

Lassa fever Situation overview

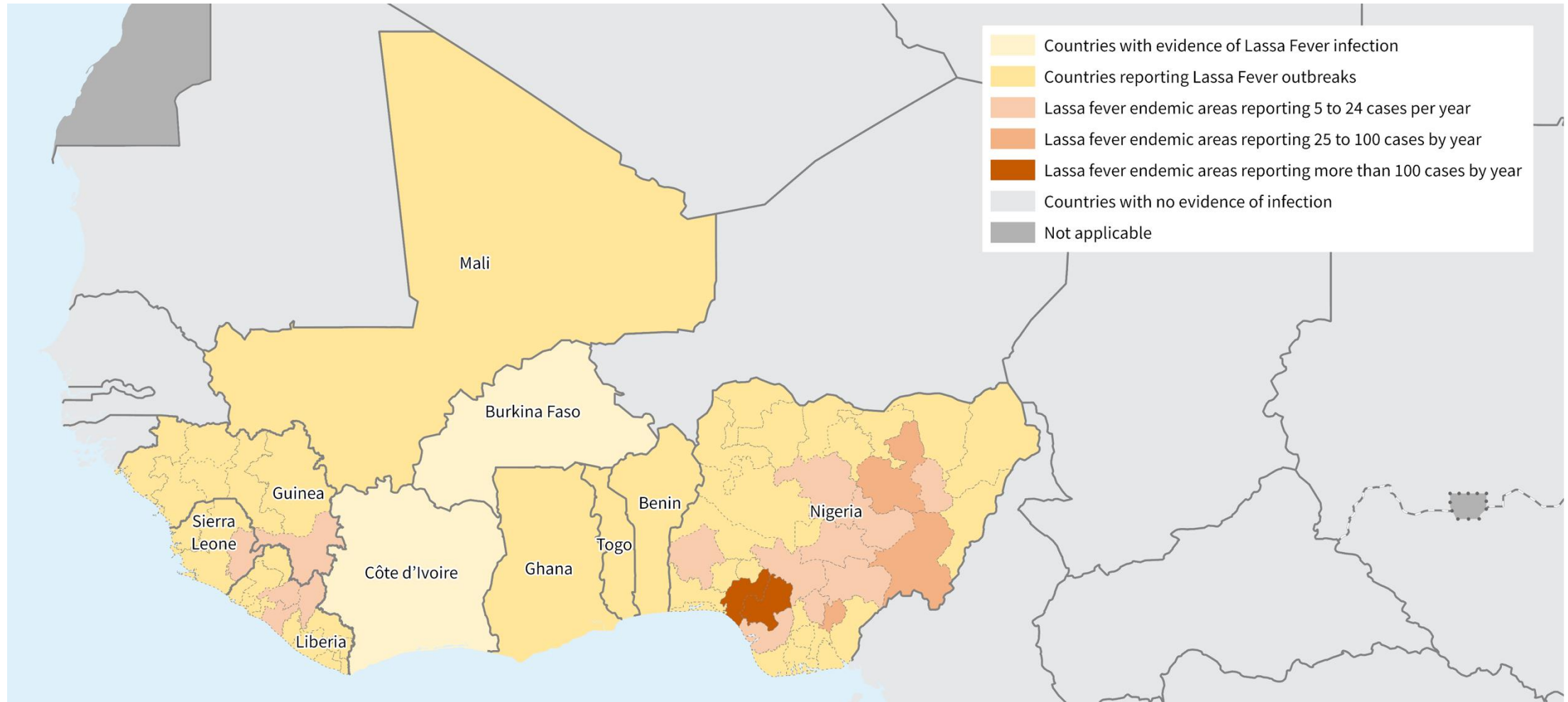
**WHO working group on Lassa fever clinical
management**

10 May 2024 – Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers team

Lassa fever in endemic countries

Geographic distribution of Lassa fever in West Africa (1969-2023)

