



THE EARLY WARNING MONITOR

GLIC Weekly Report

14th March, 2025

Top of the Agenda




DIPHTHERIA: LASG CONFIRMS DEATH OF INDEX CASE AT KINGS COLLEGE

Following the outbreak of diphtheria in King's College, Victoria Island Annexe, the Lagos State Government has officially confirmed the death of the index case even as it disclosed that 34 closed contacts of the deceased student have been placed on observation. The state government also said 14 out of the 34 have shown symptoms of the disease. Meanwhile, the state government has activated an Emergency Response Committee even as it planned to commence mass vaccination of the school children. The state government is also preparing a public health announcement to sensitize Lagosians about the outbreak, warning them to watch out for symptoms, such as sore throat, fever, difficulty in breathing, and swollen neck glands. Health authorities, including the World Health Organization (WHO), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), and the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) have been notified of the outbreak and are collaborating with Lagos State to coordinate an effective response.

Vanguard: [Diphtheria: LASG confirms death of index case at Kings College March 11th, 2025.](#)

Analysis

Diphtheria is a serious, highly contagious bacterial infection, primarily affecting the nose and throat, and spreads through respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing, or through direct contact with infected skin lesions or contaminated objects. While diphtheria can affect the skin, the most serious form affects the upper respiratory tract (nose, throat). The outbreak and spread of Diphtheria in Lagos is greatly alarming and calls for further stringent public health measures observing that the infection is a contagious one. Above all measure highlighted in the report, more measures such as close monitoring of assembly of people especially school children and avoidance of larger crowds should be entrenched as public health safety precautionary measures to limit contacts for the spread of the diphtheria in elementary school across Lagos State and nationwide. Secondly, all relevant public health agencies nationwide should be alerted and collaboratively develop measures to curtail further spread of the disease in Lagos State and its environs. Particular attention should be put on schools to prevent the further spread of the disease so as not to disrupt their studies especially as students are in the examination season-preparing for a several examinations including the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board JAMB, West African Examination Council Exam WAEC, among others.

	HIGH RISK
	MEDIUM RISK
	LOW RISK

NIGERIA

NIGERIAN CONFIRMS 26 MENINGITIS DEATHS FOLLOWING OUTBREAK SINCE JANUARY

Nigerian authorities confirmed Tuesday that a meningitis outbreak in the northwest was behind the death of at least 26 people over several weeks. The spread of the disease in the state of Kebbi began late January with over 200 suspected cases recorded, the state commissioner for health, Musa Ismail, told reporters in Birnin Kebbi, the state capital. Ismail also said medical supplies have already been dispatched to the affected areas, and isolation centers set up to prevent the further spread of the disease. Sokoto, another state in the northwest and about 150 kilometers (90 miles) away from Kebbi, has urged residents to remain vigilant after several cases were suspected.

Africa News: [Nigerian confirms 26 meningitis deaths following outbreak since January](#) March 13th, 2025.

NOTHING WILL HAPPEN IF FUBARA IS IMPEACHED, SAYS WIKE

The immediate-past governor of Rivers State, Nyesom Wike, says heaven will not fall if the Martins Amaewhule-led House of Assembly impeaches his successor Siminalayi Fubara. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) powerbroker said, “If you have committed an offence to be impeached, what’s wrong? Is it a criminal offence? It’s provided in the constitution. Am I a member of the Assembly? “If you have committed an infraction of the constitution and the Assembly deems it fit to say, you should be impeached. “I have heard people say: ‘Oh, if they impeach him, there will be a breakdown of law and order’. Rubbish! Nothing will happen.” Wike said if the Amaewhule-led House wasn’t disposed to peace, the Assembly would have gone on a six-month recess after the Supreme Court verdict. He rubbished the letter written to the Assembly by Fubara, saying he should have done better.

Africa News: [Nothing Will Happen If Fubara Is Impeached, Says Wike](#) March 13th, 2025.

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Vanguard: [Diphtheria: LASG confirms death of index case at Kings College](#) March 11th, 2025.

