

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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

**Update # 44**

**Week 28** (8–14 July)

**Date: 15 July 2019**

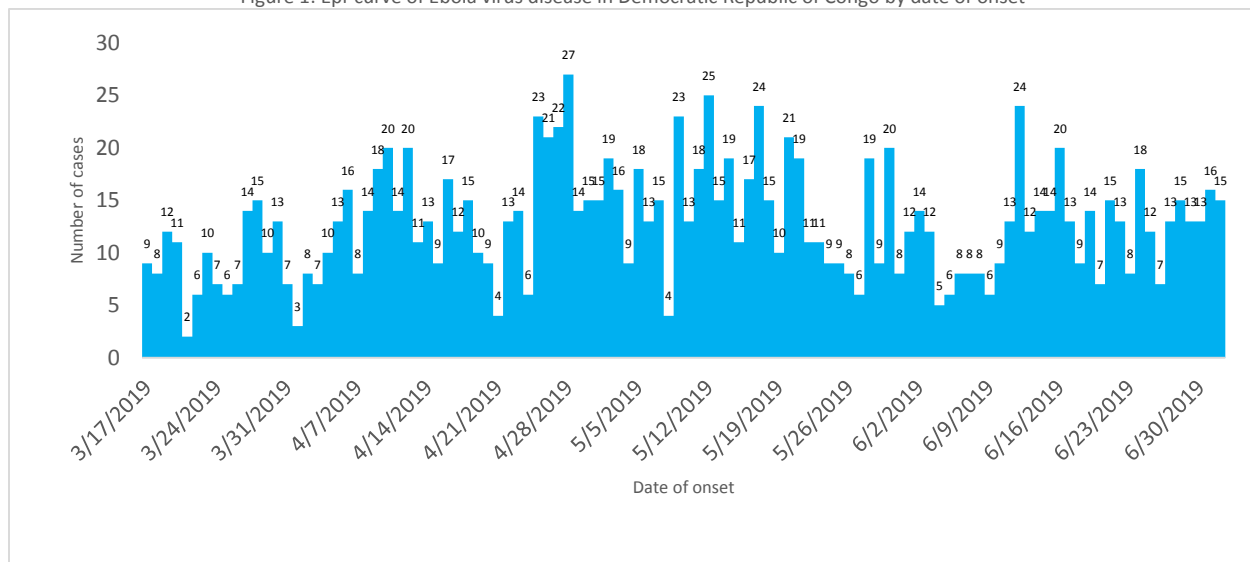
### 1. Highlights of the week

- Test results relating the samples taken from the alerts reported in Yei on 5 and 6 July 2019, were negative for Ebola.
- IOM established a new screening site in Lujulu crossing point, taking the cumulative number of screening sites 32.
- 70,730 screenings were conducted for EVD at 31 points of entry during week 28. The cumulative number of screenings conducted since August 2018 is 2,564,942.

### 2. Situation update - Democratic Republic of Congo

- As of 9 July 2019, there were 2,437 confirmed EVD cases and 1,646 deaths (case fatality rate 68 %) reported.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> July, the DRC Ministry of Health reported a confirmed Ebola case in Goma, one of the largest city in the eastern part of DRC.
- The person arrived in Goma on 14<sup>th</sup> July and was quickly identified as a suspect case and taken to an isolation facility. Due to the speed with which the patient was identified and isolated, as well as the identification of all the fellow bus passengers from Butembo, the risk of the disease spreading to the rest of the city of Goma is assessed as low.
- Ring vaccination is scheduled to start on Monday 15 July.
- Figure 1 below shows the EPI-Curve of new EVD cases in DRC. Although the number of new cases each week is decreasing this should be interpreted with caution given the high number of unknown contacts within the community.
- Ring vaccinations continue around Ariwara within close proximity of South Sudan border with some 626 frontline health care workers vaccinated as of 1 July.

