

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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

Update # 44
Week 29 (15 – 21 July)
Date: 15 July 2019

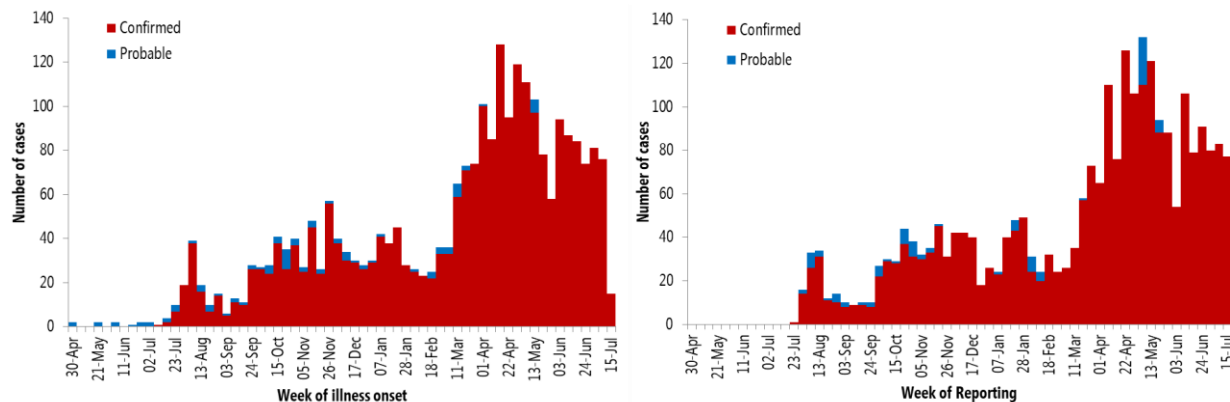
1. Highlights of the week

- A high-level delegation led by South Sudan's Undersecretary of Health visited Yei River State to intensify Ebola preparedness in the country on Monday 15th July.
<https://afro.who.int/news/high-level-delegation-led-south-sudans-undersecretary-health-visited-yei-river-state-intensify>
- Two Ebola alerts were reported over the weekend. Rapid response team were deployed for case investigation and sample collection.
- The GenXpert cartridge arrived was delivered to the national public health laboratory on 19 July 2019. Capacity for conducting preliminary test for Ebola (Zaire strain) resumed since then.
- 80,314 screenings were conducted for EVD at 32 points of entry during week 29. The cumulative number of screenings conducted since August 2018 is 2,677,080

2. Situation update - Democratic Republic of Congo

- As of 20 July 2019, there were 2,578 confirmed EVD cases and 1737 deaths (case fatality rate 67%) reported.
- WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on 17 July declared the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The decision was based on the recent developments in the outbreak, including the geographical expansion of the virus.
- Figure 1 below shows the EPI-Curve of confirmed and probable EVD cases in DRC. Although the number of new cases each week is decreasing since June this should be interpreted with caution given the high number of unknown contacts within the community.

