



Food Security Situation in the Context of EVD Outbreak in Sierra Leone

Preliminary Findings of the Rapid Assessment Exercise

October 2014

**FAO, Ministry of Agric Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), WFP,
WHH, ACF, Concern, AfDB, Balmed**

Normal life before Ebola outbreak



Empty Market Stalls – a direct effect of Ebola



Ebola Sierra Leone: the context

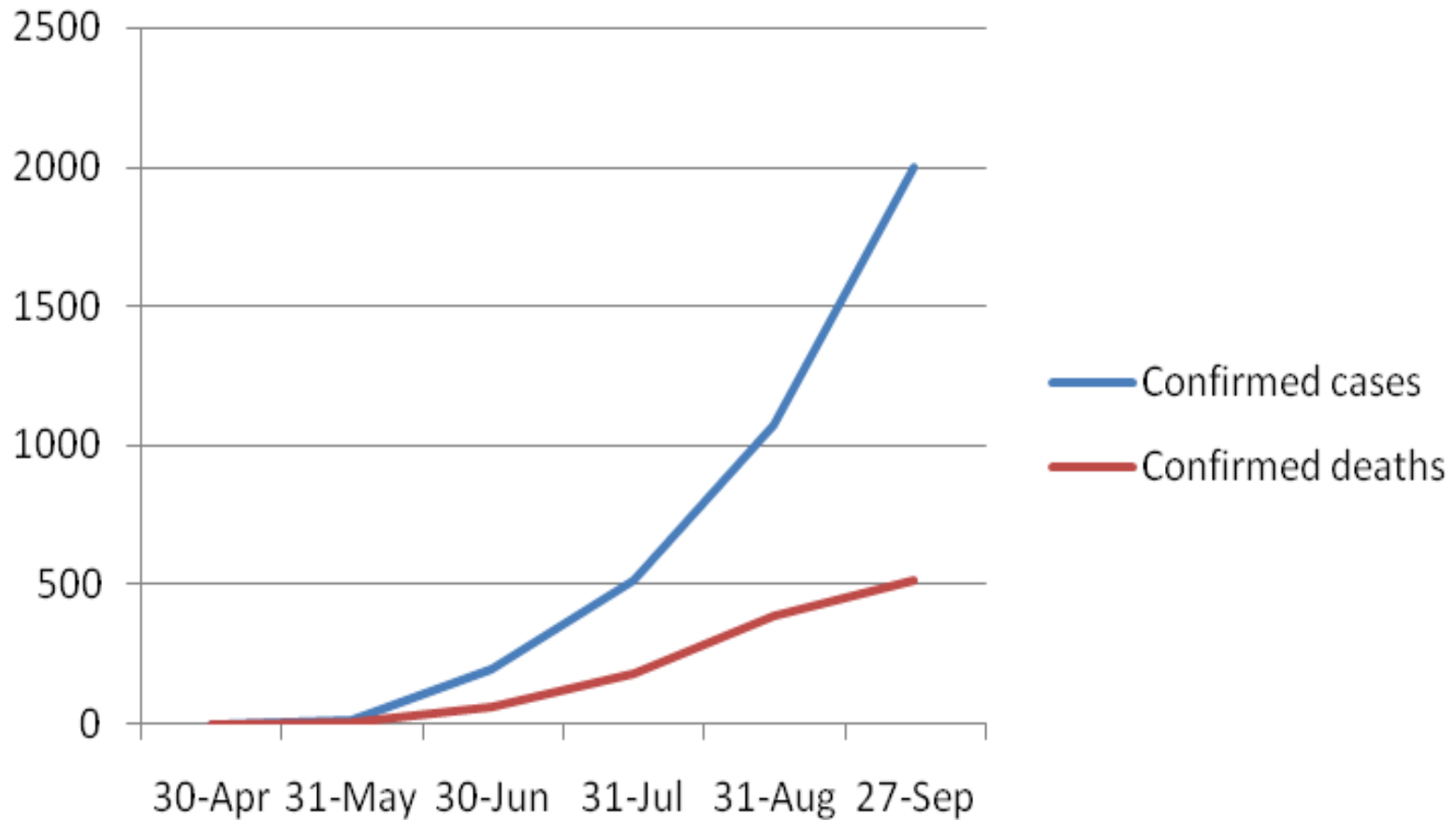
- The outbreak of Ebola was first report on May 25, 2014 in Kailahun district.
- Since then the outbreak has spread to 13 out of 14 districts and the epidemiological curve is still rising.
- According to WHO, there are currently 2012 confirmed cases (26 September 2014)
- The estimated doubling time of Ebola cases is 30.2 days (WHO, 2014)

Latest Ebola hotspots in Sierra Leone

Source: New Citizen, 9 October 2014.

District	Hotspot
Western Rural/Urban	Consider lane, UP Krase Yard, Kissy, Upper Maxwell Street, George Brook, Hill Cut, Monkey Bush, Devil Hole, Old Road, Lumpa
Pujehun	Makpele
Kambia	Mambolo
Tonkolili	Tane, Gbonkolenken
Port Loko	Marampa, Buya Romende, Maforki, Koya, Masimera, Bureh Kasse
Bombali	Bombali Shebora, Makarie Gbanti, Gbendembu Gowahun, Mpaki Masabong
Moyamba	Fukunya, Lower Banta, Bumpeh

EVD Epidemiological Curve for Sierra Leone



UNMEER STRATEGY

The strategy is built on five pillars:

