



SITUATION: LASSA FEVER OUTBREAK	LOCATION: LIBERIA
DATE OF REPORT: AUGUST 30, 2024	OUTBREAK START DATE: JAN 6, 2022
REPORTING PERIOD: AUGUST 24-30, 2024	SITREP NO: 116

HIGHLIGHTS

- **One (1) new confirmed case reported from Nimba County with one death (previously confirmed)**
- Fifteen (15) contacts including 7 health care workers (HCWs) line listed
- Total of 105 contacts including 65 HCWs undergoing 21 days follow up
- A total of 167 confirmed cases including 49 deaths reported
- **Cumulative Case Fatality Rate (CFR): 29% (49/167)**
- Two counties are currently in outbreak

SITUATIONAL CONTEXT

Lassa fever (LF) is an acute viral hemorrhagic illness that is endemic in West Africa, including Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria. The incubation period ranges from 2-21 days and transmitted to humans via contact with food or household items contaminated with infected rodent urine or feces. The signs and symptoms are usually gradual, but start with fever, general weakness, malaise, and later headache, sore throat, muscle pain, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, and abdominal pain or facial swelling, and bleeding.

LF is a major public health concern in Liberia. To date, eight (8) out of the fifteen (15) counties (Bong, Grand Bassa, Nimba, Margibi, Lofa, Montserrado, Grand Kru, and River Gee) have reported confirmed cases. Bong, Grand Bassa, and Nimba counties are endemic, while Margibi, Lofa, Montserrado, Grand Kru, and River Gee have reported sporadic cases.

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

From January 6, 2022 to present, we have recorded 22 outbreaks. The ongoing outbreak, which started January 6, 2022 in Bong County, has recorded 167 laboratory-confirmed cases including 49 deaths (CRF 29%). A total of 1,448 contacts have been recorded including 565 healthcare workers.

Table 1: Summary of Lassa fever Outbreak, Liberia, January 6, 2022 – August 30, 2024

County	Outbreak Districts	Outbreak Start Date	Total suspected	Total confirmed	HCWs confirmed	Total Deaths	Deaths in HCWs	CFR %	Total Contacts	# HCW contacts	Contacts_ became cases	Contacts under follow up	Contacts completed	Days in countdown	Outbreak Status
Montserrado	Bushrod	13-Feb-23	17	1	0	0	0	0%	29	21	0	0	29	Completed	Ended
	Central Monro	27-Nov-23	1	2	0	1	0	50%	49	0	0	0	49	Completed	Ended
	Central Monro	3-Mar-23	38	2	0	1	0	50%	28	27	0	0	28	Completed	Ended
	Bushrod	30-Apr-24	2	1	0	0	0	0%	14	6	0	0	14	Completed	Ended
Bong	Suakoko	21-Apr-23	192	54	18	13	2	24%	496	114	6	0	417	Completed	Ended
	Jorquelleh	15-Oct-23	14	6	3	1	1	17%	121	86	3	0	169	Completed	Ended
	Kokoyah	6-Jun-24	3	1	0	0	0	0%	8	0	0	0	8	Completed	Ended
	Suakoko	29-Jul-24	9	5	1	0	0	0%	37	14	0	13	24	Active	Ongoing
	Suakoko	23-Feb-24	31	3	0	0	0	0%	29	14	0	0	29	Completed	Ended
	Salala	8-Mar-24	2	2	0	1	0	50%	21	0	0	0	21	Completed	Ended
Grand Bassa	Jorquelleh	11-Apr-24	3	2	0	1	0	0%	41	30	0	0	41	Completed	Ended
	District 3A&B	21-Aug-23	87	44	0	10	0	23%	177	40	40	0	159	Completed	Ended
	Buchanan	11-Aug-23	2	1	0	1	0	100%	4	2	0	0	4	Completed	Ended
	District 3A&B	30-Apr-24	7	3	0	1	0	33%	12	3	0	0	12	Completed	Countdown
Nimba	Saclepea-Mah	21-Nov-23	4	2	0	1	0	50%	5	0	0	0	5	Completed	Ended
	Sanniquellie-Mah	6-Feb-23	43	15	0	6	0	40%	43	35	8	0	43	Completed	Ended
	Tappita	29-Jul-24	5	2	0	1	0	50%	27	24	0	18	9	Active	Ongoing
	Tappita	20-Nov-23	12	5	0	3	0	60%	88	39	4	0	77	Completed	Ended
	Bain-Garr	1-Jun-23	25	6	0	3	0	50%	61	25	0	0	31	Completed	Ended
	Bain-Garr	15-Apr-24	5	2	0	1	0	50%	25	7	0	0	25	Completed	Ended
River Gee	Bain-Garr	18-Jul-24	15	7	0	3	0	43%	119	78	1	74	45	Active	Ongoing
	Putupo	25-Nov-22	2	1	0	1	0	100%	14	0	0	0	14	Completed	Ended
Total			519	167	22	49	3	29%	1448	565	62	105	1253		

