



# Lassa fever Situation Report

Epi Week 5: 30 January – 05 February 2023

## Key Points

**Table 1: Summary of current week (5), cumulative Epi week 1-5, 2023 and comparison with previous year (2022)**

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 5)	455	106	1	15	14.2%	State(s): 12 LGA(s): 31
<b>2023 Cumulative</b> (week 1-5)	1831	464	0	69	14.9%	State(s): 20 LGA(s): 73
<b>2022 Cumulative</b> (week 5)	1386	294	18	48	16.3%	State(s): 17 LGA(s): 59

## Highlights

- In week 5, the number of new confirmed cases decreased from 117 in week 4 2023 to 106 cases. These were reported from Ondo, Edo, Ebonyi, Taraba, Bauchi, Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, Plateau, Niger, Cross River, and Enugu States (Table 3)
- Cumulatively from week 1 to week 5, 2023, 69 deaths have been reported with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 14.9% which is lower than the CFR for the same period in 2022 (16.3%)
- In total for 2023, 20 States have recorded at least one confirmed case across 73 Local Government Areas (Figures 2 and 3)
- Seventy-six (76%) of all confirmed Lassa fever cases were reported from these three states (Ondo, Edo, and Taraba) while 24% were reported from 9 states with confirmed Lassa fever cases. Of the 76% confirmed cases, Ondo reported 37%, Edo 32%, and Taraba 7%
- The predominant age group affected is 21-30 years (Range: 1 to 93 years, Median Age: 31 years). The male-to-female ratio for confirmed cases is 1:0.9 (Figure 4)
- The number of suspected cases increased compared to that reported for the same period in 2022.
- Eleven new Healthcare workers were affected in the reporting week 5
- National Lassa fever multi-partner, multi-sectoral Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) activated to coordinate the response activities at all levels

