“What We Heard” captures rumours, misinformation and perceptions on the ground to eliminate information gaps between the humanitarian agencies and the community in which they implement their activities. “What We Heard” is meant for community workers and the local media. It provides facts which help create a better understanding of the needs of the communities and to debunk rumours before they can do any harm.

Community mobilisers say we should not eat bush meat yet people continue to eat it in restaurants. That means Ebola is not real and not here in Yei. NGOs just came to make money. We don’t trust what they are telling us. Let the organizations working on Ebola awareness go to the boarders of Yei and Congo where Ebola is because most of the organizations are operating in Yei Town.

Female vendor - Yei Town, Yei Municipality

The Ebola virus is not brought by every animal or bird. It’s only the bats which harbour the virus and when such a bat has contact with wild animals, and when we eat such infected animals, the virus gets to us. Let us not touch dead birds or animals. We know our community in Yei River State love bush meat. They say the meat is boiled and the virus is dead this is true; but the problem is, the person who kills, skins and brings the meat of the animal is the cause of transmission because if the animal he kills is infected, he will bring the virus to the people in the community.

My advice as a medical person, is that, let bush meat not be eaten at this moment when there is an active outbreak of Ebola in Congo, our immediate neighbour.

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