1
STOP THE
OUTBREAK

2
TREAT THE
INFECTED

3
ENSURE
ESSENTIAL
SERVICES

4
PRESERVE
STABILITY

5
PREVENT
FURTHER
OUTBREAKS

The Study

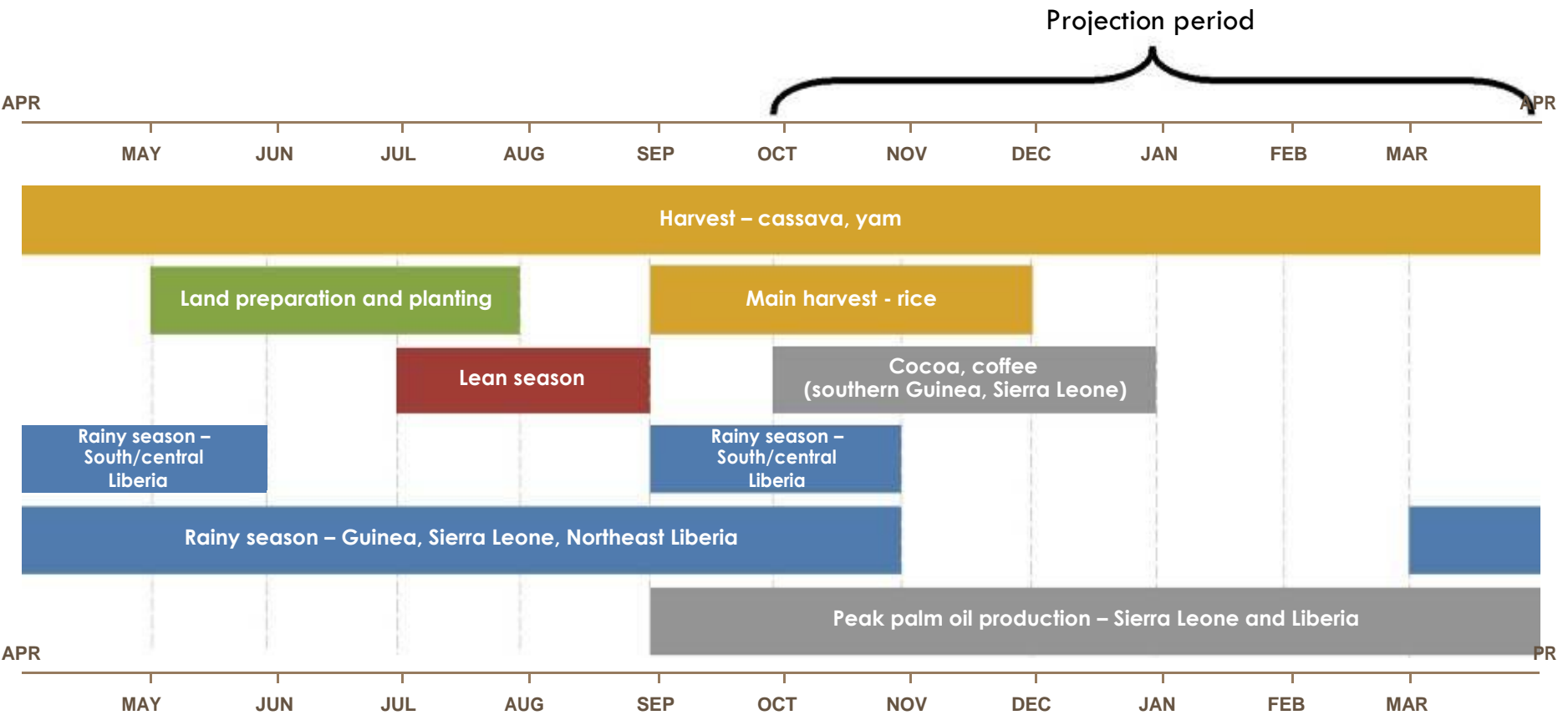
- Over the years, ample evidence have shown that illness and death of productive age adults in agricultural communities result in adverse effects on agriculture, food security and nutrition.
- Ebola hit Sierra Leone during the main agricultural season.
- The rapid assessment was commission to analyze whether EVD was having impact on agriculture, food and nutrition security.

Three Key Questions

- Is the outbreak of Ebola having adverse effects on Agriculture?
- If so, in what ways is the effect manifesting itself at various levels of agriculture value chains?
- What are the implications of the EVD to food security in Sierra Leone?

Seasonal calendar for a typical year

Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone



Source: FEWS NET

Methodology

- National-wide study covering three chiefdoms per districts in each of the 13 districts surveyed. The study did not cover the Western Urban District.
- A total of 702 households were interviewed as well as some 351 community leaders (Chiefs, women and youth leaders).
- 39 rural markets and 26 district headquarter town market sites were visited and assessed.
- Eight agricultural commodity traders were also interviewed.

