

Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Report

Date of Issue: 4 Mar 2024

Events reported in
2024

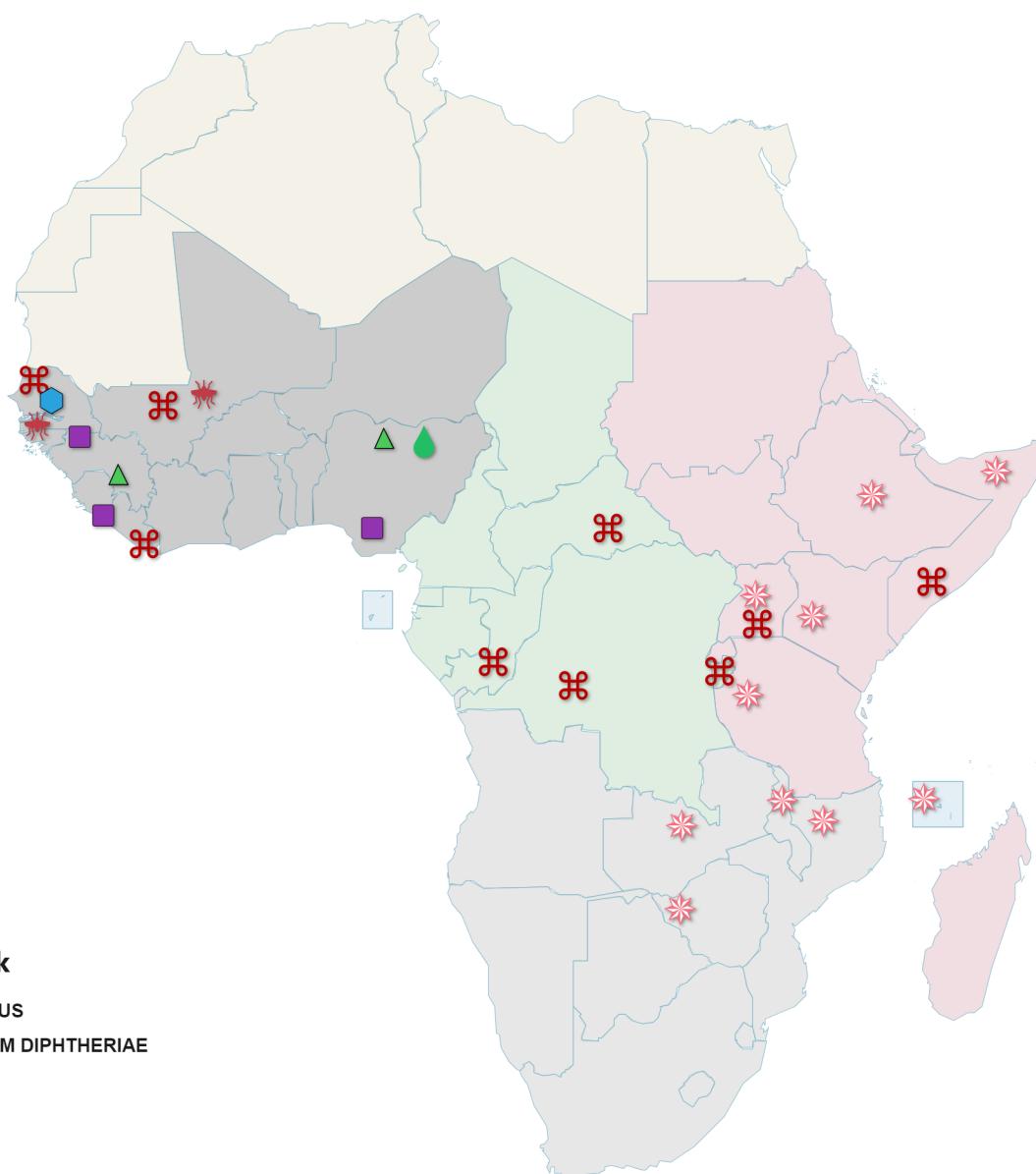
37

Events highlighted
this week

29

New events since
last issue

6



Events this Week

- ◆ CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS
- ▲ CORYNEBACTERIUM DIPHTHERIAE
- ★ DENGUE VIRUS
- LASSA VIRUS
- ✖ MEASLES VIRUS
- MENINGITIS (BACTERIAL)
- ✳ VIBRIO CHOLERAES

* □ represent AU Member States that are islands

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the African Union.

