



# Lassa fever Situation Report

Epi Week 21: 18 – 24 May 2020

## Key Points

**Table 1: Summary of current week (21), cumulative from Epi week 01–21, 2020 and comparison with previous year (2019)**

Reporting Period	Suspected cases	Confirmed cases	Probable cases	Deaths (Confirmed cases)	Case Fatality Ratio (CFR)	States and LGAs affected (Confirmed cases)
<b>Current week</b> (week 21)	80	9	0	2	22.2%	State(s): 4 LGA(s): 7
<b>2020 Cumulative</b> (week 1-21)	4841	1015	14	197	19.4%	State(s): 27 LGA(s): 128
<b>2019 Cumulative</b> (week 1-21)	2582	578	15	129	22.3%	State(s): 21 LGA(s): 82

## Highlights

- In week 21, the number of new confirmed cases increased from 6 cases in week 20, 2020 to 9 cases. These were reported from 4 States (Ondo, Edo, Benue and Ebonyi) (Table 3).
- Cumulatively from week 1 to week 21, 2020, 197 deaths have been reported with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 19.4% which is lower than the CFR for the same period in 2019 (22.3%).
- In total for 2020, 27 States have recorded at least one confirmed case across 128 Local Government Areas (Figure 2 and 3).
- Of all confirmed cases, 72% are from Ondo (33%), Edo (32%) and Ebonyi (7%) States.
- The predominant age-group affected is 21-30 years (Range: <1 to 78 years, Median Age: 33 years). The male to female ratio for confirmed cases is 1:1.2 (Figure 4).
- The number of suspected cases has significantly increased compared to that reported for the same period in 2019.
- One new Healthcare worker was affected from Ondo state in the reporting week 21.
- Lassa fever outbreak emergency phase declared over on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 based on composite indicators national threshold.
- National Lassa fever multi-partner, multi-sectoral Technical Working Group (TWG) continues to coordinate the response activities at all levels.

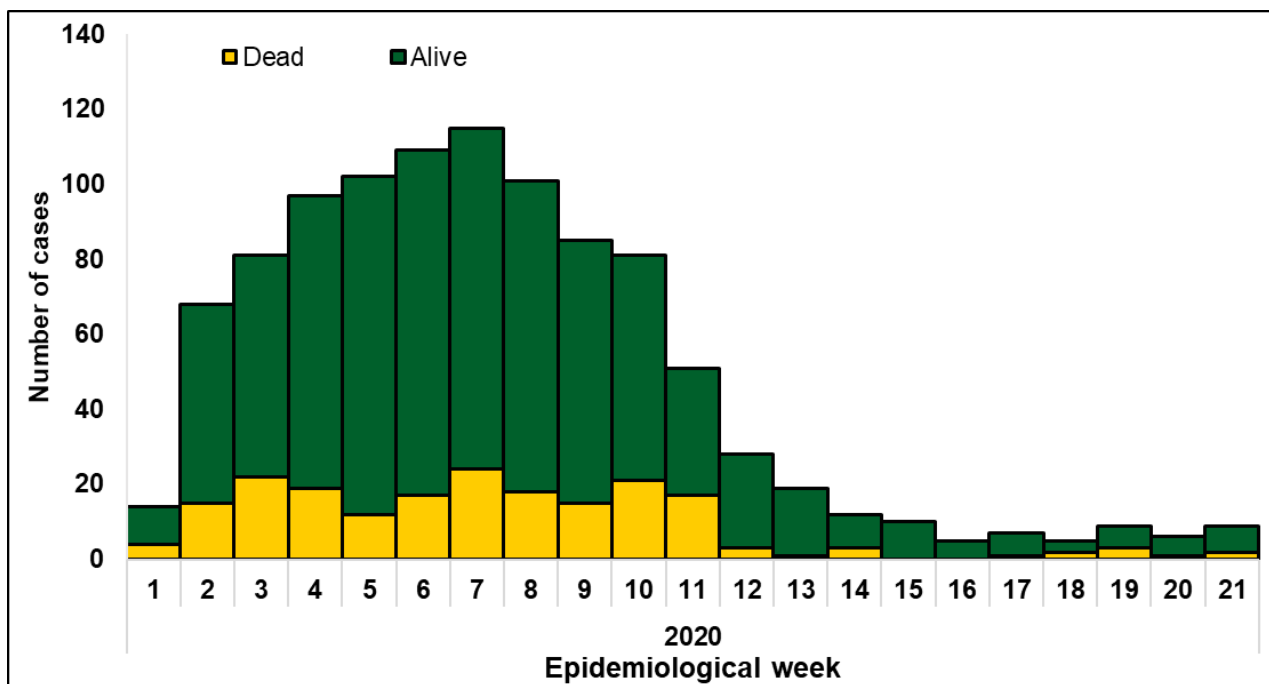


Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed Lassa fever cases from epidemiological week 01 to 21, 2020