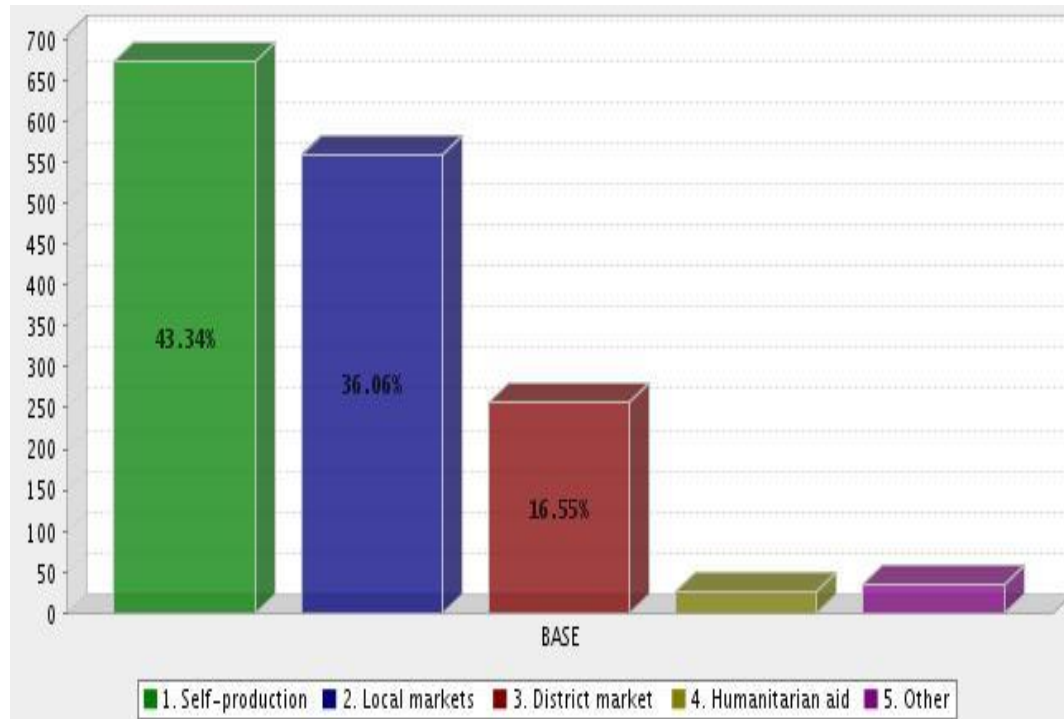
Data collection tools:

- A household semi-structured questionnaire administered to each head of household.
- key informant semi structures questionnaire administered to three selected village leaders village chief, the village women leader and a youth leader.
- Market assessment questionnaire administered in a total of 5 markets per district.
- commodity value chain checklist of 6 agricultural commodities was studied to assess the current market distortion of these commodity value chains

Findings

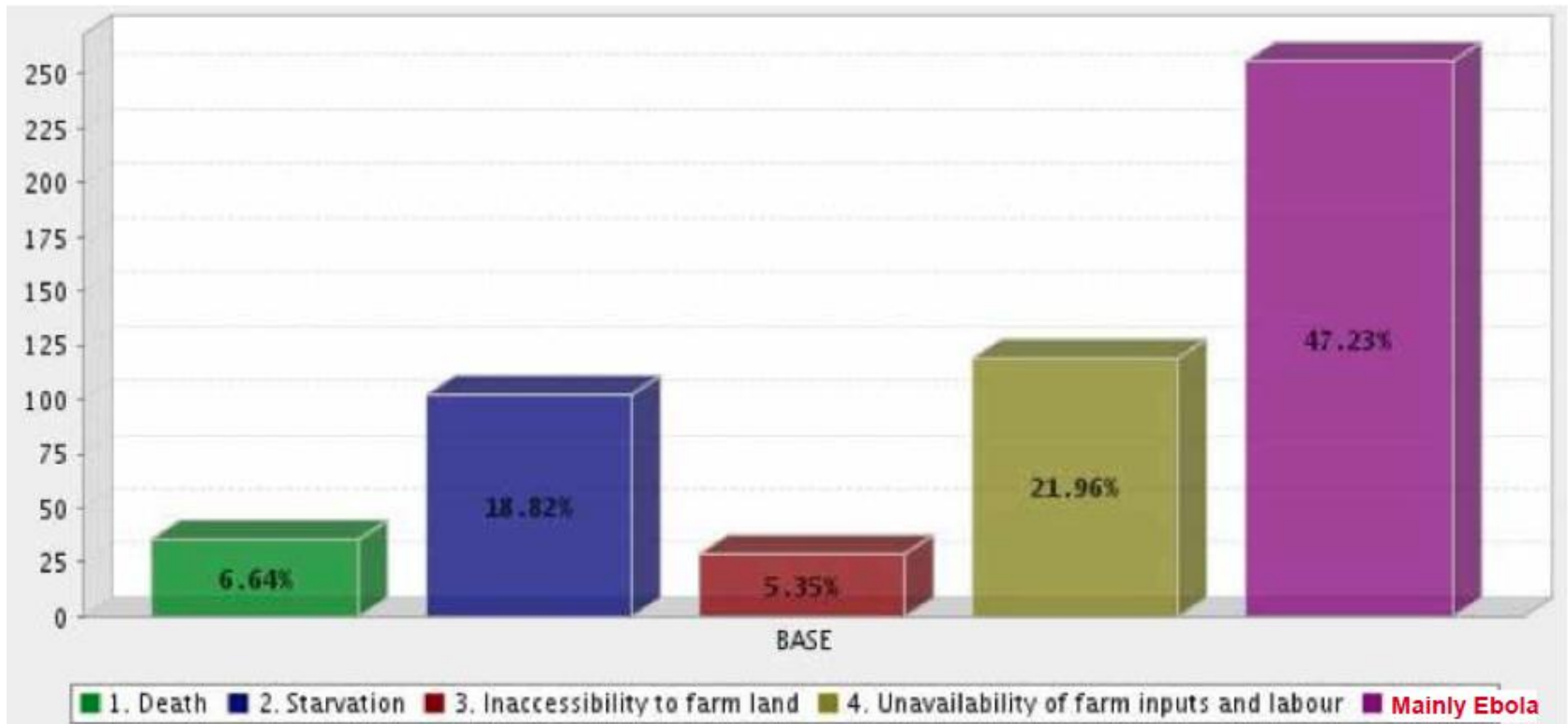
(Only National Level Analysis)

Agriculture remains the main source of livelihoods for the majority of rural households but a large number depends on markets to access food.



