

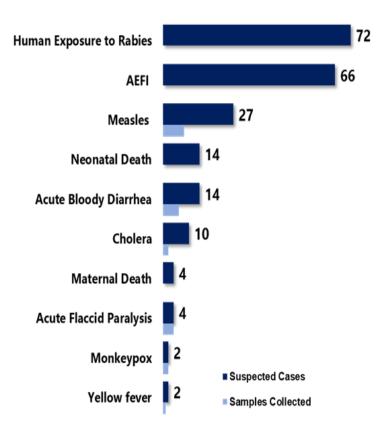
Liberia IDSR Epidemiology Bulletin

Epi-week 44 (October 31-Nov 5, 2023)

Country Population: 5,104,413 | Volume 19 Issue 44 | October 31-Nov 5, 2023 | Data Source: CSOs from 15 Counties and Laboratory

Highlights

Figure 1: Public Health Events Reported



Keynotes and Events of Public Health Significance

- ◆ A total of 215 events of public health importance including 18 deaths reported
- ◆ Completeness and timeliness of health facility reports were both 97%
- ◆ Ongoing Lassa fever outbreak in 3 Counties
- ♦ Ongoing Measles outbreak in 5 Counties

Adverse Events Following Immunization/Adverse Drug Reaction (AEFI)

Reporting Coverage

Table 1: Health Facility Weekly IDSR Reporting Coverage, Liberia, Epi-week 44, 2023

	Expected				
	Reports From	Reports	Received on	Completeness	Timeliness
County	HF*	Received	Time	(%)	(%)
Bomi	28	28	28	100	100
Bong	67	67	67	100	100
Gbarpolu	18	18	18	100	100
Grand Bassa	37	37	37	100	100
Grand Cape Mount	34	34	34	100	100
Grand Gedeh	24	24	24	100	100
Grand Kru	24	24	24	100	100
Lofa	60	60	60	100	100
Margibi	66	66	66	100	100
Maryland	28	28	28	100	100
Montserrado	418	393	393	94	94
Nimba	92	92	92	100	100
Rivercess	21	21	21	100	100
River Gee	20	20	20	100	100
Sinoe	41	41	41	100	100
Liberia	978	953	953	97	97

- The national target for weekly IDSR reporting is 80%. Health facility timeliness is monitored at the health district level
- All counties reported on time to the national level

Legend:

≥80

<80

953(97%)

98(100%)
Health
districts
reported
IDSR data

953 (97%)

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Measles

- Twenty-seven (27) suspected cases were reported from 7 Counties (see distribution in Table 2)
- Eight (8) specimens were collected and pending testing
- Fourteen (14) were vaccinated (see distribution in Table 3)

Table 2: Distribution of Measles cases per county and epi-classification, Liberia, Epi week 44, 2023

COUNTY	CUMULATIVE # SUSPECTED CASES	CUMULATIVE # CONFIRMED CASES			ION OF CASES	DEATHS	CFR (%)	# CONFIRMED CASES WEEK 43	# CONFIRMED CASES WEEK 44	% CHANGE
	CASES		Lab confirmed	Lab Epi Onfirmed Linked Co						
Bomi	80	68	2	13	53	0	0.0	0	0	0
Bong	209	209	3	6	200	1	0.5	0	0	0
Gbarpolu	42	41	0	0	41	0	0.0	1	0	-100
Grand Bassa	177	174	0	0	174	0	0.0	3	0	-100
Grand Cape Mount	76	68	1	2	65	0	0.0	0	0	0
Grand Gedeh	428	384	6	27	351	0	0.0	10	3	-70
Grand Kru	739	733	10	72	651	2	0.3	0	0	0
Lofa	139	131	0	0	131	0	0.0	3	0	-100
Margibi	201	199	1	8	190	0	0.0	0	0	0
Maryland	749	747	0	0	747	0	0.0	10	12	17
Montserrado	1098	1090	4	53	1033	2	0.2	2	5	150
Nimba	376	366	2	33	331	3	0.8	10	4	-60
River Gee	144	118	1	0	117	0	0.0	1	1	0
Rivercess	36	31	1	0	30	0	0.0	0	1	0
Sinoe	148	128	6	11	111	0	0.0	7	1	-86