Bong County: Jorquelleh, Suakoko and Kokoyah Districts

- ☞ No new confirmed case reported
- ☞ Cumulative confirmed cases for the current outbreak: 13
 - Suakoko District: 8
 - Salala District: 2
 - Jorquelleh District: 2
 - Kokoyah: 1
- ☞ CFR (3/13): 23%
- ☞ Total of 137 contacts including 53 HCWs line listed
 - Thirteen (13) contacts including 9 HCWs undergoing 21 days follow up
- ☞ Safe and dignified burials conducted for deceased cases
- ☞ One (1) confirmed case in isolation undergoing ribavirin treatment

Nimba County: Bain-Garr & Tappita Districts

- ☞ One (1) new confirmed case with one death (previously confirmed) reported from Bain-Garr District
- ☞ Fifteen (15) contacts including 7 HCWs line listed
- ☞ Cumulative confirmed cases for the current outbreak: 9
 - Tappita District: 2
 - Bain Garr District: 7
- ☞ CFR (4/9): 44%
- ☞ Total of 146 contacts including 102 HCWs line listed
 - Total of 74 contacts including 62 HCWs undergoing 21 days follow up
- ☞ Safe and dignified burials conducted for the deceased cases
- ☞ Four (4) confirmed cases in isolation undergoing ribavirin treatment

