

Supplementary Material

Community Knowledge, Perceptions and Practices around COVID-19 in Sierra Leone: a nationwide, cross-sectional survey

S1: Core indicators by gender

Indicator	Sex	
	Male % (95% CI)	Female % (95% CI)
Moderate – great risk perception	75 (66.6 to 82.6)	74 (61.6 to 82.9)
Knowledge		
Mode of transmission: air	63 (55.1 to 69.5)	58 (52.6 to 63.7)
Mode of transmission: body fluids	77 (71.0 to 81.9)	71 (64.5 to 76.2)
Mode of transmission: touch	67 (59.4 to 74.0)	64 (57.5 to 70.9)
Symptoms: fever	39 (31.2 to 47.1)	37 (27.7 to 46.9)
Symptoms: cough	56 (49.0 to 62.3)	53 (44.4 to 61.5)
Symptoms: difficulty breathing	34 (26.1 to 43.3)	31 (22.6 to 41.4)
Possible to survive covid-19	39 (31.7 to 46.9) *	30 (23.8 to 36.5)*
Practices		
Taken any action	60 (52.9 to 66.4)*	54 (47.4 to 60.6)*
Wash hands with soap & water	87 (82.1 to 91.1)	86 (79.6 to 90.8)
Avoid crowded places	61 (52.9 to 69.1)	62 (52.8 to 70.7)
Drink traditional herbs	10 (4.0 to 22.4)	9 (3.1 to 21.6)
Medicines from pharmacy	10 (4.3 to 22.7)	9 (3.5 to 22.0)
Drink a lot of water / juice	21 (13.4 to 32.4)	22 (14.1 to 32.2)
Information sources		
Social media	45 (37.9 to 52.9)*	31 (23.6 to 39.9)*
Radio	74 (69.7 to 78.7)	72 (66.9 to 77.0)
Church/Mosque	23 (17.0 to 30.2)	25 (17.0 to 34.4)
Community meetings	18 (12.2 to 26.1)	18 (10.8 to 28.2)

Print media	10 (5.9 to 17.0)	11 (5.6 to 20.4)
Traditional leaders	8 (4.3 to 15.4)	10 (4.3 to 19.8)
Ministry of Health and Sanitation	11 (6.8 to 18.6)	14 (7.8 to 23.5)
** Chi2 <0.05		
All proportions are adjusted for sampling weights		

Consent Statement

Hello. My name is _____.

I am working with FOCUS 1000 – an NGO in Sierra Leone that works to improve the health of children, women, and their communities. We are conducting a quick assessment of the public's perceptions, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours, relating to the prevention of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The information we collect will help us, the Government of Sierra Leone, Development Partners, and civil society organizations better educate the public about how to effectively prevent the transmission of the disease.

The interview will take about 20 minutes. All of the information you share with us will be kept confidential – meaning that we will not link your name in any reports or identify you as the respondent in any other way. Your participation in this study is voluntary, and you will not be paid. You may choose to stop the interview at any point or refuse to answer questions you do not feel comfortable responding to. There are no right or wrong responses. Therefore, we encourage you to be honest and truthful in your responses so that we can accurately understand the current situation on-the-ground.

ASK TO RESPONDENT:

- Do you have any questions?
- Do I have your permission to continue with the interview?

1. YES I AGREE → Continue with interview

2. NO I DECLINE → END interview; respectfully thank participant for their time

By signing below, I attest that I have read the above statement to the participant and he/she has agreed to continue with the interview. I have also addressed all of his/her questions and/or concerns.

