

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Weekly Update on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Preparedness for South Sudan

Update # 24

Date: 16 February 2019

1. Highlights

- A 35 years old soldier who presented to Juba military hospital with signs and symptoms of suspected EVD was investigated by the RRT. Both GenXpert and PCR test results were negative for Ebola.
- A one-day tabletop exercise (TTX) for 70 participants drawn from the national and Jubek State Ebola Rapid Response Teams was conducted.
- As of reporting period, a total of 607 healthcare and frontline workers in Yei and Yambio have received vaccine.
- 40 Primary Health Care Workers from Jubek state were trained on case management & IPC/WASH. Half of will be deployed at the IMC-operated Isolation Unit; while others will support to establishing referral linkages between the healthcare facilities operated by different partners and the Isolation Unit to detect, report and refer suspected Ebola cases.
- Four new cross-border screening points (Bangangai, James Diko, Sangura 1, and Basukangbi) in Gbudue State were operationalized by WVSS. Currently, 23 screening points are operational. So far 1,275,738 travelers were screened. The Ministry of Health (MoH) conducts the screening with support from WHO, IOM, SCI, WVISS and CAUMM.

2. Ebola Situation update from North Kivu of Democratic Republic of Congo

- EVD transmission in DRC continues in North Kivu and Ituri provinces.
- As of 13 February 2019, 4 new confirmed cases (Katwa: 2 and Butembo 2), and 1 new deaths case in Katwa were reported.
- Since the outbreak started a total of 823 EVD cases are reported. Out of these, there were 517 deaths (456 among confirmed and 61 from probable cases) with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 65.8%.
- Since the outbreak 63 health care workers have been infected, 21 died.
- 177 suspected cases were under investigation during the reporting week.

3. Public Health Preparedness and Readiness

3.1 Coordination

- A national taskforce meeting was held on 14 February 2019 at the PHEOC in Juba. The meeting minutes with action points was shared for follow-up and implementation.
- State Task Force meetings also took place in Yei, Yambio, Jubek, and Nimule. The incidence and EOC manager attended the meeting in Yei River state provided constructive feedback to strengthen the coordination between state and national level.
- Another vaccination logistician is in-country to support the Ebola vaccination in South Sudan.

3.2 Resource mobilization

- The National EVD Task Force has mobilized \$12.5 million out of \$16.3 million from donors and other partner agencies (76.7% of planned budget). Additional \$3.7 million is required to support priority activities for the coming six months.

3.3 EPI/Surveillance and Laboratory

- The laboratory technical working group plans to conduct biosafety training of laboratory personnel in Yei from 20th -23rd Feb 2019.
- Renovation of the laboratory for the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) has reached advanced level.

3.4 Port Health and Screening

- A total of **1,275,738** people were screened in twenty-three screening posts in South Sudan.

- The border health and point of entry technical working group is advocating to Juba international airport authorities to enforce usage of the international health arrival forms by airlines that have not complied in Juba.

A commutative number of screening data at the border crossing points

S/N	Location	State	Cumulative total screened	Average Screening per Week	Secondary Screened (week 4)	Alerts (week 6)
1	JIA	Jubek	95,921	3,553	0	0
2	Nimule River	Torit	56,813	2,990	0	0
3	NimuleCheckpoint	Torit	950,934	39,622	0	0
4	Gangura Border	Gbudue	8,766	381	0	0
5	Sakure	Gbudue	5,708	259	0	0
6	Yambio Airport	Gbudue	2,596	113	0	0
7	Wau	Wau	993	41	0	0
8	Yei RRC	Yei River	478	24	0	0
9	Kaya	Yei River	48,841	2,442	6	0
10	Yei Airstrip	Yei River	549	26	0	0
11	Okaba	Yei River	19,686	1,036	3	0
12	Makpandu	Gbudue	2,486	138	0	0
13	Ezo	Gbudue	25,667	1,510	0	0
14	Maridi	Maridi	236	13	0	0
15	Tikori	Yei River	2,645	189	19	0
16	Khorijo	Yei River	26,824	2,682	0	0
17	Pure	Yei River	20,922	2,092	2	0
18	Bazi	Yei River	4,374	875	4	0
19	Nimule Airstrip	Torit	159	32	0	0
20	Bangangai	Gbudue	328	328	0	0
21	James Diko	Gbudue	111	111	0	0
22	Sangura 1	Gbudue	259	259	0	0
23	Basukangbi	Gbudue	442	442	0	0
	Total		1,275,738		34	

3.5 Case Management, Infection Prevention, and Control

- Developed and shared the Ebola Virus Disease isolation facility assessment checklist.