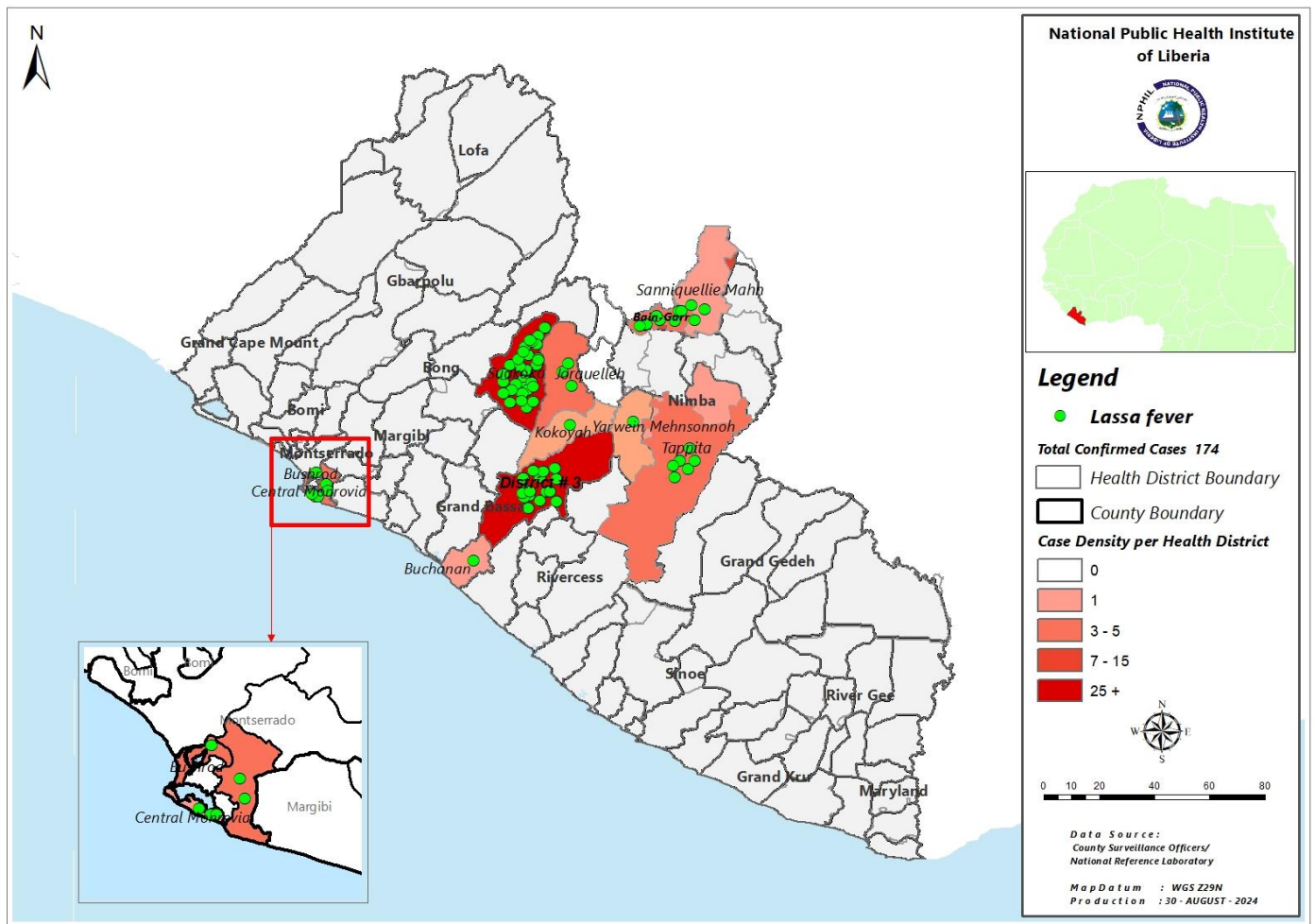


Figure 1: Distribution of Confirmed Lassa fever cases by Health District, Jan 6, 2022-Aug 30, 2024

Table 2: Summary of Lassa fever cases and samples, Liberia, Jan 6, 2022–Aug 30, 2024

Variables	2022 & 2023	2024	Total
	Epi wk 1-52	Epi wk 1-34	
Total suspected cases reported to the national level	439	173	612
Total samples collected	437	173	610
Total samples tested	416	168	584
Total samples not collected OR samples collected but not sent to NRL	20	6	26
Total samples pending testing	0	0	0
Total samples collected & rejected by the Laboratory	3	0	3
Total Laboratory confirmed	138	29	167
Total confirmed cases alive	97	21	118
Total deaths among confirmed cases	41	8	49
Overall case fatality rate (CFR)	30%	26%	29%
Total confirmed cases currently in isolation	0	5	5
Total suspected cases in isolation	0	0	0