Risk Level

	Very High (New)	High (New)	Moderate (New)
Event Type	0	16 (1)	13 (5)
Human	0	0	0
Animal	0	0	0
Environment	0	0	0

Event Summary

New events since last issue

Agent/Syndrome	Country	Risk:Human	Risk:Animal	Type	Suspected	Confirmed	Deaths
⬢ Chikungunya virus	Senegal	Moderate	N/A	👤	0	3	0
🩸 Dengue virus	Senegal	Moderate	N/A	👤	0	15	0
⌘ Measles virus	Liberia	Moderate	N/A	👤	174	29	0
	Mali	Moderate	N/A	👤	41	0	0
	Senegal	Moderate	N/A	👤	0	82	0
💧 Meningitis (Bacterial)	Nigeria	High	N/A	👤	569	59	78

Events Highlighted this week

Agent/Syndrome	Country	Risk:Human	Risk:Animal	Type	Suspected (New)	Confirmed (New)	Deaths (New)
▲ Corynebacterium diphtheriae	Guinea	High	N/A	👤	3,852 (297)	42 (3)	102 (3)
	Nigeria	High	N/A	👤	654 (172)	2,465 (704)	33 (11)
✿ Dengue virus	Mali	High	N/A	👤	1,120 (194)	229 (29)	
	Mauritius	Moderate	N/A	👤		2,433 (614)	2 (0)
■ Lassa virus	Guinea	Moderate	N/A	👤	26 (26)	2 (0)	2 (1)
	Liberia	Moderate	N/A	👤	27 (17)	1 (0)	
	Nigeria	Moderate	N/A	👤	2,629 (507)	477 (66)	85 (13)
✖ Measles virus	Burundi	Moderate	N/A	👤	1,554 (0)		53 (27)
	Central African Republic	High	N/A	👤	4,121 (0)	1,690 (0)	44 (0)
	Congo Republic	Moderate	N/A	👤	552 (0)	138 (0)	5 (0)
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	High	N/A	👤	259,701 (0)	1,764 (0)	4,900 (0)
	Somalia	Moderate	N/A	👤	2,384 (339)	106 (19)	3 (1)
	Uganda	Moderate	N/A	👤	301 (224)	28 (22)	3 (3)
✿ Vibrio cholerae	Comoros	High	N/A	👤		132 (22)	6 (0)
	Ethiopia	High	N/A	👤	2,090 (465)		16 (0)
	Kenya	High	N/A	👤	9,323 (0)	3,191 (3)	206 (0)
	Malawi	High	N/A	👤		187 (21)	5 (0)
	Mozambique	High	N/A	👤		45,849 (480)	171 (0)
	Somalia	High	N/A	👤	2,620 (365)	323 (11)	26 (3)
	Tanzania	High	N/A	👤	1,274 (405)		26 (23)
	Uganda	High	N/A	👤	34 (24)	8 (4)	
	Zambia	High	N/A	👤	16,006 (457)	851 (0)	682 (0)
	Zimbabwe	High	N/A	👤	23,645 (1,060)	2,703 (8)	535 (20)

Initial Reports

High Risk Events

Meningitis (Bacterial) in Nigeria

59 confirmed human case(s), **569** suspected human case(s)
78 human deaths (**CFR: 12.42%**)

Agent/Pathogen	Meningitis (Bacterial)	First Reported	28-Feb-2024	Previous Report Update	28-Feb-2024
First Occurred	1-Jan-2024	Country	Nigeria	Location	5 states
Source	Ministry of Health	GeoScope	MODERATE	Human Risk Assessment	HIGH
Animal Risk Assessment	N/A				

Description:

On 28 February 2024, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) reported 628 cases (59 confirmed; 569 suspected) and 78 deaths [case fatality rate (CFR): 12.42%] from five of 36 states and the federal capital territory. Cumulatively, since the beginning of 2023, a total of 710 cases and 84 deaths (CFR: 11.8%) have been reported in Nigeria.

Meningitis is an infection that causes inflammation of the meninges (the thin lining that surrounds the brain and the spinal cord). Meningitis can present in bacterial, viral, fungal, parasitic, amoebic or non-infectious forms. Transmission is through droplets of respiratory secretions from infected persons. The most common symptoms include fever, headache and stiffness of the neck. Vaccines are available to prevent meningitis and are on the routine immunization schedule in most Member States. Meningitis is endemic in Nigeria. However, it is seasonal starting from December all through to June with peaks observed between March and April. The last outbreak of meningitis in Nigeria occurred in 2022 with 2,376 cases and 183 deaths (CFR: 7.7%) reported from 22 of 36 states and the federal capital territory.

