CLTS activities continued during the reporting period, including monitoring 25 communities throughout 7 districts. The team noted that 17 communities are making good progress. ALERT also held a District-level meeting in order to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the District Steering Committee and how members may provide support to communities during the CLTS process.

1.6 Nimba

Border surveillance activities continued in Nimba County with regular monitoring for nine communities and three checkpoints during the reporting period. ALERT also organized a CEBS meeting with District authorities and traditional leaders from nine border communities. As a

result, the District authorities now have a weekly plan formed to monitor the official crossing points on a weekly basis to ensure active surveillance.

ALERT held 8 CEBS meetings with 267 attendees in total, during which participants discussed how to continue building a good relationship with their Guinean counterparts. The Guineans have expressed an interest in attending the weekly CEBS meetings, which resulted in six Guinean counterparts from Naapa community attended a meeting in the second week of the reporting period. Guinean counterparts also passed on rumors to Liberians that nine people died within two days from a high fever in Gboawaita on the Lola highway, so that nearby Liberians can be vigilant. During these meetings, BIN authorities also emphasized the need for strong monitoring. Community members are now demonstrating that they understand the importance of reporting triggers and taking appropriate action to prevent the Ebola virus.

Two District-level meetings were held so that local leaders could give an update on border surveillance activities from within their communities. During the meeting, the youth leader of Yarmein Administrative District reported that there have been several incidences of people with high fever and severe body pain in the District.

ALERT facilitated a County-level border surveillance meeting on June 25 at the Sanniquellie - mah District Commissioner Compound in Sehyikinpa. During this meeting, District Commissioners presented on behalf of their communities along the Guinea border. The leader from Bain-Garr (Ganta) reported that its area has many illegal crossing points and back paths that are not being monitored, so Global Communities staff is looking into these areas.

At present, all goats from Kinnon (a border town) have succumbed to the disease that had been killing livestock in Nimba. The local authorities are working on a way to have all remaining animals vaccinated, as a result.

During the reporting period, ALERT monitored nine CLTS communities near the border with Guinea (Sippi Town, Tonglawin and Barpa). All communities are in various stages of completion for their work, including digging latrine pits, hanging clotheslines and constructing dishracks. ALERT also triggered three new communities (Kanla, Lugbeyee and Bonla) and assigned six Natural Leaders to three other communities (Busie, Gampa and Whipa).

2. CASE MANAGEMENT DATA

2.1 Ambulance Support

Current Ambulance Presence			
County	#	County	#
Bomi	2	Margibi	2
Bong	1	Maryland	1
Gbarpolu	2	Montserrado	0
Grand Bassa	2	Nimba	2
Grand Cape Mount	2	Rivercess	1
Grand Gedeh	0	River Gee	0
Grand Kru	1	Sinoe	1
Lofa	1	Total	18

2.2 Burial/Disinfection Team Support

Current Burial/Disinfection Team Support					
County	Burial	Disinfection	County	Burial	Disinfection
Bomi	2	2	Lofa	4	0
Bong	2	0	Margibi	3	1
Disco Hill	6	2	Maryland	2	0
Gbarpolu	2	2	Montserrado	17	8
Grand Bassa	4	0	Nimba	2	0
Grand Cape Mount	3	3	Rivercess	2	0
Grand Gedeh	1	1	River Gee	1	1
Grand Kru	1	1	Sinoe	1	1
Total				53	22