Findings of farming activities

About 47% of the respondents perceive Ebola to have considerably disrupted farming activities (weeding, harvesting, marketing)



Extent of EVD on the Current Production Season

- Agriculture Mechanization is limited – no more gang labor for weeding and harvesting of rice fields.
- Restrictions on Hunting and eating bush meat – will lead to pre-harvest losses due to lack of protection of rice fields by scaring birds and hunting rodents and other wild animals.

Key Drivers of the EVD Epidemic

The main drivers of Ebola as mentioned by the respondents are:

- a) Fear and panic
- b) Real cases of illness and death (only in affected communities)
- c) Quarantine and other restrictive measures

All these three have combined in different ways to disrupt agricultural production at household level and markets

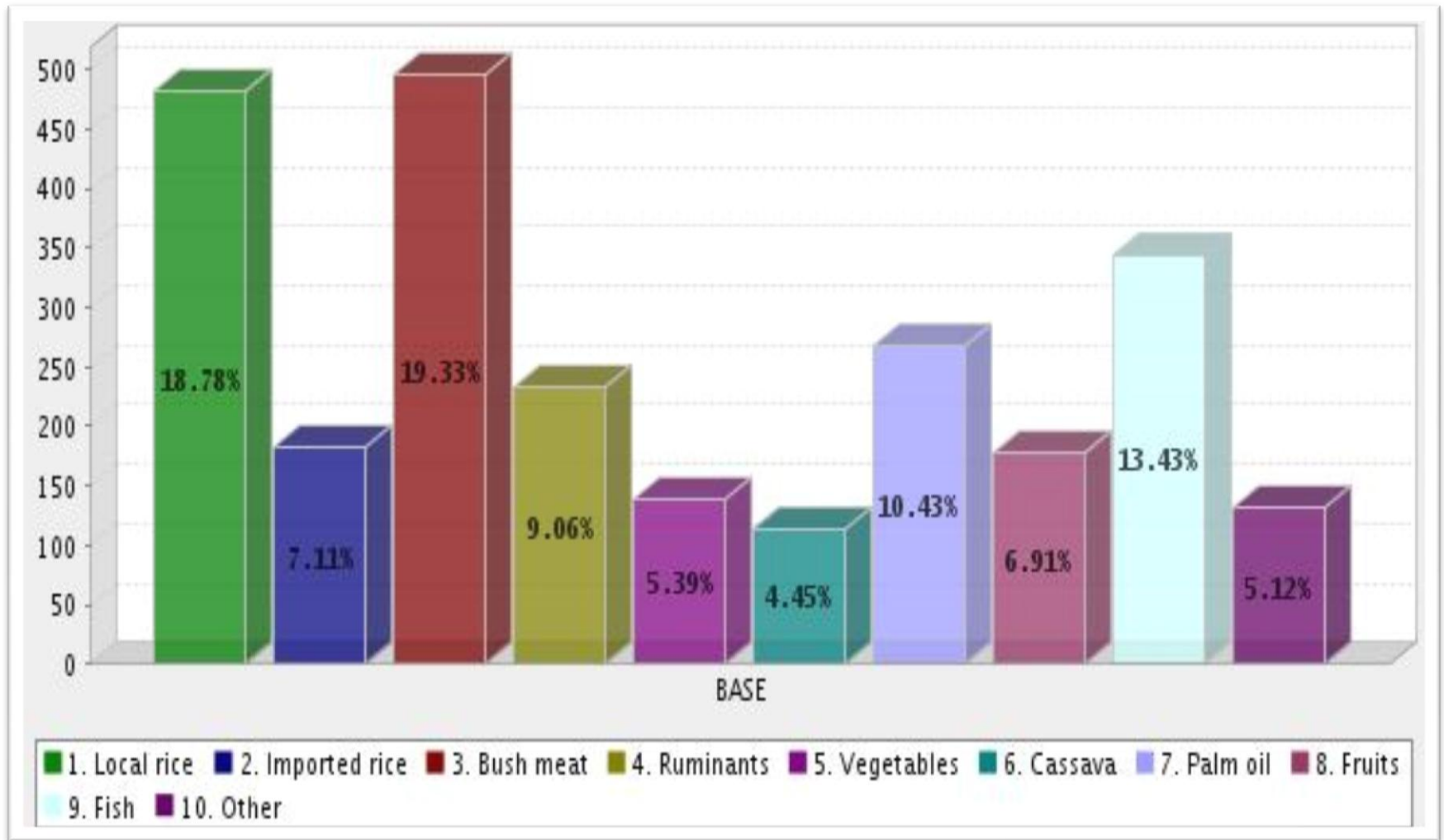
Findings: Market disruption

- All periodic markets have been banned by government but daily markets are operating except that the volume of transaction and number of sellers (at daily markets has) reduced

Main reasons include:

- i. Movement restrictions
- ii. High transportation cost
- iii. Fear of travelling
- iv. Perception of road blocks as barriers to trade
- v. Reduced demand of some commodities (e.g. meat)
- vi. Falling incomes

