

# Spread the Message, not the virus

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**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



NOW THAT THE BORDERS ARE OPEN AGAIN, I WILL GO VISIT MY SISTER AND HER FAMILY IN SIERRA LEONE. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER FOR ALMOST A YEAR, WITH ALL THIS EBOLA SICKNESS PASSING AROUND. DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME?

I WANT TO COME BUT THE BORDER POST IS FAR AND THEN YOU MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT FOR LONG

WHY GO THROUGH THE BORDER POST? I KNOW A BYPASS. SO WE GO?



WAIT SMALL, WHY WOULD WE DO THAT? IT'S SAFER THIS WAY TO PROTECT OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILY.

SEKOLI, I HEARD PLENTY OF ALL THIS HAND WASHING AND FEVER CHECKING BUSINESS AND I'M SO TIRED OF IT NOW.



MAHMOOD, IF WE GET CAUGHT, WE COULD GET INTO TROUBLE.



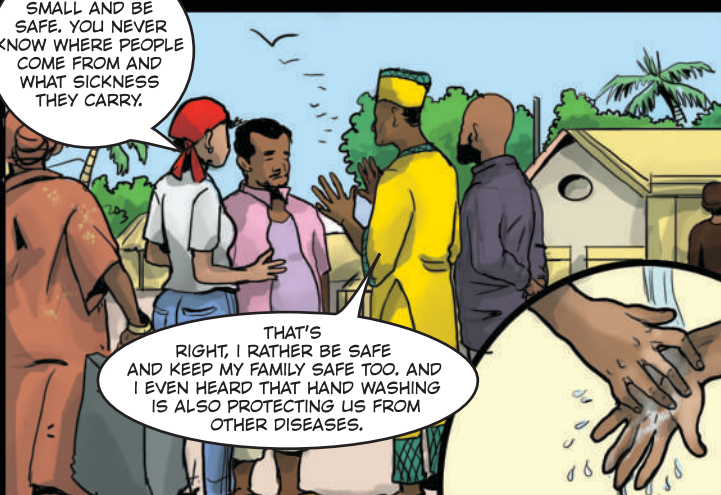
IF WE DON'T TAKE TIME, IT CAN COME BACK TO LIBERIA ANY TIME, AND REMEMBER, PEOPLE SHOULD ONLY TRAVEL WHEN WELL IN THEIR BODY.

CHECKING TAKES TOO MUCH TIME EVERYWHERE! THIS TIME AT THE BORDER, PEOPLE SAY THAT SOMETIMES THERE ARE PLENTY PEOPLE WAITING TO BE CHECKED.



KULA, TELL US SOMETHING NOW, THERE IS NOT MUCH EBOLA IN THE COUNTRY, WHY DO WE STILL HAVE TO WASH HANDS ALL THE TIME AND KEEP CHECKING FOR FEVER?

MAHMOOD, DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS STILL EBOLA PLENTY IN SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA?



WE BETTER WAIT SMALL AND BE SAFE. YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE PEOPLE COME FROM AND WHAT SICKNESS THEY CARRY.

THAT'S RIGHT, I RATHER BE SAFE AND KEEP MY FAMILY SAFE TOO. AND I EVEN HEARD THAT HAND WASHING IS ALSO PROTECTING US FROM OTHER DISEASES.

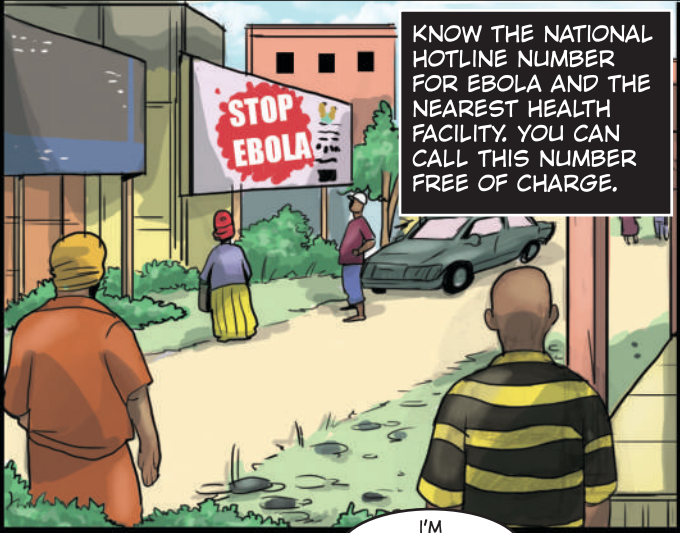


THAT'S RIGHT, SEKOLI! AND WHILE ACROSS, MAKE SURE TO RESPECT ALL THE PREVENTION RULES YOU KNOW ALREADY!