Response by MS/partner/Africa CDC:

The NCDC plans to build capacity for case management, sample collection, transportation, laboratory diagnosis and data management.

Chikungunya in Senegal

3 confirmed human case(s)
0 human deaths (**CFR: 0%**)

Agent/Pathogen	Chikungunya virus	First Reported	28-Feb-2024	Previous Report Update	28-Feb-2024
First Occurred	29-Jan-2024	Country	Senegal	Location	3 districts
Source	Ministry of Health	GeoScope	LOW	Human Risk Assessment	Moderate
Animal Risk Assessment	N/A				

Description:

On 15 February 2023, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reported three confirmed cases and no deaths of chikungunya from three of 45 districts in the country: Matam (1), Maka Colibantang (1) and Pikin (1). The outbreak was confirmed after blood samples of three cases tested positive for chikungunya by polymerase chain reaction at the Institut Pasteur Dakar. Sixty-seven percent of the cases were female.

Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral disease endemic to countries in Africa and South America caused by the chikungunya virus. The most reported symptoms are muscle pain, joint swelling, headache, nausea, fatigue, and rash. In 2023, a total of 337 and no deaths of chikungunya were reported from 23 of 45 districts in the country.

Response by MS/partner/Africa CDC:

The MoH continues to conduct risk communication and vector control activities in the affected communities.

Human Event Updates

High Risk Events

Cholera in Africa

6,872 confirmed human case(s), **38,238** suspected human case(s)
936 human deaths (**CFR: 2.07%**)

Agent/Pathogen	Vibrio cholerae	First Reported	1-Jan-2024	Previous Report Update	23-Feb-2024
First Occurred	1-Jan-2024	Country	Multiple Countries	Location	15 MS
Source	Ministry of Health	GeoScope	HIGH	Human Risk Assessment	HIGH
Animal Risk Assessment	N/A				

Update to Event:

Since the beginning of this year, a total of 45,110 cases (6,872 confirmed; 38,238 suspected) and 936 deaths (CFR: 2.07%) of cholera were reported from 15 Africa Union (AU) Member States (MS): Burundi (58 cases; 0 deaths), Cameroon (138; 27), Comoros (132; 6), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (5,613; 129), Ethiopia (2,288; 18), Kenya (165; 0), Malawi (187; 3), Mozambique (4,035; 7), Nigeria (169; 2), Somalia (2,943; 26), South Africa (2; 0), Tanzania (1,274; 6), Uganda (38; 1), Zambia (16,857; 554) and Zimbabwe (11,211; 157). This week, 4,427 new cases and 41 new deaths of cholera were reported from 10 AU MS: Comoros, DRC, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Comoros: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 22 new confirmed cases and no new deaths of cholera from Ngazidja region. This is a 61% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the last update. Cumulatively, 132 confirmed cases (11 imported; 121 local) and six deaths (CFR: 4.5%) of cholera were reported from Ngazidja and Moheli regions. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of the cases were reported from Ngazidja region.

DRC: Since the last update (23 January 2024), the MoH reported 1,109 new suspected cases and 14 new deaths (CFR: 1.3%) of cholera from six provinces. Cumulatively, 5,613 cases (211 confirmed; 5,402 suspected) and 129 deaths (CFR: 2.2%) of cholera were reported from 12 of 26 provinces in DRC. This is a protracted outbreak that started in March 2022.

Ethiopia: Since the last update, (23 February 2024), the Ethiopian Public Health Institute reported 465 new suspected cases and no new deaths of cholera from five regions. Cumulatively, 2,288 suspected cases and 18 deaths (CFR: 0.7%) were reported from five of 12 regions in Ethiopia. This is a protracted outbreak that started in August 2022.

Malawi: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 21 new confirmed cases and no new deaths of cholera from Karonga, Nsanje, Mulanje, Mwanza, Thyolo and Zomba districts. This is a 99% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the same period last year. Cumulatively, 187 confirmed cases and three deaths (CFR: 1.6%) of cholera were reported from 13 of 29 districts in Malawi.