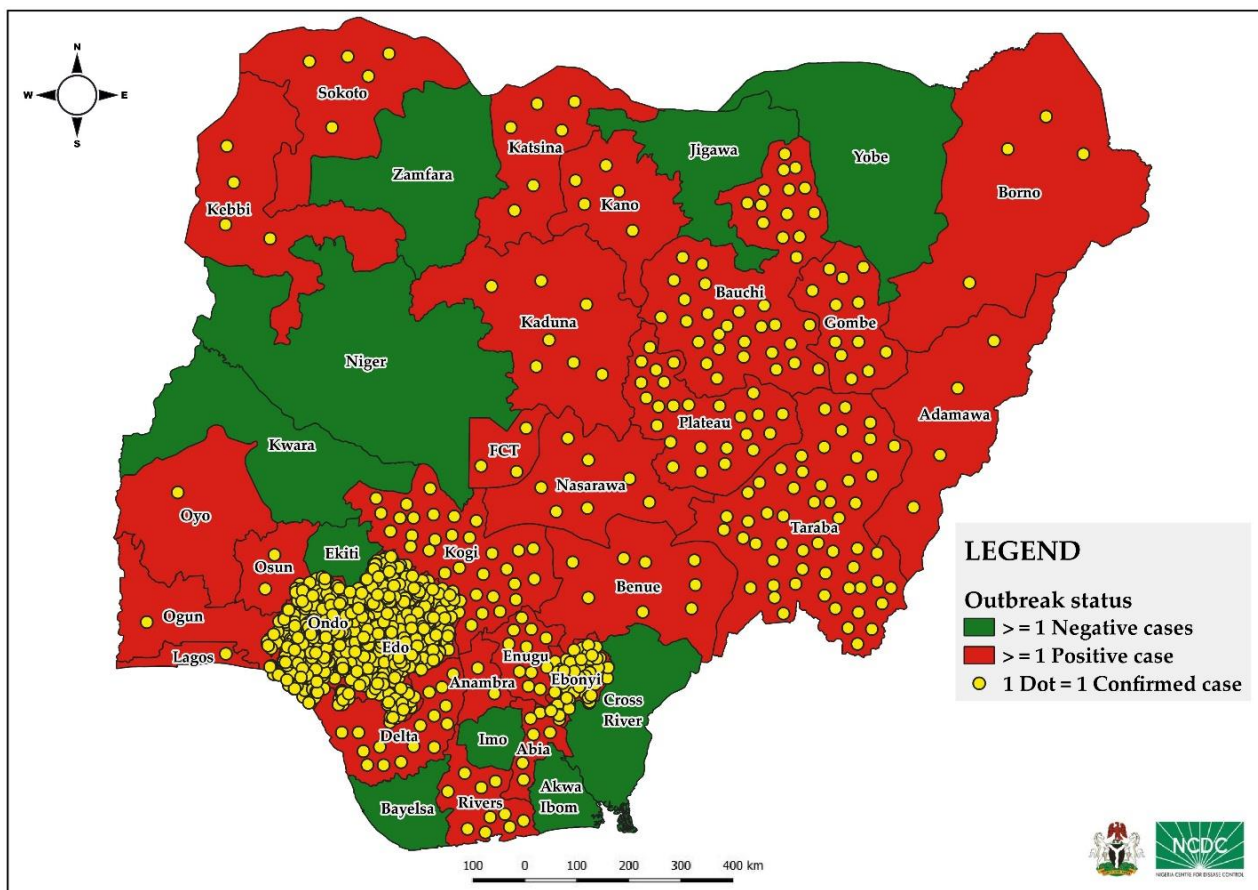


Figure 2. Confirmed Lassa fever cases by States in Nigeria, week 01- 21, 2020

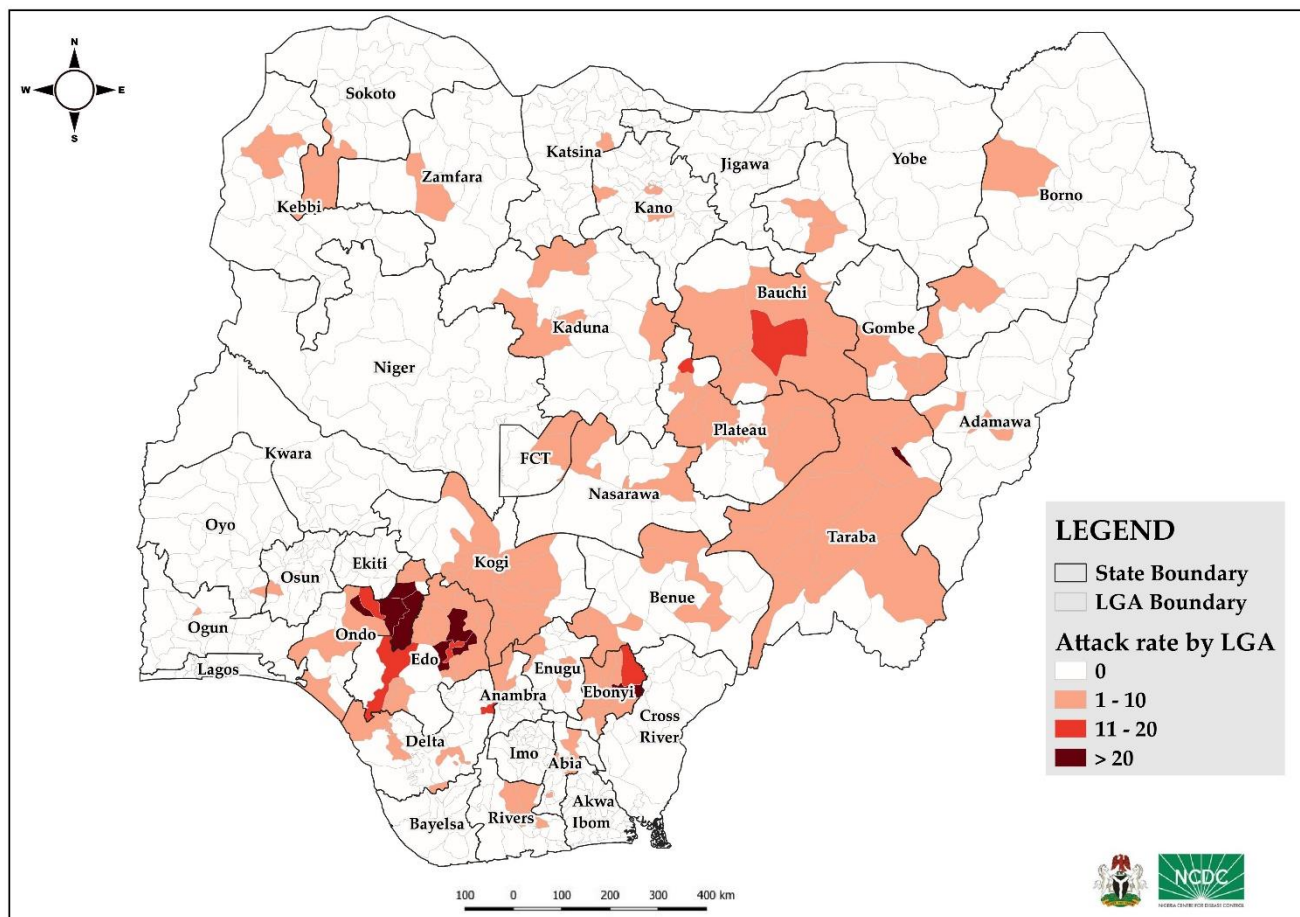


Figure 3. Confirmed Lassa fever rate per 100,000 population for LGAs in Nigeria, week 01- 21, 2020

Table 2: Key indicators for current week 2020 and trend compared to previous week, Nigeria

Indicator	Number for current week	Trend from previous week	Cumulative number for 2020
Probable cases	0	↔	14
Health Care Worker affected	1	↑	38
Cases undergoing treatment in Treatment centres	11	↑	1043
<b>Contact tracing</b>			
Cumulative contact listed	18	↓	9697
Contacts under follow up	74	↓	74
Contacts completed follow up	19	↑	9561
Symptomatic contacts	0	↔	170
Positive contacts	0	↔	55
Contacts lost to follow up	0	↔	7