LASSA
FEVER

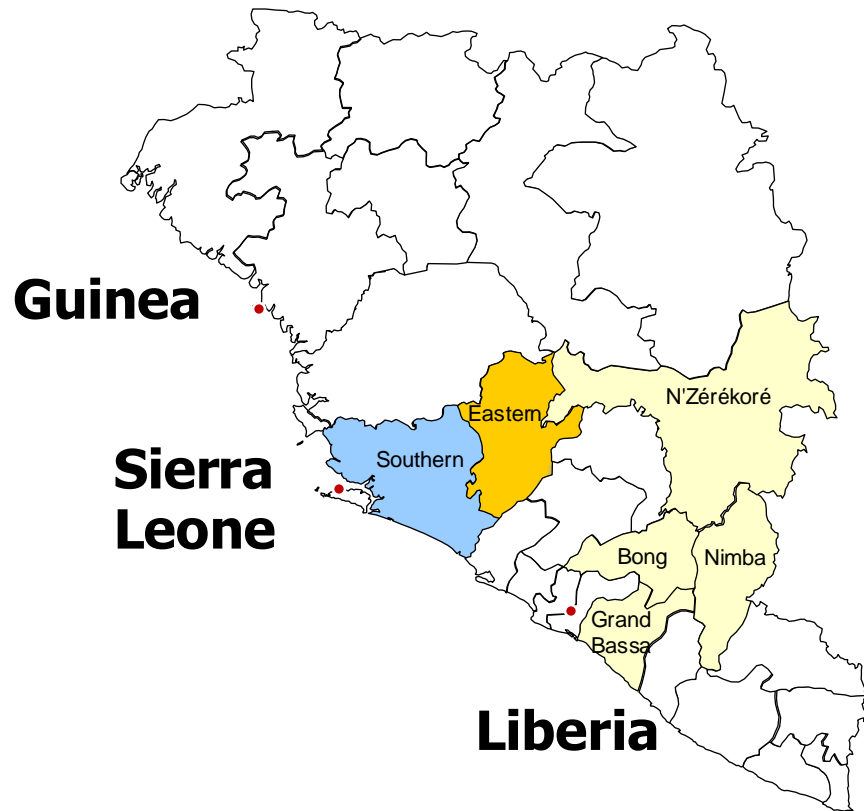


Lassa fever confirmed cases by Admin 2 level, West Africa



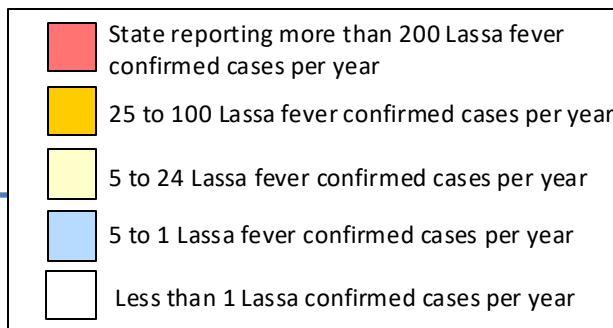