Table 3: Vaccination Status of Measles Cases, Liberia, Epi-week 44, 2023

County	Vaccinated	Number of Doses	Received	
				Doses Not
		One Dose	Two Doses	Indicated
Bomi	0	0	0	0
Bong	0	0	0	0
Gbarpolu	1	0	0	1
Grand Bassa	3	1	0	2
Grand Cape Mount	0	0	0	0
Grand Gedeh	0	0	0	0
Grand Kru	0	0	0	0
Lofa	3	3	0	0
Margibi	0	0	0	0
Maryland	3	3	0	0
Montserrado	1	1	0	0
Nimba	5	5	0	0
River Gee	1	0	0	1
Rivercess	0	0	0	0
Sinoe	3	0	0	3
National	20	13	0	7

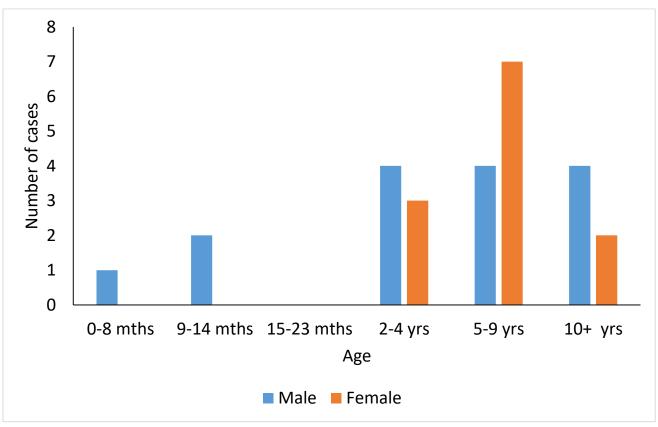


Figure 2: Distribution of Measles Cases by Age Group and Sex, Liberia Epi Week 44, 2023

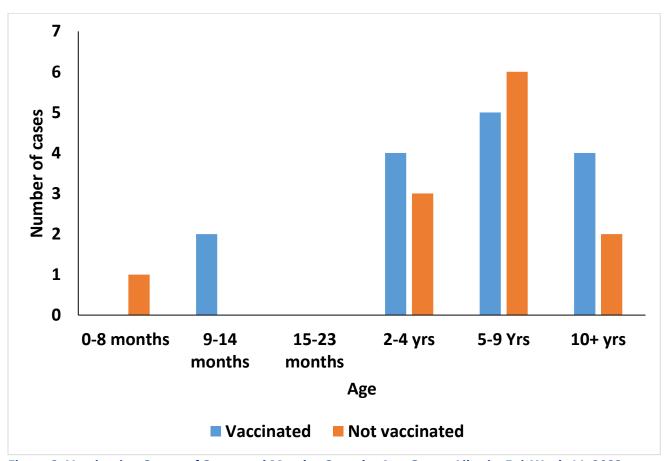


Figure 3: Vaccination Status of Suspected Measles Cases by Age Group, Liberia, Epi-Week 44, 2023

Outbreak Section

Table 4: Status of Confirmed Measles Cases by County, Liberia, December 13, 2021 October 30, 2023

County	Total Cases	Active	Recovery	Deaths	# of Districts
Montserrado	5,363	5	5,289	69	3/7
Nimba	1,109	3	1,102	4	3/6
Grand Bassa	924	0	917	7	0/8
Margibi	803	0	802	1	0/4
Bong	578	0	575	3	0/9
Maryland	1090	11	1079	0	2/6
Lofa	284	0	284	0	0/6
Grand Kru	962	0	960	2	3/5
Grand Cape Mount	187	0	184	3	0/5
Bomi	147	0	142	5	0/4
Rivercess	84	0	83	1	0/6
Gbarpolu	46	0	46	0	0/5
Grand Gedeh	504	1	503	0	2/6
River Gee	79	0	79	0	0/6
Sinoe	231	0	231	0	0/10
Total	12,391	20	12, 276	95	13/98

Table 5: Cumulative Distribution of Measles Cases and Deaths, December 13, 2021- October 30. 2023