3.6 Safe and Dignified Burial

- No update during the reporting week.
- The team is in Maridi from Tuesday, 19 February 2019 to train 40 social mobilization volunteers out of which 15 will be trained in SDB.

3.7 Risk communication, community engagement and social mobilization (RCCE&SM)

- Completed self-assessment and scoring of EVD preparedness checklist Part-1.

3.8 Logistics and Personnel deployment

- UNHCR procured two ambulances for Yambio and Yei and are going through modifications.

3.9 Vaccines and Therapeutics

- Continue with Ebola vaccination in Yambio and Yei.

- About 607 health care workers and frontline health care workers have been vaccinated as at 12 February 2019.
- The vaccination exercise started on 28 January in Yambio and 4 February in Yei.

3.10 IPC/WASH

- Review of Ebola Virus Disease checklist and 5W's matrix is ongoing.
- UNICEF is conducting a training of trainers course on EVD IPC/WASH for Healthcare and frontline workers and IPC/WASH partners in Yambio.

3.11 Access, Safety, and Security

- Visited the Dr. John Garang Infectious Disease Unit for security assessment.
- Continue to engage with the local authorities and parties in conflicts to establish unhindered access to the EVD response areas.

3.12 Updates from States

Jubek

- IMC completed training of 40 primary health care workers on case management & IPC/WASH with support from MoH and WHO.
- WHO conducted a one-day Table Top simulation exercise for the national and Jubek State Ebola Rapid Response Team.

Yei

- National Incident Manager and EOC Manager visited Yei Ebola Isolation Center and SSRRC screening point in Yei town. They have presented the finding with recommendation at the National Task Force Meeting.

Nimule (Torit State)

- The local authorities provided a piece of land measuring 300m² for possible burial activities.
- Cordaid initiated power connection to the isolation facility.
- RRT simulation was conducted on Friday 15 February 2019.
- Some passengers of different nationalities presumed to be smugglers often bribe security and evade screening at the PoEs.

Yambio

- Provided two phones with sim cards Zain (**0917171046 / 0917171047**) and MTN (**0924775267 / 0924775268**) for state surveillance officer and WHO epidemiologist. The phone lines will act as local alerts desks.
- The isolation unit handed over by WFP to the SMOH is not complete.
- WHO has provided fuel for a period of 2 months to restart the radio talk shows.

4.0 Challenges/Gaps

The critical preparedness gaps currently entail:

- Delayed tax exemption of EVD supplies being imported to South Sudan.
- Access to areas outside Yei River County is a challenge due to insecurity.
- Delayed operationalization of new points of entry in Andar (Ezo) by World Vision South Sudan, in Maridi (Dukudu Olo) By CUAMM and 10 potential sites in Salla Musala, Busia, Isebi, Morebongo, Laiza, Paika, Iwambygambga, Kerwa, Bori, Berigo (all in Yei River State) by IOM –NOTE: Five of these sites highlighted in orange have security access challenges but still trying to access and establish the POE screening site.
- No feedback from USAID/OFDA/CDC monitoring team.

5.0 Recommendations and priority follow up actions

- Ministry of Health to fast track EVD supplies' tax exemption process.
- Access, Safety and Security technical working group to continue engaging armed groups to ensure unhindered access.
- IOM, WVSS CUAMM to fast-track the operationalization of new points of entry.
- USAID/OFDA/CDC monitoring to share their monitoring report to NTF coordination for circulation to the states.

6.0 Conclusion

The focus for the NTF in the coming week is to:

- Continue with vaccination of frontline health workers in Yambio and Yei and plan for other high risk areas.
- Fast track operationalization of new points of entry in Yei and Yambio In Andar (Ezo) by World Vision South Sudan, in Maridi (Dukudu Olo) By CUAMM and 10 potential sites in Salla Musala, Busia, Isebi, Morebongo, Laiza, Paika, Iwambygambga, Kerwa, Bori, Berigo (all in Yei River State) by IOM –NOTE: Five of these sites highlighted in orange have security access challenges but still trying to access and establish the POE screening site.

Partners involved in EVD preparedness and readiness

MOH, WHO, Health Cluster partners, UNICEF, CDC, USAID, DFID, JICA, ECHO, World Bank, UNHCR, UNOCHA, Health Pool Fund, IOM, AWG, WASH Cluster partners, ICRC, IFRC, SSRC, WFP, Min of Interior, AMREF, MSF family, IMC, ICRC, ALIMA, IRC, World Vision, America Refugee Committee, SCI, UNMISS, UNDSS, UNDP, SPLA, LS, DFCA, ARC, Samaritan's Purse, MEDAIR, REACH and UNHASS.

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