



<b>SITUATION: LASSA FEVER OUTBREAK</b>	<b>LOCATION: LIBERIA</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT: JULY 20, 2024</b>	<b>OUTBREAK START DATE: JAN 6, 2022</b>
<b>REPORTING PERIOD: JULY 13 -19, 2024</b>	<b>SITREP NO: 110</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **One (1) new confirmed case reported from Nimba County (dead)**
- Twenty (20) contacts including 16 healthcare workers line listed and under 21 days follow up
- A total of 154 confirmed cases including 46 deaths reported
- **Cumulative Case Fatality Rate (CFR): 30% (46/154)**
- 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 recorded 20 outbreaks. The ongoing outbreak, which started January 6, 2022 in Bong County, has recorded 154 laboratory-confirmed cases including 46 deaths (CRF 30%). A total of 1285 contacts have been recorded including 465 healthcare workers.

**Table 1: Summary of Lassa fever Outbreak, Liberia, January 6, 2022 – July 19, 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	20	Countdown
	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
Jorquelleh	11-Apr-24	3	2	0	1	0	0%	41	30	0	0	41	20	Countdown	
Grand Bassa	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	6	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	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
Bain-Garr	18-Jul-24	2	1	0	1	0	100%	20	16	0	20	0	Active	Ongoing	
River Gee	Putupo	25-Nov-22	2	1	0	1	0	100%	14	0	0	0	14	Completed	Ended
<b>Total</b>			<b>491</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1175</b>		

**Bong County: Jorquelleh, Suakoko and Kokoyah Districts**

☞ **No confirmed case reported**

☞ Cumulative confirmed cases for the current outbreak: 8

- Suakoko District: 3
- Salala District: 2
- Jorquelleh District: 2
- Kokoyah: 1

☞ CFR (2/8): 25%

☞ The two confirmed cases in isolation at Phebe Hospital were treatment and discharged.

☞ Twenty-seven (27) contacts including 13 healthcare workers completed 21 days follow up

☞ Safe and dignified burials were conducted for deceased cases

☞ Total of 100 contacts including 40 healthcare workers line listed and completed 21 days follow up

☞ The County is currently in countdown

**Nimba County: Bain-Garr District**

☞ **One confirmed case reported**

- AS, a 22Y/F & a resident of Blagay’s Town, Ganta City, presented to Ganta Hospital on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 with fever >38°C, stomach pain, vomiting & headache with the onset of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- Initial diagnosis was chronic UTI and typhoid fever which was treated
- On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, Clinician suspected Lassa fever, isolated case, collected sample for LF, and administered ribavirin drugs immediately
- About 12:12PM, patient expired in the isolation while undergoing care on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- Safe & dignified burial was conducted on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 by the hospital’s burial team
- Total of 20 contacts including 16 healthcare workers were line listed with 4 high risks

○ There has been no epidemiological linked established

- ☞ Cumulative confirmed cases for the current outbreak: 1
- ☞ CFR (1/1): 100%
- ☞ No confirmed case in isolation
- ☞ Twenty (20) contacts including 16 healthcare workers under 21 days follow up
- ☞ Safe and dignified burial was conducted for deceased case