	CUMULATI VE	CUMULATIVE	CLASSIFICAT	ION OF CONFI	RMED CASES	CLASSIFI	CATION OF CO DEATHS	NFIRMED	CUMULATI	CFR	# CONFIR	# CONFIRM ED CASES WEEK 44	%	Outbrea
COUNTY	SUSPECTE D CASES	CONFIRMED CASES	Lab Epi Clinically Compati d ble		Lab confir med	Epi Linked	Clinical ly Compa tible	VE (%)		MED CASES WEEK 43		CHANGE	k Status	
Montserrado	5, 446	5,363	145	1658	3, 560	3	61	5	69	1.3	1	5	-400	Ongoi ng
Nimba	1, 136	1109	37	187	885	0	1	3	4	0.4	10	3	-70	Ongoi ng
Margibi	827	803	34	136	633	0	0	1	1	0.1	0	0	-	Ended
Grand Bassa	962	924	40	212	672	1	0	6	7	0.9	0	0	-	Ended
Lofa	353	284	32	66	186	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	Ended
Bong	603	578	22	21	535	0	1	2	3	0.5	0	0	-	Ended
Maryland	1110	1090	24	308	758	0	0	0	0	0	9	11	22	Ongoi ng
Grand Gedeh	648	504	34	48	422	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	-88	Ongoi ng
Sinoe	284	231	36	84	111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	Ended
Bomi	183	147	34	27	86	1	2	2	5	3	0	0	-	Ended
Grd Cape Mt	215	187	17	18	152	0	2	1	3	1.6	0	0	-	Ended
Grand Kru	991	962	22	106	834	0	0	2	2	0.2	0	0	i	Ongoi ng
Gbarpolu	67	46	4	2	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	Ended
Rivercess	112	84	23	54	7	0	1	0	1	1.1	0	0	-	Ended
River Gee	103	79	0	0	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	Ended
Total	13,040	12,391	504	2,927	8,960	5	68	22	95	7.8		20		

Public Health Response

I. Coordination

IMS meetings are being held for coordination and mobilization of resources in response counties

II. Epidemiological Surveillance

Active case search and contact tracing ongoing in Grand Kru County

III. Case management

Case management ongoing in affected counties

IV. Immunization

- 70% of the cases reported were vaccinated
- Routine immunization ongoing in affected counties

V. Laboratory

Five hundred seven (507) cases have been confirmed by the National Public Health Reference Laboratory from December 13, 2021 – November 5, 2023.

VI. Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Community engagement health education ongoing

VII. Challenges

Limited support for response in affected counties

Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)

- Four (4) cases were reported from Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Cape Mount and Bong Counties
- Specimens were collected and shipped
- Cumulatively, forty-six (46) cases were reported
 - o Ten (10) tested negative
 - o Thirty-six (36) pending

Neonatal Tetanus

- Zero cases were reported
- Cumulatively, fifty (50) cases including 7 deaths reported

Influenza-Like Illnesses

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

- Zero suspected cases reported
- Cumulatively, Ninety-five (95) cases have been reported

Influenza

- Zero suspected cases were reported
- Cumulatively, one hundred thirty-four (134) suspected cases reported
 - Proportion cases with sample collected (129/134) 96%
 - Proportion of cases with sample tested (63/129) 49% and all negative

Viral Hemorrhagic Diseases

Lassa fever

- Zero suspected cases were reported
- Cumulatively, two hundred four (204) suspected cases reported
 - Proportion of suspected cases with a sample collected (188/204) 92%
 - o Proportion of suspected cases with sample tested (188/188) 100% (confirmed 58, negative 138)
 - o Death in Confirmed cases 17 (CFR=29%)

Current Outbreak

Lassa fever disease

- No new confirmed case was reported
- Cumulatively, ninety-six (96) laboratory-confirmed cases including 27 deaths reported (CFR=28%)

Table 6: Summary of Lassa fever Outbreak, Liberia, January 6, 2022 – November 5, 2023