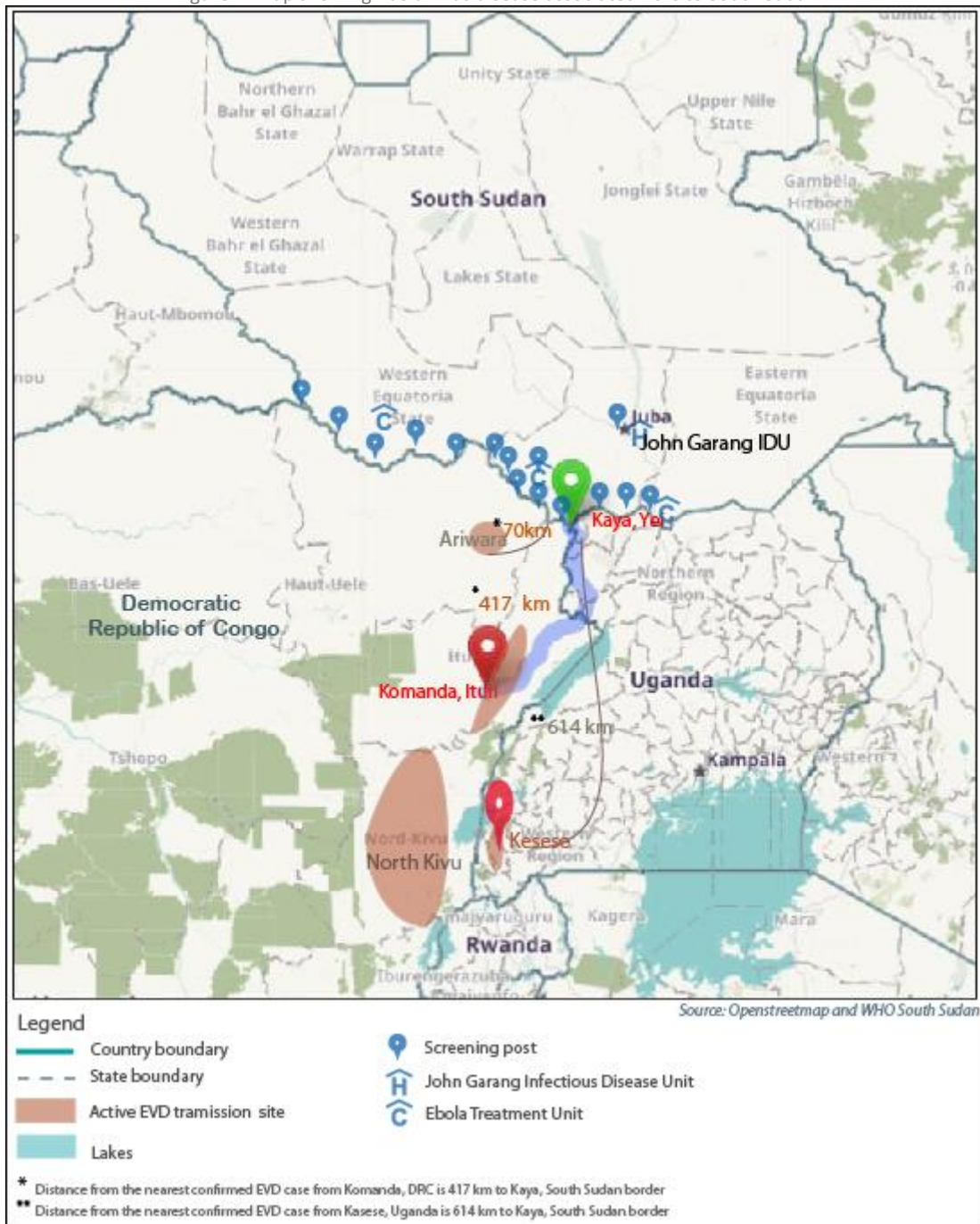
Figure 1: DRC Epi Curve 20th July 2019



3. Situation update - Uganda

- There have been no further confirmed EVD cases. July 22nd was day 40 since the death of the last confirmed EVD case (13 June 2019).
- On July 19, 17 contacts were listed
- Active case search and death surveillance are ongoing in the health facilities and the communities as the district response teams continue to investigate all alerts.
- There was one admission in Bwera hospital on 19 July that died on arrival
- Cumulatively 1572 individuals have been vaccinated, 138 contacts, 752 contacts of contacts, and 682 frontline health workers.

Figure 2: map showing Ebola virus disease associated risks to South Sudan



4. Public Health Preparedness and Readiness in South Sudan

4.1. Coordination

- A high-level delegation led by South Sudan’s Undersecretary of Health visited Yei River State to intensify Ebola preparedness in the country. The purpose of the visit was to among others reassure local authorities of the continued support of the development partners and the one UN in South Sudan; secure sustained commitment of the local authorities to the EVD preparedness efforts and publicize in the national press key messages to the general public regarding Ebola preparedness.
- On 16 and 18 July 2019, two coordination meeting were conducted by the EVD strategic group and nation task-force on Ebola preparedness respectively. The recent declaration of Public Health Emergency of International Concern in DRC was among the things discussed
- Coordination meetings were conducted by Ebola State Task Forces (STFs) in Jubek, Torit (Nimule), Gbudwe (Yambio), Yei River, Maridi, and Tambura.

- Weekly meetings were conducted by the respective Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to provide technical guidance and support to partners implementing EVD preparedness activities.

4.2. Resource mobilization

- The second National EVD Preparedness Plan April – September 2019 with a financial requirement of US\$ 12.2 million is 36% funded (including secured funding and confirmed commitments).