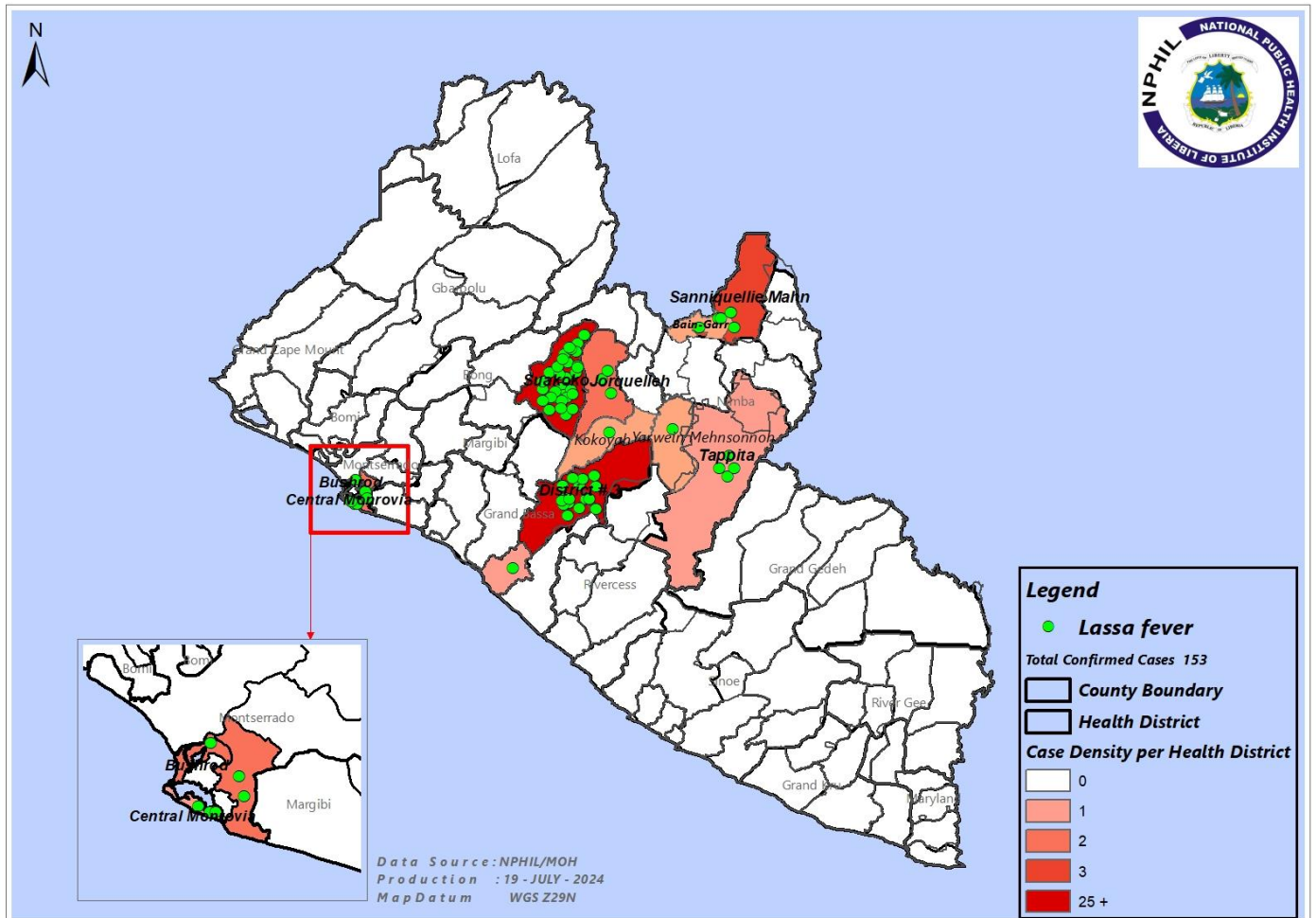
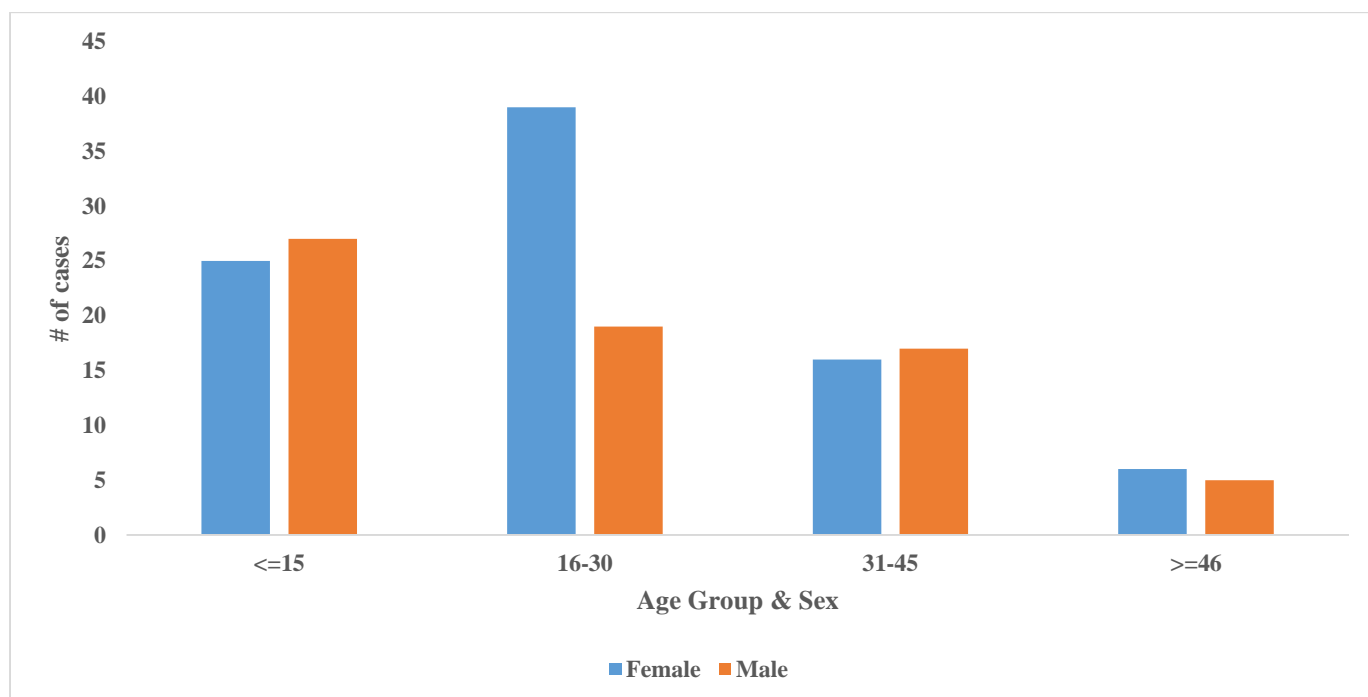


