



Lassa Fever Situation Report

Epi Week 52: 23rd – 29th December 2024

Key Points

Table 1: Summary of the current week (52), cumulative Epi week 52, 2024 and comparison with the previous year (2023)

Reporting Period	Suspected cases	Confirmed cases	Probable cases	Deaths (Confirmed cases)	Case Fatality Ratio (CFR)	States and LGAs affected (Confirmed cases)
Current week (week 52)	226	70	3	11	15.7%	State(s):7 LGA(s): 25
2024 Cumulative (week 52)	10098	1309	23	214	16.3%	State(s):28 LGA(s): 139
2023 Cumulative (week 52)	9155	1270	12	227	17.9%	State(s): 28 LGA(s): 124

Highlights

- In week 52, the number of new confirmed cases increased from 50 in epi week 51, 2024 to 70. These were reported in Ondo, Edo, Bauchi, Taraba, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Plateau States (Table 3)
- Cumulatively from week 1 to 52, 2024, 214 deaths have been reported with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 16.3% which is lower than the CFR for the same period in 2023 (17.9%)
- In total for 2024, 28 States have recorded at least one confirmed case across 139 Local Government Areas (Figures 2 and 3)
- Seventy-two (72%) of all confirmed Lassa fever cases were reported from these three states (Ondo, Edo, and Bauchi) while 28% were reported from 25 states with confirmed Lassa fever cases. Of the 72% confirmed cases, Ondo reported 31%, Edo 22%, and Bauchi 19%
- The predominant age group affected is 21-30 years (Range: 1 to 98 years, Median Age: 32 years). The male-to-female ratio for confirmed cases is 1:1 (Figure 4)
- The number of suspected cases increased compared to that reported for the same period in 2023.
- No new Healthcare worker was affected in the reporting week 52.
- National Lassa fever multi-partner, multi-sectoral Incident Management System (IMS) activated to coordinate the response activities at all levels.