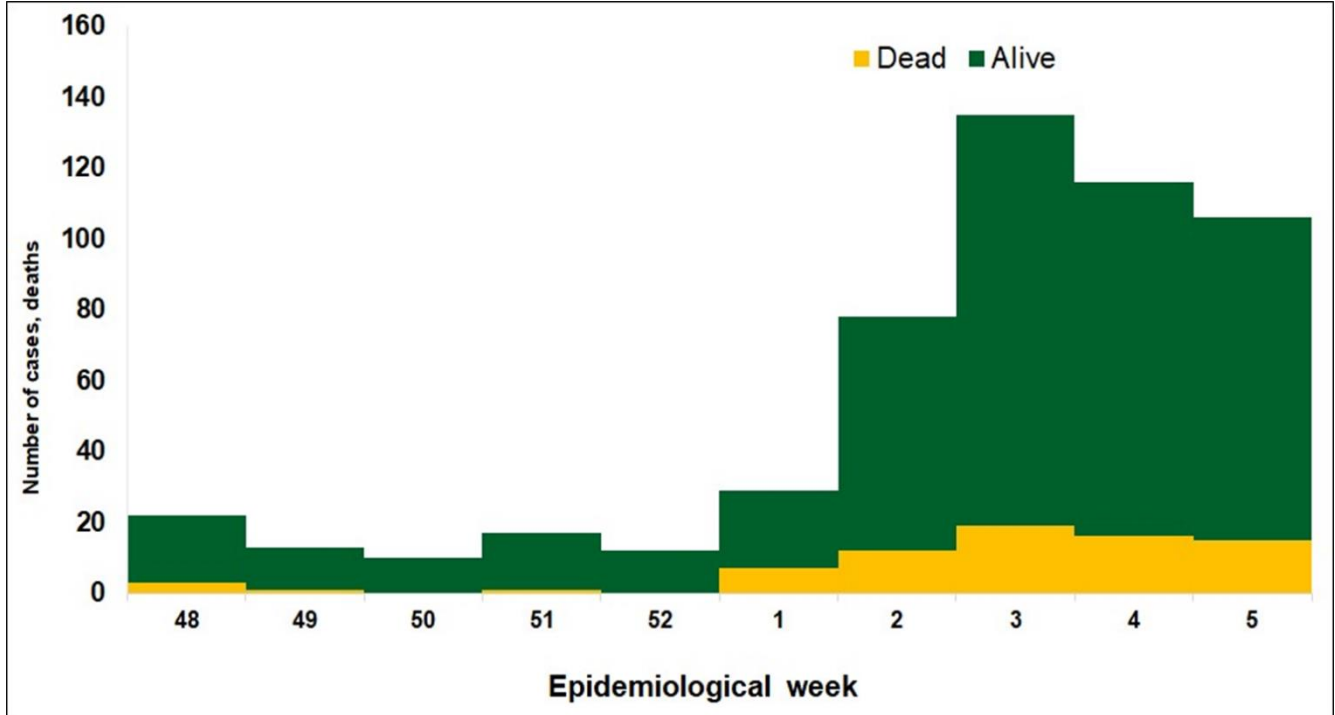


Figure 1. Confirmed Lassa fever cases in Nigeria epidemiological week 48, 2022 to week 5, 2023