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER:

DATE (Day, Month, Year): / ___ / ___ / ___ /

QUESTIONNAIRE**Enumerator Identification**

Enumerator ID:	Supervisor Initials (QA/QC):
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District and Chiefdom Identification

<p>Western Area</p> <p>___ Western Rural ___ Western Urban</p> <p>Northern Province</p> <p>___ Bombali ___ Falaba ___ Koinadugu</p> <p>___ Tonkolili</p> <p>North Western Province</p> <p>___ Kambia ___ Karina ___ Port Loko ___</p> <p>Eastern Province</p> <p>___ Kailahun ___ Kenema ___ Kono</p> <p>Southern Province</p> <p>___ Bo ___ Bonthe ___ Moyamba</p> <p>___ Pujehun</p>	<p>Name of Community</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Household #: ___ ___</p> <p>Household size: ___ ___</p>
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1. **Have you heard of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) before** (prior to this interview)?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No (if selected, end survey here)
 - c. No response
2. **If yes, through what means/ways did you learn about the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)? (select all applicable choices)**
 - a. Radio (FM 98.1, AYV radio, SLBC Morning Coffee, Television)
 - b. Megaphone public announcements
 - c. Social media (SMS, WhatsApp, Internet, Blog, Website, Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
 - d. Church / Mosque / other religious venues
 - e. Other community meetings
 - f. Civil Society Organizations (FOCUS 1000, etc.)
 - g. Newspaper / Flyers / Brochures / Other print materials
 - h. Traditional leaders (chief, village headman, etc.)
 - i. Ministry of Health and Sanitation / Well Bodi Ministry and other gov't MDAs
 - j. Community health workers (CHWs)
 - k. From family members or friends
 - l. Others _____
 - m. I don't know / not sure
 - n. No Response

RISK PERCEPTION

3. **What level of risk do you think you have in getting Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the next 6 months? (read choices; select one)**
 - a. No risk → GO TO Q6
 - b. Small risk
 - c. Moderate risk
 - d. Great risk
 - e. I don't know / not sure
 - f. No Response
4. **Why do you believe that you are at risk? (select all applicable choices; DO NOT read)**
 - a. I have been experiencing signs and symptoms of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) since _____ day(s) ago
(if so: stop the interview, recommend that the person goes to the nearest health facility to check the health status for possible case of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19))
 - b. I have not been keeping well lately
 - c. I was already affected by EVD and not been keeping well since
 - d. I have other challenging health conditions (HIV, Diabetes, hypertension, etc.)
 - e. The disease is in over xx countries and already in West Africa
 - f. A lot of Salone traders go to China, Chinese go back and forth from this country, we have students returning from there

- g. Others _____
- h. I don't know / not sure
- i. No Response

GO TO → Q7

5. Why do you believe that you are NOT at risk? (select all applicable choices; DO NOT read)

- a. I do not eat or hunt bush meat or bats
- b. I am a clean person / Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) only affects unclean people
- c. I don't live in an area where there is Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
- d. I don't come in contact with someone with Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
- e. God is protecting me
- f. I avoid unprotected contact with bodily fluids
- g. I wash my hands with soap or other disinfectants
- h. I did not get EVD the last time
- i. Others _____
- j. I don't know / not sure/
- k. No Response

KNOWLEDGE / ATTITUDES

6. What causes the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)? (select all applicable choices; DO NOT read)

- a. Virus
- b. Bats / Monkeys / Chimpanzees / Other wild animals
- c. God or higher power
- d. Witchcraft
- e. Evildoing / Sin
- f. Curse
- g. Others _____
- h. I don't know/ not sure
- i. No Response

7. How does a person get the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)? (select all applicable choices; DO NOT read)

- a. By air
- b. Bad odor or smell
- c. Preparing bush meat as a meal (such as chimpanzees, monkeys, and other wild animals)
- d. Eating bush meat
- e. Saliva or cough of an infected person
- f. Body fluids of an infected person
- g. Feces of an infected person
- h. Shaking the hands of an infected person
- i. Other physical contact with an infected person