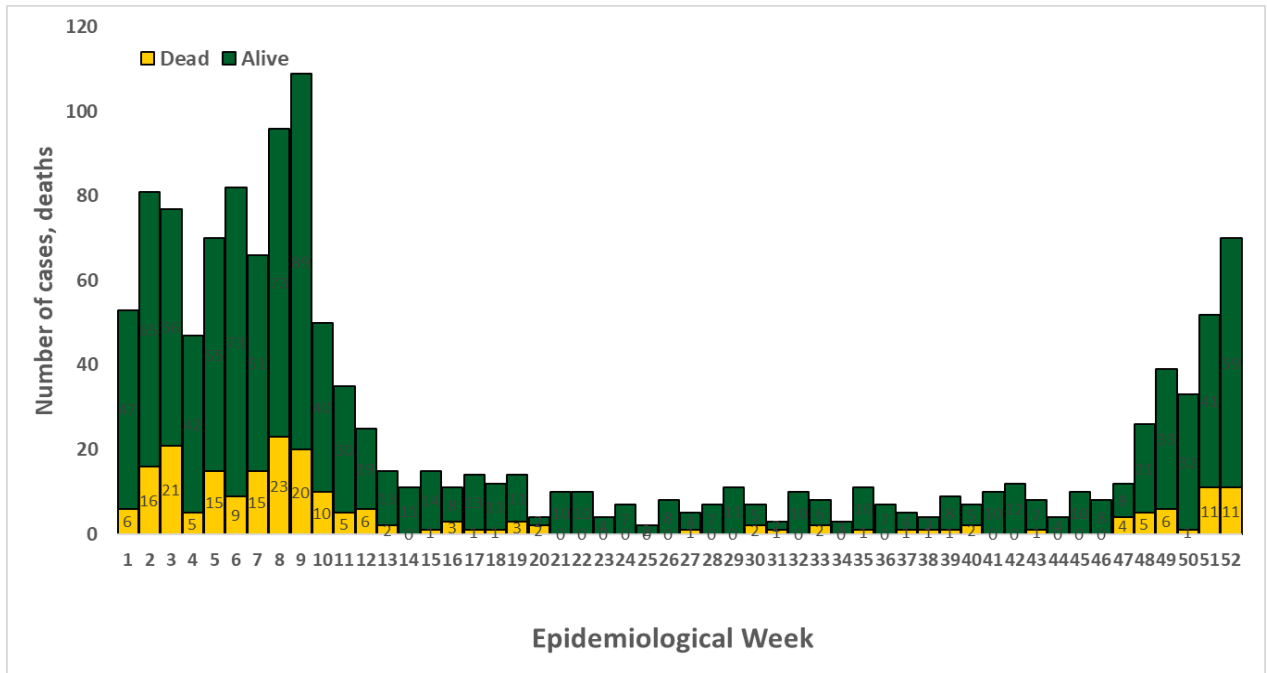


Figure 1: Confirmed Lassa Fever Cases in Nigeria Epidemiological Week 52, 2024

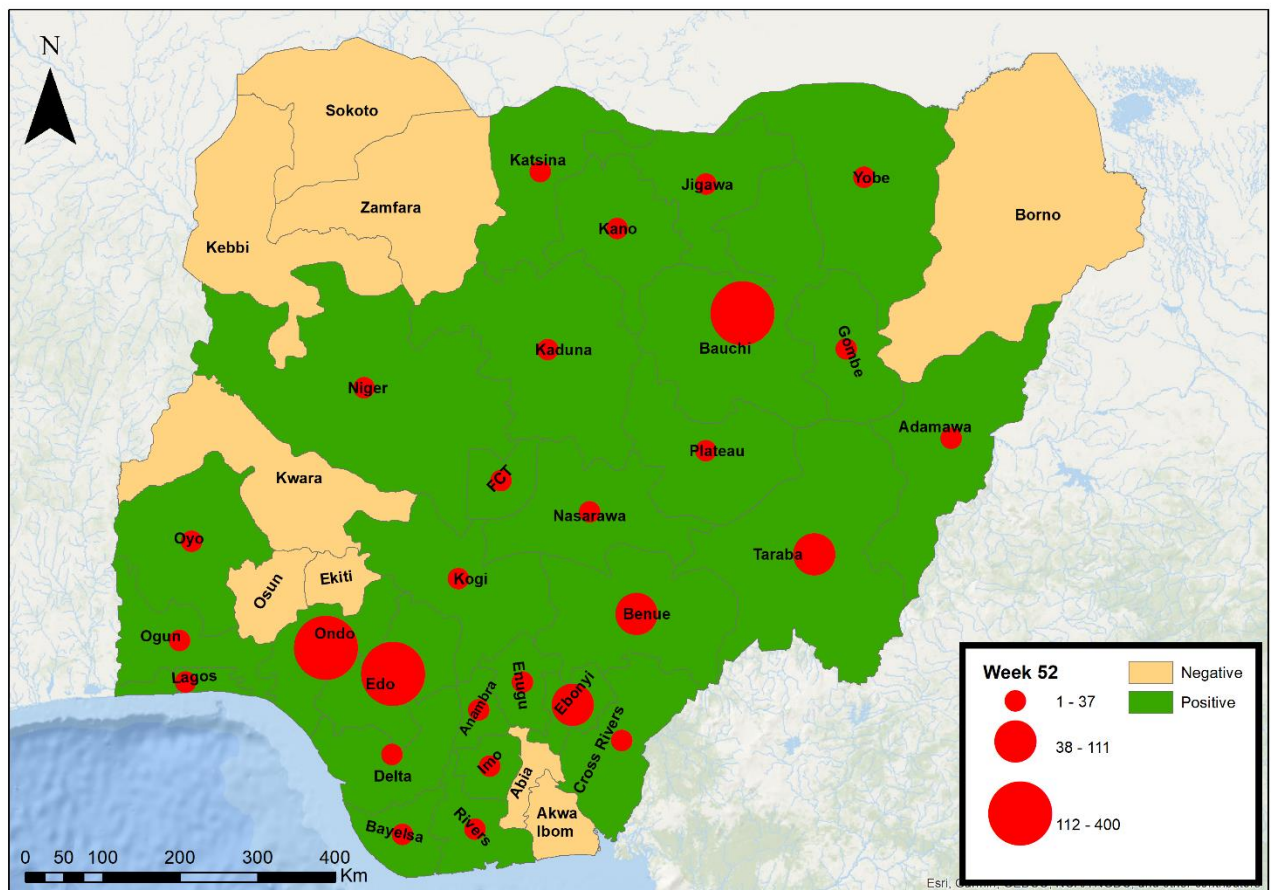


Figure 2: Confirmed Lassa Fever Cases by States in Nigeria, Week 52, 2024

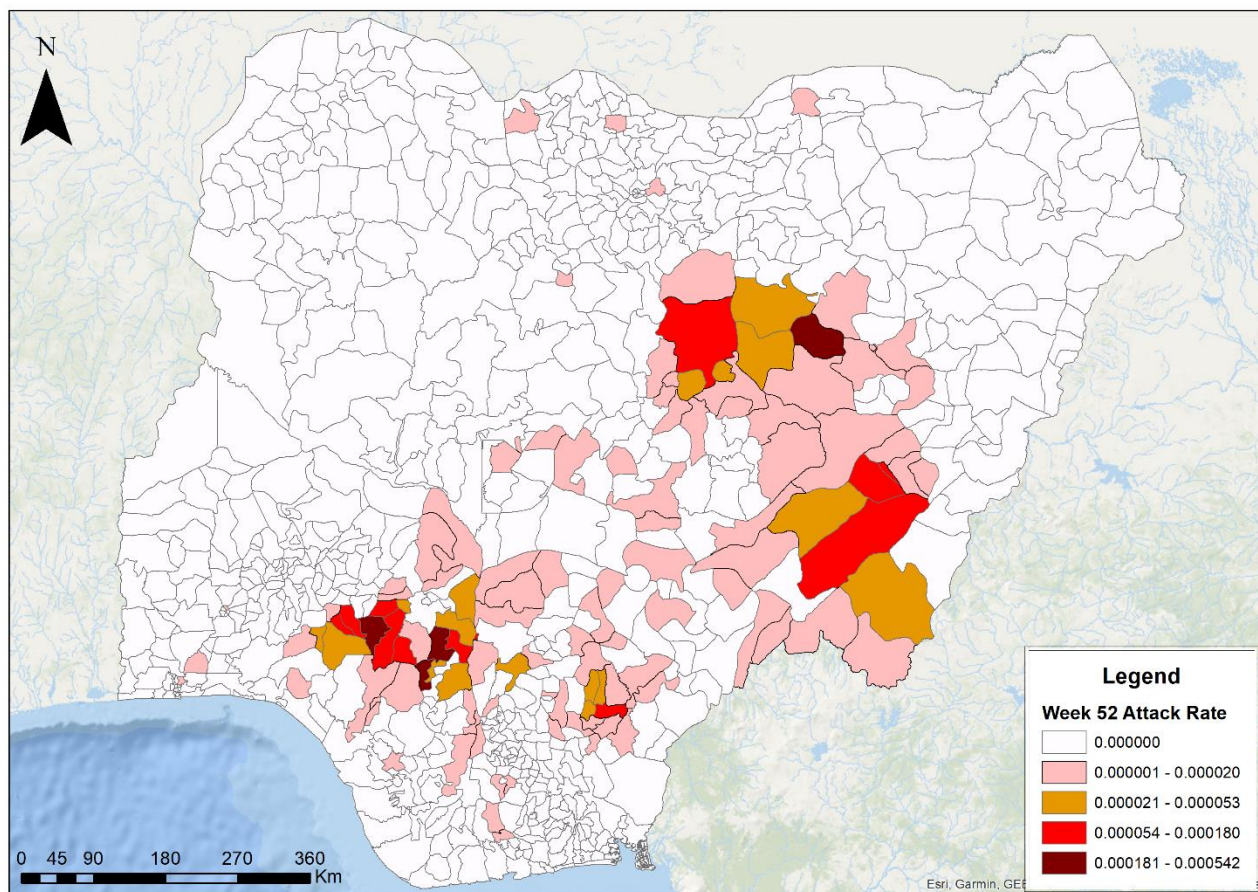


Figure 3: Confirmed Lassa Fever Attack Rate per 100,000 Population for LGAs in Nigeria, Week 52, 2024

Table 2: Key Indicators for the Current Week in 2024 and Trend Compared to the Previous Week, Nigeria

Symptomatic contacts	Number for current week	Trend from previous week	Cumulative number for 2024
Probable cases	3	↑	23
Health Care Worker affected	0	↔	35
Cases managed at the treatment centres	59	↑	1186
Contact tracing			
Cumulative contact listed	17	↑	3864
Contacts under follow up	35	↓	35
Contacts completed follow up	4	↓	3782
Symptomatic contacts	0	↔	67
Positive contacts	0	↔	31
Contacts lost to follow up	0	↔	15