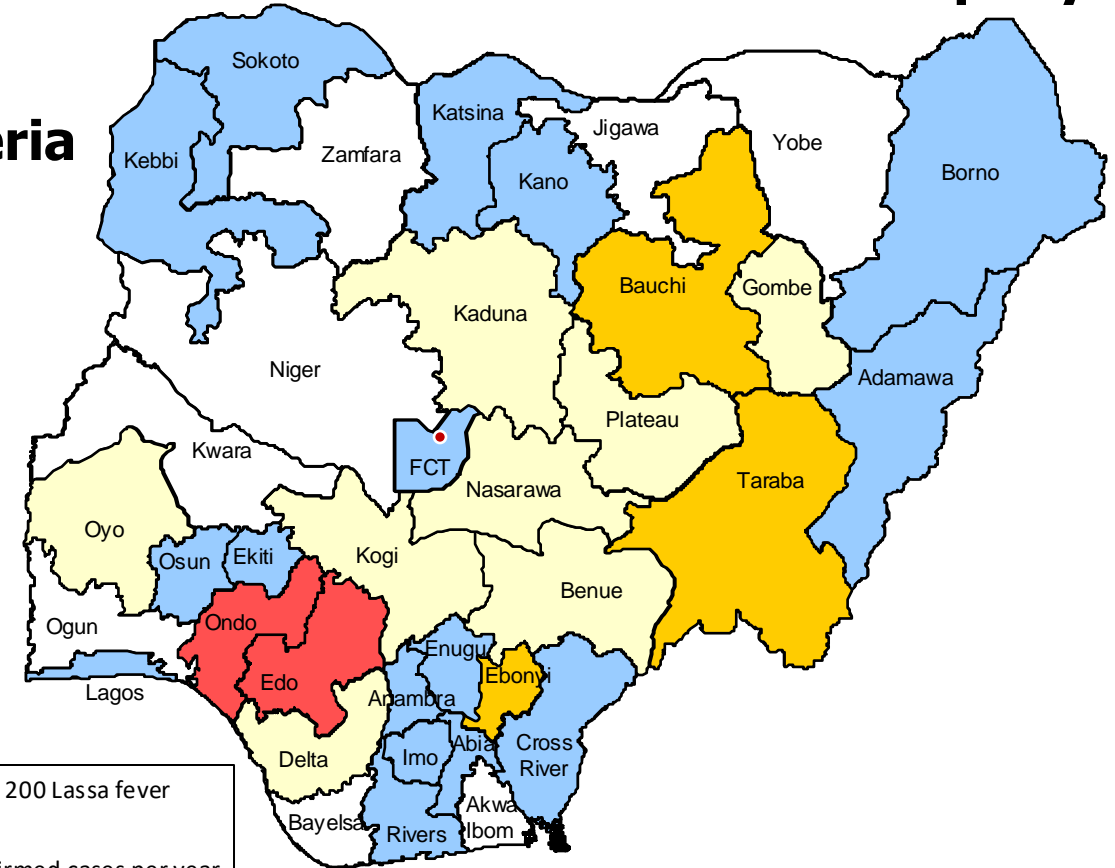
2018-2023.
Source: Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), MoH Sierra Leone, MoH Liberia, MoH Guinea.