Perception of shortages on the market



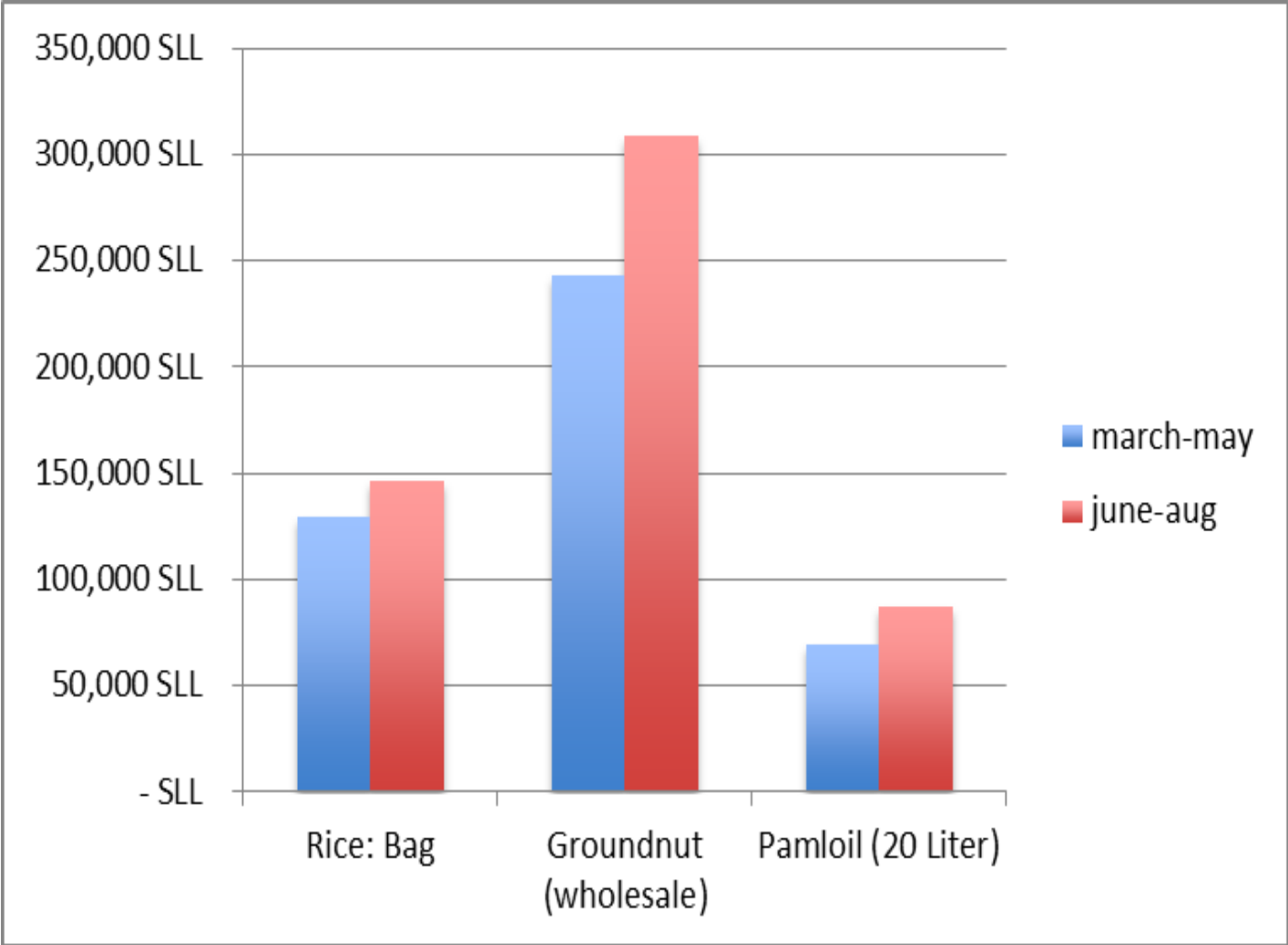
Findings: Market disruption

Outcome 1: Prices are increasing

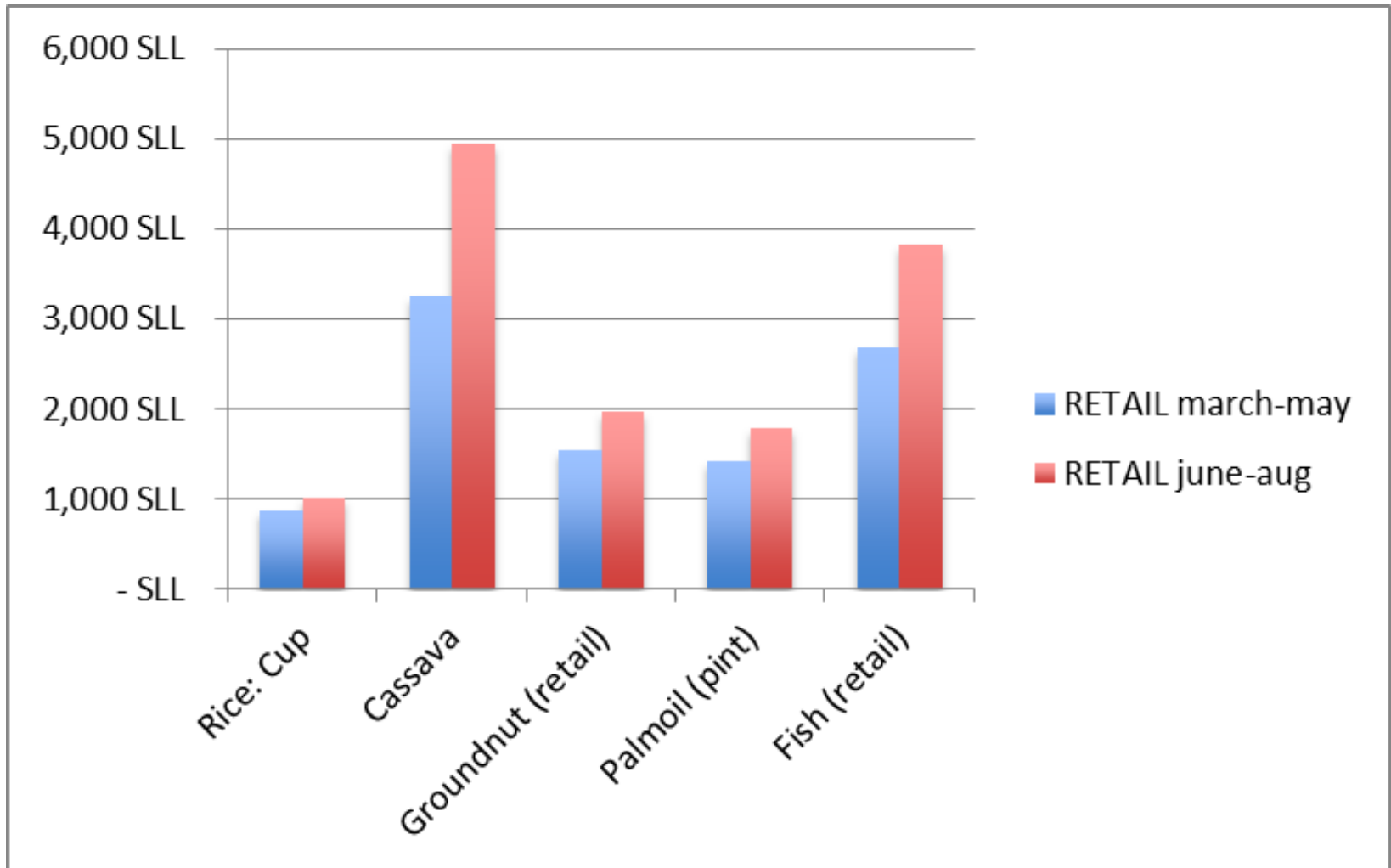
Item	March-May	June-Aug	% Increase
	Leones	Leones	
Rice: Bag	129,022	145,876	13%
Rice: Cup	866	1,017	17%
Cassava	3,250	4,931	52%