Key
 ↑ Increase
 ↓ Decrease
 ↔ No difference

Table 3: Weekly and Cumulative Number of Suspected and Confirmed Cases for 2024

States	Current week: (Week 52)					Cumulative (Week 1 - 52)				
	Cases				Deaths (Confirmed Cases)	Cases				Deaths (Confirmed Cases)
	Suspected	Confirmed	Trend	Probable HCW*		Suspected	Confirmed	Probable HCW*		
1 Ondo	76	28	▲		1	2613	400		4	27
2 Edo	62	16	▲		2	3103	289		2	30
3 Bauchi	49	13	▼	3	6	1143	253	6	3	55
4 Taraba	20	7	▲		1	301	112		3	23
5 Benue						1072	64	9	8	11
6 Ebonyi	6	3	▲		1	382	53		7	29
7 Kogi	1		▼			158	37	1	1	4
8 Plateau	1	1	▼			115	17			1
9 Kaduna						127	15	2	3	8
10 Enugu	3	2	▲			126	15			2
11 Cross River						64	8			2
12 Rivers						75	6			3
13 Delta	1					100	5			2
14 Nasarawa	1					72	5		1	1
15 Gombe						64	5	5		2
16 Anambra						47	4		1	3
17 Niger						13	3			2
18 Adamawa	1					21	3			
19 Imo						41	3		1	3
20 Jigawa						26	2			1
21 Bayelsa	1					27	2			1
22 Fct	1					76	2			
23 Katsina						24	1			1
24 Kano						58	1			
25 Oyo						41	1			1
26 Lagos	1					49	1			
27 Ogun						39	1		1	1
28 Yobe						24	1			1
29 Sokoto						10				
30 Kebbi						8				
31 Zamfara						3				
32 Akwa Ibom						8				
33 Ekiti	1					17				
34 Kwara						10				
35 Borno	1					13				
36 Osun						8				
37 Abia						20				
Total	226	70	▲	3	11	10098	1309	23	35	214

Key	
▼	Decrease
▲	Increase

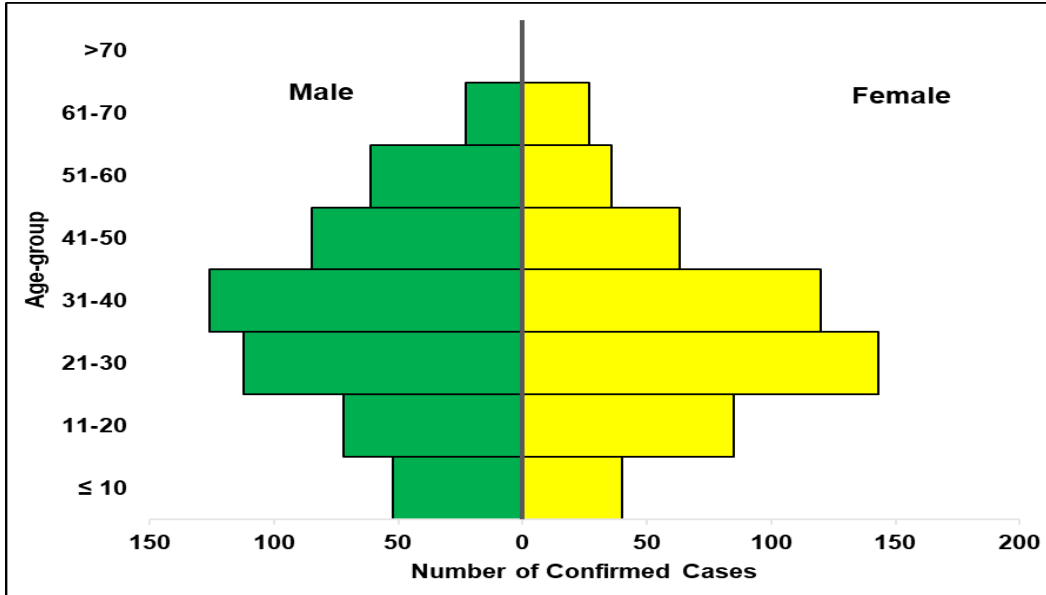


Figure 4: Age and Sex Pyramid Showing the Number of Confirmed Lassa Fever Cases for 2024