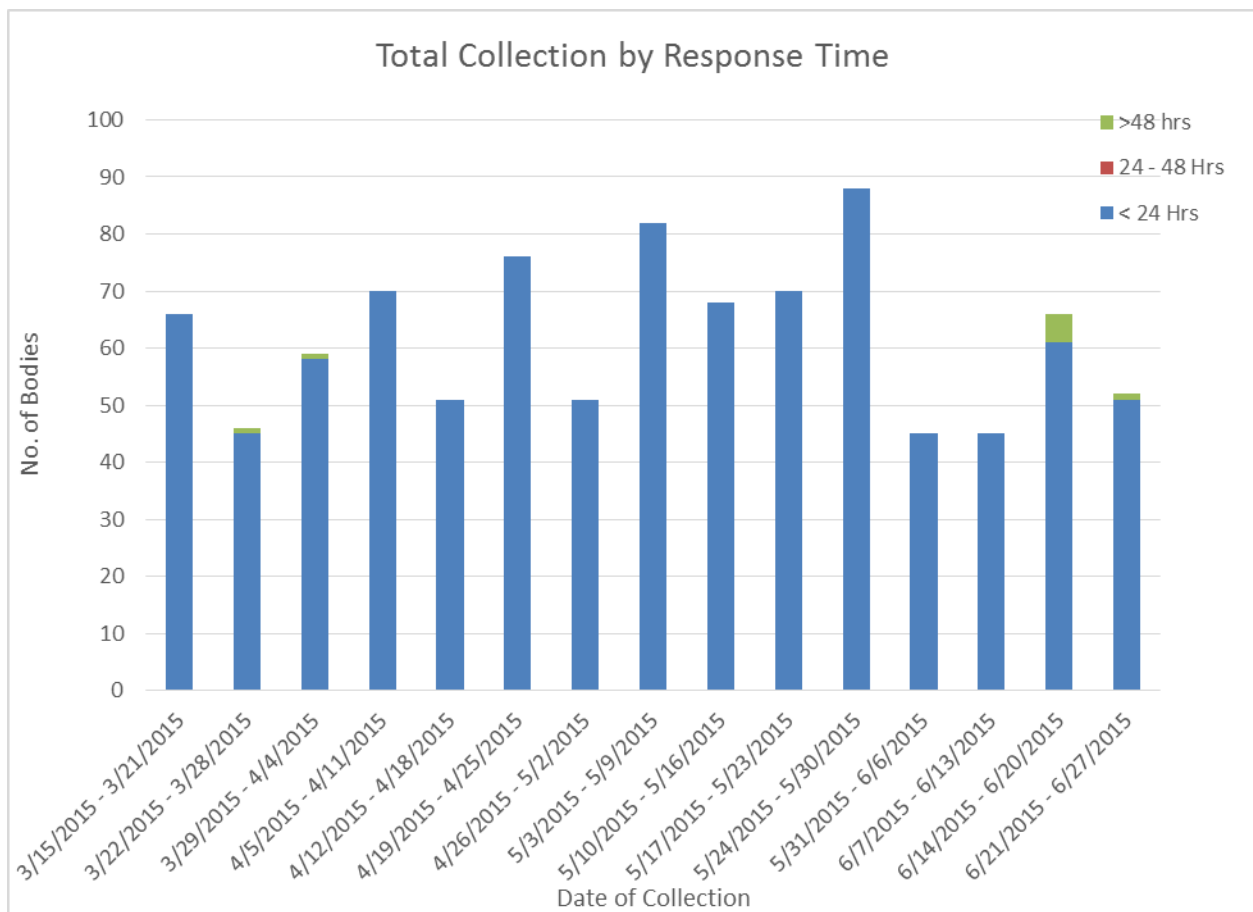
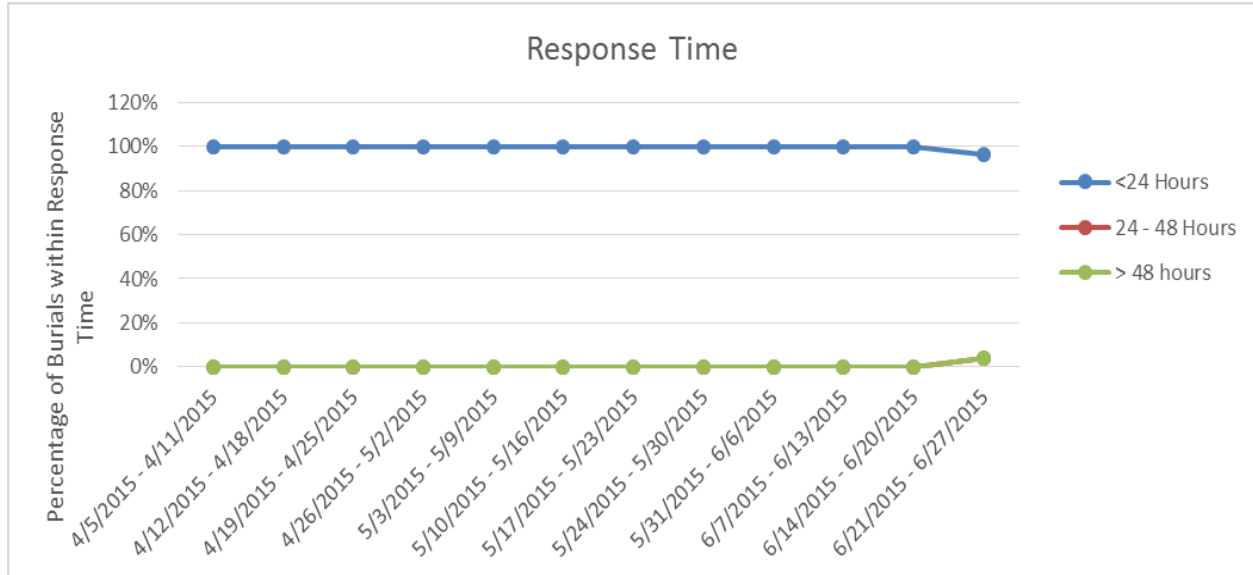
2.3 Dead Body Management

