

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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

Update # 25

Date: 23 February 2019

1. Highlights

- On 20 February 2019, a 30-year-old man who presented to Yambio hospital with signs and symptoms of suspected Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) died on 21 February 2019, after vomiting blood. Accordingly, on the same day, the State Rapid Response Team (RRT) investigated, collected blood samples, listed all contacts, and advised on preventive measures including initiation of safe and dignified burial. The GeneXpert tested negative and PCR results are awaited from Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Entebbe, Uganda.
- On 21 February 2019, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG), Mr. Alain Noudehou led a one-day mission to Yei to assess the humanitarian situation and the challenges facing EVD preparedness in Yei River state.
- Since the launching of vaccination on 28 January 2019, a total of 748 healthcare and frontline workers from Yei and Yambio have received the vaccine against Ebola. Vaccination is ongoing in both States and will be extended to others soon.
- UNICEF conducted training for 11 IPC/WASH master trainers drawn from UNICEF, IOM, OXFAM, Solidarites International (SI), and South Sudan Development Organization (SSDO).
- Currently, there are 23 screening points which are operational in the high-risk states. So far, a cumulative total of 1,332,767 cross-border travelers have been screened since 12 August 2018.



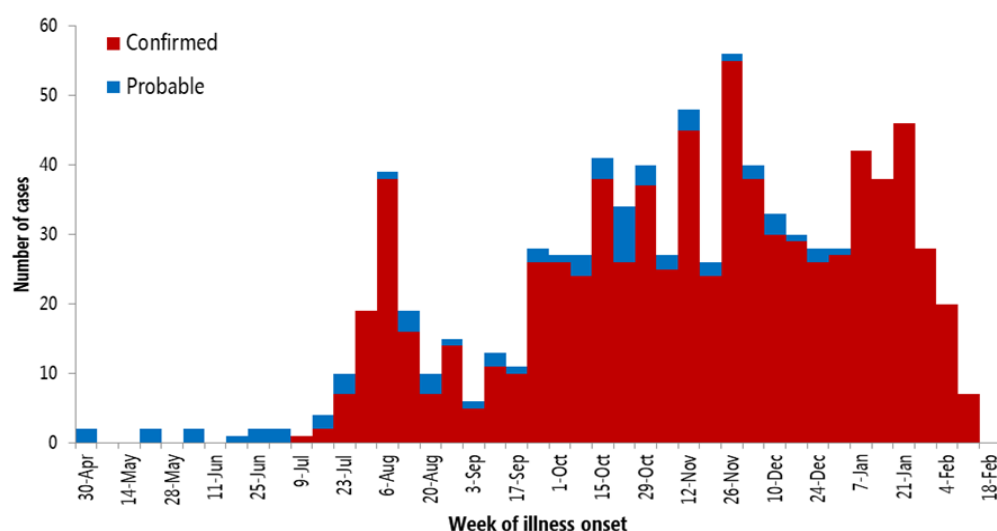
Picture showing practical session during the UNICEF WASH/IPC Training

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

As of 19 February 2019:

- 848 EVD cases, including 783 confirmed and 65 probable cases were reported in DRC. Among these, 529 deaths were reported; 294 have recovered and been discharged.

- 13 of the 19 affected health zones reported at least one confirmed case in the last 21 days (28 January to 17 February 2019). During this period, a total of 88 confirmed cases were reported. These include 55 from Katwa, 15 from Butembo, 4 each from Kyondo and Vuhovi, 2 from Kalunguta, and 1 case each from Biena, Komanda, Mabalako, Manguredjipa, Masereka, Mutwanga, Oicha, and Bunia. Refer to Fig 2 below for trend of EVD in DRC.



Confirmed and probable Ebola virus disease cases by week of illness onset, 19 February 2019

3. Public Health Preparedness and Readiness

3.1 Coordination

- National taskforce meeting was held on 21 February 2019 at the PHEOC in Juba. The meeting minutes with action points were shared for follow-up and implementation.
- On 21 February 2019, the DSRS, Mr. Alain Noudhou led a one-day mission to Yei to assess the humanitarian situation and the challenges facing EVD preparedness in Yei River state. The delegation noted the progress made to attain operational readiness in Yei. However, access outside Yei Town remains restricted due to insecurity and this has resulted in at least 10,000 displaced persons in Yei town and reduced access to areas outside Yei town.
- State Task Force meetings also took place in Yei, Yambio, Jubek, and Nimule. The meeting minutes and action points were also shared with the TWGs for follow-up and implementation.
- Joint assessment is scheduled for 4 to 8 March 2019 with the objective of assessing the progress made towards enhancing Ebola virus disease operational readiness in South Sudan. The assessment mission will be undertaken by several agencies (WHO-HQ; WHO-AFRO; DFID; USAID; OCHA; UNDP; WFP; UNICEF) using experts that are not currently working 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.
- Plan for updating the EVD contingency plan and resource mobilisation for the next 6 months is ongoing.
- Joint assessment/monitoring visit are planned for 4 to 8 March 2019.

3.3 EPI/Surveillance and Laboratory

- During the reporting week, 34 health workers selected from CORDAID supported health facilities in Nimule, were trained on EVD-Surveillance with technical support from WHO. The training included the use of case definitions to detect suspect EVD cases, basic safety, and infection

prevention measures in handling, isolation, and referral of suspected EVD cases, and contact tracing.