**Key**

- ↑ Increase
- ↓ Decrease
- ↔ No difference

Table 3. Weekly and Cumulative number of suspected and confirmed cases for 2020

States	Current week: (Week 21)						Cumulative (Week 1 - 21)				
	Cases				Deaths		Cases				Deaths
	Suspected	Confirmed	Trend	Probable HCW	(Confirmed Cases)		Suspected	Confirmed	Probable HCW	(Confirmed Cases)	
1 Abia	1						53	5			2
2 Adamawa							18	4			1
3 Akwa Ibom							12				
4 Anambra							27	2			1
5 Bauchi	1		▼				317	44	3	7	20
6 Bayelsa							6				
7 Benue	4	1	▲		1	1	39	9		1	4
8 Borno							30	4		1	1
9 Cross River							13				
10 Delta	4						119	16		3	3
11 Ebonyi	7	1	▲				287	75		1	16
12 Edo	32	2	▼				1872	328	1	10	39
13 Ekiti							14				
14 Enugu							62	10			2
15 FCT							69	3			2
16 Gombe							45	9	1	1	2
17 Imo	1						20				
18 Jigawa							28			1	
19 Kaduna							127	7	2	1	5
20 Kano							13	5	2	3	1
21 Katsina							46	6	1	1	2
22 Kebbi							30	4			2
23 Kogi							109	38	1		8
24 Kwara							14				
25 Lagos							32	1			
26 Nasarawa							46	9			4
27 Niger							9				
28 Ogun							36	1			
29 Ondo	23	5	▲		1	1	971	332	1	7	48
30 Osun							31	2			
31 Oyo							12	1			
32 Plateau	3						128	30			7
33 Rivers							21	9			3
34 Sokoto							23	5			3
35 Taraba	4						139	56	2	1	21
36 Yobe							5				
37 Zamfara							18				
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>▲</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4841</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>197</b>

Key	
▼	Decrease
▲	Increase

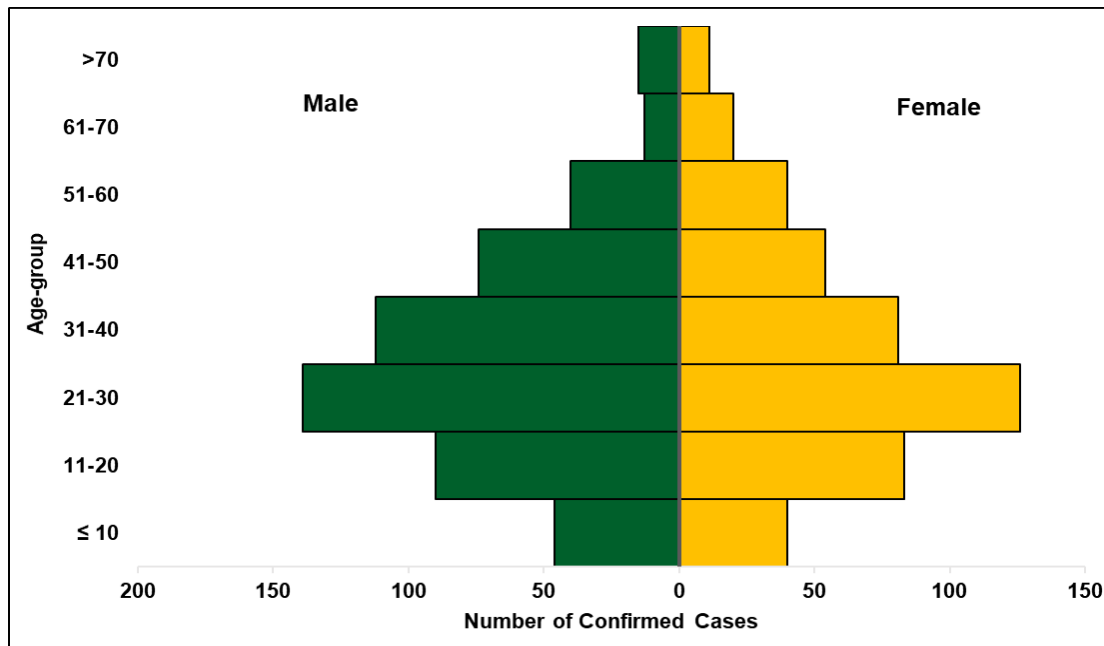


Figure 4. Age and sex pyramid showing number of confirmed Lassa fever cases for 2020