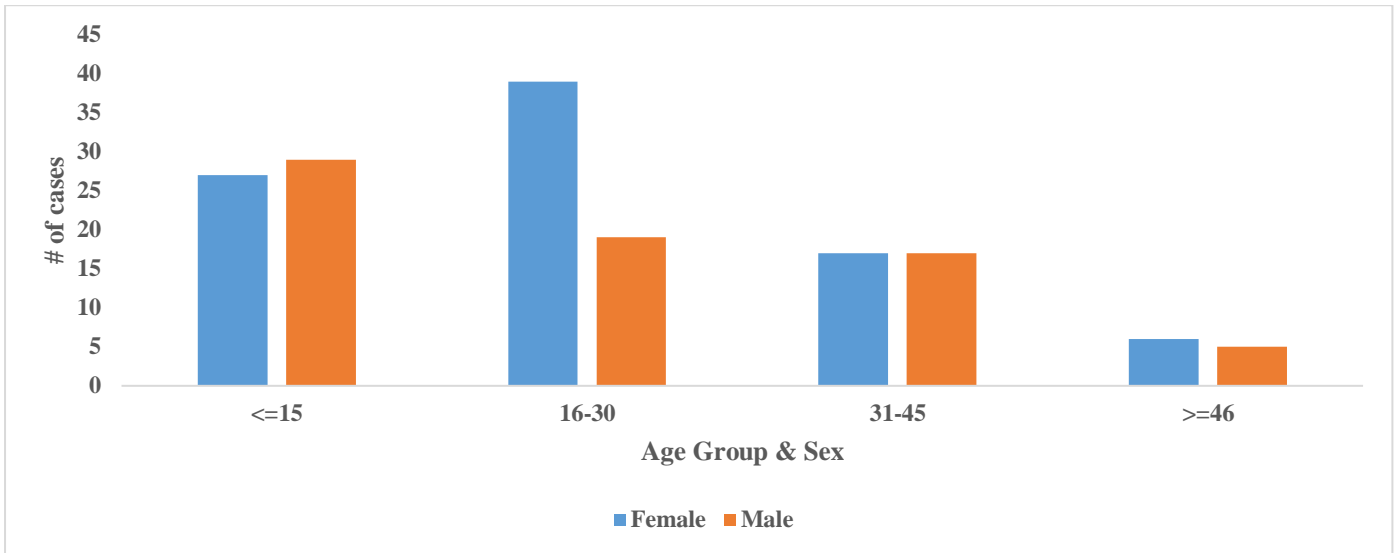


Figure 2: Distribution of confirmed Lassa fever cases by Age and Sex, Lib, Jan 6, 2022-Aug 30, 2024

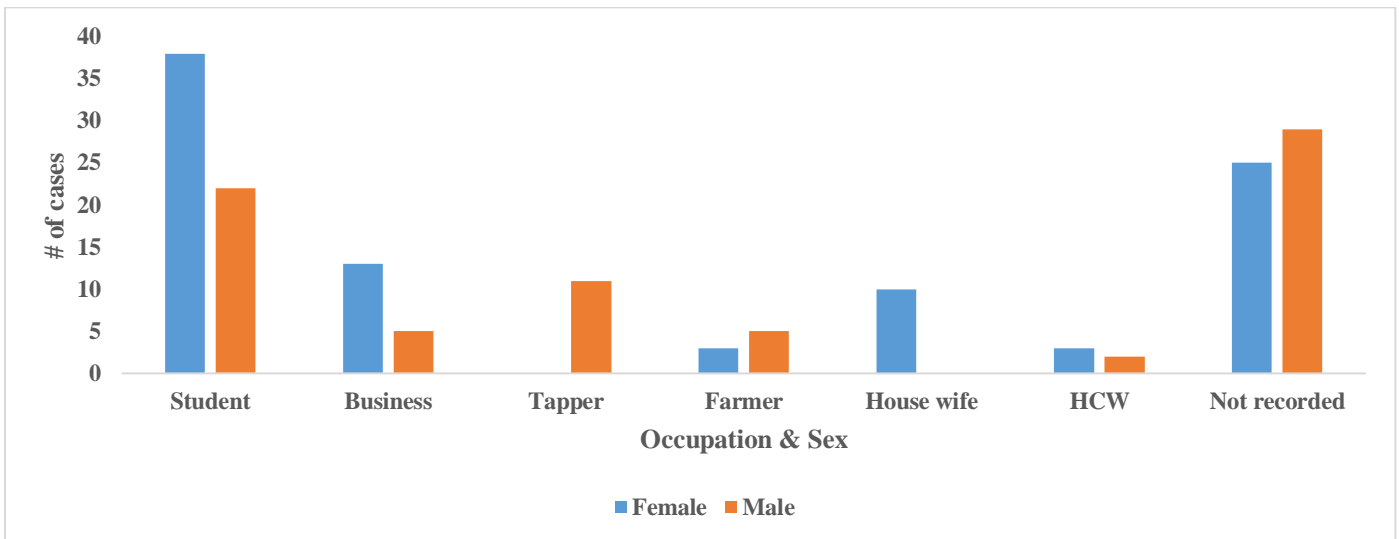


Figure 3: Distribution of confirmed Lassa fever cases by Occupation and Sex, Lib, Jan. 6, 2022-Aug 30, 2024