Groundnut (retail)	1,548	1,978	28%
Groundnut (wholesale)	242,784	308,727	27%
Palm oil (20 Liter)	69,107	87,109	26%
Palm oil (pint)	1,428	1,789	25%
Fish (retail)	2,674	3,824	43%

Source: Rapid Assessment survey – markets visited

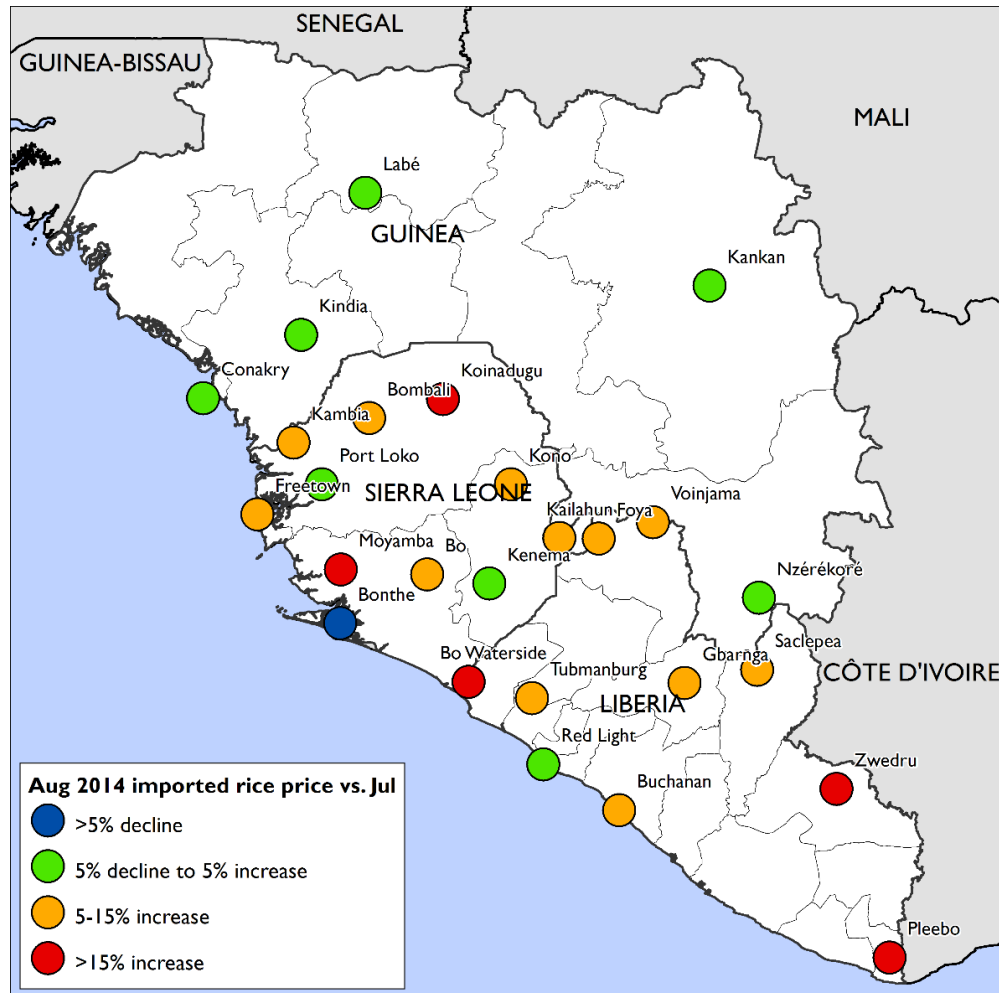
Percentage increase in prices of selected commodities (whole sale)