County	Outbreak Districts	Outbreak Start Date	Total suspected cases	Total confirmed cases	Deaths in HCWs	Total Deaths	CFR %	Total Contacts	# HCW contacts	Contacts_ became cases	HCW became confirmed case	Contacts under follow up	Contacts completed	Days in countdow n	Outbreak Status
Montserra	Bushrod	13-Feb-23	15	2	0	1	50%	29	21	0	0	0	29	Completed	Over
do	Central Monrovia	3-Mar-23	28	1	0	1	100%	28	27	0	0	0	28	Completed	Over
	Suakoko	21-Apr-23	148	42	2	8	19%	423	177	6	4	26	334	Active	Ongoing
Bong	Sanoyea	19-Sep-23	2	2	0	1	50%	36	18	0	0	6	31	Completed	Over
Dong	Kokoya	3-Oct-23	1	1	0	0	0%	5	0	0	0	5	0	Active	Ongoing
	Jorquelleh	6-Jan-22	13	9	1	2	25%	107	69	3	3	0	107	Completed	Over
Grand	District 3A&B	9-Sep-22	86	32	0	9	28%	177	40	40	0	23	159	Active	Ongoing
Bassa	Buchanan	11-Aug-23	2	1	0	1	100%	4	2	0	0	4	0	Active	Ongoing
.	Sanniquell ie-Mah	6-Feb-23	36	2	0	0	0%	43	35	8	0	0	43	Completed	Over
Nimba	Tappita	13-Mar-23	12	1	0	1	100%	36	17	4	0	0	36	Completed	Over
	Bain-Garr	1-Jun-23	10	3	0	3	100%	61	25	0	0	31	30	Active	Ongoing
Total			353	96	3	27	28%	1000	424	61	7	95	797		

Public Health Measures

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

I. Surveillance:

- o Active case search and contact tracing ongoing in affected communities and districts
- Development and dissemination of weekly sit-reps by affected counties

II. Laboratory

- o The National Public Health Reference Laboratory continues testing of Lassa fever samples
- o A total of 96 Lassa fever cases have been confirmed since this outbreak

Case management and IPC

Cases isolated and managed at designated facilities

Environmental and Vector Control

o Ongoing clean-up campaigns and rodent control measures in Grand Bassa County

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Risk communication and community engagement ongoing in affected and surrounding communities
- o Airing of jingles on Lassa fever prevention and control in Bong and Grand Bassa Counties

Yellow fever

- Two (2) suspected case was reported from Grand Kru and Sinoe Counties
- One specimen was collected and pending testing
- Cumulatively ninety-two (92) suspected cases were reported
 - Three (3) samples (3/73) 4% not transported (Epi week 5 from Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Grand Kru Counties)
 - o Proportion of suspected cases with samples collected (73/92) 79%
 - The proportion of samples tested is (60/73) 82%
 - o The proportion of samples pending testing is (10/73) 14%

Dengue Fever

Zero cases were reported

Ebola Virus Disease

Zero cases were reported

Diarrheal Diseases

Acute Bloody Diarrhea (Suspected Shigellosis)

- Fourteen (14) cases were reported: Sinoe (3), Gedeh (3), Lofa (2), Grand Kru (2), Nimba (2), Maryland (1), and Bong (1) Counties
- Six (6) specimens were collected and pending testing
- Cumulatively, six hundred forty-four (644) cases were reported
 - Two hundred nineteen (219) specimens were collected
 - o One hundred thirty-one (131) specimens were received by NPHRL
 - 105 tested negative
 - 6 specimens pending testing by NPHRL
 - 20 specimens rejected by NPHRL
 - 88 specimens not received by NPHRL

Severe Acute Watery Diarrhea (Suspected Cholera)

- Ten (10) suspected cases were reported: Maryland (3), Bong (3), Lofa (2), Grand Bassa (1), and Rivercess (1) counties
- Two (2) specimens were collected and pending arrival at NPHRL
- Cumulatively, eight hundred (800) cases reported
 - Two hundred fifty-seven (257) specimens were collected
 - o One hundred ten (110) specimens were received by NPHRL
 - 80 tested negative
 - 12 pending testing by NPHRL
 - 18 specimens rejected by NPHRL
 - 149 specimens were not received by NPHRL

Other Reportable Diseases

Animal bite (Human Exposure to Rabies)

Seventy- two (72) animal bites were reported

Table 7: Distribution of Animal Bite Cases and PEP Administration per County, Liberia, Epi week 44, 2023

Counties	Cases	Person receiving PEP	PEP doses administered	Cumulative cases (Wk 1- 44)	Cumulative PEP administered (Wk 1-44)
Bomi	0	0	0	62	33
Bong	9	4	4	192	83
Gbarpolu	2	0	0	31	1
Grand Bassa	3	0	0	250	28
Grand Cape Mount	0	0	0	66	38
Grand Gedeh	4	0	0	100	15
Grand Kru	4	0	0	244	15
Lofa	4	3	3	218	87
Margibi	1	1	1	183	75
Maryland	6	3	3	182	64
Montserrado	20	3	3	911	241
Nimba	13	3	3	534	152
Rivercess	2	0	0	108	57
River Gee	2	0	0	48	0
Sinoe	2	0	0	129	6
Total	72	17	17	3258	895