NIMET WARNS 19 STATES OF IMPENDING HEAT STRESS, URGES SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency warns residents in 19 states, the South-East, and coastal areas of impending heat stress. The states that would be mostly affected, according to the agency, are; north-central and eastern states; Kebbi, Niger, Kwara, Oyo, Kogi, Nasarawa, Benue, Enugu, Anambra, Abia, Ebonyi, Cross River, and FCT. Other vulnerable regions are the South-West, coastal areas, Taraba, Adamawa, Plateau, Kaduna, Zamfara, and Sokoto. The heat stress warning issued by the agency on Tuesday morning shows that the rising temperatures and high humidity levels over the next three to four days may cause thermal discomfort across several regions. The agency warned that potential health risks include fatigue, irritability, reduced focus, impaired motor skills, and decreased productivity. It urged residents in affected regions to take safety precautions. "Stay cool by using fans, air conditioning, or shaded spaces, and dress light by wearing breathable clothing."

Punch: [NiMet warns 19 states of impending heat stress, urges safety precautions](#) March 11th, 2025.

WEST AFRICA

NEW ECOWAS-AFDB INITIATIVE AIMS TO STRENGTHEN WEST AFRICA'S RICE INDUSTRY

The AfDB and ECOWAS have inked a \$12 million agreement to launch the Rice Resilient Value Chains Development Project (REWARD), aimed at enhancing food security in West Africa. Signed in Abuja, Nigeria, the initiative is part of a broader \$650 million rice development program, backed by the AfDB, covering all 15 ECOWAS member states. The project seeks to reduce rice imports, strengthen local production, and implement policy reforms and digital monitoring systems. ECOWAS President Dr. Alieu Omar Touray emphasized the deal's alignment with the bloc's 4X4 Strategy, while AfDB's Dr. Abdul Kamara reaffirmed the bank's commitment to agricultural development in West Africa. The initiative aims to achieve self-sufficiency in rice production, create jobs, and stabilize regional economies.

iAfrica: [New ECOWAS-AfDB Initiative Aims to Strengthen West Africa's Rice Industry](#) March 13th, 2025.

NIGERIENS GETTING VACCINATED AGAINST MENINGITIS AS EPIDEMIC DEATH TOLL CLIMBS

While the current meningitis epidemic in Niger has caused the death of more than 143 people, the vast vaccination campaign launched in Niamey, the country's capital, by the World Health Organization (WHO) hopes to reverse the contagion curve. It is reported that Nigeriens are impatiently awaiting the return of the rainy season which they believe can help to stem the tide as Meningitis — an infection of the thin lining surrounding the brain and spinal cord — is seasonal. The disease is prevalent in the Sahel (a semi-arid region stretching through Mali, Niger, Chad, and Sudan), mostly in the dry season from November to May which comes with dust, winds, and cold nights. The WHO vaccination is designated for people aged between 1 to

19. Niger's capital, Niamey has recorded the highest number of cases so far this year with a cumulative incidence proportion of 52.2 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

Africa News: Nigeriens getting vaccinated against Meningitis as epidemic death toll climbs March 13th, 2025.

AFRICA

AU REJECTS SUDAN'S PARALLEL GOVERNMENT, WARNS OF THREAT TO UNITY

The African Union's Peace and Security Council (PSC) has rejected Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) declaration of a parallel government, warning it threatens Sudan's unity. Following its March 11 meeting in Addis Ababa, the PSC urged AU members and the international community not to recognize or support any such entity. This comes after the RSF and 18 allied movements announced a "peace and unity" government in Nairobi, drawing scrutiny. Kenya, initially defending its role, later softened its stance. The AU reaffirmed its commitment to Sudan's sovereignty and urged peaceful negotiations, as the ongoing conflict has killed thousands and displaced millions since April 2023.

Africa News: AU rejects Sudan's parallel government, warns of threat to unity March 13th, 2025.

WE WILL JUST DIE IN SILENCE': US AID CUTS HIT ETHIOPIA'S FRAGILE TIGRAY REGION

During its war with Tigray fighters that devastated the region in 2020-2022, Ethiopian government restrictions on the rebellious region reduced aid flows to a trickle. Then in 2023, U.S. and U.N. aid distributions of grain were halted for months over a corruption scandal. Now the Trump administration's dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, has again halted food deliveries to a sprawling camp of over 20,000 people outside Tigray's regional capital, Mekele. "We will just die in silence," said Tsege, one of the 2.4 million people in Tigray who depend on humanitarian grain, most of it provided by the U.S.

