

# Rift Valley Fever epidemic kills at least 32 in Niger

November 17 2016

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At least 32 people have died since late August in an epidemic of Rift Valley fever in the western Niger region of Tahoua, the country's health ministry said Thursday.

A ministry statement read on national radio said 230 people had been infected with the fever-causing viral disease that mainly affects animals but also humans, "unfortunately including 32 deaths".

The mortality rate had fallen from 50 percent three months ago to 14 percent due to a government information campaign urging people to bury animal carcasses and handle contaminated animals with care and avoid drinking raw milk.

Symptoms include fever, headaches and [stomach pain](#) in people, while in livestock, common symptoms are fever and bleeding.

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