Public Health Actions

Ongoing monitoring and follow-up of cases

Meningitis

- Zero suspected cases reported
- Cumulatively, thirty-three (33) suspected cases reported
 - Proportion of suspected cases with samples collected (27/33) 82%
 - Proportion of sample tested (22/27) 81%
 - o 17 negative and 4 positive (Streptococcal-3 & Hemophilus Influenza)

Mpox

- Two (2) suspected cases reported Montserrado and River Gee counties
- Specimens were collected: and pending testing
- Cumulatively, one hundred twenty-seven (127) suspected cases reported
 - o Fourteen (14) confirmed

Unexplained cluster of deaths

Zero cases reported

Events of Public Health Importance

Maternal Mortality

- Four (4) deaths were reported from Montserrado, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe and Nimba Counties
- Reported causes: PPH, Postpartum Sepsis, Pulmonary Embolism, and Eclampsia
- Reporting Site:
 - Health Facility (4/4) 100%
- Cumulatively, two hundred seventy (270) deaths reported
 - o Proportion of death reviewed (70/270) 26%
 - Proportion of community death (31/70) 44%

Neonatal Mortality

- Fourteen (14) deaths were reported from Montserrado (9), Grand Gedeh (2), Nimba (1), Sinoe (1) and Maryland (1) Counties
- Reported causes: Birth asphyxia (7), Neonatal sepsis (6), and Preterm (1)
- Reporting site:
 - o Health facility: 14/14 (100%)
- Cumulatively, six hundred seventy-eight (678) deaths reported

Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)/Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR)

- Sixty-six (66) cases were reported: Sinoe (25), Montserrado (13), Grand Gedeh (8), Bong (6), Bomi (5), Grand Kru (3), Grand Cape Mount (3), Margibi (1), Grand Bassa (1) and Lofa (1), Counties
- All reported cases were classified as non-serious
- Related vaccine:
 - o Penta (29/66) 44%
 - o TT (11/66) 17%
 - Others (26/66) 39%
- Cumulatively, eight hundred sixty-four (864) events were reported and COVID-19 accounted for (226/864) 26%

Neglected Tropical Diseases

YAWS

- Zero cases were reported
- Cumulatively, two hundred fifty-six (256) cases have been reported

Buruli Ulcer

- Zero cases were reported
- Cumulatively, one hundred seventy-one (171) cases have been reported

Border Surveillance Update

A total of 4108 travelers were recorded for the week with incoming travelers accounting for 52% (2,134/4108)

Table 8: Border activity at the PoE for incoming and outgoing travelers, Liberia, Epi week 44, 2023

Type of Ports	Point of Entry	Weekly total	Arrival	Departure	Total traverlers with YB	Yellow Book Damage	Card Replaced	Travelers Vaccinated against YF & Issued book	Alerts detected/ Verified	COVID-19 Reactive	Evidence of COVID-19 vaccination card/certificate
	James S. Paynes	108	64	44	10	0	0	0	0	0	20
Airport	Robert Int'l Airport	3060	1608	1452	2997	63	46	16	0	0	3060
Seaport	Freeport of Monrovia	66	33	33	66	0	0	0	0	0	66
	Buchanan Port	80	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
	Bo Water Side	515	243	272	510	0	5	0	0	0	305
I	Ganta	93	61	32	29	0	0	0	0	0	16
Land Crossing	Yekepa	82	48	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	40
	Loguatuo	104	37	67	86	0	0	0	0	0	20
Total		4,108	2,134	1,974	3,732	63	51	16	0	0	3,607

Note: Yellow book issue for both arrival and departure; Vaccination coverage for both arrival and departure

Public Health Measures

National level

- Continue to distribute surveillance weekly ledgers and triplicate Lab alert and submission forms to the counties
- Providing remote technical and operational support to counties
- Produced and disseminated situation reports (Lassa fever, Measles, and Mpox outbreaks)

County-level

☞ Surveillance

- Publication of situational reports
- o Active case search ongoing in affected and surrounding communities

