



SITREP NO: 21



SITUATION: LASSA FEVER	LOCATION: LIBERIA
DATE OF REPORT: AUGUST 25, 2022	OUTBREAK START DATE: 6 JANUARY 2022
REPORTING PERIOD	AUGUST 15 -21, 2022

Highlights

- No new confirmed case reported
- Twenty-seven (27) contacts under follow up
- Cumulative CFR: 30% (10/33)

Situational Context

Lassa fever remains a major public health concern in Liberia and West Africa at large. To date, seven (7) out of the fifteen (15) counties (Bong, Grand Bassa, Nimba, Margibi, Lofa, Montserrado, and Grand Kru) have reported confirmed cases. Of these, Bong, Grand Bassa, and Nimba counties are endemic, while Margibi, Lofa, Montserrado, and Grand Kru have reported sporadic cases.

In 2021, the country experienced a total of 12 outbreaks including 25 laboratory confirmed cases with 15 deaths accounting for 60% case fatality rate (CFR). These outbreaks generated a total of 325 contacts of which 196 were healthcare workers (HCWs).

Since 2022 to date, the country has experienced 5 outbreaks. The first outbreak commenced on January 6 in the Sugar Hill Community, Jorquelleh District, Bong County. This has been a sustained outbreak and has recorded fourteen (14) confirmed cases including three (3) deaths (CFR 21.4%). The second outbreak began on January 17, 2022 in Nimba County and recorded seven (7) confirmed cases including four (4) deaths (CFR 57.1%) and ended April 15, 2022. The third outbreak was a sustained outbreak in Grand Bassa County that began on November 5, 2021. This outbreak recorded five (5) confirmed cases including one (1) death (CFR 20%) and ended on April 2, 2022. The fourth outbreak occurred in Grand Bassa County on May 5, 2022 and has recorded a total of six (6) confirmed cases including one death (CFR 16.7%). The fifth outbreak began in Nimba County and has recorded one confirmed case (CFR 100%).

Nimba County: Sanniquellie-Mah District

- **T. K**, a 33-year-old female and resident of the Blagay's Town Community, Ganta City, Sanniquellie-Mah District.
 - Onset of illness was 26th July 2022 and presented with fever, stomach hurting, weakness, and headache, vomiting and diarrhea for two weeks.
 - Taken to the Ganta United Methodist Hospital ER on the 9th of August 2022 and suspected of Lassa fever
 - Case expired on 9th of August 2022.
 - A post-mortem blood specimen was collected on the 9th of August 2022 and sent to NRL
 - A total of 27 contacts were generated including 17 HCWs who are correctly under follow up

- On the 15th of August 2022, a positive Lassa fever result was released by the National Reference Laboratory (NRL)
- This is the second outbreak for Nimba County since this year