AP News: We will just die in silence': US aid cuts hit Ethiopia's fragile Tigray region March 13th, 2025.

ETHIOPIA'S TIGRAY REGIONAL GOVERNMENT APPEALS FOR HELP AFTER FACTIONAL FIGHTERS SEIZE KEY TOWNS

The interim government of Ethiopia's Tigray region appealed for the Ethiopian federal government to intervene after a faction of the Tigray People's Liberation Front seized control of two major towns, leaving several people wounded and raising fears of a return to civil war. On Tuesday the TPLF faction seized Adigrat, the second-biggest town in Tigray, and appointed a new administrator, ousting the office-holder loyal to the interim government. On Wednesday night, it took control of Adi-Gudem, a town near the regional capital, Mekele. Several people in Adi-Gudem suffered gunshot wounds when armed forces attempted to occupy a government

building. “The region may be on the brink of another crisis,” read a statement Wednesday from the Tigray Communication Affairs Bureau, which is part of the interim government.

AP News: [Ethiopia’s Tigray regional government appeals for help after factional fighters seize key towns](#) March 13th, 2025.

CONGO AND M23 REBEL GROUP WILL HOLD PEACE TALKS ON TUESDAY, MEDIATOR ANGOLA SAYS

The government of Congo will hold peace talks next week in Angola with the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group that has captured key areas of Congo’s mineral-rich east, mediator Angola announced Wednesday. A statement from Angolan President João Lourenço’s office said the parties would begin “direct peace negotiations” in the Angolan capital, Luanda. Angola has acted as a mediator in the conflict in eastern Congo, which escalated in late January when the Rwanda-backed rebels advanced and took control of the strategic eastern Congo city of Goma. In February, M23 seized Bukavu, eastern Congo’s second biggest city.

AP News: [Congo and M23 rebel group will hold peace talks on Tuesday, mediator Angola says](#) March 12th, 2025.

DRC FACES SETBACK IN FIGHT AGAINST MPOX AMID ONGOING FIGHTING IN EAST

Six weeks after Rwanda-backed rebels captured two major cities in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the region is facing a setback in its fight against the mpox outbreak. The DRC has the highest burden of the virus with the epicentre in the east. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said that as fighting with the M23 escalates, more than 600 mpox patients fled different hospitals. It said the country saw a 31 per cent increase in cases last week, bringing the total to close to 16,255. Many patients can’t be found. Recently arrived vaccines are running short as supplies can’t reach combat zones. And hospitals have been under attack

Africa News: [DRC faces setback in fight against Mpox amid ongoing fighting in east](#) March 13th, 2025.

ANGOLA STEPS IN TO MEDIATE CONGO-M23 PEACE TALKS

Angola has announced plans to mediate peace talks between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the M23 rebel group. This marks a shift from previous negotiations that excluded the rebels and instead focused on their Rwandan backers. According to reports, Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi met with Angolan officials to discuss direct negotiations, which are set to begin in the coming days. The M23 rebels, backed by 4,000 Rwandan troops, recently launched a rapid offensive that captured several key towns and cities, including Goma and Bukavu. At times, they have also vowed to press forward and capture Kinshasa, the country’s capital.

iAfrica: [Angola Steps In to Mediate Congo-M23 Peace Talks](#) March 13th, 2025.

THE GLOBE

RUSSIA SAYS IT HAS RETAKEN KURSK'S BIGGEST TOWN AS PUTIN ADVISOR SAYS TRUCE WOULD HELP UKRAINE

Russia claimed Thursday that its troops have driven the Ukrainian army out of the biggest town in Russia's Kursk border region, as a senior Kremlin official said that a U.S.-proposed 30-day ceasefire in the war three years after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine would help Kyiv by giving its weary and short-handed military a break. The Russian Defense Ministry's claim that it recaptured the town of Sudzha, hours after President Vladimir Putin visited his commanders in Kursk and wore military fatigues, could not be independently verified. Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment on the claim. The renewed Russian military push and Putin's high-profile visit to his troops came as U.S. President Donald Trump presses for a diplomatic end to the war. The U.S. on Tuesday lifted its March 3 suspension of military aid for Kyiv after senior U.S. and Ukrainian officials made progress on how to stop the fighting during talks held in Saudi Arabia.