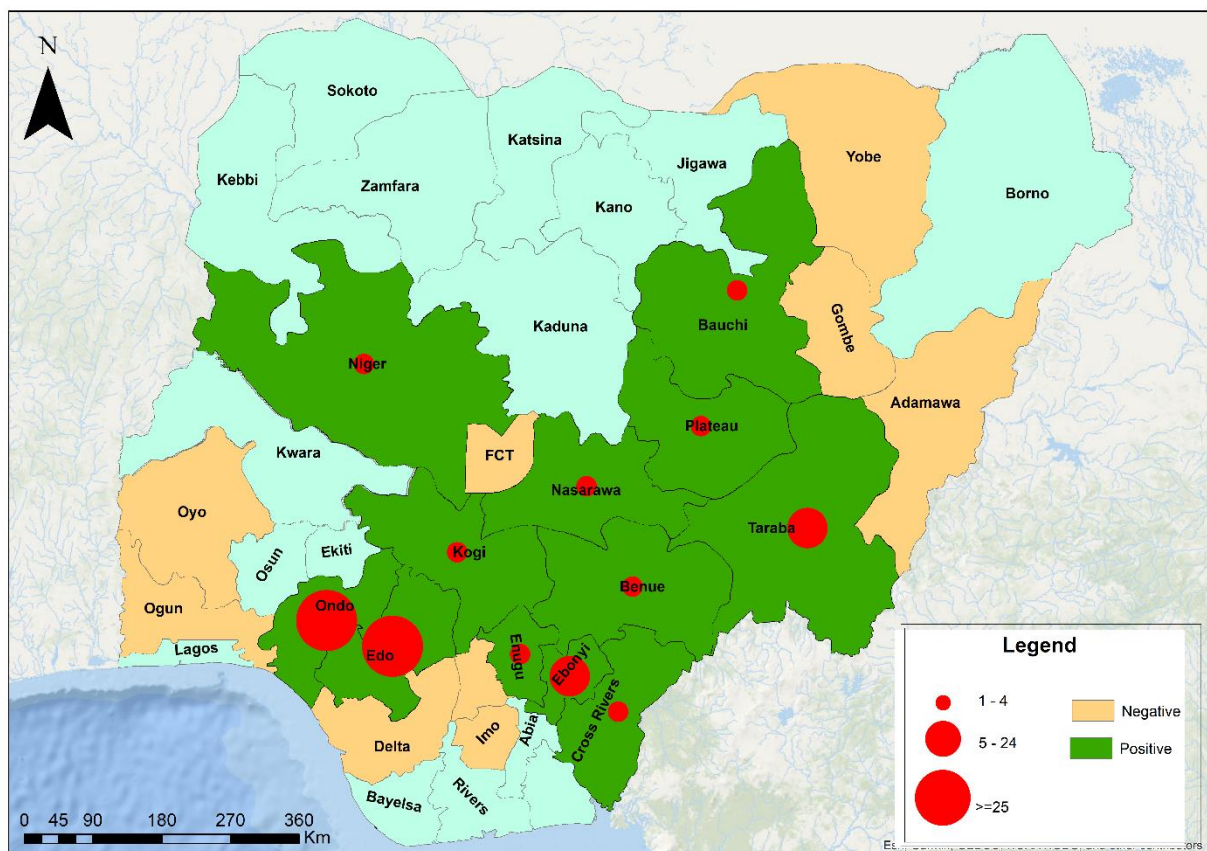


Figure 2. Confirmed Lassa fever cases by States in Nigeria, week 5, 2023

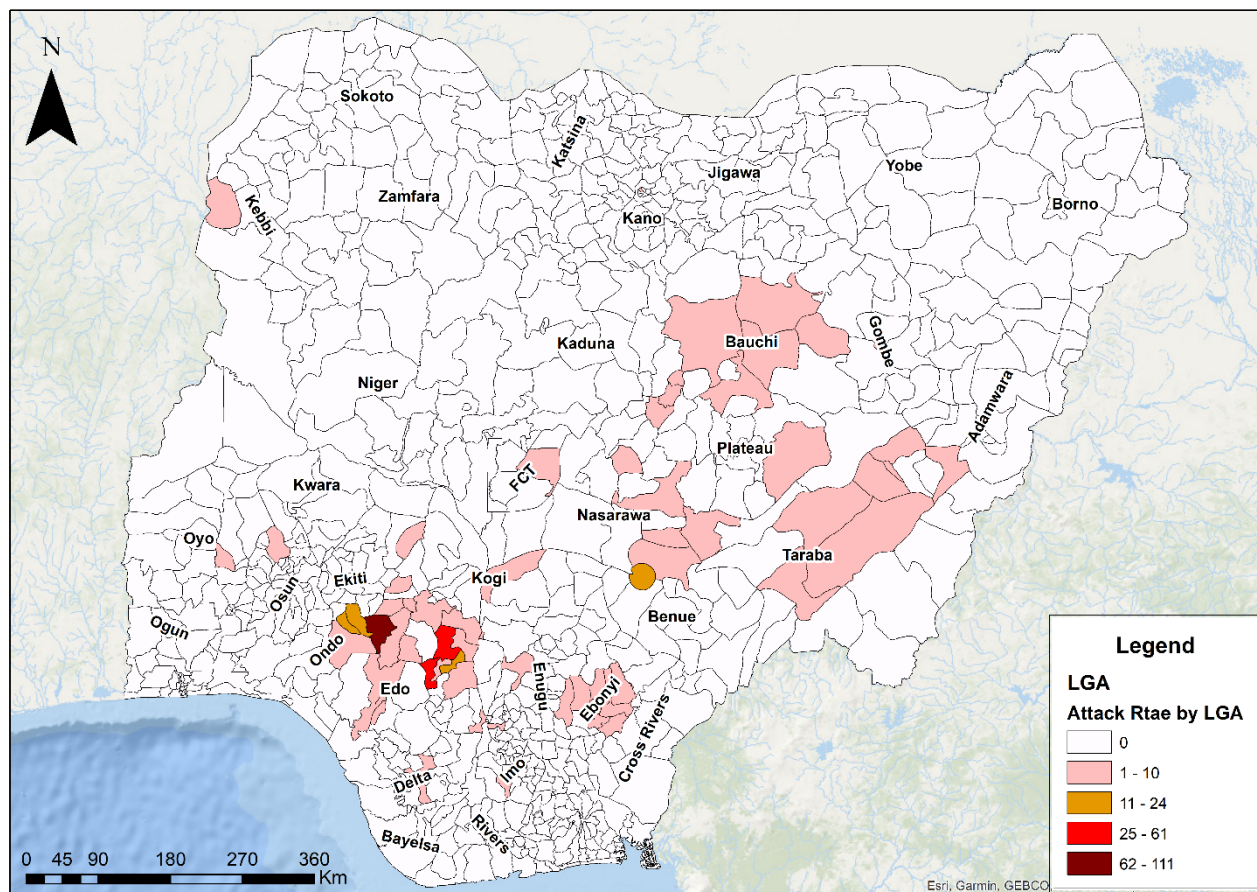


Figure 3. Confirmed Lassa fever rate per 100,000 population for LGAs in Nigeria, week 5, 2023

Table 2: Key indicators for current week 2023 and trend compared to previous week, Nigeria

Symptomatic contacts	Number for current week	Trend from previous week	Cumulative number for 2023
Probable cases	1	↑	1
Health Care Worker affected	11	↑	16
Cases managed at the treatment centres	91	↓	395
<b>Contact tracing</b>			
Cumulative contact listed	486	↑	1281
Contacts under follow up	865	↑	865
Contacts completed follow up	0	↔	415
Symptomatic contacts	0	↔	5
Positive contacts	0	↓	1
Contacts lost to follow up	0	↔	0

Key

- ↑ Increase
- ↓ Decrease
- ↔ No difference

Table 3. Weekly and Cumulative number of suspected and confirmed cases for 2023

States	Current week: (Week 5)						Cumulative (Week 1 - 5)					
	Cases				Deaths		Cases				Deaths	