- j. God's will
 - k. Witchcraft
 - l. Making contact with anything someone sick with Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has touched
 - m. Others _____
 - n. I don't know / not sure
 - o. No Response
- 8. Can the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) be transmitted through the air?**
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know / not sure
 - d. No Response
- 9. Can I prevent myself from getting the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) by avoiding contact with blood and body fluids (cough, saliva, sweat, tears, runny nose)?**
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know / not sure
 - d. No Response
- 10. Can people help protect themselves from the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) by not touching anyone else?**
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know / not sure
 - d. No Response
- 11. What are some of the signs and symptoms of someone infected with the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)? (select all applicable choices; DO NOT read)**
- a. Any Fever
 - b. Sweat
 - c. Sudden onset of high fever
 - d. Severe headache
 - e. Persistent cough
 - f. Sore throat
 - g. Rash
 - h. Difficulty breathing
 - i. Others _____
 - j. I don't know / not sure
 - k. No Response

- 12. Do you know or have you heard that it is possible for someone to survive and recover from Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)?**
- Yes
 - No
 - I don't know / not sure
 - No Response
- 13. If a person has a suspected Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) does he/she have a higher chance of survival if he/she goes immediately to a Health Facility?**
- Yes
 - No
 - I don't know / not sure
 - No Response
- 14. If a person with the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) goes immediately to a Health Facility will he/she reduce the chance of spreading it to other family members, work colleagues or friends?**
- Yes
 - No
 - I don't know / not sure
 - No Response
- 15. Would you like to have more information on the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)?**
- Yes
 - No → Q22
 - I don't know / not sure
 - No Response
- 16. What area(s) do you need additional information on? (select all applicable choices; DO NOT read)**
- Cause / origin of the disease
 - Signs and symptoms of the disease
 - Ways to prevent the disease
 - Medical care and treatment options for those with the disease
 - Home-based care for someone who is sick and suspected to have Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
 - How to protect others in the house if a household member is suspected of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
 - Support and care for those quarantined to their houses because they have been exposed to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

- h. Support and care for those quarantined in health facilities because they have been exposed to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
- i.
- j. Others _____
- k. I don't know / not sure
- l. No Response

BEHAVIOUR

17. Since you heard of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), have you taken any action to avoid being infected?

- a. Yes
- b. No →22
- c. I don't know / can't remember →22
- d. No Response→22

**18. In what ways have you changed your behavior or taken actions to avoid being infected?
(select all applicable choices; DO NOT read)**

- a. I wash my hands with soap and water more often
- b. I wash my hands with just water more often
- c. I clean my hands with other disinfectants more often
- d. I try to avoid crowded places
- e. I drink a lot of water / juice
- f. I drink traditional herbs (e.g. gbangbah)
- g. I take medicines from pharmacies
- h. I have bought and I am using face masks

20. If a family member became sick and died tomorrow, would you touch or wash the dead body?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. No response

21. If a family member dies of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), would you touch or wash the dead body?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. No response

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC

22. Gender _____ Male Female _____

23. Age: _____ years

24. What is your highest level of education?

- a. No formal education
- b. Some primary school
- c. Completed primary school
- d. Completed Junior Secondary School (JSS)
- e. Completed Senior Secondary School (SSS)
- f. Completed Diploma / Postsecondary Training
- g. Completed Bachelors
- h. Completed Masters / Doctorate
- i. No Response

25. What kind of work do you currently do?

- a. Private business (excluding petty traders)
- b. Plumber / Carpenter / Electrician
- c. Petty Trader
- d. Farmer
- e. Teacher / lecturer /Instructor
- f. Public transportation driver (taxi, buses, podapoda)
- g. Okada rider
- h. Medical or health professional
- i. Other Government employee (not already listed above)
- j. Student
- k. Unemployed
- l. No Response

26. What is your religion?

- a. Islam
- b. Christianity
- c. Other _____
- d. I don't hold any religious beliefs
- e. No Response

CLOSING SCRIPT

- Thank you for taking the time to discuss these important issues with me.
- Again, please be rest assured that your responses will be kept confidential.
- Your name or any other identifiers of your family or household will not be included in the report.
- The responses you have provided would help in improving social mobilization efforts aiming to help contain the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemic in Sierra Leone
- Once again, thank you very much.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?

If you have additional questions, please contact FOCUS 1000

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