

Cross-border collaboration in action: A laboratory-confirmed case report of Lassa fever in Kwara State, Nigeria

Oladayo David Awoyale^{1,2,3,&}, Simiat Titilola Adeogun², Patrick Agbo³, Oluwatosin Fakayode³, Magbagbeola Dairo², Olufunmilayo Fawole²

¹Sydani Group, Abuja, Nigeria, ²University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, ³Kwara State Ministry of Health, Ilorin, Nigeria, ⁴Federal University of Health Sciences, Otukpo, Benue State, Nigeria

&Corresponding author: Oladayo David Awoyale, Sydani Group, Abuja, Nigeria **Email:** oladayoawoyale@gmail.com

Citation: Oladayo David Awoyale et al. Cross-border collaboration in action: A laboratory-confirmed case report of Lassa fever in Kwara State, Nigeria. Journal of Interventional Epidemiology and Public Health. 2025; VOLUME No8 (Conf Proc 5): 00020.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37432/JIEPH-CONFPRO5-00020>

LINK: <https://afenet-journal.org/cross-border-collaboration-in-action-a-laboratory-confirmed-case-report-of-lassa-fever-in-kwara-state-nigeria/>

Received: 15/05/25 **Accepted:** 09/07/25 **Published:** 11/08/25

Keywords: Lassa fever, Cross-border collaboration, Surveillance, Outbreak response

This is part of the proceedings of the ECOWAS 2nd Lassa fever International Conference in Abidjan, September 8 – 11, 2025

© Oladayo David Awoyale et al. Journal of Interventional Epidemiology and Public Health. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution International 4.0 License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Introduction

The porous nature of international borders has facilitated the spread of Lassa Fever (LF) cases, underscoring the need for cross-border management and collaboration. This case report highlights a laboratory-confirmed index case of LF in Kwara State, Nigeria, and demonstrates the importance of multisectoral collaboration in controlling outbreaks.

Case report

A 30-year-old woman presented with fever, headache, and abdominal pain, and was initially treated for malaria. However, as her condition persisted, the Kwara State Ministry of Health was notified of a suspected LF case on February 13, 2020. Investigations revealed that the patient had visited healthcare facilities in both Kwara State, Nigeria, and the Republic of Benin during her illness. Blood samples were obtained, and she was confirmed positive for LF in the Republic of Benin.

Conclusion

This case highlights the challenges of LF diagnosis and the need for effective community engagement within the framework of the International Health

Regulations. The confirmation of LF in this patient underscores the importance of cross-border collaboration in controlling outbreaks. By sharing information, coordinating responses, and engaging communities, countries can work together to prevent the spread of LF and reduce the risk of outbreaks. This case report emphasizes the need for enhanced surveillance, improved diagnostic capacity, and strengthened partnerships between healthcare systems across borders. By leveraging multisectoral collaboration and community engagement, we can improve our response to LF outbreaks and protect public health. This report serves as a timely reminder of the importance of global cooperation in the face of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.