NIGERIA

As of 23 January, 82 people were reported to have died of Lassa fever. Of the total, 34 have already been confirmed to be due to the viral haemorrhagic fever, according to Nigeria’s Centre for Disease Control. The disease, which first broke out in November, has spread to 10 states. Lassa fever is endemic in Nigeria and causes outbreaks almost every year in different parts of the country, but more in some states than others particularly during the dry season.

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

Health authorities in Sierra Leone on 20 January confirmed a new case of Ebola, the second death after another patient died of the illness on 12 January. As of 21 January, 121 contacts had been identified, including 47 considered to be high risk. Investigations into the origin of the infection in the index case are ongoing. Following the flare up, IOM and its partners in Guinea have reactivated border health screening and reinforced surveillance in Forécariah prefecture which is close to the border with Sierra Leone.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

HALF THE POPULATION FACES HUNGER

Nearly 2.5 million people, or half the entire population, are facing hunger - a twofold increase in one year, WFP announced on 20 January. One in six people is grappling with severe or extreme food insecurity, while more than one in three people are moderately food insecure. Families have adopted coping mechanisms such as selling their belongings or pulling their children out of school.

CHAD

MORE IDPs REPORTED

Thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been identified following an inter-cluster mission in Liwa and Daboua localities of Lac region where insecurity had so far hampered access. The exact figures are currently being verified. The IDPs, spread out in 22 sites, are faced with harsh living conditions and deprivation as they are unable to farm, fish or raise livestock.

CAMEROON

SUICIDE ATTACK CLAIMS 32 LIVES

Four suicide bombers on 25 January struck Bodo village in the Far North region, killing 32 people and injuring 66 others. The attack, in which the assailants hit a busy market and the town’s main entrances, was one of the worst in recent months. No one claimed responsibility, but Boko Haram gunmen who have carried out multiple attacks in the region before are suspected to be behind the assault. Separately, on 25 January, humanitarian partners launched the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, requesting for US$282 million to assist 1.1 million people affected by conflict and other crises.