AVOID PLACES THAT ARE PACKED WITH PEOPLE AND KEEP DISTANCE FROM ALL SICK PEOPLE. DO NOT TOUCH THEM OR THEIR BELONGINGS. DO NOT TOUCH OR WASH A DEAD BODY.

DON'T TOUCH WILD ANIMALS, LIVING OR DEAD. AVOID EATING BUSH MEAT.

ALWAYS WASH HANDS WITH CHLORINE WATER OR WITH SOAP AND CLEAN WATER.

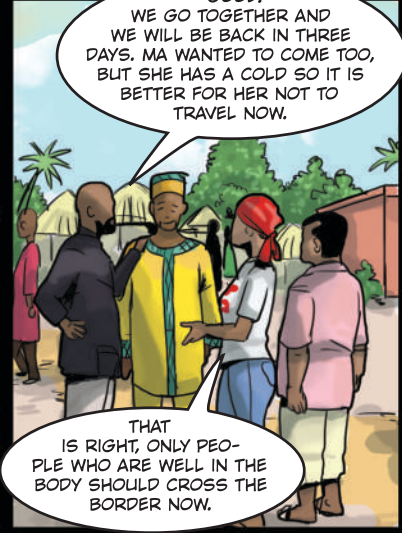


KNOW THE NATIONAL HOTLINE NUMBER FOR EBOLA AND THE NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY. YOU CAN CALL THIS NUMBER FREE OF CHARGE.



THAT'S TRUE, I AM GOING TOMORROW AND I WILL USE THE BORDER POST TO CROSS.

I WILL COME WITH YOU VARNEY, IT WILL BE GOOD TO SEE YATTA AND HER FAMILY.



GOOD! WE GO TOGETHER AND WE WILL BE BACK IN THREE DAYS. MA WANTED TO COME TOO, BUT SHE HAS A COLD SO IT IS BETTER FOR HER NOT TO TRAVEL NOW.

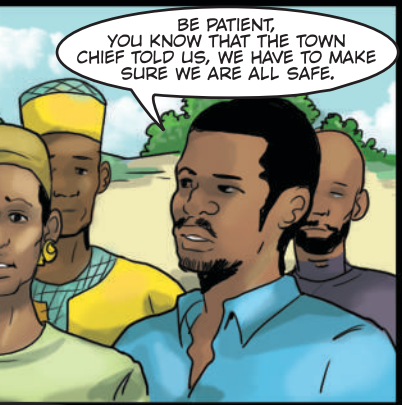
THAT IS RIGHT, ONLY PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL IN THE BODY SHOULD CROSS THE BORDER NOW.



I'M TIRED OF ALL THIS WAITING



WHY DO THEY WANT TO STILL CHECK OUR FEVER, NOW THAT THERE IS NO MORE EBOLA HERE?



BE PATIENT, YOU KNOW THAT THE TOWN CHIEF TOLD US, WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE ARE ALL SAFE.



BROTHER, YOU DID WELL TO COME THIS WAY. KEEPING OUR BORDERS SAFE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS. WE MUST BE CAREFUL UNTIL THERE IS NO MORE EBOLA IN OUR COUNTRIES.

I KNOW, I KNOW, OUR BIG PEOPLE SAID THE SAME. WE ALWAYS DO ALL WE WERE TOLD TO DO.



WE HAVE TO WASH HANDS AGAIN? WHY?

IT IS BETTER THAT PEOPLE WASH HANDS PLENTY TIMES TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM EBOLA.



SEKOU, WELCOME! WHAT A SURPRISE! HOW IS MY AUNTIE?