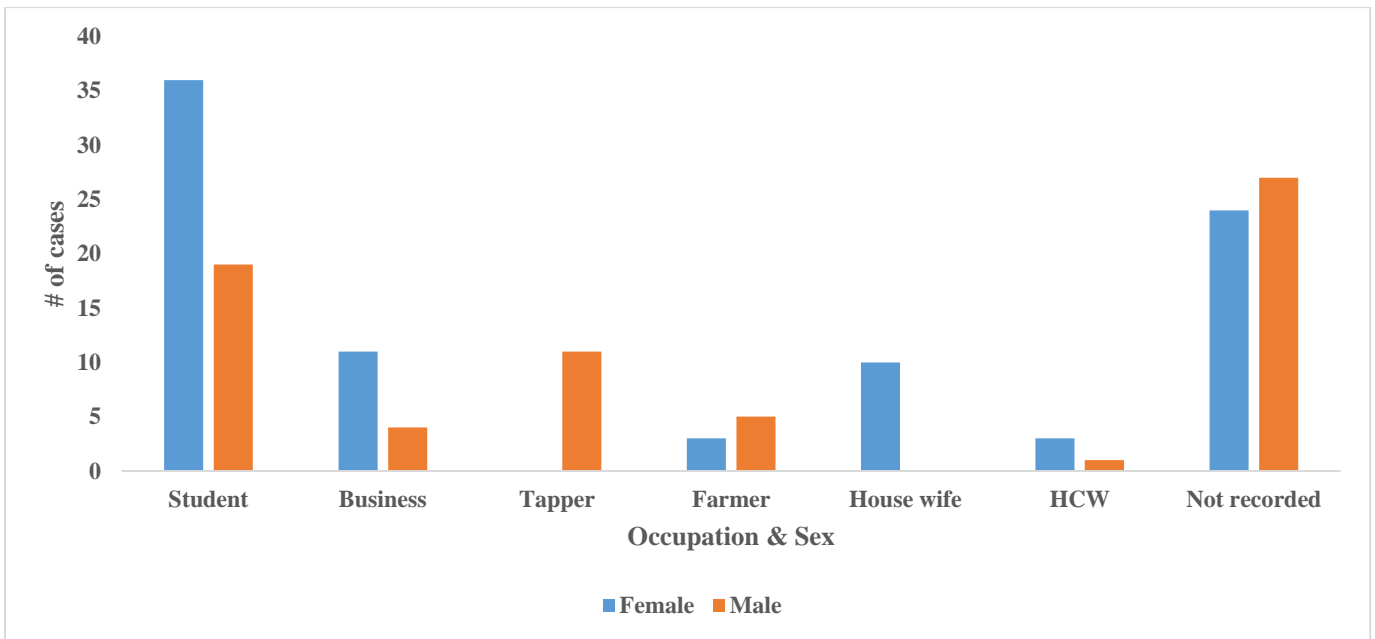
Figure 1: Distribution of Confirmed Lassa fever cases by Health District, Jan 6, 2022-July 19, 2024