Lassa confirmed Cases per year

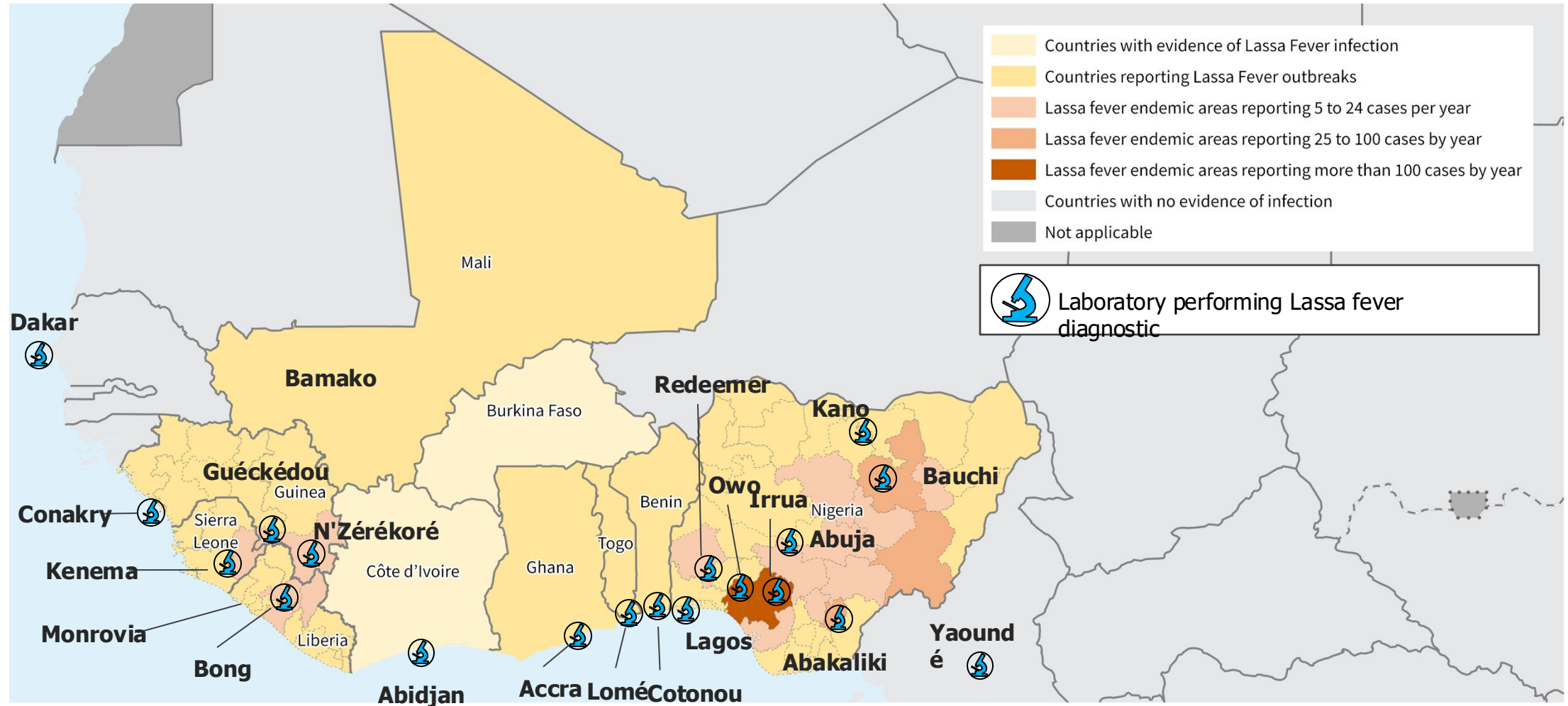


Lassa confirmed Cases per year

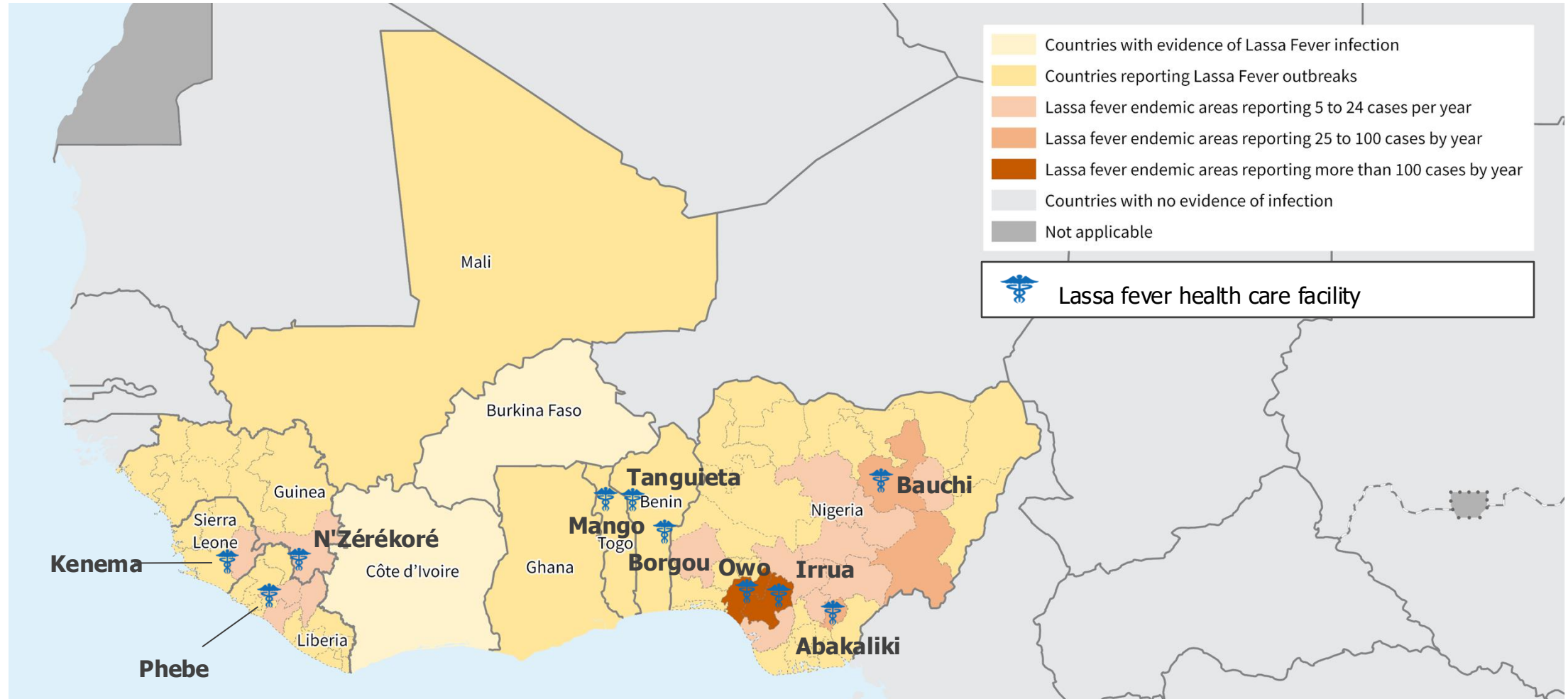
Nigeria



Lassa fever – Africa laboratory network



Lassa fever - Africa clinician network

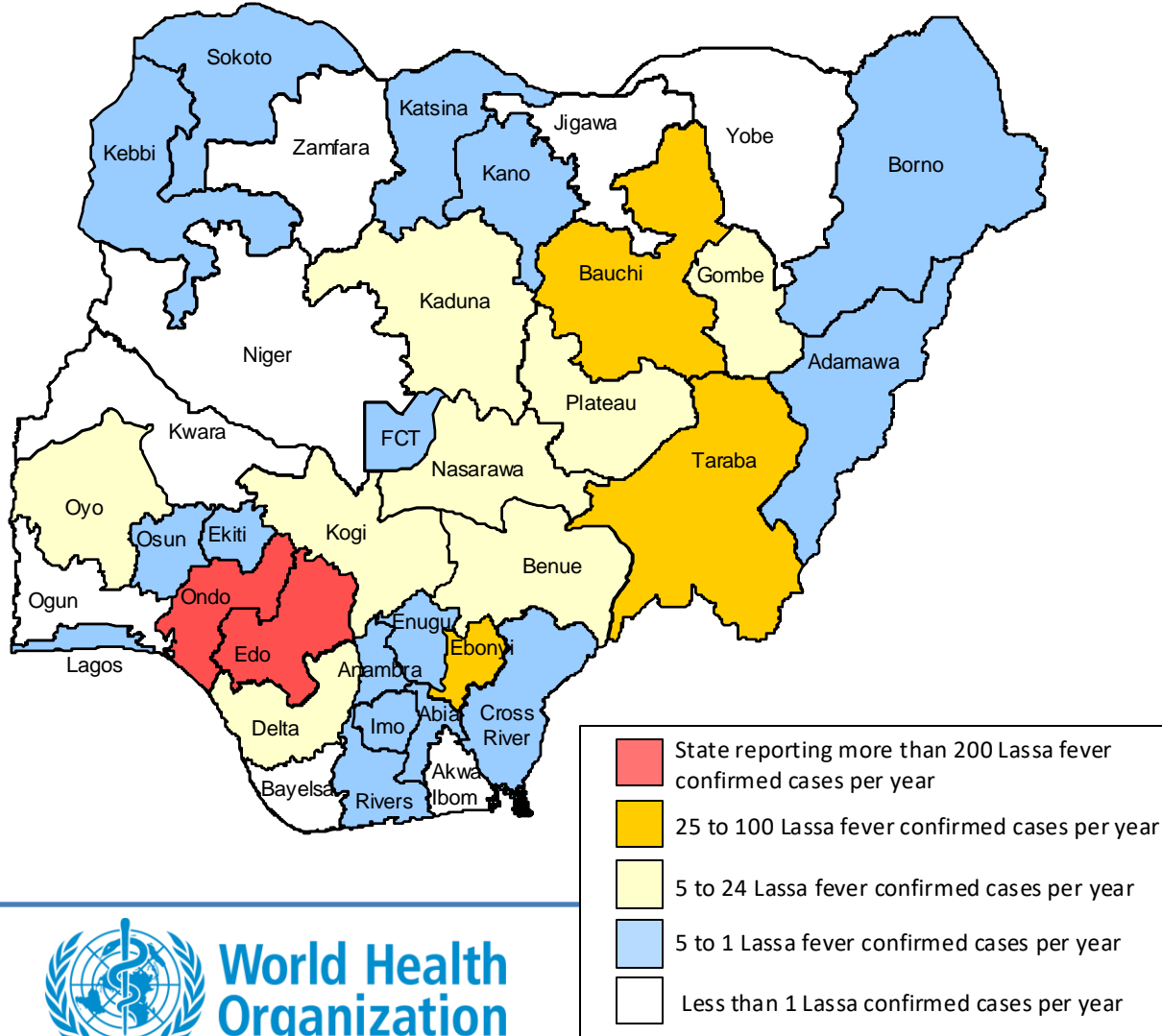


Lassa fever confirmed cases and CFR by State, Nigeria

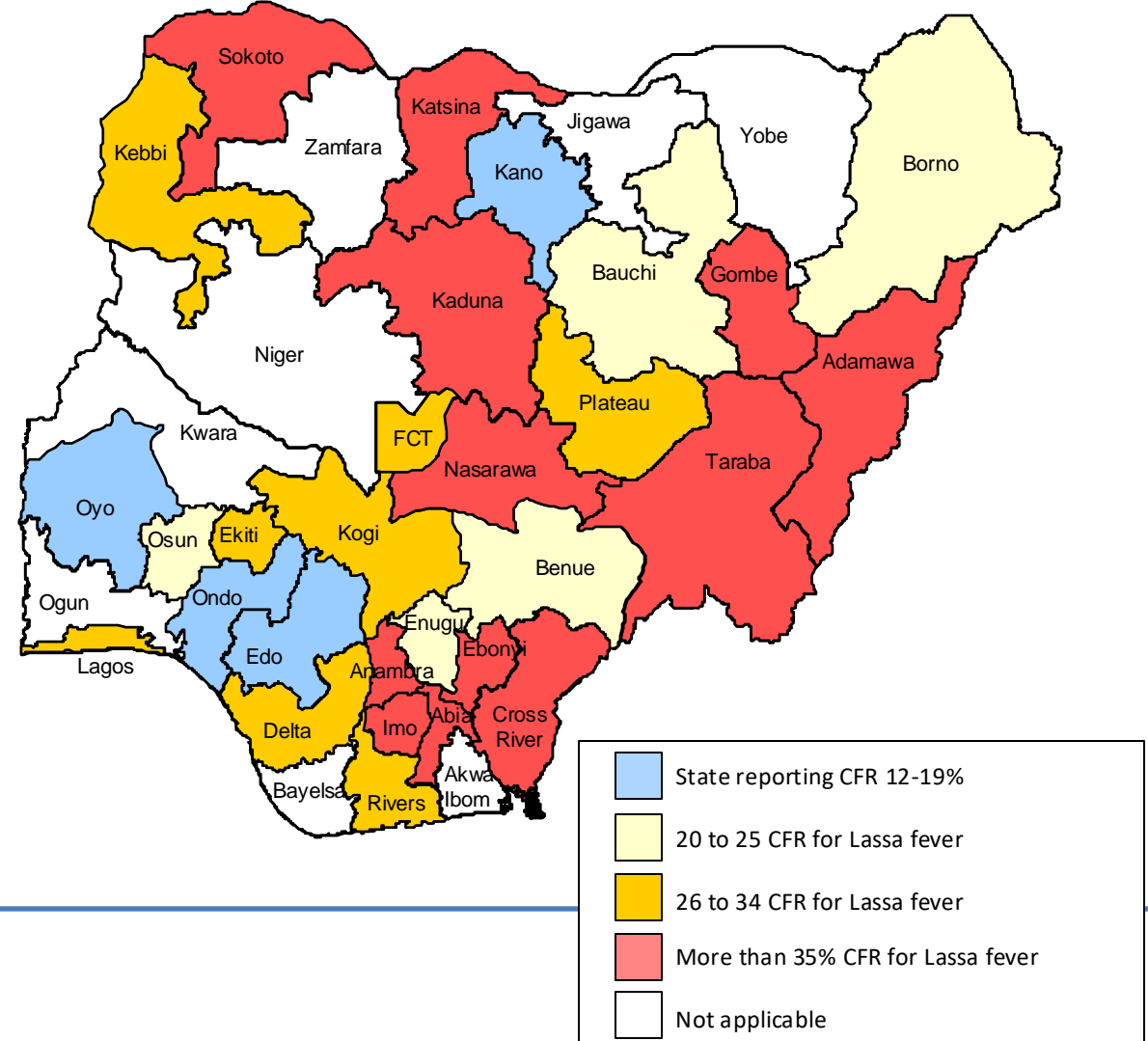


Source: Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)
2018-2023.

Lassa confirmed Cases per year



Case Fatality Ratio



Update on Lassa fever clinical care training package

Standardized Lassa fever clinical training package for healthcare staff



Development of a standardized Lassa fever training package for health care staff (with focus on clinicians and nurses).