	Suspected	Confirmed	Trend	Probable	HCW*	(Confirmed Cases)	Suspected	Confirmed	Probable	HCW*	(Confirmed Cases)	(Confirmed Cases)
1 Ondo	132	42	▲		1	3	510	172		1		13
2 Edo	183	35	▲		3	3	651	148		4		15
3 Taraba	16	6	▼		2	1	70	31		2		15
4 Bauchi	47	4	▼		1		211	25		4		3
5 Ebonyi	16	7			3	4	65	23		3		13
6 Benue	5	3	▼		1	2	35	18		1		3
7 Nasarawa	23	2	▼		1	1	72	12		2		2
8 Plateau	2	1	▼			1	31	10		1		1
9 Kogi	4	3	▲				18	8				
10 Enugu	7	1					18	3				1
11 Kano			▼				14	2				
12 Anambra	1						24	2				1
13 Fct	3		▼				36	2				
14 Delta	1		▼				12	2				
15 Adamawa	1						2	1				
16 Niger	1	1	▲				3	1				
17 Gombe	3		▼				8	1				
18 Oyo	1						4	1				
19 Imo	2						6	1				2
20 Cross River	1	1	▲				2	1				
21 Abia							1					
22 Bayelsa							1					
23 Akwa-Ibom							2					
24 Yobe	1						3					
25 Ekiti							1					
26 Ogun	5						9					
27 Rivers							3					
28 Kwara							5					
29 Osun							3					
30 Kaduna							3					
31 Lagos							7					
<b>Total</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>▼</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>69</b>

