

Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Outbreak of Infectious Diseases in the Niger Delta

January 22-28, 2023

Description

This special edition of the weekly update highlights the recurring outbreak of infectious diseases in the Niger Delta with a focus on the recent resurgence of cholera and Lassa fever in the region. Recent epidemiological data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) shows a resurgence of Lassa fever in Edo and Ondo State, and outbreak of cholera in Cross River. According to NCDC's Lassa fever Situation Report, as of January 15, 2023, 76% of 105 new confirmed cases in Nigeria were reported in Edo and Ondo State. According to data, as of January 25, 2023, more than 95 confirmed cases of Lassa fever and about 10 fatalities were reported across 11 local government areas (LGAs) in Edo State. In Cross River State, over 20 residents were reportedly killed and several others hospitalized as a result of a recent outbreak of cholera. As of January 21, 2023, over 150 cholera cases including more than 50 deaths have been reported across communities in Abi, Odukpani, Obubra and Yakurr LGAs in Cross River. The simultaneous outbreak of cholera and Lassa fever could have devastating impact on public health in the region.

Why it Matters

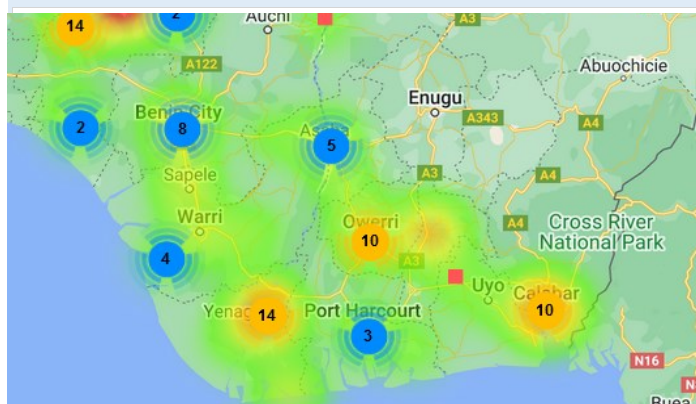
The recurrent outbreak of Lassa fever and cholera which are infectious and epidemic-prone, could have a devastating impact on public health and human security in the Niger Delta. The seasonal outbreak of these infectious diseases could bring about serious socio-economic and political repercussions, especially against the backdrop of inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities in rural areas, perennial flooding in the region, and the resurgence of COVID-19.

Social: The resurgence of these diseases could bring about serious public health consequences that can undermine the social wellbeing of residents. If infection rate continues, healthcare professionals and health facilities in the endemic areas could be overwhelmed, especially against the backdrop of inadequate health infrastructure. The infectious nature of the diseases could also result in strict containment measures that can cause psychological stress among residents.

Economic: The economic repercussions of a cholera or Lassa fever epidemic could be as disrupting as its epidemiological consequences. Increased infection rate could disrupt economic activities including restriction of movement, labour shortages and loss of livelihoods. Fear and uncertainties about the transmission of these diseases could also negatively impact consumer behavior and cause loss of income.

Political: The seasonal outbreak of infectious and epidemic-prone diseases could have negative impact on politics and governance. It could raise concerns about government commitment to public health security. This could erode public confidence in the government, and spark off unrest and violent protests that could disrupt governance.

Heat Map of Infectious Disease Related Incidents in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of infectious disease outbreaks in the Niger Delta from January 2018 - June 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The recent outbreak of infectious diseases is a serious public health concern. The infection rate of these diseases could increase, especially against the backdrop widespread contamination of water sources as a result the recent flooding in the region. Stakeholders should monitor the situation and respond promptly. Development actors should work with the NCDC and other government agencies and media outfits to sensitize the public about the outbreak, and advise residents on appropriate preventive and remedial measures.

Contact Us

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Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



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