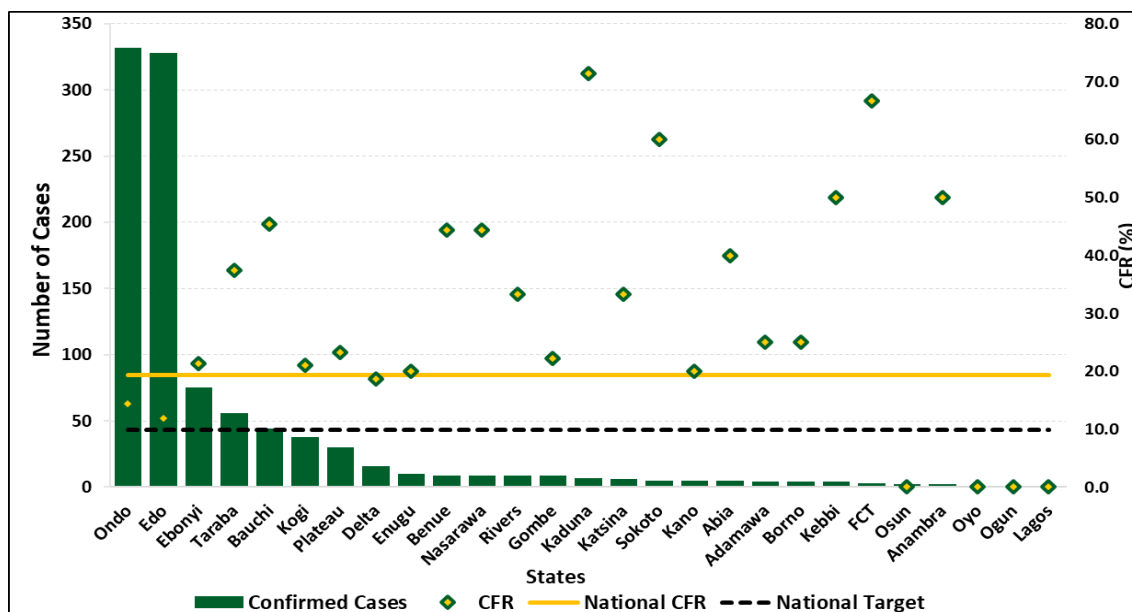


Figure 5: Number of confirmed cases with case fatality rate (CFR) by state, week 01- 21, 2020

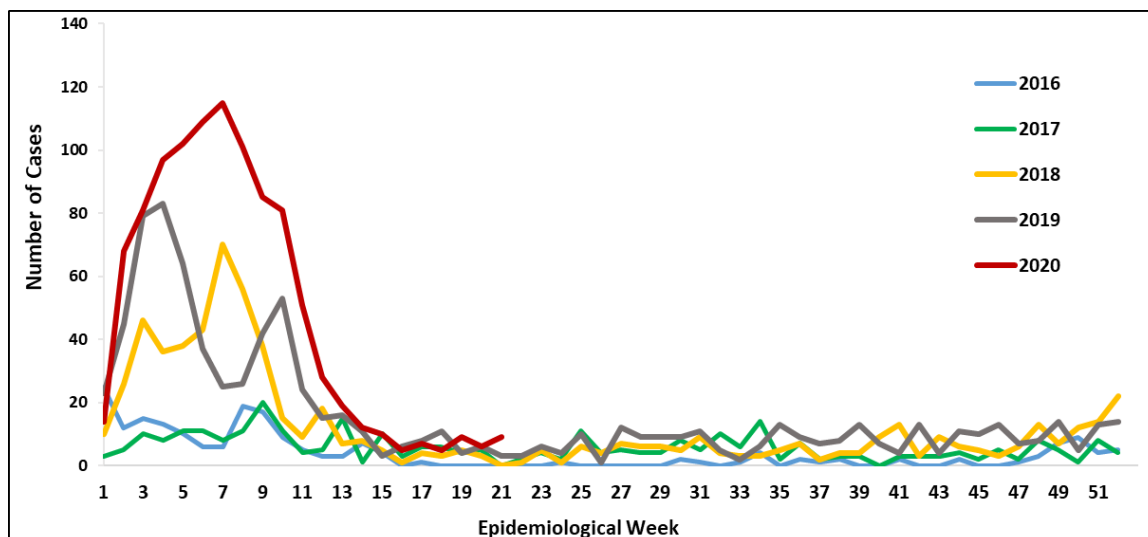


Figure 6: Trend of confirmed cases by epidemiological week, 2016 – 2020 (21), Nigeria