Mozambique: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 480 new confirmed cases and no new deaths of cholera from seven provinces. This is a 66% increase in the number of new cases compared to the same period last year. Cumulatively, 4,035 confirmed cases and seven deaths (CFR: 0.2%) of cholera were reported from seven of 10 provinces in Mozambique.

Somalia: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 376 new cases (11 confirmed; 365 suspected) and three new deaths (CFR: 0.8%) of cholera from four states in Somalia. This is a 12% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the last update. Cumulatively, 2,943 cases (323 confirmed; 2,620 suspected) and 26 deaths (CFR: 0.9%) of cholera were reported from four of seven states in Somalia. This is a protracted outbreak that started in 2022 and 2017 in the Banadir region.

Tanzania: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 405 new suspected cases and three new deaths (CFR: 0.7%) of cholera from 10 regions. Cumulatively, 1,274 new suspected cases and six deaths (CFR: 0.5%) have been reported from 10 of 31 regions in Tanzania. This is a protracted outbreak that started in September 2023.

Uganda: Since the last update (26 January 2024), the MoH reported 24 new cases (20 confirmed; 4 suspected) and one new death (4.1%) of cholera from Mbale district. Cumulatively, 38 cases (24 confirmed; 14 suspected) and one death (CFR: 2.6%) of cholera have been reported from two of 146 districts in Uganda.

Zambia: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the Zambia National Public Health Institute reported 457 suspected cases and no new deaths of cholera from 61 districts. This is a 39% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the last report. Cumulatively, 16,857 cases (851 confirmed; 16,006 suspected) and 554 deaths (CFR: 3.3%) of cholera have been reported from 70 of 116 districts in Zambia.

Zimbabwe: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 1,068 new cases (8 confirmed; 1,060 suspected) and 20 new deaths (CFR: 1.9%) of cholera from 61 districts. This is a 79% increase in the number of new cases compared to the last update. Cumulatively, 11,211 cases (944 confirmed; 10,267 suspected) and 157 deaths (CFR: 1.4%) have been reported from 61 of 64 districts in Zimbabwe. This is a protracted outbreak that started in February 2023.

Note: In 2023, a total of 241,137 cases (93,475 confirmed; 147,662 suspected) and 3,800 deaths (CFR: 1.6%) of cholera were reported from 19 AU MS: Burundi (1,396 cases; 9 deaths), Cameroon (21,269; 508), Congo (724; 14), DRC (41,351; 352), Eswatini (2; 0), Ethiopia (29,869; 426), Kenya (8,937; 148), Malawi (43,015; 1,262), Mozambique (41,248; 164), Nigeria (3,863; 128), Somalia (18,304; 46), South Africa (1,074; 47), Sudan (9000; 245), South Sudan (1,471; 2), Tanzania (821; 18), Togo (1; 0), Uganda (78; 10), Zambia (3,757; 88) and Zimbabwe (15,137; 333).

Response by MS/partner/Africa CDC:

The ministries of health in the affected MS continue to strengthen surveillance, case management and to implement water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in the affected areas.

Dengue fever in Africa

2,686 confirmed human case(s), **2,741** suspected human case(s)
4 human deaths (CFR: **0.07%**)

Agent/Pathogen	Dengue virus	First Reported	12-Jan-2024	Previous Report Update	23-Feb-2024
First Occurred	1-Jan-2024	Country	Multiple Countries	Location	5 MS
Source	Ministry of Health	GeoScope	HIGH	Human Risk Assessment	HIGH
Animal Risk Assessment	N/A				

Update to Event:

Since the beginning of this year, a total of 5,427 cases (2,686 confirmed; 2,741 suspected) and four deaths (0.07%) of dengue fever have been reported from five AU MS: Ethiopia (1,621 cases; 2 deaths), Mali (1,349; 0), Mauritius (2,433; 2), Sao Tome and Principe (9; 0) and Senegal (15; 0). This week, 852 new cases and no new deaths of dengue fever were reported from Mali, Mauritius and Senegal.

Mali: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 223 new cases (29 confirmed; 194 suspected) and no new deaths of dengue fever from Bamako, Koulikoro and Taoudenni regions. This is an 11% decrease in the number of new cases reported compared to the last report. Cumulatively, 1,349 cases (229 confirmed; 1,120 suspected) and no deaths of dengue fever have been reported from eight of 10 regions in Mali this year. Two serotypes (VDEN- 1 and VDEN-3) were detected among confirmed cases. This is a protracted outbreak that started in September 2023.