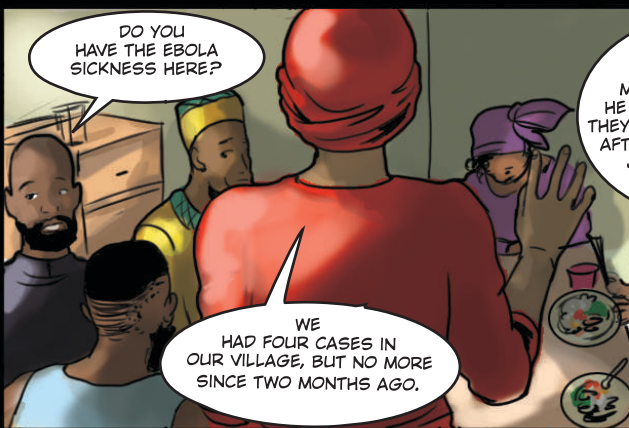
VARNEY! WELCOME! I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU



EAT, VARNEY. I PREPARED THE SOUP YOU LIKE.

FATU... WHAT MEAT DID YOU PUT IN IT?

DON'T WORRY, IT IS CHICKEN, WE DON'T EAT BUSH MEAT ANYMORE.



DO YOU HAVE THE EBOLA SICKNESS HERE?

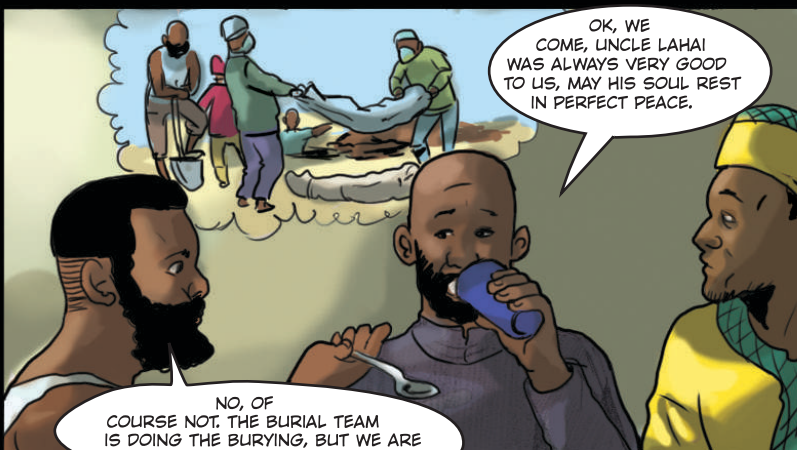
WE HAD FOUR CASES IN OUR VILLAGE, BUT NO MORE SINCE TWO MONTHS AGO.



BROTHERS, DO YOU REMEMBER MY UNCLE, LAHAI? HE PASSED AWAY AND THEY WILL BURY HIM THIS AFTERNOON. WILL YOU JOIN US FOR THE BURIAL?

OOO...

ARE YOU STILL DOING BURIALS IN THE VILLAGE?



OK, WE COME, UNCLE LAHAI WAS ALWAYS VERY GOOD TO US, MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PERFECT PEACE.

NO, OF COURSE NOT. THE BURIAL TEAM IS DOING THE BURYING, BUT WE ARE ALLOWED TO TAKE PART.



I'LL GO TO THE MARKET TO BUY SOME FOOD AND COAL, WILL YOU COME WITH ME?

WOULD COME, BUT IS IT VERY CROWDED?

