Nigeria: Lassa Fever outbreak (Situation as of 22 March, 2012)

A total of 623 cases and 70 deaths (CFR: 11.2%) were reported from 19 states

Event description

At the beginning of 2012, WHO was notified by The Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria of an outbreak of Lassa fever. As of March 22, 2012, 623 cases including 70 deaths (CFR 11.2%) have been reported from 19 out of 36 States. Of these, 108 have been laboratory confirmed. Three doctors and four nurses were reported to be among the fatalities.

Actions taken

The Federal and State governments are implementing the following preventive and control measures with support from WHO: enhancement of disease surveillance, case management, infection and prevention control, training of health workers and sensitization of the population.

Geographical distribution of Lassa Fever in Nigeria, 22 March 2012

Weekly distribution of Lassa Fever cases and deaths in Nigeria, 11 March 2012