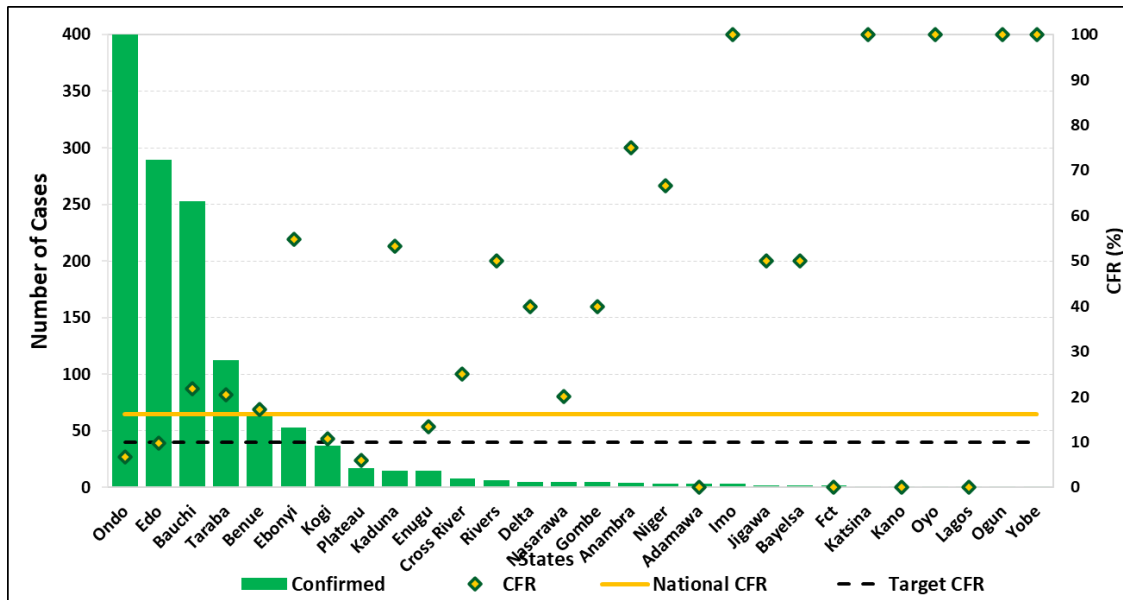


Figure 5: Number of Confirmed Cases with Case Fatality Rate (CFR) by State, Week 52, 2024

