Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing and Mitigating Outbreak of Cholera in the Niger Delta

June 23-29, 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 cholera outbreak in the region. Cholera is a diarrheal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the *Vibrio cholerae* Bacterium. Symptoms include watery diarrhea, vomiting, muscle cramps, and dehydration. It is an epidemic-prone infectious disease with significant public health consequences. According to epidemiological data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), as at June 2024, a total of 882 suspected cases of cholera including 16 deaths have been reported across 30 States in Nigeria including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, and eight out of the nine States in the Niger Delta. According to NCDC's <u>Cholera Situation Report</u>, as of June 2, 2022, more than 70% of all suspected cases were reported in the Niger Delta. 50% (442) of all suspected cases in the country were reported in Bayelsa State. Southern Ijaw LGA in Bayelsa State with 146 cases, accounts for 16.6% of all suspected cases reported in the country. Abia and Delta States had the highest number of cholera related deaths during the period, with Case Fatality Ratio (CFR) of 7.8% and 11.8% respectively.

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



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

Why it Matters

Epidemiological data shows that outbreak of cholera is increasingly becoming seasonal and prevalent in the Niger Delta. 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 many rural communities, and perennial flooding in the Niger Delta. If not mitigated the disease could proliferate and cause more deaths and overwhelm healthcare facilities in the region.

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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 - April 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Based on recent trends and historical data, the infection rate of the disease could rise, especially against the backdrop of contamination of water sources due to heavy rainfall linked to climate change. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (<u>NIMET</u>) recently predicted heavy rainfall and flash floods in many States in the Niger Delta. Stakeholders should work with the NCDC and other government agencies and media outfits to intensify public health campaigns, and advise residents on appropriate preventive and remedial measures.

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.