- The Rapid Response Team in Nimule was also re-oriented on team formation, and operationalization of rapid response, and basic safety measures during the investigation of a suspected case of Ebola including through practical exercises at Nimule hospital (Figure 3).



RRT simulation exercise in Nimule Hospital

- The EPI/surveillance self-scoring of the checklist for EVD preparedness was completed and submitted.
- The laboratory technical working group conducted a biosafety training for 16 laboratory personnel drawn from health facilities in Yei River State from 20-23 February 2019
- Procurement of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) reagents is underway by WHO Logistic team; while structural work at the National Public Health Laboratory for installation of the machine is in the final stages of completion. The PCR machine calibration reagents are expected during the week of 25th February 2019.

3.4 Port Health and Screening

- The border health and point of entry technical working group reached out to engaged Juba international airport authorities to enforce usage of the international health arrival forms by airlines that have not yet complied.
- Planning for monitoring visits to points of entry is completed by all partners.

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	99,306	3,547	0	0
2	Nimule River	Torit	57,495	2,875	4	0
3	NimuleCheckpoint	Torit	986,394	39,456	47	0
4	Gangura Border	Gbudue	9,579	399	0	0
5	Sakure	Gbudue	6,224	271	0	0
6	Yambio Airport	Gbudue	2,895	121	0	0
7	Wau	Wau	1,026	41	0	0
8	Yei RRC	Yei River	484	23	1	0
9	Kaya	Yei River	51,659	2,460	1	0
10	Yei Airstrip	Yei River	563	26	0	0
11	Okaba	Yei River	20,532	1,027	7	0
12	Makpandu	Gbudue	2,718	143	0	0
13	Ezo	Gbudue	28,438	1,580	0	0
14	Maridi	Maridi	258	14	0	0

15	Tikori	Yei River	2,800	187	15	0
16	Khorijo	Yei River	29,879	2,716	0	0
17	Pure	Yei River	24,621	2,238	1	0
18	Bazi	Yei River	5,328	888	11	0
19	Nimule Airstrip	Torit	193	32	0	0
20	Bangangai	Gbudue	765	383	0	0
21	James Diko	Gbudue	195	98	0	0
22	Sangura 1	Gbudue	578	289	0	0
23	Basukangbi	Gbudue	837	419	0	0
	Total		1,332,767		87	

3.5 Case Management, Infection Prevention, and Control

- Updates from EVD isolation units in the states were shared. All the four lead implementing partners (AAH, CORDAID, IMC, WV) have received SSHF project support and started steps to fully operationalize the Isolation Units in Juba, Nimule, Yei, and Yambio.
- In an assessment conducted by the case management and infection prevention and control technical working group, it was reported that all isolation facilities are not ready to receive suspected cases with the exception of Infectious Disease Unit in Juba. The lead implementing partners are in the process of recruiting health workers and equipping the facilities so that they can receive suspected cases.

3.6 Safe and Dignified Burial

- 40 risk communication and social mobilization volunteers were trained in Maridi, out of which 15 were trained in safe and dignified burial.
- Safe and dignified burial emergency stock prepositioned in Yambio, Yei, Nimule and Maridi. Accordingly, each one of them received 20 SDB supplies.

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

- Part-2 of the national planning process (revision/update of RCMCE strategy and plan) underway. Joint/common monitoring indicators agreed in TWG.
- Community awareness and engagement activities in Yei, Yambio, and Torit ongoing and expanding as the number of trained mobilisers increasing.

3.8 Logistics and Personnel deployment

- WFP has applied for tax exemption for ambulances and government has been engaged through the EVD incident manager to expedite the process.

3.9 Vaccines and Therapeutics

- The Ebola vaccination continues in Gbudue and Yei River States.
- About 748 health care workers and frontline health care workers have been vaccinated as of 19 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 scores completed.
- Personnel protection equipment (PPE) and supplies for next 6 months quantified.

3.11 Access, Safety, and Security

- 3-Day Safe and Secured Approaches to Field Environments is planned to take place in Juba from 03-05 March 2019 at UNMISS Tomping.

- Met with National Security Services (NSS) in Wau and discussed the failure to screen travelers on motorbikes from DRC to Wau through Ezo and Tambura. Hence, the need to organize EVD Awareness Training for NSS in Wau was highlighted and being organized.

3.12 Updates from States

Nimule (Torit State)

- The local authorities provided a piece of land measuring 300m² for burial activities.
- Power connected to Nimule EVD isolation center from Nimule hospital.
- RRT simulation exercise was conducted on Friday 15 February 2019.

Yambio

- State Ministry of Health, WHO and partners conduct community engagement on Ebola at Sakure County.
- Organized meeting with Ebola vaccine team to discuss challenges and planned activities for the next two weeks.
- SMOH and WHO addressed a media report on adverse events following immunization (AEFI).

4.0 Challenges/Gaps

- 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.

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, and CUAMM to fast-track the operationalization of new points of entry.
- 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.

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.
- Continue with implementation of other EVD preparedness interventions as per national EVD contingency plan.

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, SSRIC, 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.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Richard Lako Lino Incident Manager Email: richardlako@yahoo.com Tel.: +211 926 592 520	Dr. Pinyi Nyimol Mawien Director General PHS Email: pinyiaupur@gmail.com Phone: +211916285676	Dr. Mathew Tut Moses Director, EPR & PHEOC Email: tut1988@yahoo.com Tel.: +211 922 202 028
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