Mauritius: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 614 new confirmed cases and no new deaths of dengue fever from two islands: Mauritius (427 cases) and Rodrigues (187). Cumulatively, 2,433 confirmed cases and two deaths (CFR: 0.1%) of dengue fever have been reported from Mauritius (1,794 local; 7 imported cases) and Rodrigues (638; 1) islands in Mauritius.

Senegal (initial report): On 15 February 2023, the MoH reported 15 new confirmed cases and no deaths of dengue fever from seven of 45 districts. Of the confirmed cases, persons 15-35 years accounted for 60%. Additionally, 53% of the cases were females. Dengue is an arbovirus in the Filoviridae family, transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes. Aedes mosquitoes are responsible for transmitting chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika virus. There are four distinct, but closely related, serotypes of the virus (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4). The average case fatality rate (CFR) of dengue is less than 1% but can be up to 15% if untreated. Recovery from infection is believed to confer lifelong immunity against a serotype. In 2023, 254 confirmed cases and no deaths of dengue fever were reported from 27 of the 45 districts.

Note: In 2023, a total of 280,411 cases (21,999 confirmed; 70,433 probable; 187,979 suspected) and 808 deaths (CFR: 0.3%) of dengue fever were reported from 18 AU MS: Angola (3 cases; 0 deaths), Benin (6; 1), Burkina Faso (242,425; 709); Cabo Verde (410; 0), Chad (1,581; 1), Côte d'Ivoire (3,895; 27), Egypt (578; 0), Ethiopia (21,469; 17), Ghana (18; 0), Guinea (6; 1); Mali (6,177; 34), Mauritius (265; 0), Niger (148; 0), Nigeria (84; 0), Sao Tome and Principe (1,227; 11), Senegal (254; 0), Sudan (1,664; 7) and Togo (8; 0).

Response by MS/partner/Africa CDC:

Mali and Senegal: The MoH continues to conduct enhanced surveillance, case management, vector control and risk communication activities in the affected areas.

Mauritius: The MoH distributed treatment guidelines to all health facilities and continues to conduct enhanced surveillance, vector control and risk communication activities.

Human Event Updates

Moderate Risk Events

COVID-19 in Africa

12,553,199 confirmed human case(s)
259,265 human deaths (**CFR: 2.07%**)

Agent/Pathogen	SARS-CoV-2	First Reported	21-Feb-2020	Previous Report Update	23-Feb-2024
First Occurred	14-Feb-2020	Country	Multiple Countries	Location	All 55 MS
Source	Ministry of Health	GeoScope	VERY HIGH	Human Risk Assessment	MODERATE
Animal Risk Assessment	N/A				

Update to Event:

As of 6 p.m. East African Time (EAT) 29 February 2024, a total of 12,553,199 COVID-19 cases and 259,265 deaths (CFR: 2.1%) have been reported by the 55 AU MS. This represents 2% of all cases and 4% of all deaths reported globally. Fifty-three MS have reported COVID-19 cases infected with the Alpha (50 MS), Beta (46), Delta (53), Gamma (5) and Omicron (53) variants of concern (VOC).

Additionally, 32 MS have reported the presence of the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant, 19 MS reported the Omicron sub lineage (BA.2.75), Eight MS reported variants under monitoring (CH.1.1), 17 MS reported the Omicron sub lineage (XBB.1.5), 13 MS have reported the Omicron sub lineage (XBB.1.16), 12 MS reported the Omicron sub lineage (BF.7 or BA.5.2.1.7), nine MS have reported the Omicron sub lineage EG.5, nine MS have reported the Omicron sub lineage (BA.2.86) and 17 AU MS: Algeria, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia have reported the presence and circulation of the JN.1 variant.

Fifty-four AU MS are currently providing COVID-19 vaccination to the general population. Cumulatively, 1.1 billion doses have been administered on the continent. Of these doses administered, 570.7 million people have been partially vaccinated, and 478.7 million have been fully vaccinated. Eritrea is the only AU MS yet to start COVID-19 vaccination roll out.

For Epi week 8 (19 - 25 February 2024) 142 new COVID-19 cases and no new deaths were reported from three AU MS: Eswatini (7), Morocco (44) and Namibia (91). A total of 2,696 tests were conducted during the past week from three AU MS: Eswatini, Morocco and Namibia. Since February 2020, over 136 million COVID-19 tests have been conducted in Africa.

