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**SITUATION:** MPOX OUTBREAK **LOCATION: LIBERIA**  
**DATE OF REPORT:** SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 **SITUATION REPORT: #5**  
**REPORTING PERIOD:** JANUARY 1 – SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Two new confirmed cases** reported from Lofa and River Gee Counties
- Twenty (20) new suspected cases reported
- No death recorded

## SITUATIONAL CONTEXT

Mpox is a zoonotic viral disease transmitted from animal to human, with symptoms lasting between 14 and 21 days. Severe cases occur more commonly among children and those with pre-existing health conditions. However, the case fatality rate varies widely between epidemics but has been less than 10% in documented events, mostly among young children.<sup>1</sup>

On August 13 and 14, 2024, respectively, the **Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)**<sup>2</sup> and the **World Health Organization**<sup>3</sup> declared the Mpox outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security and a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to increase in the number of cases reported across the African continent and parts of Europe.

Since 1 January 2022, cases of mpox have been reported to WHO from **17 Member States across the African Region**. As of 30 August 2024, a total of **8,109 laboratory-confirmed cases**, including **57 deaths**, have been reported to WHO. In 2024, as of 1 September 2024, 14 countries have reported **5,732 confirmed cases**, including **35 deaths**. The three countries with the majority of cases in 2024 are the Democratic Republic of the Congo (n = 5 147), Burundi (n = 328), and the Central African Republic (n = 55)<sup>4</sup>.

Mpox is one of the **immediately reportable priority diseases in Liberia**. Since 2016, sporadic cases have been reported across the country. From January 2022 to September 12, 2024, a total of 345 suspected cases, including 38 laboratory-confirmed cases, have been reported, with no death recorded.

### Event Description

The events described below are confirmed cases of Mpox following the declaration of Mpox by the WHO and Africa CDC as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and Public Health Emergency of Continental Security on August 13 and 14, 2024, respectively.

#### Lofa County

**One new confirmed case** was reported from Borkeza Town, Zorzor District. The case involves a 19-year-old female. On September 6, 2024, the

case sought medical care at the Borkeza Clinic and presented with generalized itchy skin rashes, chills, sore throat, fever, cough, and body pain. According to her, those signs/symptoms started on

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/mpox>

<sup>2</sup> Africa CDC Declares Mpox A Public Health Emergency of Continental Security, Mobilizing Resources Across the Continent – Africa CDC

<sup>3</sup> WHO Director-General declares mpox outbreak a public health emergency of international concern

<sup>4</sup> Regional Mpox Bulletin: 6 September 2024 | WHO | Regional Office for Africa

the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2024, with no history of traveling out of her community in the past 3 weeks, but she admitted coming in close contact with her brother with a similar illness on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2024. No history was established about touching or playing with live or dead domesticated/wide animals in the past 21 days. The patient was isolated by the clinician at Borkeza Clinic and treated but later discharged for home-based supportive care on September 6, 2024, emphasizing IPC measures to avoid the further spread of the infection in the community. Two specimens (blood/serum and swab) were collected on the same day and transported to the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) on September 7, 2024, for laboratory confirmation. At least four high-risk contacts were line-listed on September 6, 2024, for close monitoring by the community surveillance team. The patient was confirmed positive for Mpox disease on September 10, 2024, by NRL. The confirmed case is still alive and being transferred by the District Rapid Response Team (DRRT) to the isolation unit. No known epi-link/actual source of the infection has been established about the case as the investigation is ongoing.

#### Event summary: Zorzor District, Lofa County

- ☞ One new case reported
- ☞ Cumulative confirmed cases: 2
- ☞ CFR (0/2): 0%
- ☞ Eight (8) new contacts, including one (1) healthcare worker line-listed
- ☞ Total number of 50 contacts, including 10 healthcare workers

- ☞ One (1) confirmed case in isolation and one (1) in home-based care undergoing treatment

#### River Gee County

**One confirmed case was reported** from Klibo Community, Webbo District. The case patient is a 6-year-old male with onset of illness on August 17, 2024. The case presented at the Tuobo Clinic on September 7, 2024, where he was suspected of Mpox. Two specimens (blood and swab) were collected on September 7, 2024, received at NRL on September 10, 2024, and tested Mpox positive on September 11, 2024, while the result was released to the county on the same day. A total of 18 contacts line listed and undergoing 21 days of follow-up. The case is currently in isolation and undergoing supportive treatment.