Key	
▼	Decrease
▲	Increase

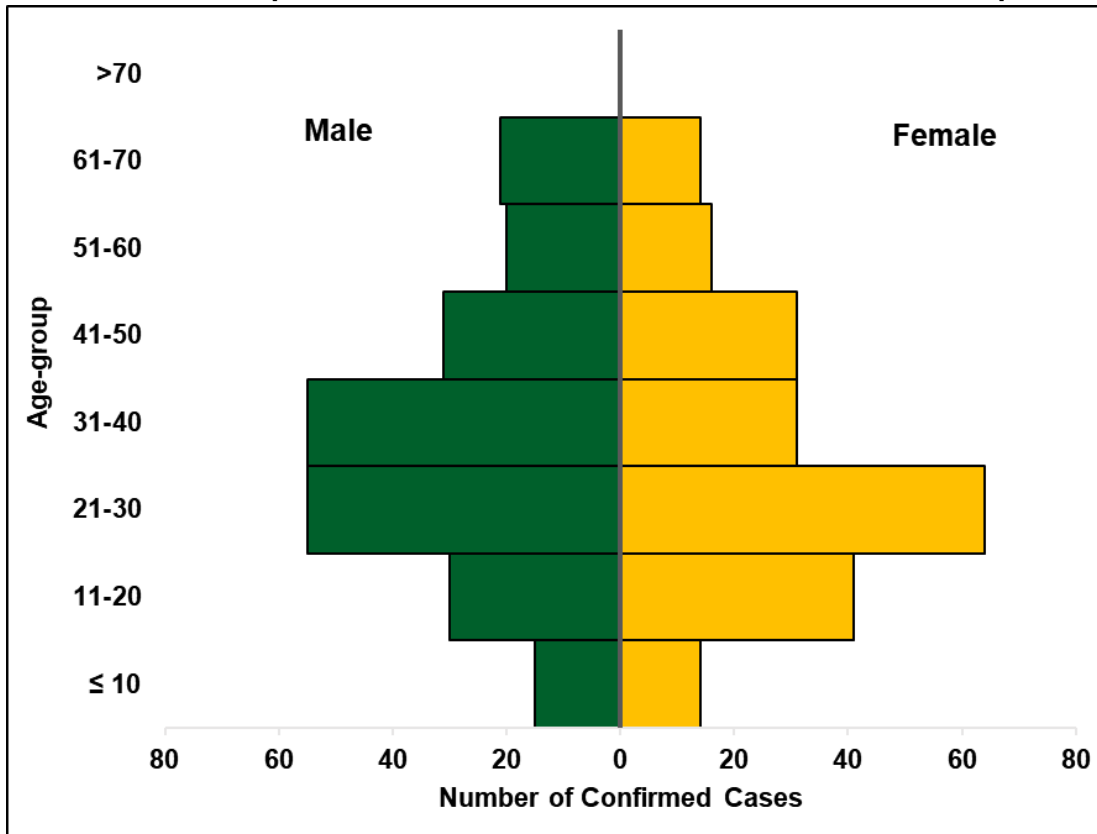


Figure 4. Age and sex pyramid showing the number of confirmed Lassa fever cases for 2023