**Table 2: Summary of Lassa fever cases and samples, Liberia, Jan 6, 2022–July 19, 2024**

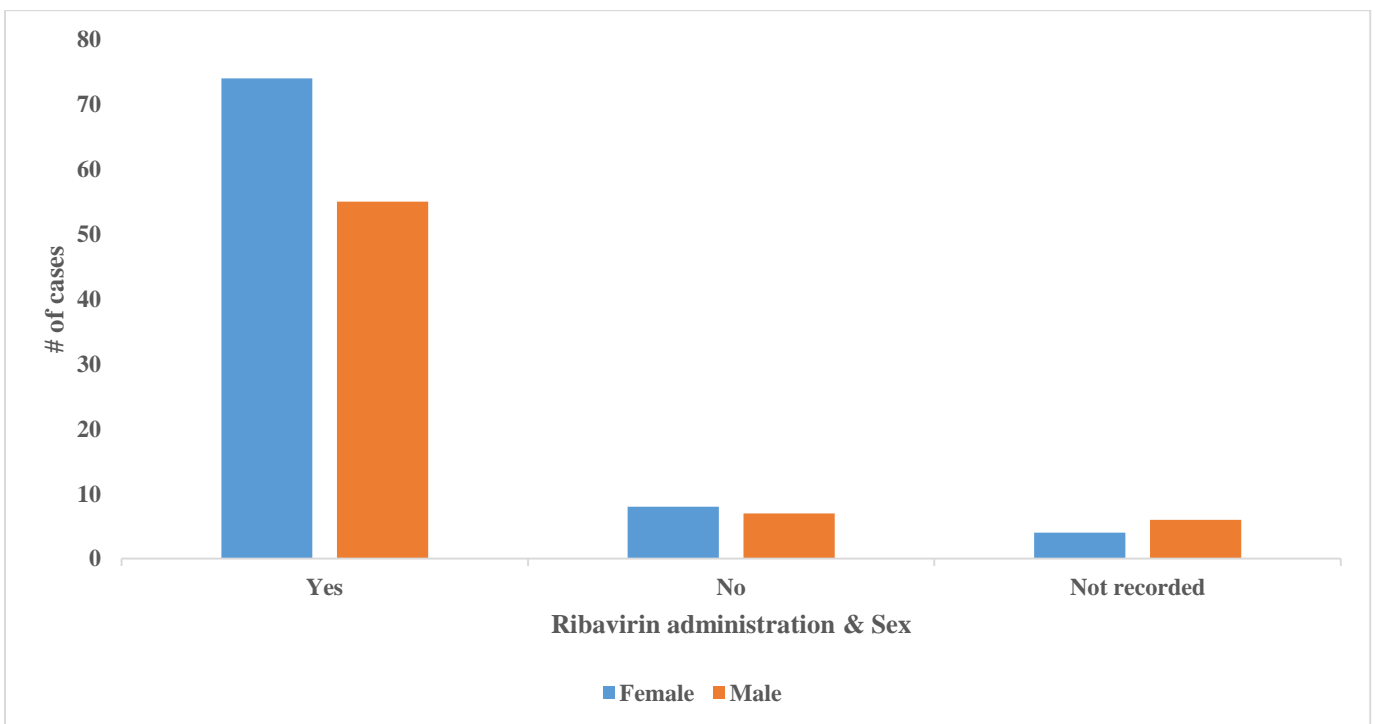
Variables	2022 & 2023	2024	Total
	Epi wk 1-52	Epi wk 1-28	
Total suspected cases reported to the national level	439	127	566
Total samples collected	437	127	564
Total samples tested	416	121	537
Total samples not collected OR samples collected but not sent to NRL	20	4	24
Total samples pending testing	0	2	2
Total samples collected & rejected by the Laboratory	3	0	3
Total Laboratory confirmed	138	16	154
Total confirmed cases alive	97	11	108
Total deaths among confirmed cases	41	5	46
Overall case fatality rate (CFR)	30%	31%	30%
Total confirmed cases currently in isolation	0	0	0
Total suspected cases in isolation	0	0	0