Percentage increase in prices of selected commodities (retail)



July to August 2014 imported rice price changes in selected markets



Source: FEWSNET: SIPAG (Guinea), WFP (Liberia), PEMSD (Sierra Leone)

Market disruption

2. Falling prices: Special case of Koinadugu District

- Koinadugu –
- No Ebola case so far
- Women vegetable farmers (market gardening)
- Supply vegetable to Freetown and other major towns
- Ebola has led to near collapse of their businesses
- Falling household incomes
- Similar experience elsewhere in the country

Falling prices: Special case of Koinadugu District

Change of vegetable prices in Kabala, March-September 2014

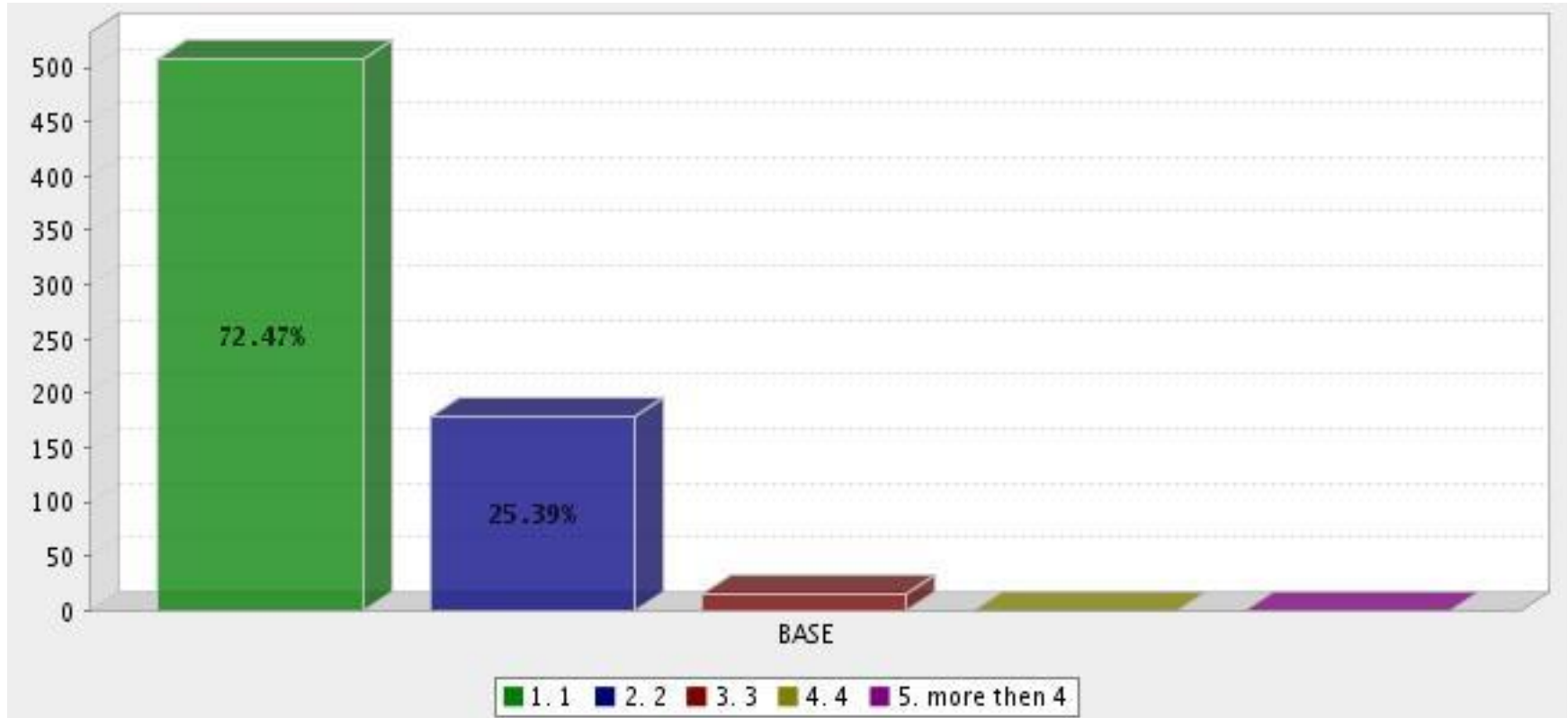
Item	Unit	Price range /unit before March in Leones	Price range /unit after March in Leones
Cabbage	50kg/bag	90, 000 -200,000	30,000-40,000
Pepper	50kg bag	250, 000-300,000	110,000
Lettuce	10 dozen	180,000 -200,000	10,000-20,000
Tomatoes	carton	120,000 -130,000	50,000
Spring onions	bundle	10,000 -20,000	1,000
Cucumber	1 dozen	10,000	7,000 -8,000
Egg plant	50kg bag	80,000 -100,000	60,000 -80,000
Carrot	50kg bag	150,000 -170,000	80,000 -100,000

Koinadugu – Vegetable spoilage





72% of surveyed households now eat one meal a day



In order to cope, households limit the portion of meals (53%), use substitute foods (28%), and reduce adult intake (12%).

Ebola as if gender mattered

Sierra Leonean farmer – SHE

Sierra Leonean care giver –SHE

Sierra Leonean petty trader -SHE

Ebola has unmistakable gender impact.