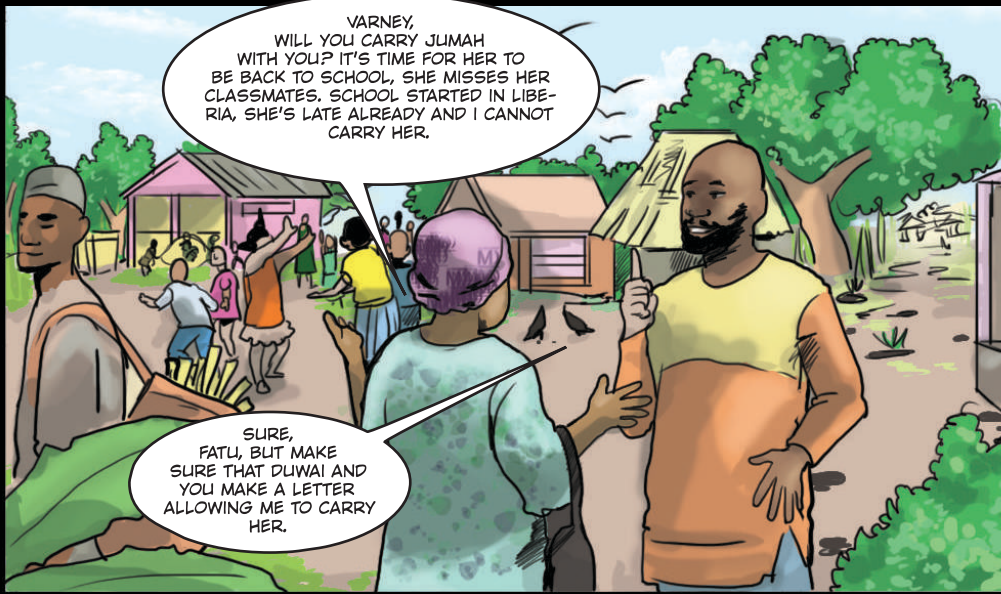


IT CAN GET CROWDED, BUT WE'LL STAY ON THE SIDE, IF YOU WANT



YOU SEE, IT IS NOT BAD

TRUE, AND I GET TO CARRY SOME ORANGES TO THE CHILDREN



VARNEY, WILL YOU CARRY JUMAH WITH YOU? IT'S TIME FOR HER TO BE BACK TO SCHOOL, SHE MISSES HER CLASSMATES. SCHOOL STARTED IN LIBERIA, SHE'S LATE ALREADY AND I CANNOT CARRY HER.

SURE, FATU, BUT MAKE SURE THAT DUWAI AND YOU MAKE A LETTER ALLOWING ME TO CARRY HER.

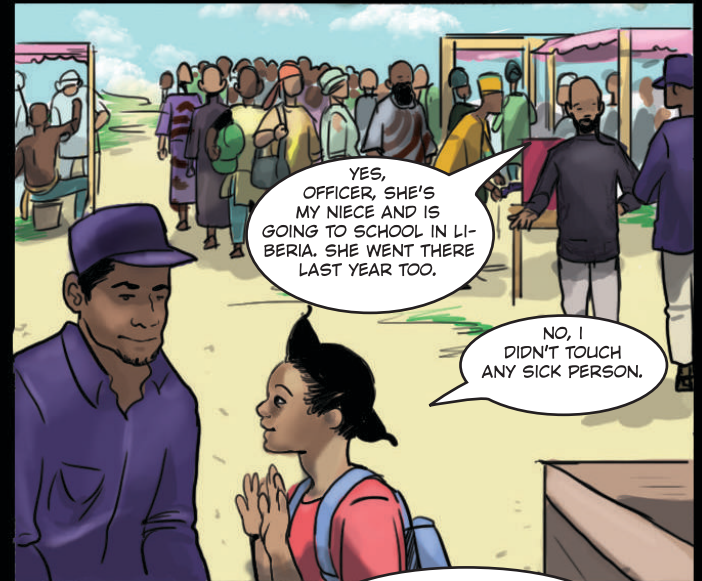


WE HEARD THAT THE OFFICERS AT THE BORDER ARE CHECKING PAPERS FOR CHILDREN BECAUSE SOME CHILDREN WERE TAKEN ACROSS WITHOUT THEIR PARENTS KNOWING AND TAKEN TO DO HARD WORK ON FARMS AND IN HOMES AND NOT GO TO SCHOOL.



