



A number of West African countries are currently experiencing an outbreak of Meningitis which poses serious health security concerns for the entire region if not properly managed. Since the beginning of 2017, outbreaks of the disease have been recorded in Togo, Nigeria, Niger and Ghana with unconfirmed reports in Benin, Mali, Burkina Faso and Gambia. To date, Nigeria has registered the highest number of cases and is considering the current outbreak as a health emergency. As of 3 April 2017, a total of 2,997 cases had been reported with 336 deaths from the new *Neisseria Meningitidis* Serotype C strain. Affected states include Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger, Nassarawa, Jigawa, Abuja-FCT, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe, Kano, Osun, Cross River, Lagos and Plateau States, with a concentration in the northern states of Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto. The first report of suspected cases began around November of 2016 in Zamfara. In Niger, 921 cases of meningitis including 55 deaths, were recorded between January and March 26 2017, while at least 201 cases of meningitis were detected in Togo with 17 deaths between 1 January and 10 March 2017 [.....Read more](#)