**Data collection method:** Open-ended interviews were conducted with local volunteers and health professionals involved in the response. We identified individuals through a snow-ball approach through the research teams involvement in the EVD response with the Sierra Leonian Ministry of Defence, and the World Health Organization.

**Data sourcing, processing and preparation:** Open-ended interviews were conducted in English and Krio and lasted between thirty and ninety minutes. Interview guides enquired about the participant’s understanding and experience of working in the response. Recordings were immediately transcribed (ODMS, Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan), into English by the field researchers using MS Word 2011 (Redmond, WA, USA). Recordings were stored on a password protected hard drive. Transcripts were rendered anonymous from the onset and shared online with the research team, along with a summary of main points, themes, and suggestions for follow up questions.