

Call for Papers

Special issue on evidence and impact of community engagement and communication strategies for stopping Ebola in West Africa

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, Bloomberg School of Public Health in collaboration with the *Journal of Health Communication: International Perspectives*, seeks original contributions on research and assessments addressing behavior change communication, community engagement and social mobilization for Ebola prevention and control. For this special issue, the Journal welcomes high-quality research and analyses from diverse theoretical and methodological approaches from all fields of communication, media, community participation and engagement and health promotion.

The Journal is particularly seeking new and innovative communication and community engagement approaches used during on-going Ebola outbreaks in West Africa. A broad definition of communication will be used to assess original contributions of the discipline used alongside healthcare services and infection prevention and control strategies to stop the spread of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal during 2014 and 2015, as well as use of communication for preparedness for Ebola in other countries in Western, Central and Eastern and Southern Africa.

This special issue is particularly geared toward documentation of research, monitoring and impact assessment studies that increases the evidence base of using a range of communication strategies in public health emergencies such as Ebola, have the potential to generate future applied interventions and related studies to advance the field, and provide insights into the development of inclusive communication strategies in emergency and humanitarian response. What does an emerging health issue like Ebola reveal about the links between different domains of communication theory and practice? What can we learn from the communication response to Ebola that will move the field of health and development communication forward?

The Journal invites original empirical (qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods) research, assessments, evaluations, comparative case studies based on existing literature or available data as well as theoretical or methodological contributions on the following topics related to Ebola communication:

- Community engagement and participation along side other Ebola control strategies (such as contact tracing, quarantine, care and treatment seeking, infection prevention and control and safe and dignified burials).
- Social mobilization of local networks such as religious leaders, traditional healers, children, adolescent and youth groups, women's groups, other traditional/cultural and development forums
- Behavior change communication using interpersonal outreach, mass media and mid-media approaches
- Risk communication from media advocacy to community participation
- Health promotion, education and communication through outreach workers and media platforms

- Innovative as well as existing communication for health and development platforms used to disseminate information and engage in community dialogue
- The role of Information, Communication, and Technology in public health emergencies
- Strengthening of health care and social services with a focus on increased capacity in behavior change communication, social mobilization and community engagement.

Original contributions are due by 15 November 2015. This Special Issue on Ebola Communication Research and Evidence will be co-edited by UNICEF, USAID and JHU/CCP with editorial oversight by the Journal of Health Communication.

This journal uses ScholarOne Manuscripts (previously Manuscript Central) to peer review manuscript submissions. Please read the [guide for ScholarOne authors](#) before making a submission. Complete guidelines for preparing and submitting your manuscript to this journal are provided below.

Please note that the *Journal of Health Communication* uses [CrossCheck™](#) software to screen papers for unoriginal material. By submitting your paper to the *Journal of Health Communication* you are agreeing to any necessary originality checks your paper may have to undergo during the peer review and production processes.

Manuscript Submission:

Submit manuscripts to the *Journal of Health Communication* through the online submission and review system at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/uohcm>.

****Select Special Issue-Ebola as the Manuscript Type ****

Authors should enter the requested information into the system and submit the following files: (a) a cover letter file, containing any comments to the editor; (b) a blinded copy of the manuscript file (submitted in Word or WordPerfect), containing the entire text of the article, including the title page (authorship omitted), the abstract, all text, references, footnotes, and appendixes; (c) figures and tables, which may either be included at the end of the manuscript file or submitted as separate files. Manuscripts, abstracts, references, figure and tables must conform to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2009, Sixth Edition) guidelines.

The cover letter should include a statement that it has not been published elsewhere and that it has not been submitted simultaneously for publication elsewhere. All manuscripts submitted to this journal undergo editorial screening and blind peer review. Authors will be notified of the disposition of their manuscripts expeditiously.

Articles should be no more than 5,000 words plus appropriate charts, tables, and references. All parts of the manuscript should be typewritten, double-spaced, with margins of at least one inch on all sides. Number manuscript pages consecutively throughout the paper. Authors should also supply a shortened version of the title suitable for the running head, not exceeding 50 character spaces. Each article should be summarized in an abstract of no more than 200 words. Avoid abbreviations, diagrams, and reference to the text. Manuscripts, including tables, figures, and references, should be prepared in accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition.

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