2.3.1 Overall Burial Statistics

Total Burials Reported June 14 - 27, 2015			
County	Total	County	Total
Bomi	4	Margibi	11
Bong	2	Maryland	0
Gbarpolu	4	Montserrado	118
Grand Bassa	7	Nimba	6
Grand Cape Mount	6	Rivercess	5
Grand Gedeh	0	River Gee	3
Grand Kru	6	Sinoe	12
Lofa		Grand Total	179

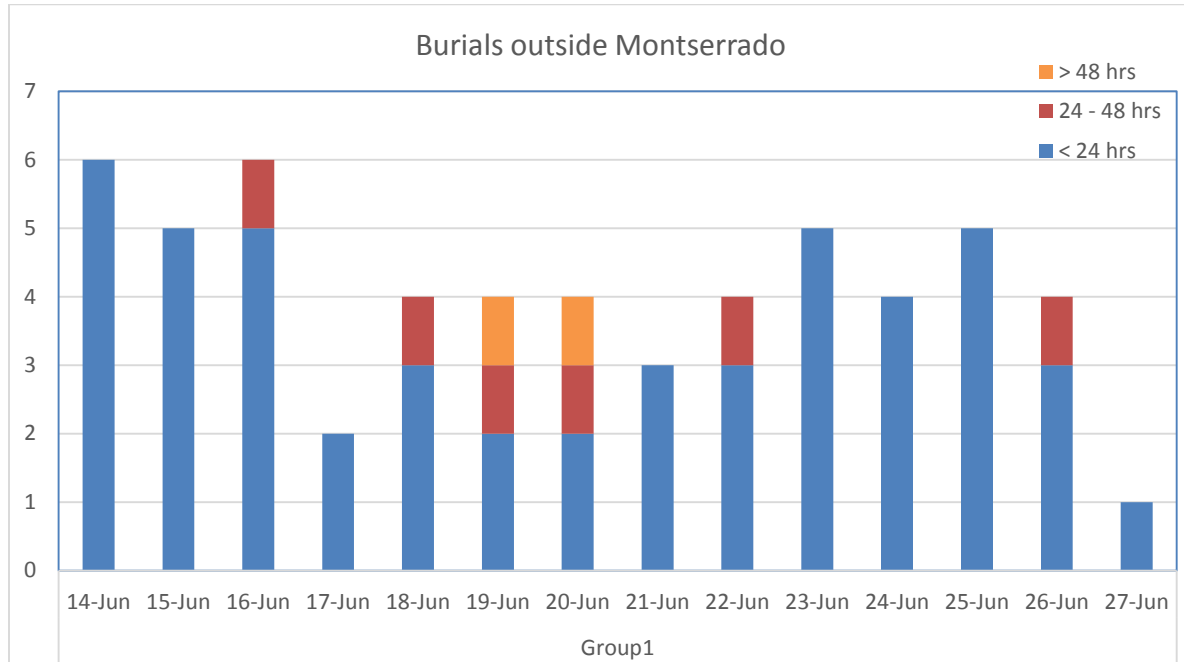
Total Burials Reported May 31 - June 13, 2015	
Reported on June 1, 2015	125
Updated Data	137