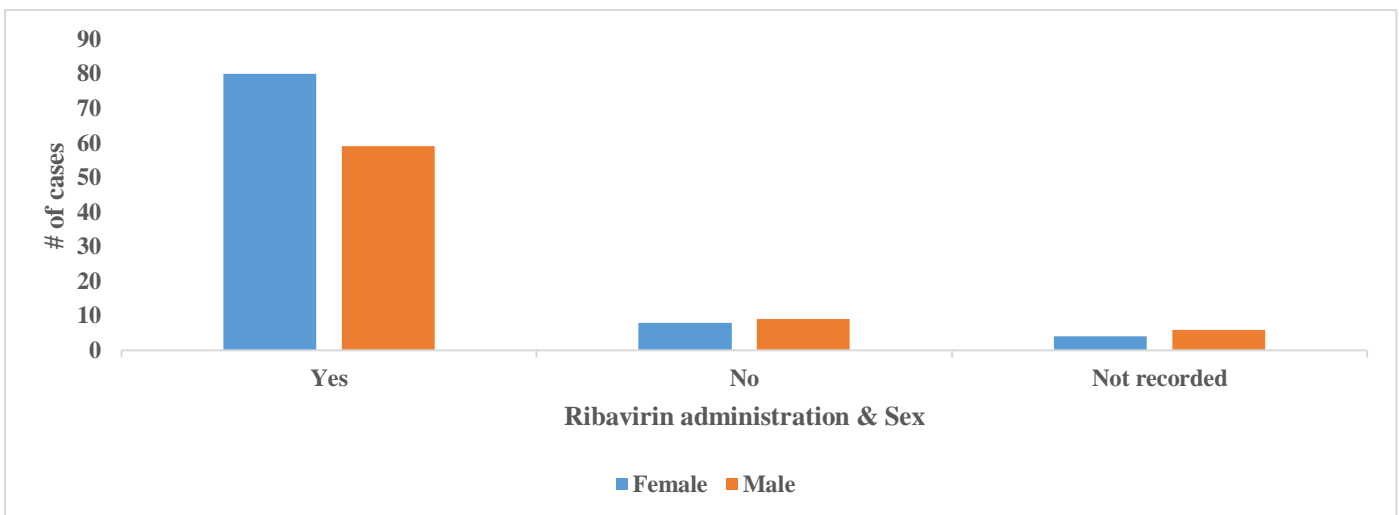


Figure 4: Confirmed Lassa fever cases by Ribavirin administration and Outcome, Liberia, Jan. 6, 2022 – Aug 30, 2024