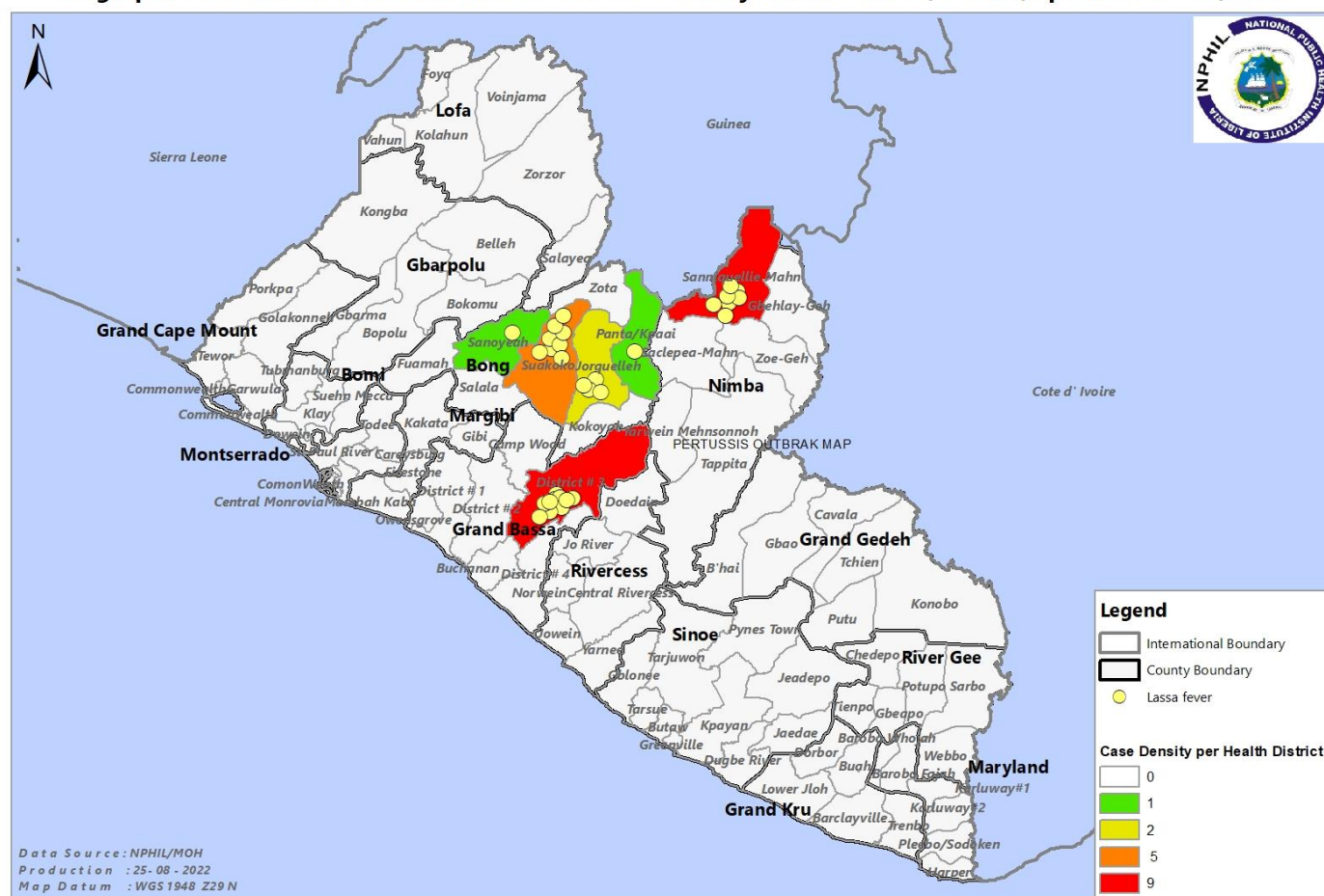
Bong County: Suakoko District

- No new case reported
- Countdown to end of outbreak (31 days gone)
- Cumulatively, fourteen (14) confirmed cases reported including three (3) deaths (CFR 21.4%)
- Total of 174 contacts including 104 HCWS have been line listed (163 completed 21days follow up)

Table 1: Summary of Lassa fever Outbreaks, Liberia, January 6 – August 25, 2022

Total suspected cases reported to the national level	102
Total samples collected	101
Total samples tested	99
Total samples rejected by the Laboratory	2
Total Laboratory confirmed	33
Total negative	66
Total samples not collected	1
Total samples pending testing	0
Total confirmed cases alive	23
Total deaths among confirmed cases	10
Overall case fatality rate	30%
Total counties in outbreak phase	2
Total confirmed cases in isolation	0
Total suspected cases in isolation	0
Total counties with confirmed case (s) in isolation	0

Geographical Distribution of Confirmed Lassa fever cases by Health District, Liberia, Epi week 1 - 33 , 2022



Public Health Interventions

Since the inception of 2022 outbreaks, several measures including response initiatives have been instituted including surveillance and laboratory testing, vector surveillance and control, case management, etc. The objective of these response mechanisms is aimed at protecting the at-risk populations; prevent international spread; containing outbreaks rapidly. Below are details of the measures taken in the ongoing outbreak:

I. Coordination

- National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and Ministry of Health (MOH) are providing technical and logistical support to County Health Teams with support from partners.