2.3.2 Montserrat County Burial Statistics



Burial teams buried 113 bodies in Montserrat County and Disco Hill during the reporting period. With the exception of 1 burial, all took place within 24 hours of death.

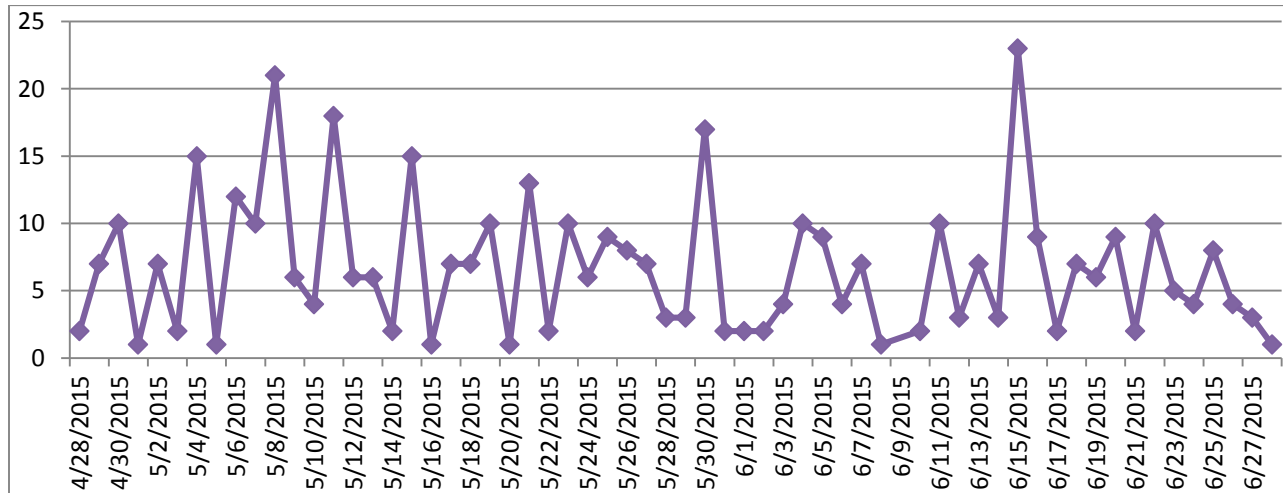
2.3.3 Non-Montserrado County Burial Statistics



For all burials during the reporting period for which complete data is available, 6 burials happened more than 24 hours after death (2 were more than 48 hours after death).

2.4 Safe Burial Site

	# Buried	By Religion		By Sex			By Point of Origin		
		CH	M	F	M	Unrep.	ETU	Community	Hospital
Total	1350	1129	221	519	743	88	117	528	705
Percent	100	84	16	38	55	7	9	39	52



There were 95 burials at Disco Hill Cemetery during the reporting period, an average of 6.8 burials per day over 14 days. Since its creation, there have been 1,351 burials at the cemetery at an average of 7.4 burials per day.