Gender aspects of EVD

Women are both key producers of food and actively participate in food trade. As *de facto* care givers to sick family members, traditional healers and persons frequently responsible for burial rituals, women have special risk factors for EVD, and likely to bear the brunt of the socio-economic impact of the disease.





Effects on agri-business establishments

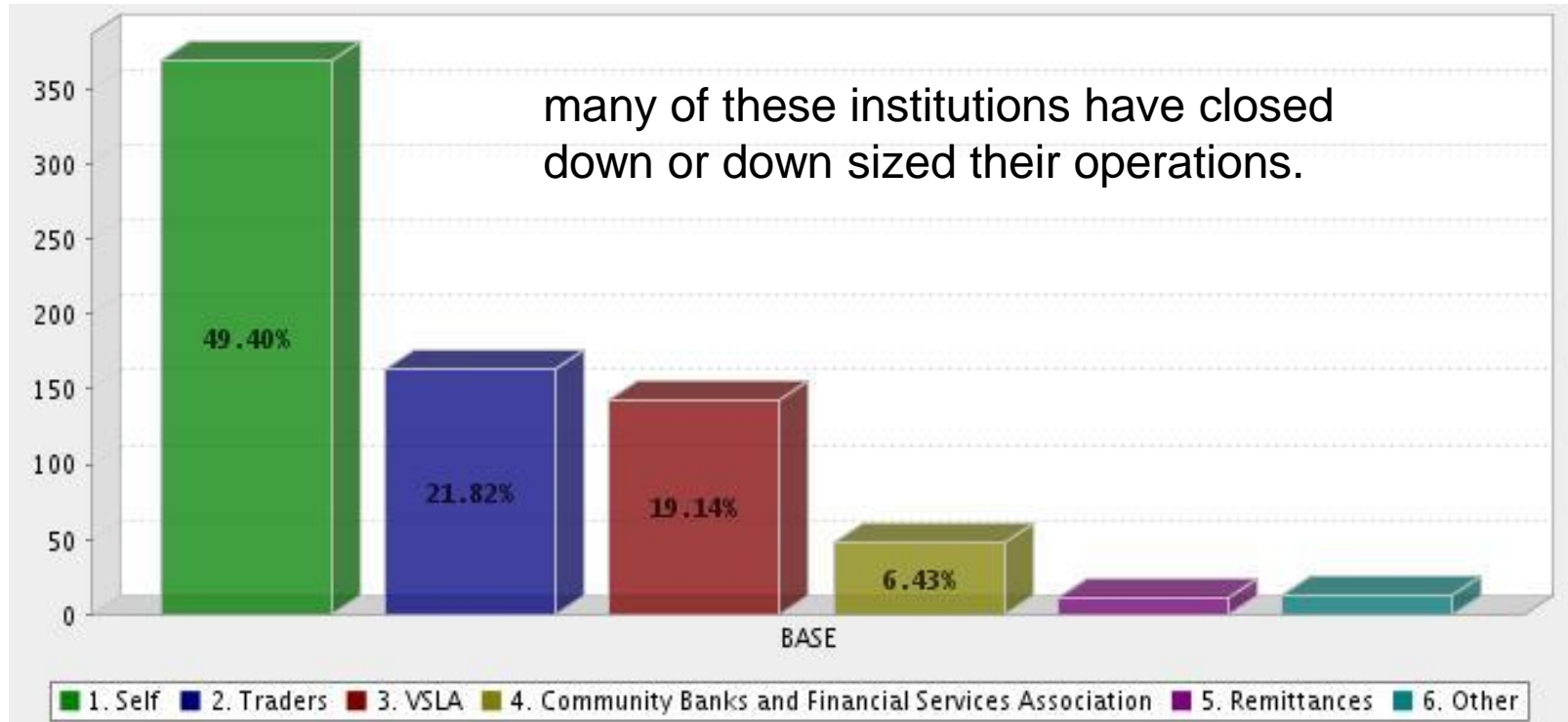
Six agri-businesses of varying size (Cocoa, palm oil, gari, rice, vegetables, livestock)

Impact:

- ✓ Reduced supply
- ✓ Reduction of workforce
- ✓ Reduction of working hours
- ✓ Decline of financial services
- ✓ Wait and see posture
- ✓ Depletion of savings

Agribusiness Financing

Agribusiness operations are mainly supported by the farmers and traders (themselves); village savings and loans (Osusu); Community banks and finance from input dealers.



FAO Response

- Support WHO in contact tracing
- Partnership with UNICEF is social mobilization (agricultural sector workers)
- Food security pillar/cluster – assessments, actual interventions

FAO Response

Has four main goals:

- **Save lives by stopping the spread of the disease** as part of UN coordinated response through social mobilization, training and awareness raising activities via FAO networks of extension services and animal health workers;
- **Boost incomes and agricultural production** to safeguard livelihoods through rapid impact assessments and support to crop, livestock and aquaculture production, cash transfers, post-harvest activities and trade/marketing;

FAO Response

- **Build resilience to disease threats** by improving early warning systems and emergency response; and
- **Strengthen coordination for improved response** by reinforcing food security/nutrition clusters and surge mechanisms

Conclusions

Ebola has caused diverse range of adverse effects on livelihoods

Three important drivers of effects:

- The real epidemic
- Fear and panic (novelty of Ebola, uncertainty)
- Quarantine and attendant restrictions
- Urgent measures are needed to address the current food security gaps and rehabilitate key agricultural market infrastructure to ensure quick recovery of the sector.

Thank you – Let's Discuss