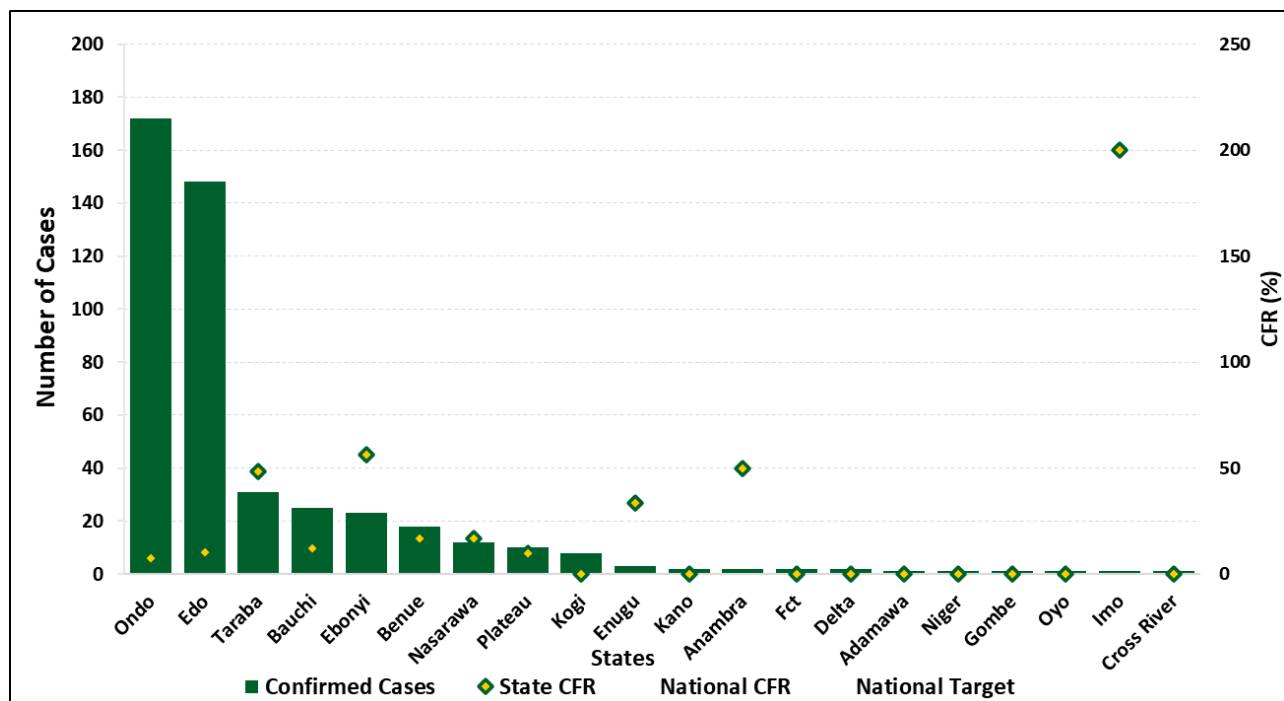


Figure 5: Number of confirmed cases with case fatality rate (CFR) by state week 5, 2023