Response by MS/partner/Africa CDC:

The Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC) of the Africa CDC was activated for COVID-19 since 27 January 2020. For more information on Africa CDC's response efforts please refer to Africa CDC's website.

Measles in Africa

1,560 confirmed human case(s), **28,641** suspected human case(s)
768 human deaths (CFR: **2.54%**)

Agent/Pathogen	Measles virus	First Reported	1-Jan-2024	Previous Report Update	23-Feb-2024
First Occurred	1-Jan-2024	Country	Multiple Countries	Location	17 MS
Source	Ministry of Health	GeoScope	HIGH	Human Risk Assessment	MODERATE
Animal Risk Assessment	N/A				

Update to Event:

Since the beginning of this year, a total of 30,201 cases (1,560 confirmed; 28,641 suspected) and 768 deaths (CFR: 2.54%) of measles have been reported from 17 AU MS: Burkina Faso (1,714 cases; 7 deaths), Burundi (2,432 ; 53), Cameroon (216; 57), Central African Republic (CAR) (708; 2), Congo (46; 0), DRC (19,414; 638), Ethiopia (216; 0), Gabon (13; 0), Kenya (157; 2), Liberia (203; 0), Mali (103; 0), Mauritania (693; 1), Nigeria (915; 2), Senegal (82; 0), Somalia (2,490; 3), Uganda (329; 3), Zambia (470; 0). This week, 10,271 new cases and 432 new deaths of measles were reported from nine AU MS: Burundi, CAR, Congo, DRC, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Somalia and Uganda.

Burundi: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MOH reported 878 new suspected cases and 27 new deaths (CFR: 3.1%) of measles from eleven districts. Cumulatively, 2,432 suspected cases and 53 deaths (CFR: 2.2%) of measles were reported from 20 of 49 districts in Burundi. In 2022, the national measles vaccination coverage among children <5 years in Burundi was 71%.

Central African Republic: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 188 new suspected cases and one new death (CFR: 0.5%) of measles from 13 health districts. Cumulatively, 708 cases (9 confirmed; 699 suspected) and two deaths (CFR: 0.3%) of measles have been reported from five of seven regions in CAR. This is a protracted outbreak that started in January 2020. In 2022, the national measles vaccination coverage among children <5 years in CAR was 95%.

Congo: Since the last update (9 February 2024), the MoH reported 14 new confirmed cases and no new deaths of measles from eight health districts: Etoumbi (1), Ewo (4), Ile-Mbamou (1), Mongo-Poukou (2), Mvouti-Kakamoeka (1), Owando (3), Oyo-Alima (1) and Poto-Poto (1). Cumulatively, 46 cases (14 confirmed; 32 suspected) and no deaths of measles have been reported from five of 12 provinces in Congo. This is a protracted outbreak that started in April 2022. In 2022, the national measles vaccination coverage among children <5 years in Congo was 84%.

DRC: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 8,199 new suspected cases and 400 new deaths (CFR: 4.9%) of measles from 22 provinces. Cumulatively, 19,414 suspected cases and 638 deaths (CFR: 3.3%) of measles have been reported from all the 26 provinces across DRC. This is a protracted outbreak started in January 2023. In 2018, the national measles vaccination coverage among children <5 years in DRC was 57%.

Liberia (initial report): On 26 February 2024, the MoH reported 203 new cases (29 confirmed; 174 suspected) and no new deaths of measles from 11 of 15 counties in Liberia. Of the total cases reported, only 42% had received at least a single dose of the measles vaccine. This is a protracted outbreak that started in December 2022. In 2022, the national measles vaccination coverage among children <5 years in Liberia was 96%.

Mali (initial report): On 26 February 2024, the MoH reported 103 new cases (62 confirmed; 41 suspected) and no new deaths of measles from six of 75 health districts in Mali. This is a protracted outbreak that started in July 2023. In 2022, the national measles vaccination coverage among children <5 years in Mali was 99%.

Senegal (initial report): On 15 February 2024, the MoH reported 82 new confirmed cases and no new deaths of measles from 17 of 45 districts in Senegal. Of the confirmed cases, children 1-5 years account for 44% of the cases and 77% of all the confirmed cases were unvaccinated against measles. Additionally, males account for 54% of all the cases reported. In 2022, the national measles vaccination coverage among children <5 years in Senegal was 66%.