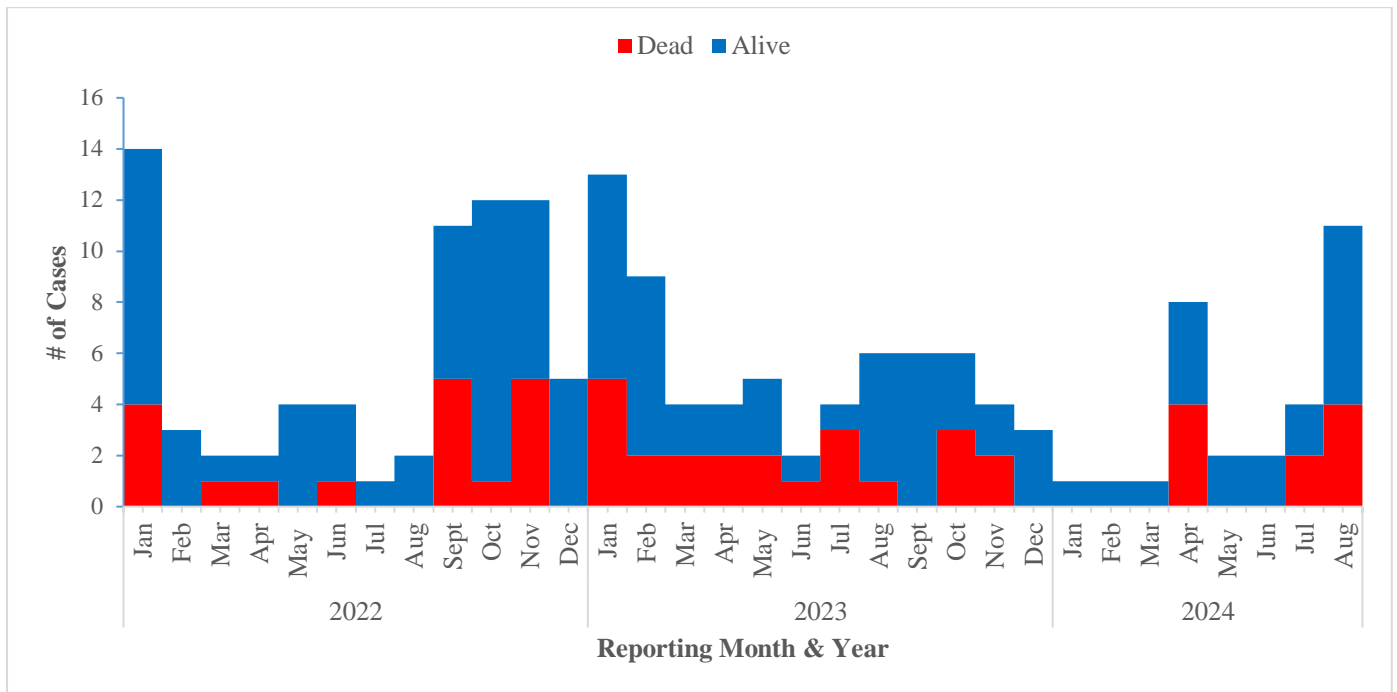


Figure 5: Epi-curve of confirmed Lassa fever cases and deaths by reporting Epi week & Year, Liberia, Jan 6, 2022-Aug 30, 2024

PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

Since the inception of the 2022 outbreak, several measures including response initiatives have been instituted including surveillance and laboratory testing, vector surveillance and control, case management, etc. These interventions aim to protect at-risk populations; prevent international spread; containing outbreaks rapidly. Below are details of the measures taken in the ongoing outbreak:

I. Coordination

- The response has been led by the County Health Teams with technical support from the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), the Ministry of Health (MOH) and partners
 - The Incident Management Systems (IMs) have been activated in the affected counties
 - The PHEOCs in the response counties are in response mode coordinating the response

II. Surveillance

- Active case search ongoing in affected communities
- One hundred five (105) contacts including 65 HCWs line listed & undergoing 21 days' follow-up
- Weekly sit-reps developed and disseminated to stakeholders

III. Case management and IPC

- Ribavirin distributed to affected counties
- Cases treated with ribavirin in affected counties
- Five (5) confirmed cases currently in isolation undergoing treatment (Bong-1 & Nimba-4)

IV. Laboratory

- The National Public Health Reference Laboratory continues testing of Lassa fever samples
- A total of 167 Lassa fever cases have been confirmed since this outbreak

V. Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Risk communication and community engagement ongoing in affected and surrounding communities



Tappita district conducting radio talk show on Lassa fever prevention at Radio Tappita, Nimba County, August 20, 2024



CSO presenting surveillance update on the ongoing Lassa fever outbreak in the Nimba County Incidence Management System meeting, August 28, 2024, at NCHT conference Hall

VI. Dead Body Management

- Total of 49 confirmed deaths recorded and were buried under safe and dignified condition

Key Challenges

- Limited ribavirin supply in country
- Limited supply of IPC materials in affected counties
- Lack of logistics (gasoline, communication cards, fuel, etc) to support active case search and contact tracing in affected counties
- Limited stationeries in the EOC to produce case alert forms, contact tracing form and other tools for investigation (Bong & Nimba)
- Lack of computer for District and County Surveillance Officers (Bong & Nimba)

For comments or questions, please contact:

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