☞ Case Management

- o Administration of PEP
- Management of measles and Lassa fever cases ongoing in affected counties

Appendix																				
	of Immediately Reportable I	Dis	eas	es, (Con	ditio	ons,	and	l Ev	ents	s by	Co	unty	,						
			Bomi	Bong	Gbarpolu	Grand Bassa	Grand Cape Mount	Grand Gedeh	Grand Kru	Lofa	Margibi	Maryland	Montserrado	Nimba	Rivercess	River Gee	Sinoe	Total Weekly	Cumulative Reported	Cumulative Lab-confirmed
No. of Expect	f Expected Health District		4	9	5	8	5	6	5	6	4	6	7	11	6	6	10	98		
	District Reported		4	9	5	8	5	6	5	6	4	6	7	11	6	6	10	98		
Events of Public Health I _I Diarrheal Dise Influenza-Lik Viral Hemorrhagic F Vaccine Preventable Disea	Acute Flaccid Paralysis (Suspected Polio) Measles	A D A	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0 3	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0 12	0 5	0 0 4	0 0 1	0 0 1	0 0 1	4 0 27	46 0 4,642	0 0 37
e Prevent	Neonatal Tetanus	D A D	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	8 50 6	0 0
F Vaccine	Yellow fever	A D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	93 0	0
orrhagic	Dengue fever	A D A	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
íral Hem	Ebola Virus Disease Lassa fever	D A D	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 170 34	0 41 17
ıza-Lik(V	COVID-19	A D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0
e Influer	Influenza Like Illnesses	A D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
rheal Dis	Acute Bloody Diarrhoea (Shigellosis)	A D A	0 0	0 3	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 2	0 0	0 3	0 0	0	0 0	0 0	0 0	14 0 10	643 0 799	0 0
h I. Diarı	Severe Acute Watery Diarrhoea (Cholera) Maternal Mortality	D D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 270	0
lic Healt	Neonatal Mortality	D	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	9	1	0	0	1	14	678	
s of Pub	AEFI	A D	5 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	13 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	25 0 0	66 0 0	864 0 0	0 0
Event	Unexplained Cluster of Health Events/Disease	A D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 2	0 127	0 14
seases	Мрох	A D A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Reportable Diseases	Tuberculosis Human Exposure to Rabies (Suspected Human	D A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 6	0 20	0	0	0	0	0 72	0 3,258	0
ier Repo	Meningitis	D A D	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 32 0	0 0
	Unexplained Cluster of deaths	A D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neglected Tr	Buruli Ulcer	A D A	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	119 0 241	0 0 4
Neg	Yaws	D TAL	0	0	0	0	0	0 21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 215	0 12228	0 76

D = Dead **A** = Alive

Completeness refers to the proportion of expected weekly IDSR reports received (target: ≥80%)

- Timeliness refers to the proportion of expected weekly IDSR reports received by the next level on time (target: ≥80%). The time requirement for weekly IDSR reports:
 - Health facility required on or before 5:00 pm every Saturday to the district level
 - Health district required on or before 5:00 pm every Sunday to the county level
 - County required on or before 5:00 pm every Monday to the national level
- Non-polio AFP rate is the proportion of non-polio AFP cases per 100,000 among the estimated population under 15 years of age in 2017 (annual target: ≥2/100,000)
- Non-measles febrile rash illness rate refers to the proportion of Negative measles cases per 100,000 population
- Annualized maternal mortality rate refers to the maternal mortality rate of a given period of less than one year and it is the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births
- Annualized neonatal mortality rate refers to the neonatal mortality ratio of a given period of less than one year and it is the number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births
- **Epi-linked** refers to any suspected case that has not had a specimen taken for serologic confirmation but is linked to a laboratory-confirmed case
- **Confirmed case** refers to a case whose specimen has been tested positive or reactive upon laboratory testing, or has been classified as confirmed by either epidemiologic linkage with a confirmed case or clinical compatibility with the disease or condition

Epidemiological bulletin published with support from WHO and CDC

For comments or questions, please contact

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Data sources

Data and information is provided by the fifteen County Surveillance Officers and National Public Health Reference Laboratory via regular weekly reports, telephone calls and email exchanges. Situations are evolving and dynamic therefore numbers stated are subject to change.