Somalia: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 358 new cases (19 confirmed; 339 suspected) and one new death (CFR: 0.3%) of measles from six states in Somalia. Sixty-one percent of the new measles cases were from Banadir (52), Gedo (62), Nugal (62) and Galgadud (42) regions. Sixty-one percent of the cases were children under five years. Cumulatively, 2,490 cases (106 confirmed; 2,384 suspected) and three deaths (CFR: 0.1%) of measles have been reported from all the seven states of Somalia. In 2021, the national measles vaccination coverage among children <5 years in Somalia was 79%.

Uganda: Since the last update (2 February 2024), the MoH reported 246 new cases (22 confirmed; 224 suspected) and three new deaths (CFR: 12.5%) of measles from four districts. Cumulatively, 329 cases (28 confirmed; 301 suspected) and three deaths (CFR: 0.9%) of measles have been reported from four districts: Arua (99 cases; 1 deaths), Hoima (70; 2), Kasese (21; 0) and Kyenjojo (139; 0). In 2020, the national measles vaccination coverage among children <5 years in Uganda was 95%.

Note: In 2023, a total of 431,150 (21,757 confirmed; 409,393 suspected) and 6,453 deaths (CFR: 1.5%) of measles were reported from 28 AU MS: Angola (6,203 cases; 53 deaths), Botswana (13; 0), Burkina Faso (1,701; 2), Burundi (1,150; 0), Cameroon (9,207; 75), Central African Republic (CAR) (2,873: 0), Chad (9,932; 8), Congo (631: 5), DRC (313,732 ; 5,855), Ethiopia (31,103; 242), Gabon (3,112; 0), Gambia (208; 0), Ghana (212; 0), Guinea (1,011; 2), Kenya (1,551; 24), Libya (391; 2), Liberia (8,501; 9), Malawi (32; 0), Mali (1,580; 0), Mauritania (924; 8), Mozambique (1,342; 0), Niger (1,690; 0), Senegal (4,534; 0), Somalia (12,642; 0), South Africa (967; 0), South Sudan (7,470; 166), Uganda (409; 1) and Zambia (8,029; 1).

Response by MS/partner/Africa CDC:

The ministries of health in the affected MS continue to strengthen measles surveillance, case management and supplemental immunization activities in the affected areas.

Diphtheria in Africa

2,468 confirmed human case(s)

2,025 suspected human case(s)

44 human deaths (**CFR: 1.78%**)

Agent/Pathogen	Corynebacterium diphtheriae	First Reported	20-Jan-2023	Previous Report Update	23-Feb-2024
First Occurred	14-Dec-2022	Country	Multiple Countries	Location	3 MS
Source	Ministry of Health	GeoScope	LOW	Human Risk Assessment	MODERATE
Animal Risk Assessment	N/A				

Update to Event:

Since the beginning of this year, a total of 4,493 cases (2,468 confirmed; 2,025 suspected) and 44 deaths (CFR: 1.78%) of diphtheria have been reported from three AU MS: Chad (156 cases; 0 deaths), Guinea (1,218; 11), and Nigeria (3,119; 33). This week, 1,176 new cases* and 14 new deaths were reported from two AU MS: Guinea and Nigeria.

Guinea: Since the last update (9 February 2024), the MoH reported 300* new cases (3 confirmed; 297 suspected) and three new deaths of diphtheria from three regions. This is a 64% increase in the number of new cases and 40% decrease in the number of new deaths reported compared to the last report. Cumulatively, 1,218 cases (3 confirmed; 1,215 suspected) and 11 deaths of diphtheria have been reported from four of eight regions in Guinea. This is a protracted outbreak that started in July 2023. Of the total cases, persons 15 years and above accounted for 42% and 66% are females. None of the cases had been fully vaccinated against diphtheria. In 2022, the national diphtheria vaccination coverage among children <5 years in Guinea was 95%.

Nigeria: Since the last update (16 February 2024), the NCDC reported 876* new cases (704 confirmed; 172 suspected) and six new deaths (CFR: 0.8%) of diphtheria. This is a 58% increase in the number of new cases and 83% increase in the number of new deaths reported compared to the last report. Cumulatively, 3,119 cases (2,465 confirmed; 654 suspected) and 33 deaths (CR: 1.3%) of diphtheria have been reported from 12 of 36 states and the federal capital territory. This is a protracted outbreak that started in December 2022. Of the total cases, females accounted for 59% and only 25% of all reported cases were fully vaccinated against diphtheria. In 2022, the national diphtheria vaccination coverage among children <5 years in Nigeria was 91%.