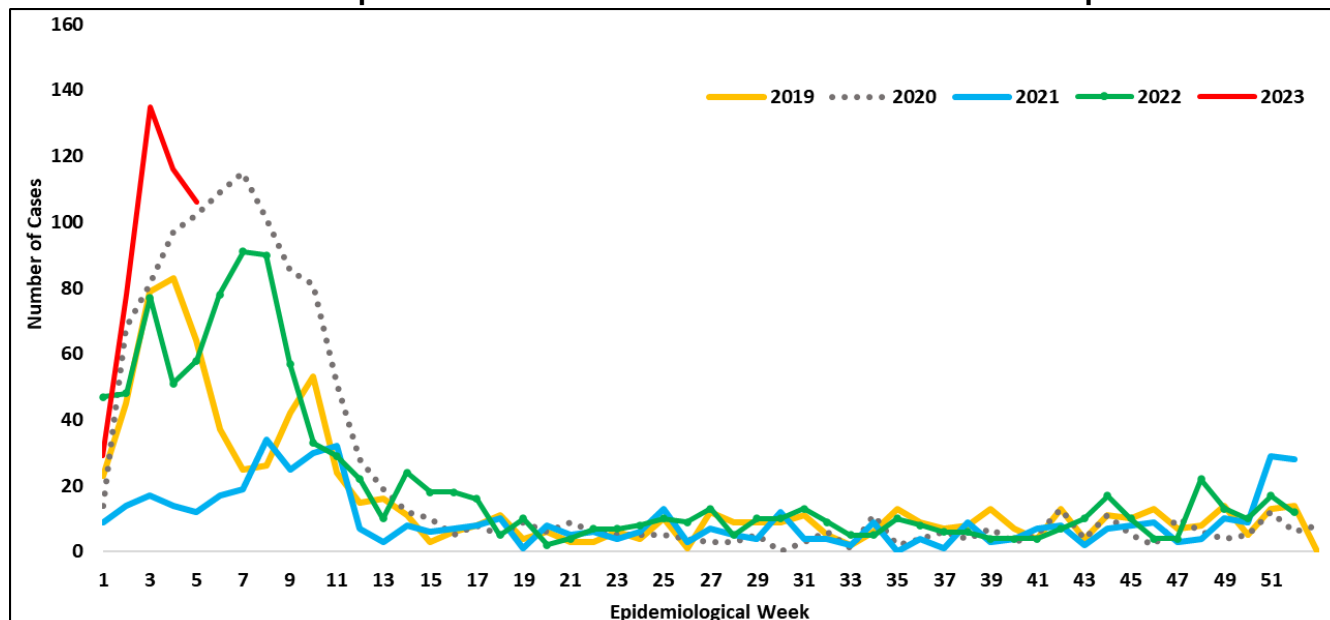


Figure 6: Trend of confirmed cases by epidemiological week, 2019– 2023, Nigeria

Table 5: Response activities

Pillar	Activities to date	Next steps
<b>Coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activation of Lassa Fever EOC</li> <li>Deployment of RRT to 6 states – Bauchi, Benue, Ebonyi, Edo, Ondo &amp; Taraba</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch and implementation of the Lassa fever five-year Strategic Plan</li> <li>Plan and carry out activities based on the Lassa Fever 2023 IAP</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>Mortality review of Lassa fever deaths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans to conduct Lassa Fever Case Management/ IPC training</li> <li>Training of HCWs on Lassa fever case management and psychosocial support</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> <li>In-depth investigation of healthcare worker infections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPC training for Health care workers</li> </ul>
<b>Laboratory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnosis of all samples in the Eight Lassa fever testing laboratories across the country</li> <li>External Quality Assurance (EQA) panel preparation for all testing laboratories ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of additional Lassa fever testing Laboratories</li> <li>Harmonisation of laboratory and surveillance data ongoing</li> </ul>
<b>Logistics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribution of response commodities -PPEs, Ribavirin (injection and tablets) body-bags, thermometers, hypochlorite hand sanitizers, IEC materials distributed to states and treatment centres</li> </ul>	
<b>Research Pillar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Nigeria Lassa fever epidemiological Study supported by CEPI</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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct national Lassa fever awareness and prevention campaign</li> </ul>
<b>Surveillance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update of VHF Case Investigation Form (CIF) database</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of national and State emergency composite indicators</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced surveillance (contact tracing and active case finding) in affected states.</li> <li>Monitoring of outbreak emergency composite indicators to guide action</li> <li>Designed a tool to collect geo-points for all Lassa fever confirmed cases in the States</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>Periodic implementation of vector control measures in Edo, Ondo and Ebonyi States</li> <li>Intensive response activities through a one-health approach in affected LGAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support states to develop and implement Lassa fever response sustainability plan</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>	Operationalization of LGA Sanitation desks by Environmental health officers in all States

## Challenges

- Late presentation of cases leading to an increase in CFR
- Poor health-seeking behaviour due to the high cost of treatment and clinical management of Lassa fever
- Poor awareness of Lassa fever in affected communities
- Poor environmental sanitation conditions observed in high-burden communities

## 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

### Calculations

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

### VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

For social mobilization [https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/83\\_1517222929.pdf](https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/83_1517222929.pdf)

For LGA Rapid Response Team [https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/82\\_1517222811.pdf](https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/82_1517222811.pdf)

Healthcare worker laboratory [https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/81\\_1517222763.pdf](https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/81_1517222763.pdf)

For healthcare workers [https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/80\\_1517222586.pdf](https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/80_1517222586.pdf)

For community informant [https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/79\\_1517222512.pdf](https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/79_1517222512.pdf)

### NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR LASSA FEVER CASE MANAGEMENT

[https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/protocols/92\\_1547068532.pdf](https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/protocols/92_1547068532.pdf)

**VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER AND RESPONSE PLAN**

[https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/protocols/24\\_1502192155.pdf](https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/protocols/24_1502192155.pdf)

**NATIONAL GUIDELINE FOR INFECTION, PREVENTION AND CONTROL FOR VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER**

[https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/protocols/24\\_1502192155.pdf](https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/protocols/24_1502192155.pdf)

**INFORMATION RESOURCE**

Nigeria Centre for Disease Control: [www.ncdc.gov.ng](http://www.ncdc.gov.ng)