II. Epidemiological Surveillance

- Active case search ongoing in affected districts and communities
- Contacts identified, line listed, and followed up

III. Laboratory

- The National Reference Laboratory continues testing of Lassa fever samples
- Total of 32 Lassa fever cases have been confirmed since this outbreak

IV. Case management

- Cases isolated and managed at designated facilities
- Reported cases have been administered ribavirin treatment

V. Environmental and Vector Control

- Affected communities are encouraged to enhance clean-up campaigns and conduct rodent control measures

VI. Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Risk communication and community engagement ongoing in affected and surrounding communities
 - IEC messages are being used to sensitize affected communities

Key Challenges

- Late arrival of cases at health facilities
- Limited number of trained clinical staff to improve case detection, management and reinforce IPC
- Inadequate IEC materials for community sensitization
- Inadequate logistics to enhance case investigation and contact classifications; community specific risk communication and intensify engagement with local leaders and special vulnerable group

Table 2: Summary of Lassa fever Outbreaks, Liberia, January 6 – August 25, 2022

Description	NATIONAL	Bong	G.Bassa	Lofa	Margibi	Montserrado	Nimba	Bomi	Gbarpolu	G Kru	Maryland	Rivercess
New cases												
New case/s (Suspected)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
New case/s (Probable)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New case/s (Confirmed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total suspected cases	102	44	25	0	0	9	19	0	0	4	1	0
Total probable cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total confirmed cases (2022)	33	14	11	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative (confirmed, probable, suspected) cases	136	58	36	0	0	10	27	0	0	4	1	0
Healthcare Workers (HCWs)												
Newly reported cases in HCWs as of August 25, 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative confirmed cases among HCW	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newly reported deaths in HCW as of August 25, 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative deaths among HCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Isolation and Discharges												
New confirm case reported as of August 25, 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total suspected cases currently in Isolation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total confirmed cases in isolation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total confirmed cases lost to follow up	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total confirmed cases discharged as of August 25, 2022	23	11	9	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Death												
Newly reported deaths as of August 25, 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total deaths in confirmed case(s)	10	3	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Total deaths in probable cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total deaths in suspected cases	14	3	2	0	0	2	5	0	0	1	1	0
Contacts												
Newly reported contacts on August 25, 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total contacts listed	312	139	42	0	0	0	131	0	0	0	0	0
Contacts currently under follow up	27	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0
Contacts who completed 21-day follow-up	285	139	42	0	0	0	104	0	0	0	0	0
Contacts lost to follow-up OR drop	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contact that became confirmed case	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Laboratory												
Specimens rejected as of August 25, 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Specimens pending for testing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total specimens tested	99	42	24	0	0	9	20	0	0	3	1	0
Key Dates (date/month)												
Start date of onset of symptoms of the index case of 2022		6 Jan 2022										
Date of onset of symptom of most recent confirmed case			July 21, 2022									
Date of admission/Isolation of recent case			Aug 4, 2022									
Date of lab confirmation of recent confirmed case			Aug 15, 2022									

County	2016			2017			2018			2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
Bong	9	4	44	7	5	71	5	3	60	16	6	38	18	10	56	7	5	71	14	3	21.4
Grand Bassa	0	0	0	9	0	0	2	2	100	15	3	20	24	5	21	9	4	44	11	2	18.2
Grand Kru	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lofa	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	100	1	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Margibi	0	0	0	2	1	50	2	2	100	1	1	100	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montserrado	1	0	0	1	1	100	3	3	100	1	1	100	3	1	33	3	2	67	0	0	0
Nimba	4	1	25	9	4	44	9	4	44	9	3	33	6	4	67	6	4	67	8	5	62.5
Total	14	5	36	30	11	37	21	14	67	45	15	33	53	21	40	25	15	60	33	10	30

Note: The cases & deaths reported are from January 2016 to August 25, 2022

For comments or questions, please contact

Ralph W. Jetoh, MD, MPH

Director

Division of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology, NPHIL

Cell: (+231777372655) Email: ralphica2000@gmail.com

OR

Irene P. Pewu

Epidemiologist

Division of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology, NPHIL

Cell: (+231775081948/886643578)

Email: ipewu86@gmail.com

Issuing Authority:

Hon. Jane A. MaCauley, MPH

Director General

National Public Health Institute of Liberia

Cell: +231 (0555)-152-926 Email: janemacauley2@gmail.com