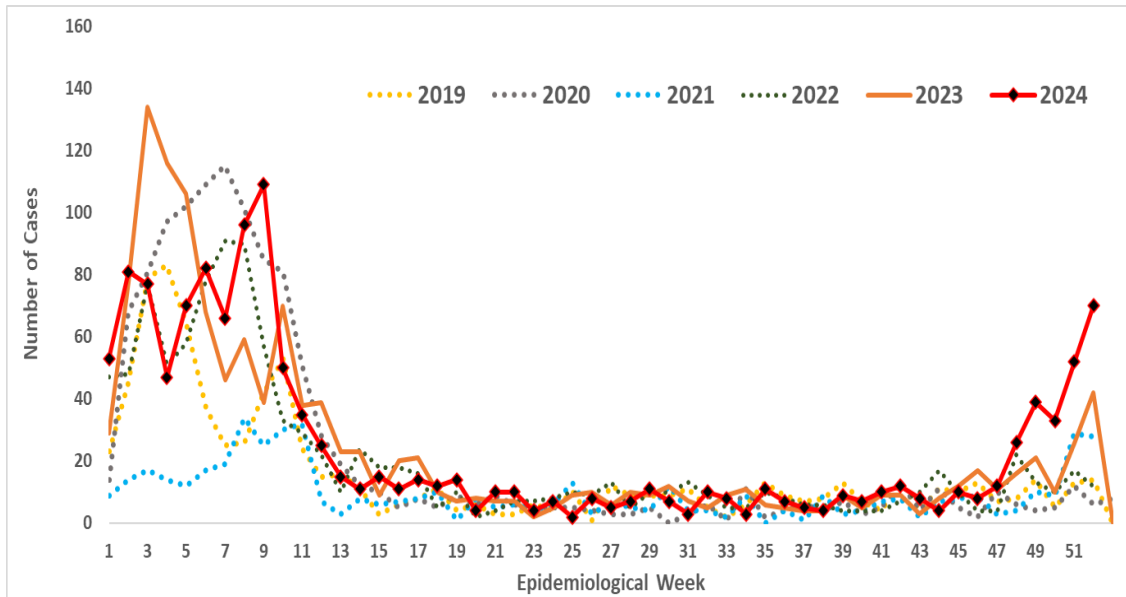


Figure 6: Trend of Confirmed Cases by Epidemiological Week, 2019–2024, Nigeria

- Disseminated Lassa Fever alert letters to the 37 states and the FCT
- Conducted a community KAP survey in 3 States- Bauchi, Ebonyi, and Edo
- Conducted the Lassa fever risk assessment in preparation for the 2025 outbreak season
- Activation of the Lassa Fever Incident Management System coordinated at the National Public Health Emergency Operation Centre
- Conducted the Lassa Fever Laboratory webinar series with focus on enhancing laboratory preparedness for Lassa fever outbreaks: strategies and best practices
- Conducted the Lassa Fever IPC webinar series with focus on building IPC programs and ensuring healthcare worker safety confirmation
- Conducted the Lassa fever case management webinar series with focus on high index of suspicion for Lassa Fever and treatment center readiness
- Conducted the Lassa fever surveillance webinar series with focus on Lassa fever surveillance, case detection and data management
- Conducted the Lassa fever RCCE webinar series on the role of sociocultural context in effective community involvement confirmation
- Analysed the readiness assessment across the 36 states and the FCT
- Participated in a learning visit to the Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia (MRCG) at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) Held the 1st Webinar in the series in collaboration with the RCCE pillar/partners
- Developed a robust Health Promotion/Disease Prevention (HP/DP) strategy
- Rehosted the Lassa fever clinical IDSR course in partnership with RTSL, NPHCDA and AFENET
- Distributed the implementation plan for the Lassa fever webinar series to all pillars
- Provided feedback to all States sending daily and weekly situation
- Assessing all 36 states and the FCT on the level of readiness to guide the webinar series and future partnerships
- Developed a plan to host the 2024/2025 Lassa fever readiness webinar series
- Successful dialogue with States to review channels of communication for timely support
- Engaging with MSF Swiss on mutual areas of collaboration
- Shared updates on the 'Enable LF program-1.5' with funding from CEPI
- Sent out alerts notification through the Nigeria Preparedness and Readiness Alert System (NPRAS)
- Harmonization of the risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) data collection tools for different diseases
- Conducted a mini-stakeholder review meeting on the finalization of the Lassa Fever five-year strategy
- Participated in the One Health stakeholders' collaboration meeting convened by the Federal Ministry of Environment, supported by Breakthrough Action Nigeria
- Developed and disseminated SMS on LF with the support of Breakthrough Action Nigeria (BA-N) in Benue State
- Collaboration with all stakeholders to source funding for key preparedness activities
- Finalization of the preparedness tracker by the HEPR Department to alert, monitor and evaluate key preparedness activities
- Lassa fever laboratory network meeting held to bolster ongoing efforts in identifying and closing gaps
- Participated in the on-site implementation of optimizing the LISTEN approach for Lassa fever control in Ondo State supported by Georgetown University
- Took part in the Joint Review of National Red Cross Society 2024 Lassa fever DREF Operation
- Conducted the 2024 National Lassa Fever After Action Review (AAR) Workshop
- Co-facilitated the co-design workshop on Lassa fever with the intended audience in Bauchi and Ondo States
- Lassa fever Taskforce Secretariat held a meeting with CEPI
- Coordinating with pillar leads on the successful implementation of key recommendations of the dynamic risk assessment
- Deactivated the Incident Management System after conducting a dynamic risk assessment; Technical Working Group to coordinate activities on alert mode, with enhanced surveillance
- Launched a short course on Lassa fever in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives (RSTL) and NPHCDA
- Review of the LF case management screening tool developed by MSF, with Q1 data shared for analysis
- Collaborated with Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) to train volunteers on RCCE Key messages for LF
- Assessment completed for UDUTH Sokoto and BCVL Ibandan testing labs