**Table 5: Response activities**

<b>Pillar</b>	<b>Activities to date</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
<b>Coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Emergency Operations Centre was activated on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 for effective multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary coordination of Lassa fever response</li> <li>Incident Action Plan developed</li> <li>NCDC National Rapid Response Team(RRT) deployed to Ondo, Ebonyi, Enugu, Katsina, Taraba, Delta, Edo, Kano, Borno and Bauchi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource mobilisation</li> <li>Finalisation of the Lassa fever five-year Strategic plan</li> </ul>
<b>Case management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmed cases are treated at identified treatment centres across the states</li> <li>Dissemination of reviewed case management and safe burial practices guidelines</li> <li>Surge capacity deployed to ISTH and FMC Owo</li> <li>Training on Lassa fever IPC and case management for Enugu, Delta, Abia and Anambra</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot indigent patient treatment scheme through the basic healthcare provision funds</li> <li>Mortality review of Lassa fever deaths</li> <li>In-depth investigation of healthcare worker infections</li> </ul>
<b>Infection Prevention and Control and Safe burial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissemination of reviewed IPC guideline</li> <li>Dissemination of health facility IPC advisory</li> <li>Dissemination of Lassa fever Healthcare worker advisories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPC training for Healthcare workers</li> </ul>
<b>Laboratory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnosis of all samples in the five Lassa fever testing laboratories across the country</li> <li>Establishment of Lassa fever testing Laboratory in FMC Owo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harmonisation of laboratory and surveillance data ongoing</li> </ul>
<b>Logistics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response commodities -PPEs, Ribavirin (injection and tablets), beds, tents, body-bags, thermometers, hypochlorite hand sanitizers, IEC materials, guidelines and SOPs distributed to states and treatment centres</li> </ul>	
<b>Research Pillar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lassa fever proposal development workshop for national level staff</li> </ul>	
<b>Risk communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of targeted risk communication activities in most affected States</li> <li>Dissemination of media content including press releases, tweets, public advisories etc.</li> <li>Lassa fever awareness and prevention campaign in FCT, Edo and Ondo supported by Hypo</li> </ul>	
<b>Surveillance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update of VHF Case Investigation Form (CIF) database</li> <li>Enhanced surveillance (contact tracing and active case finding) in affected states</li> <li>Cross border collaboration with Benin Republic on newly reported Lassa fever cases</li> </ul>	
<b>State Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-sectoral Public Health Emergency Operation Centres (PHEOC)activated in affected States</li> <li>High level advocacy visit by the Honourable Minister of Health and DG NCDC to Kano State</li> <li>Ondo State Governor provided two new Hilux vehicle for surveillance activities and 20 beds for treatment centre</li> <li>Edo State Governor inaugurated Lassa fever Task force to tackle Lassa fever in Edo state, provided PPE to ISTH</li> <li>Red Cross currently supporting six high burden states with surveillance and rodent control and risk communications activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support states to develop and implement Lassa fever response sustainability plan</li> <li>Operationalisation of LGA Sanitation desks by Environmental health officers in all states</li> </ul>
<b>Federal Ministry of Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Lassa fever Environmental response campaign in high burden states</li> </ul>	Implementation of regular sanitation exercise in all States

## Challenges

- Sustainability of Lassa fever outbreak response by States
- Poor environmental sanitation conditions observed in high burden communities
- Poor risk communication activities at the State level leading to late presentation of cases
- Poor IPC institutionalisation at State level and treatment centres

## Notes on this report

### Data Source

Information for this disease was case based data retrieved from the National Lassa fever Emergency Operations Centre.

### Case definitions

- **Suspected case:** any individual presenting with one or more of the following: malaise, fever, headache, sore throat, cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, myalgia, chest pain, hearing loss and either a. History of contact with excreta or urine of rodents b. History of contact with a probable or confirmed Lassa fever case within a period of 21 days of onset of symptoms OR Any person with inexplicable bleeding/hemorrhagia.
- **Confirmed case:** any suspected case with laboratory confirmation (positive IgM antibody, PCR or virus isolation)
- **Probable case:** any suspected case (see definition above) who died or absconded without collection of specimen for laboratory testing
- **Contact:** Anyone who has been exposed to an infected person, or to an infected person's secretions, excretions, or tissues within three weeks of last contact with a confirmed or probable case of Lassa fever
- **\*Healthcare workers(HCW) infections may not necessarily be of nosocomial origin**, proposed study to differentiate nosocomial healthcare worker infection from community infection

### Calculations

- Case Fatality Rate (CFR) for this disease is reported for confirmed cases only

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