4.3. EPI-Surveillance and Laboratory

- Two alerts were investigated over the weekend. The first case was in Yambio. A rapid response team was deployed for case investigation and sample collection. A blood sample was collected and transferred to the NPHL in Juba on Sunday morning that tested negative for EVD-Zaire strain using GeneXpert. A second sample was shipped to UVRI for confirmation.
- In Tambura an alert was reported and the RRT team followed the case to Nzara hospital but found the patient had not been admitted. The RRT continued investigation to the patient’s home on Monday but found an underlying morbidity and the case did not meet the case definition.
- 150 GenXpert cartridges were delivered to the national public health laboratory on 19 July 2019. Capacity for conducting preliminary test for Ebola (Zaire strain) resumed since then.
- A consignment of laboratory consumable and a refrigerator unit were supplied to the laboratory by WHO on Monday 22nd July
- Procurement for the negative pressure glove box has been approved by AFRO and is being followed up
- Planning of simulations, including table-top exercises, drills and a full-scale simulation is ongoing, to be conducted through July and August.

4.4. Border Health and Screening

- For the Epi-week 29 (July 15 -21, 2019), 80,314 screenings were conducted for EVD at points of entry. The cumulative number of screenings conducted since August 2018 is 2,677,080. See table 1 below for more information.
- Active screening of incoming travellers through the points entry is currently ongoing. IOM is also conducting floor monitoring in strategic entry points along the South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo border.

Table 1: Summary of screenings from 31 points of entry

Primary screened		Secondary screened		Alerts	
Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative
80,314	2,677,080	73	1,620	0	21 generated, 8 met case definition

4.5. Case Management, Infection Prevention, and Control/WASH and Safe and Dignified Burial

- Conducted refresher training for the safe and dignified burial teams in Nimule, Yei and Juba.
- Following the confirmed Ebola case in Ariwara, activities have focused on reviewing and replenishing IPC/WASH supplies especially in health facilities and screening points along the borders of Yei River state.

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

- South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC), Internews, IOM and UNICEF are expanding the presence in Yei and Nimule with training and deployment of additional mobilisers and enhanced engagement with radio stations. Refresher trainings on risk communication, community engagement, infection prevention and safe dignified burial for 40 volunteers by SRCC in Yei. Sensitization of 45 wildlife service personnel by UNICEF in Nimule
- Basic analysis of KAP survey data completed. Further State-level analysis ongoing. Qualitative analysis of FGDs being reviewed. Selected and preliminary findings from KAP available.

4.7. Operations & Logistics

- AFRO region of which South Sudan is part of has identified and defined two regional stockpiles (in Dubai and in Accra) as regional stockpiles to be dispatched within 72 hours in the event of a confirmed case
- Isolation unit assessment was undertaken by MSF of Yambio/Nimule completed, minor works to modify but organizations requested by MSF to commence set-up.

- During the week commencing 15 July PPE supplies to Maridi, Nimule, Tambura, Yambio and Yei were replenished. A VHF 500 kit for prepositioning at Yei isolation center was delivered to UNHAS and flown into Yei on Tuesday 23 July.

4.8. Vaccines and Therapeutics

- Vaccination of 180 frontline health workers will commence on 24th July in Yei, Morobo and Kajo Keji
- WHO state coordinators mapped out health facilities where vaccination did not take place in the first round and identified eligible frontline workers eligible for the vaccine
- 13 of the 15 vaccination team members are in Yei, 2 team members will be brought from Juba to complete the Yei vaccination team. In addition 5 members will travel to support the cold chain logistics of the operation. Supplies have gone on 22nd July by road to Yei and the teams will fly on Tuesday 23rd with the vaccine
- The vaccine supply was due to expire on the 31 July 2019 and the MoH requested for the areas in Yei to be prioritized as they were not covered in the first round of vaccinations and because of the low capacity and high vulnerability.

5. Challenges/Gaps

- Additional funding is urgently required to fully operationalize the second National EVD Preparedness Plan.
- Some key pillars and organizations have so far received zero funding and resources and personnel to operationalize key areas have withdrawn.
- Limited coordination between National and Lower level to strengthening EVD preparedness activities.

6. Donors and partners involved in EVD preparedness and readiness

MOH, AAH, ACROSS, AMLIMA, AMREF, ARC, Canada, CDC, CERF, CMMB, CONCERN, COPE, CORDAID, CUAMM, DFCA, ECHO, ECSS, GAVI, Germany, GOAL, HELP, HLSS, HPF, IFRC, IMC-UK, Internews, IOM, IRC, JICA, MEDAIR, MSF, OXFAM, REACH, SAC, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, Solidarity International, SPLA, Ministry of Interior, SSDO, SSHF, SSRC, SSUHA, TRISS, UK/DFID, UMCOR, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMISS, UNOCHA, USAID/OFDA, WFP, WHO, World Bank, WVSS.

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