- Optimization of UBTH Benin and FMC Makurdi laboratories
- Review of the impact of the Fellows of the Pilot Lassa fever Clinical Management Fellowship on the ongoing outbreak
- Environmental Health/One Health intervention in Ebonyi State – Planning meeting
- Held an entry engagement meeting with the Nigerian Red Cross and IFRC on the implementation of the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) project
- Supported field deployments for Environmental and Rodent Control Intervention for Lassa fever in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Environment
- Continuous media scanning and analysis for Infodemic management
- Conducted an Early Action Review (EAR) using the 7-1-7 timeliness metrics
- Developed a concept note for Joint Case Management & IPC training with support from WHO and GU.
- Monthly engagement meeting with State Epidemiologists
- Dissemination of the LF radio drama on social media
- Training of Trainers workshop of One Health partners on rodent control and Lassa fever prevention led by the Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with BA-N
- Fumigation and decontamination exercise in households of confirmed cases in Ebonyi state with support from MSF
- Conducted LF KAP survey across states where RRT are deployed
- Provided offsite support to all teams deployed in collaboration with the Response Division of HEPR
- Participated in the HIV SPiCE weekly special session on Lassa fever in collaboration with US CDC
- Deployed National Rapid Response Teams to eight (8) states
- Sensitization on IPC for frontline Healthcare workers to increase index of suspicion for LF in 3 hotspot LGAs in Bauchi State
- Monitoring and evaluation of IAP activities while continuing implementation of the approved IAP activities in collaboration with all pillars and partners
- Held a meeting with the state lab focal persons in collaboration with the lab pillar
- Distribution of oral Ribavirin to hot-spot states
- IPC Guideline development workshop held in Bauchi State supported by World Bank/CoPREP
- Shared report on retrospective social listening of Lassa fever conversations from December 2023 to February 2024
- Engagement with all State Health Promotion Officers on activities being conducted for LF and other diseases
- Meeting with Partners on areas of collaboration and support for Lassa fever
- Participated in a consultative meeting to improve rodent control interventions in response to the Lassa fever outbreaks - led by the Federal Ministry of Environment
- Held a meeting of the Task Team on Effective Vaccine for Lassa fever in Nigeria
- Coordinating the implementation of IPC Programmes at Designated treatment Centres and health facilities through continuous preparedness, readiness, and response activities.
- Identifying and updating the IPC Focal person database for health facilities in all the states.
- Engaging with IPC structures in the States, the Orange network, designated treatment Centres and Health Facilities at all levels on adherence to standard precautions by Health Care Workers to curb Hospital Acquired Infections (HAIs), especially in high burden LGAs and States
- Media appearance for updates on the Lassa fever outbreak response
- Held technical meeting with subnational teams for the month of February for synchronization of LF surveillance and response
- Concluded the Lassa fever readiness webinar series
- Provided support to all States sending daily and weekly situation reports
- Press briefing on “Preventing Lassa fever together”
- Off-site support to states including medical countermeasures
- Confirmed cases are treated at identified treatment centres across the states
- Dissemination of reviewed case management and safe burial practices guidelines
- Diagnosis of all samples in Lassa fever testing laboratories across the country
- Reports on the preparedness survey in the 36 States and FCT to assess preparedness, readiness, and response to Lassa fever disseminated
- Dissemination of media content including press releases, tweets, public advisories, etc.
- Held the 1st Lassa Fever webinar for 2024 focused on “Empowering Communities to Combat Lassa Fever”
- Held a meeting with CEPI to strengthen the implementation of research activities both during the outbreak and at *peace* time.

- Activation of multi-sectoral incident management system for Lassa fever coordinated from the Public Health Emergency Operation Centres (PHEOC) at the National and some affected States
- Participated in the Inaugural Meeting of Community Advisory Board for the Research on Lassa fever phase 2 vaccine trial

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 environmental sanitation conditions observed in high-burden communities
- Poor awareness 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 Technical Working Group.

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/haemorrhage.
- **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

For LGA Rapid Response Team 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

For healthcare workers https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/vhfs/80_1517222586.pdf

For community informants 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

VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER AND RESPONSE PLAN

https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/protocols/24_1502192155.pdf

NATIONAL GUIDELINE FOR INFECTION, PREVENTION AND CONTROL FOR VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER INFORMATION RESOURCE

https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/docs/protocols/341_1707300274.pdf

Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention: www.ncdc.gov.ng

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