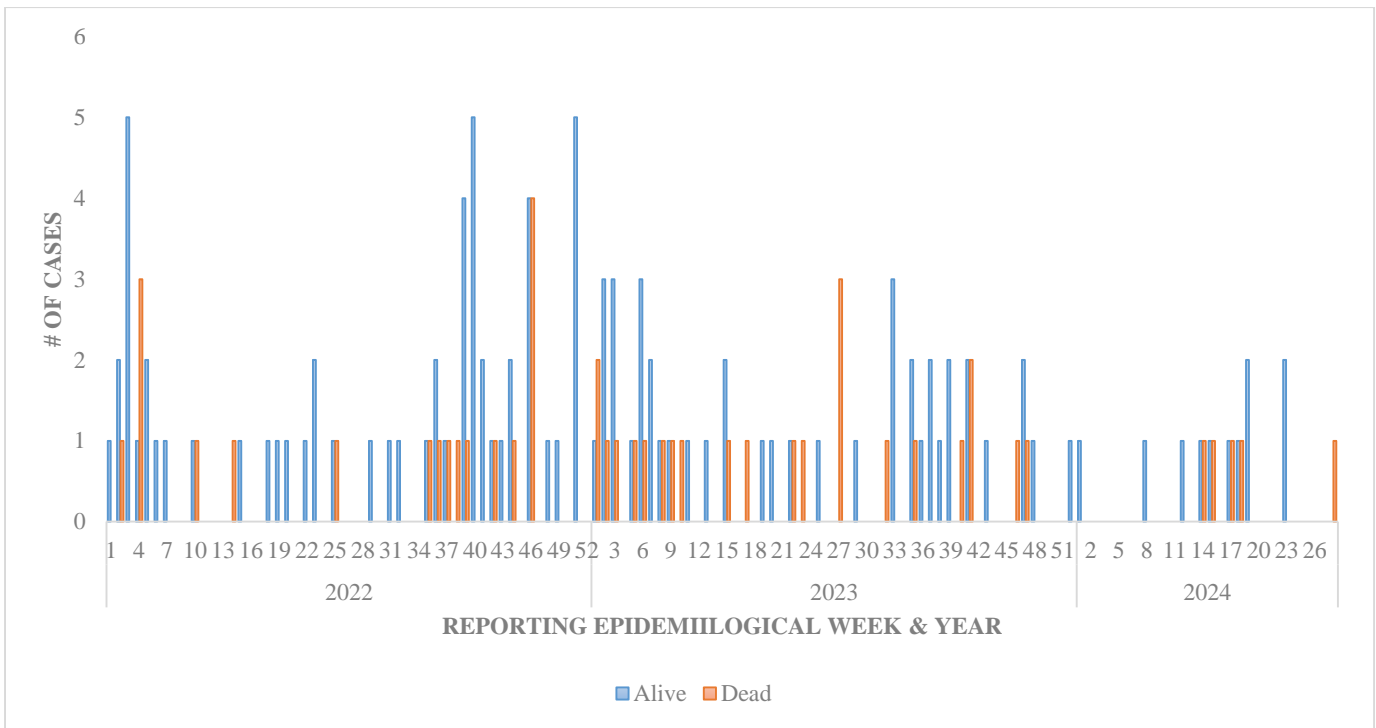
**Figure 2: Distribution of confirmed Lassa fever cases by Age and Sex, Lib, Jan.2022-July 19, 2024**



**Figure 3: Distribution of confirmed Lassa fever cases by Occupation and Sex, Lib, Jan. 6, 2022 – July 19, 2024**



**Figure 4: Confirmed Lassa fever cases by Ribavirin administration and Outcome, Liberia, Jan. 6, 2022 – July 19, 2024**



**Figure 5: Epi-curve of confirmed Lassa fever cases and deaths by reporting Epi week & Year, Liberia, January 6, 2022-July 19, 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 (IMSs) 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
- Twenty (20) contacts including 18 healthcare workers line listed and under 21 days follow-up
- Weekly sit-reps developed and disseminated to stakeholders



Photos of field investigation and burial team, Nimba County, July 18&19, 2024

### III. Case management and IPC

- Ribavirin distributed to all affected counties
- Cases treated with ribavirin and discharged

### IV. Laboratory

- The National Public Health Reference Laboratory continues testing of Lassa fever samples
- A total of 154 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

### VI. Dead Body Management

- Total of 46 confirmed deaths recorded and were buried under safe and dignified condition

### VII. Key Challenges

- 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 county
- Limited stationeries in the EOC to produce case alert forms, contact tracing form and other tools for investigation
- Lack of computer for County Surveillance Officer (Bong County)

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