- **Train healthcare workers and equip them with** adequate knowledge and skills,
- **Improve expertise and confidence** of health workers managing the disease,
- **Standardise and improve patients' standard of care,**



- **Highlight challenging situations and care for specific populations** (children, pregnant women).

Lassa fever clinical case management training package

Module 01. Introduction to Lassa fever

Health Operations

Module 02. Lassa fever outbreak preparedness and control

Module 03. Laboratory diagnostics for Lassa fever

Module 04. Sample collection and management for Lassa fever

Module 05. Infection prevention and control measures for Lassa fever

Module 06. Mental health and psychosocial support during Lassa fever care

Module 07. Assessment of Lassa wards in existing facilities

Innovations for Lassa fever: therapeutics and vaccines

Module 08. Lassa fever therapeutics and vaccines under development

Optimized supportive care for Lassa fever

Module 09. Screening, triage and initial management

Module 10. Overall patient management and supportive care

Module 11. Co-infections management

Module 12. Other supportive therapies

Module 13. Considerations for Lassa fever survivor programme

Optimized supportive care for Lassa fever: complications

Module 14. Management of sepsis and septic shock

Module 15. Management of severe dehydration and hypovolemic shock

Module 16. Renal complications

Module 17. Management of acid-base and electrolyte disorders

Module 18. Neurological complications

Module 19. Respiratory complications

Module 20. Management of severe bleeding and anaemia

Optimized supportive care for Lassa fever: care for special populations



World Health
Organization



Where do healthcare workers play a (major) role?

Risk communication

- **Data and information sharing**
- **Advocacy and awareness**
- Media engagement

Community engagement

- **Engagement with key influencers**
- **Stimulating behavioural changes**
- **Addressing concerns**
- Joint response plan
- Effective communication

- Outbreak response teams (epi, social)
- Resource mobilisation and budgeting
- Commodities
- Transportation
- Human resources
- Security

