

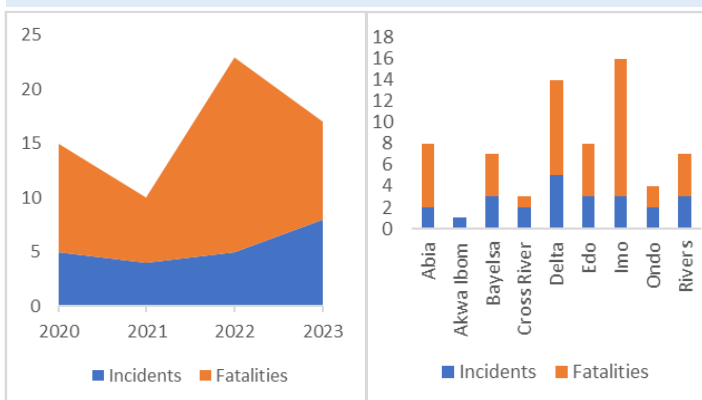
Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing and Mitigating Outbreak of Lassa Fever in the Niger Delta

April 14-20, 2024

Background

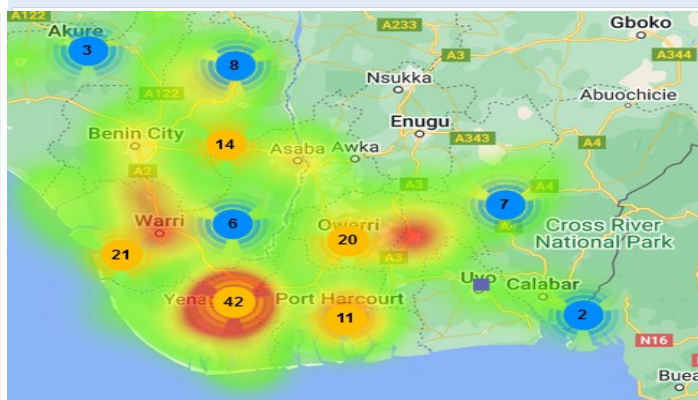
This special edition of the weekly update spotlights emerging threats to public health and human security in the Niger Delta with a focus on the outbreak of Lassa fever in the region. Lassa Fever is a zoonotic and acute viral disease caused by the Lassa virus. It is transmitted through food and household items contaminated by infected rodents and contact with infected persons. Symptoms include fever, weakness, headache, cough, diarrhea, chest pain and breathing problems. It is an epidemic-prone infectious disease with significant public health consequences. Recent epidemiological data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) shows a resurgence of Lassa fever in Edo and Ondo States. According to NCDC's Lassa fever Situation Report, as of March 31, 2024, 46% of 806 new confirmed cases in Nigeria were reported in Ondo and Edo States. According to data, more than 370 confirmed cases of Lassa fever and over 35 fatalities were reported in Ondo and Edo State during the period. Confirmed cases and related fatalities were also reported in Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Imo and Rivers State during the period.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Disease Outbreak in the Niger Delta



Data shows that Imo and Delta States had the highest number of fatalities caused by disease outbreaks during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Heat Map of Infectious Disease Related Incidents in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of infectious disease outbreaks in the Niger Delta from January 2020 - December 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

Epidemiological data shows that Lassa fever outbreak is increasingly becoming seasonal in the Niger Delta, especially in Ondo and Edo States. The seasonal outbreak of Lassa fever could endanger public health and human security in the region. The recurrent outbreak of this infectious and epidemic-prone disease could bring about serious socio-economic and political repercussions, especially against the backdrop of inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities in rural communities, and perennial flooding in the Niger Delta.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on recent trends and historical data on Lassa fever outbreaks in the Niger Delta, the infection rate of the disease could rise, especially against the backdrop of widespread contamination of water sources as a result of recurrent flooding linked to climate change in the region. Peace and development actors should collaborate with the NCDC and other government agencies and media outfits to sensitize the public about the recent Lassa fever outbreak, and advise residents on appropriate preventive and remedial measures.

Contact Us

Inquiries: PINDfoundation.org

Contacts: info@PINDfoundation.org +234 (0) 9 291 0454

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Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222/0912 233 4455**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



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