Note: In 2023, a total of 27,346 cases (13,879 confirmed; 13,467 suspected) and 797 deaths (CFR: 5.7%) of diphtheria have been reported from six AU MS: Algeria (80 cases, 10 deaths), Guinea (2,676; 91), Mauritania (20; 6), Niger (2,198; 91), Nigeria (22,359; 578) and South Africa (13; 1).

Response by MS/partner/Africa CDC:

Guinea: The Western regional coordinating centre is engaging the MS to determine the areas of support.

Nigeria: The diphtheria technical working group (TWG) continues to coordinate and monitor diphtheria surveillance and response activities in the country.

Lassa fever in Africa

480 confirmed human case(s)
2,682 suspected human case(s)
87 human deaths (**CFR: 18.13%**)

Agent/Pathogen	Lassa virus	First Reported	1-Jan-2024	Previous Report Update	23-Feb-2024
First Occurred	1-Jan-2024	Country	Multiple Countries	Location	3 MS
Source	Ministry of Health	GeoScope	Moderate	Human Risk Assessment	Moderate
Animal Risk Assessment	N/A				

Update to Event:

Since the beginning of this year, 3,162 cases (480 confirmed; 2,682 suspected) and 87 deaths (CFR: 18.13%) of Lassa fever have been reported from three AU MS: Guinea (28; 2), Liberia (28; 0) and Nigeria (3,106 cases; 85 deaths). This week, 616 new cases and 14 new deaths of Lassa fever were reported in Guinea, Liberia and Nigeria.

Guinea: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 26 new suspected and one new death of Lassa fever from Kissidougou and N'Zerekore health districts. Cumulatively, 28 cases (2 confirmed; 26 suspected) and two deaths (CFR: 100%) of Lassa fever were reported from two districts in Guinea.

Liberia: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the MoH reported 18 new suspected cases and no new deaths of Lassa fever. This is a 180% increase in the number of new suspected cases compared to the last report. Cumulatively, 28 cases (1 confirmed; 27 suspected) and no deaths of Lassa fever have been reported from five of 15 counties in Liberia. This is a protracted outbreak that started in January 2022.

Nigeria: Since the last update (23 February 2024), the NCDC reported 573 new cases (66 confirmed; 507 suspected) and 13 new deaths (CFR: 19.7) of Lassa fever from 12 of 36 states and the federal capital territory. This is a 34% increase in the number of new cases and a 44% increase in the number of new deaths compared to the same period last year. Cumulatively, 3,106 cases (477 confirmed; 2,629 suspected) and 85 deaths (CFR: 17.5%) of Lassa fever were reported from 24 of 36 states and the federal capital territory this year. Of the confirmed cases, 18 were healthcare workers.

Note: In 2023, a total of 10,353 cases (1,266 confirmed; 9087 suspected) and 221 deaths (CFR: 17.4%) of Lassa fever were reported from five AU MS: Ghana (27 cases; 1 death), Guinea (133; 3), Liberia (186; 5), Nigeria (10,001; 210) and Sierra Leone (6; 2).

Response by MS/partner/Africa CDC:

Guinea and Liberia: The MoH continues to conduct active case search, contact tracing, risk communication and community engagement activities.

Nigeria: The NCDC activated the national Lassa fever multi-partner, multi-sectoral EOC to level-2 to coordinate the response activities at national and sub-national levels.

*The new number of diphtheria cases and deaths from Guinea and Nigeria were batch reports for two consecutive weeks.

-Cases in this report include confirmed, probable and suspected cases.

-CFR are calculated using confirmed cases and deaths only, except for bacterial meningitis, cholera, measles, dengue and yellow fever where CFR is calculated using all cases and deaths.

-The GeoScope level is determined by where the event is currently occurring on the continent. Low: event is limited to sub-national areas within one MS; Moderate: Event is affecting multiple countries within an AU region, or have been imported from/exported to 1-2 countries from another global region; High: Event is affecting several multinational AU regions, or have been imported from/exported to >2 countries from another global region; Very High: Event is considered a pandemic, affecting multiple continents or worldwide. The risk level is determined by evaluating the following criteria: morbidity and mortality of the disease, probability to spread within and to the other MSs, and availability of effective treatments, vaccines, or other control measures. An event risk level can be classified as low, moderate, high and very high depending on how they score on the above criteria.