#### Event summary: Webbo District, River Gee County

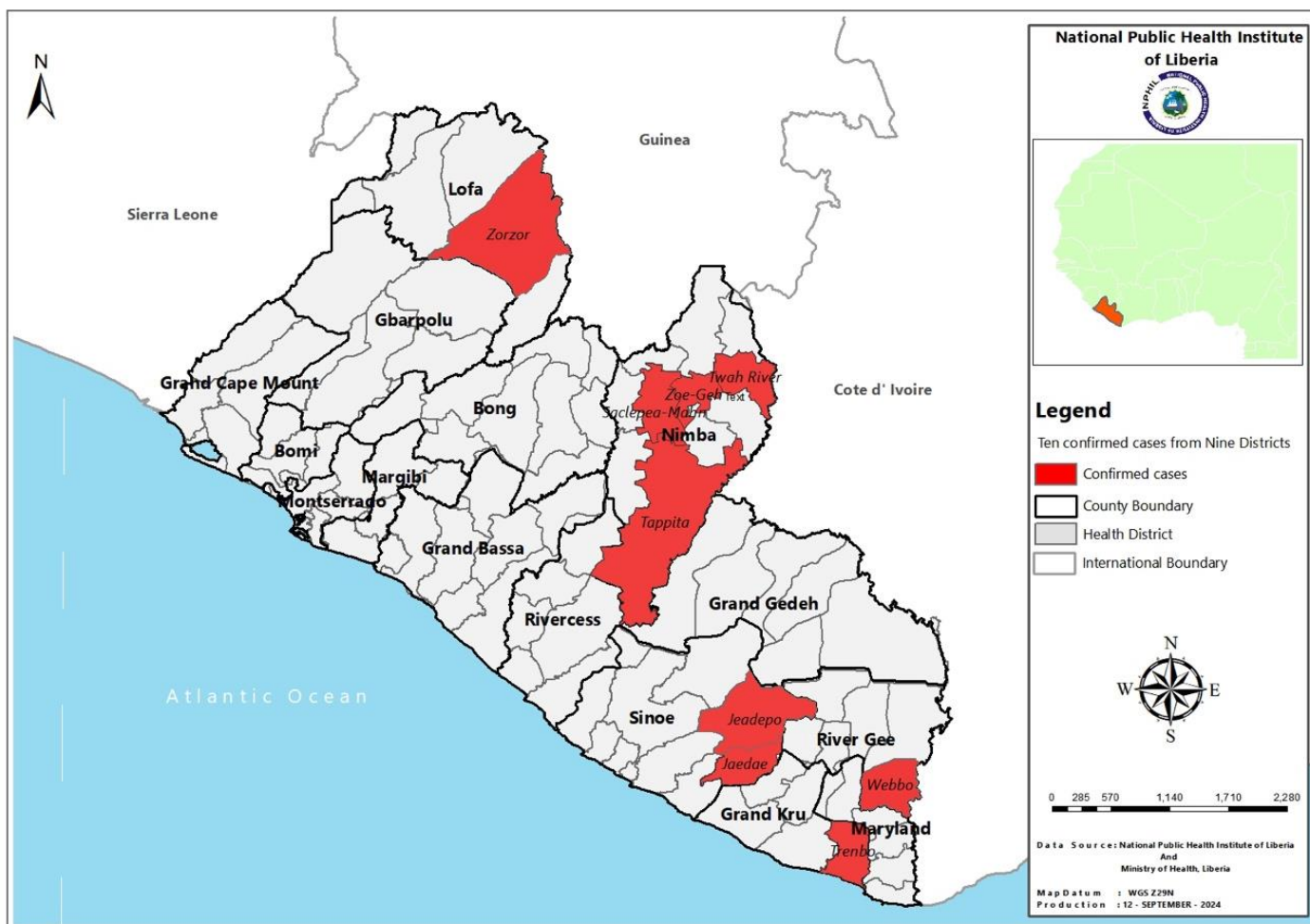
- ☞ The 1<sup>st</sup> confirmed case from River Gee County
- ☞ Cumulative confirmed cases: 1
- ☞ CFR (0/1): 0%
- ☞ Total number of 18 contacts line-listed
- ☞ Confirmed case in isolation undergoing treatment