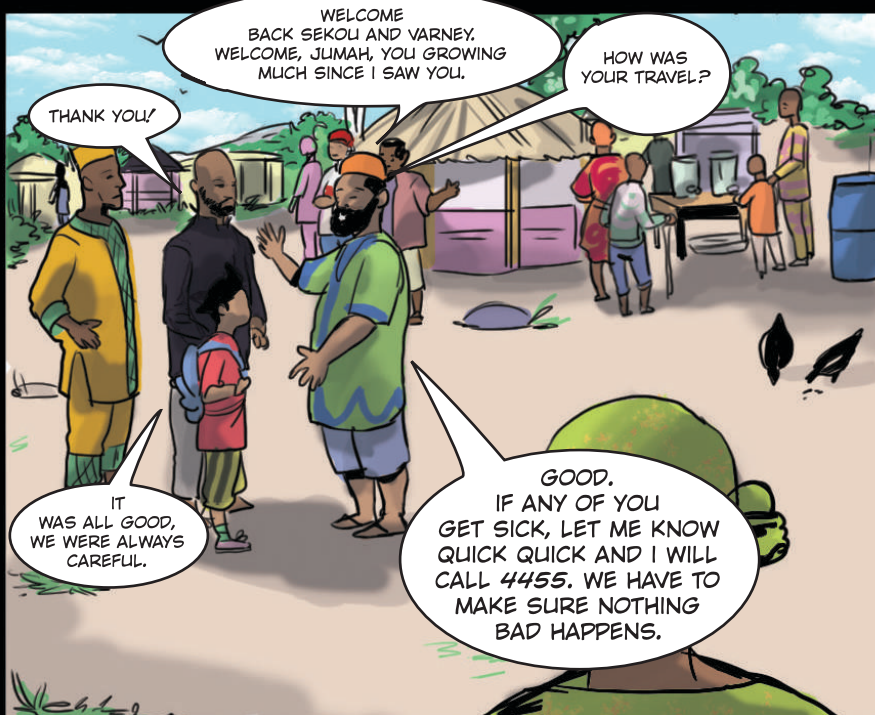
FINALLY WE ARE DONE.

WAIT SMALL, WE HAVE TO DO IT ON THE OTHER SIDE TOO.



YES, OFFICER, SHE'S MY NIECE AND IS GOING TO SCHOOL IN LIBERIA. SHE WENT THERE LAST YEAR TOO.

NO, I DIDN'T TOUCH ANY SICK PERSON.



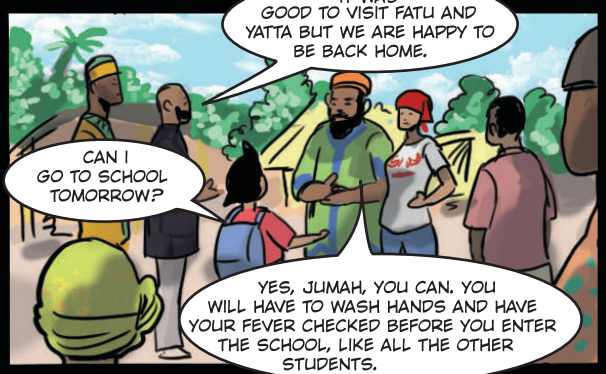
WELCOME BACK SEKOU AND VARNEY. WELCOME, JUMAH, YOU GROWING MUCH SINCE I SAW YOU.

HOW WAS YOUR TRAVEL?

THANK YOU!

IT WAS ALL GOOD, WE WERE ALWAYS CAREFUL.

GOOD. IF ANY OF YOU GET SICK, LET ME KNOW QUICK QUICK AND I WILL CALL 4455. WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE NOTHING BAD HAPPENS.



IT WAS GOOD TO VISIT FATU AND YATTA BUT WE ARE HAPPY TO BE BACK HOME.

CAN I GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW?

YES, JUMAH, YOU CAN. YOU WILL HAVE TO WASH HANDS AND HAVE YOUR FEVER CHECKED BEFORE YOU ENTER THE SCHOOL, LIKE ALL THE OTHER STUDENTS.



EBOLA IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS, WE ALL NEED TO MAKE SURE IT GOES AWAY FOR GOOD.

WHEN TRAVELING ACROSS, GET HELP QUICK QUICK IF YOU OR ANYBODY AROUND YOU FEELS SICK. CALL THE HOTLINE AND TELL THE BORDER POST PEOPLE. DOCTORS WILL GIVE YOU THE BEST TREATMENT YOU NEED.

**Ebola hotlines :**

**Liberia**  
**4455**

**Sierra Leone**  
**117**

**Guinea**  
**115**