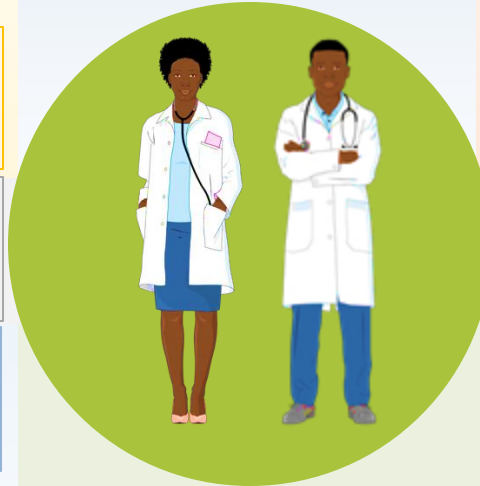
Health information

Partnership coordination

Operations support and logistics

- **Clinical trials**
- **Ethics committee**

Research



Environment

- Rodent control
- Community hygiene

Patient's management

- **Triage and case isolation**
 - **Barrier nursing**
 - **Treatment and care**
- Infection prevention and control**
- Psychosocial support**

Patient's care

Laboratory

- **Specimen collection**
- **Laboratory testing**

Investigation & surveillance

- **Case investigation**
- **Recording, reporting and data analysis**
- Active case finding

Status update on training package

- Training developed in close collaboration with clinicians and other experts from Nigeria and other countries and partners institutions.
- Two meetings organized in Nigeria to present draft and subsequent versions.
- Last round of revision completed in February 2024.
- Pilot testing planned in Nigeria (possibly Ebonyi State), probably in June to refine, fit to needs, adapt and improve.
- Finalization of first version by October 2024 and translation in French. Training to be then proposed in interested countries / partners.

Lassa fever priorities

Lassa fever priorities (1/2) – Not exhaustive !



Decrease morbidity and mortality of Lassa fever

- Support clinicians (especially at peripheral health centers) to suspect Lassa fever and build patients' pathway for early referral to Lassa fever wards.
- Ensure standardized, safe and adequate oSOC care to Lassa fever (severe/vulnerable) patients.
- Clinical trials to establish efficacy (as possible) of possible therapeutics.
- Address sequelae of Lassa fever survivors (cf. hearing loss).

Early detection / confirmation of patients

- Support establishment of either decentralized and/or close to patient RT-PCR testing and/or adequate sample transportation system.
- Evaluate existing commercial assays (RT-PCR, serology).

Lassa fever priorities (2/2)

Prevent transmission in healthcare facilities and/or to medical personnel

- Systematic investigation of healthcare worker infection to identify at-risk practices.
- Support early recognition in peripheral health centers.
- Ensure adequate infrastructure, flow of patients and IPC measures in health facilities.

Better understanding of rodent-to-human transmission in various contexts to try and establish potential control measures at community level

- In-depth joint-investigation of context of transmission (epi, rodent specialist, social sciences, ...).

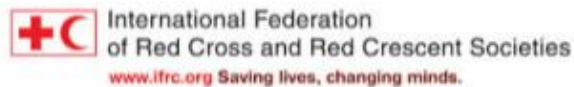
Few conclusion points

- Global public health and **moral imperative** to alleviate impact of the disease on vulnerable populations.
- Country capacity is essential to mitigate Lassa fever impact. **Key points remain high level governments commitment and international collaboration.**
- Availability of **new diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines** should improve medical intervention in areas of the world where access to care is challenging.
- **Regional surveillance, lab and clinician networks** are vital for outbreaks prevention and response, together with the development of new R&D products and a **one Health** approach.

Lassa fever partners



FEDERAL TEACHING HOSPITAL
ABAKILIKI EBONYI STATE
Excellence in Healthcare Delivery



Including our colleagues in Benin, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and all other individual experts
For more information <http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/lassa-fever/en/>



Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers team

Pierre Formenty **Anaïs Legand** **Alejandro Costa** **Alex Almuedo**

formentyp@who.int

leganda@who.int

costaa@who.int

almuedoa@who.int

Health Emergency Interventions Department

World Health Organization

Avenue Appia 20 | CH-1211 Geneva 27

Lassa Fever

www.who.int/health-topics/lassafever

Thank you!



**World Health
Organization**

HEALTH
EMERGENCIES
programme