AP News: [Russia says it has retaken Kursk's biggest town as Putin advisor says truce would help Ukraine](#) March 13th, 2025.

PRESSED TO ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE IN UKRAINE, PUTIN SEEMS LIKELY TO SEEK HIS OWN CONDITIONS

By signaling its openness to a ceasefire, Ukraine has handed the Kremlin a difficult challenge at a time when the Russian military has the upper hand in the war: Should Moscow accept a truce and abandon hopes of making new gains, or should it reject the offer and risk derailing a cautious rapprochement with Washington? Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly ruled out a temporary break in hostilities, saying it would only benefit Ukraine and its Western allies by letting them replenish their arsenals. He has insisted Moscow wants a comprehensive agreement that would ensure a lasting settlement. Putin key goals remain what he declared when he launched the full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022: Ukraine renounce joining NATO, sharply cut its army, and protect Russian language and culture to keep the country in Moscow's orbit. On top of that, he now wants Kyiv to withdraw its forces from the four regions Moscow has seized but doesn't fully control.

AP News: [Pressed to accept a ceasefire in Ukraine, Putin seems likely to seek his own conditions](#) March 12th, 2025.

GREENLAND'S ELECTION WINNERS PUSH BACK AGAINST TRUMP'S WISH TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE ISLAND

Greenland's likely new prime minister on Wednesday rejected U.S. President Donald Trump's effort to take control of the island, saying Greenlanders must be allowed to decide their own future as it moves toward independence from Denmark. Jens-Frederik Nielsen's Demokraatit, a pro-business party that favors a slow path to independence, won a surprise victory in Tuesday's

parliamentary election, outpacing the two left-leaning parties that formed the last government. With most Greenlanders opposing Trump's overtures, the campaign focused more on issues like healthcare and education than on geopolitics. But on Wednesday Nielsen was quick to push back against Trump, who last week told a joint session of Congress that the U.S. needed Greenland to protect its own national security interests and he expected to get it "one way or the other."

AP News: Greenland's election winners push back against Trump's wish to take control of the island March 13th, 2025.

US ARMS FLOW TO UKRAINE AGAIN AS THE KREMLIN MULLS A CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL

U.S. arms deliveries to Ukraine resumed Wednesday, officials said, a day after the Trump administration lifted its suspension of military aid for Kyiv in its fight against Russia's invasion, and officials awaited the Kremlin's response to a proposed 30-day ceasefire endorsed by Ukraine. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said it's important not to "get ahead" of the question of responding to the ceasefire, which was proposed by Washington. He told reporters that Moscow is awaiting "detailed information" from the U.S. and suggested that Russia must get that before it can take a position. The Kremlin has previously opposed anything short of a permanent end to the conflict and has not accepted any concessions.

AP News: US arms flow to Ukraine again as the Kremlin mulls a ceasefire proposal March 13th, 2025.

POLAND AIMS TO TRAIN 100,000 MILITARY RESERVISTS A YEAR AS SECURITY FEARS GROW

Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Tuesday his government intends to put 100,000 volunteers through military training yearly starting in 2027 as it seeks to build an army of reservists with worries about Russia growing. He also said he told Cabinet ministers that they and other government officials would undergo military training, and his decision had been accepted "with full understanding." Tusk announced last week that Poland needs 500,000 soldiers, more than double the current number. It would include reservists in addition to the professional army and a territorial defense force. Security fears have grown sharply in recent weeks in the country along NATO's eastern flank as Russia continues to pound Ukraine with missiles and drones, and as the Trump administration has put its commitments to NATO in question.

AP News: Poland aims to train 100,000 military reservists a year as security fears grow March 11th, 2025.