#### Event summary: Jedepo District, Sinoe County

- ☞ No new confirmed case reported
- ☞ Cumulative confirmed cases: 2
- ☞ CFR (0/2): 0%
- ☞ A total of 29 contacts line-listed
- ☞ Two confirmed cases in isolation undergoing treatment

**Table 1: Age Group and Sex of Confirmed Cases, Liberia, 1 January – 12 September 2024**

Age Group	Male	Female	Frequency	Proportion (%)
0 – 11 months	0	0	0	0
12 – 59 months	1	0	1	9.1
5 – 10 years	2	2	4	36.4
11 – 19 years	0	1	1	9.1
20 – 40 years	2	3	5	45.4
>40 years	0	0	0	0
<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>



**Figure 1:** Distribution of Confirmed Mpox cases by Health District, Liberia, January 1 – September 12, 2024

**Table 2:** Distribution of Mpox Confirmed cases and Contacts, 1 January – September 12, 2024

Cases indicators	Total	Contacts indicators	Total
Total suspected cases reported	115	New contacts line-listed in last 24 hrs.	26
Total samples collected	108	Total contacts line-listed	156
Total samples tested	100	Number of contacts seen in last 24hrs	41
Total Laboratory confirmed	11	Number of contacts lost to follow-up	0
Total confirmed cases alive	11	Total Contacts among HCW	17
Total confirmed among HCWs	0	Number of contacts that developed symptoms	9
Total deaths among confirmed cases	0	Total high-risk contacts	47
Overall case fatality rate (CFR)	0	Contacts completed 21 days	115
Total suspected cases currently in isolation	0	Total active contacts under follow-up	41
Total confirmed cases currently in isolation	4		
Total confirmed cases currently in HBC	1		

### 1 Coordination

- Ongoing coordination meetings at national and subnational levels in affected counties
- Resources (financial & logistical) are being mobilized to support the counties

### 2 Surveillance

- Surveillance training ongoing for community health workers in Sinoe and Lofa counties to enhance active case detection in affected and adjacent districts- **supported by AFENET**
- Contacts to all confirmed cases are undergoing follow-up
- Active media scanning and community case finding continue

### 3 Case management

- Four cases are currently in isolation in River Gee, Sinoe, and Lofa counties, while a case in Lofa is being managed at home (Home-based care)
- Assessment of the Redemption, Ganta, E&J, and Saclapea isolation facilities conducted

### 4 Laboratory

- Ongoing prepositioning of laboratory supplies (sample collection kits) to support rapid sample collection
- The National Public Health Reference Laboratory continues the testing of Mpox samples.
- Virtual mentorship conducted for county diagnostic officers on proper sample collection and packaging.

### 5 Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Concluded with the ECOWAS Radio for free appearances of the IMS
- Commitment from WHO-Liberia to support the production of RCCE materials to enhance RCCE activities in affected and surrounding communities.

### 6 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- IPC stock assessment conducted for the country to inform stock prepositioning and supplies
- IPC supplies provided to Nimba County to support preparedness and response efforts.

### Key Challenges

- Limited funding for National Incident Action Plan
  - Limited supply of IPC materials in health facilities and POEs
  - Limited logistics (motorbikes, gasoline, communication cards, fuel, lubricant, etc.) to support response in the affected county

### Next Steps/Action Points

- Conduct refresher training for clinicians and surveillance officers at official POEs and major health facilities
- Print and distribute additional RCCE materials, including surveillance tools
- Continue active case search in the affected communities
- Mobilize resources for the procurement of laboratory reagents, consumables, IPC supplies, drugs and other medical supplies

*For comments or questions, please contact*

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