The number of suspected cases of Lassa fever has reached 212 across 17 states, the Minister of Health confirmed. As of 19 January, there were 76 fatalities. The federal government has banned the burial of bodies of victims by their families as part of efforts to contain the spread of the acute viral haemorrhagic fever. The first case of Lassa was reported in Bauchi State in the north-east in November 2015.

Sierra Leone reported a new Ebola case in a 22 year-old woman who died on 12 January. She had travelled through three districts, visited a government hospital and later died at home. The Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism has been activated and more than 100 contacts, including 29 who are considered to be high risk, have been identified. The new case was confirmed on 15 January, a day after WHO declared the outbreak over in West Africa following Liberia’s completion of 42 days without a case since its last Ebola patients tested negative.

Humanitarian partners conducted an assessment mission from 13 to 18 January in Liwa Daboua and Kangalom localities of Lac region focusing on areas where needs had been reported but no assessments undertaken since June 2015 owing to insecurity. The mission is in line with the humanitarian community’s current strategy to extend the scope of multi-sectoral assessments beyond Bol and Baga-Sola to reach areas poorly covered by assistance so far.

On 11 January, 11 cases of Monkeypox, an extremely contagious viral disease, were confirmed in Bangassou area in the southern Mbomou Province. Health authorities and humanitarian partners are implementing control measures that include isolation of suspected patients, public sensitization and activation of a regional taskforce on outbreaks. The first cases were diagnosed on 4 December 2015 when two children with symptoms of the disease were taken ill at a health centre.

On 15 January, 33 people were killed and around 30 others wounded when gunmen raided a hotel in Ouagadougou, opened fire at a nearby restaurant and attacked another hotel. Four assailants were also killed in a gun battle that lasted several hours. Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility for the attack.

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