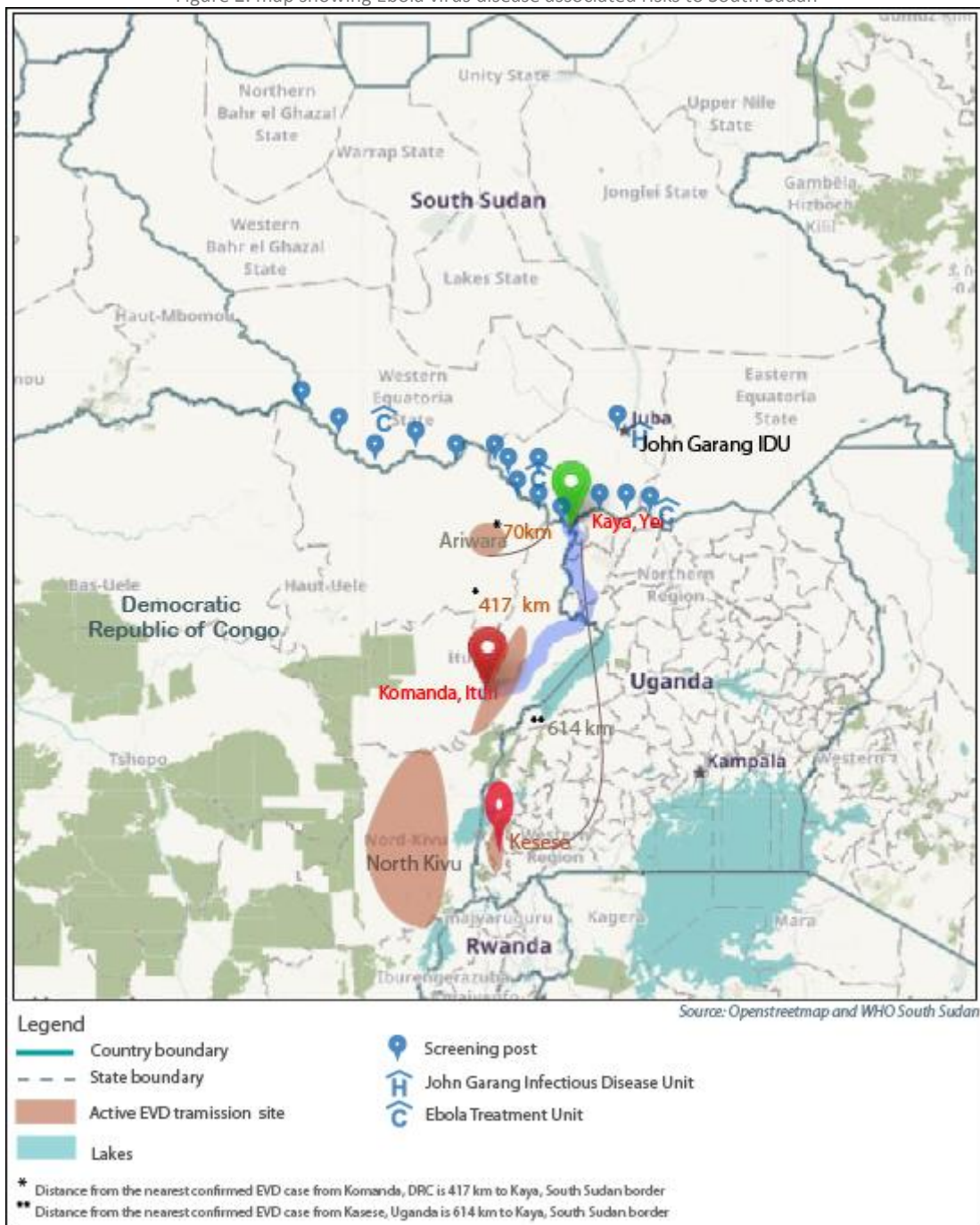
Figure 1: Epi-curve of Ebola virus disease in Democratic Republic of Congo by date of onset



### 3. Situation update - Uganda

- There have been no further confirmed EVD cases. July 11<sup>th</sup> was day 29 since the death of the last confirmed EVD case (13 June 2019).
- Active case search and death surveillance are ongoing in the health facilities and the communities as the district response team continue to investigate all alerts; there are 93 contacts with 92 under follow-up.
- 1,437 individuals have been vaccinated: 78 contacts, 747 contacts of contacts and 612 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

- On 11 July 2019, the EVD national taskforce co-convened a meeting with implementing partners to coordinate follow up actions following the confirmed case of EVD in Ariwara in DRC, just 70 km away from South Sudan. Staff from WHO, UNICEF, IOM and WFP deployed to Yei to engage with partners and review and strengthen preparedness measures.
- 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

- A suspected Ebola virus disease (EVD) alert was reported in Nimule crossing point on 13 July 2019. A rapid response team was deployed for investigation but was later discarded after establishing that the suspect did not meet the case definition.
- Planning of simulations, including table-top exercises, drills and a full-scale simulation is ongoing, to be conducted through July and August.
- The glove box provided for the PCR needs to be replaced to meet the safety requirements of the Ministry of Health.
- The stock gap of cartridges for GeneXpert testing as well as reagent for PCR machine, continued this week. Resupply is expected on 12 July. Until then, both GeneXpert and PCR testing will be conducted by UVRI in Uganda.

#### 4.4. Border Health and Screening

- For the Epi-week 28(July 8 -14, 2019), 70,730, screenings were conducted for EVD at 31 points of entry. The cumulative number of screenings conducted since August 2018 is 2,564,942. See table 1 below for more information.
- IOM established a new screening center in Lujulu crossing point, thus making the cumulative number of screening sites 32.
- IOM deployed a team in Kaya entry point, 70 km from Ariwara where the nearest case of EVD to South Sudan was confirmed. The team is monitoring people crossing from DRC border to South Sudan and strengthening screening procedures for travellers passing through Kaya entry point.

Table 1: Summary of screenings from 31 points of entry

Primary screened		Secondary screened		Alerts	
Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative
84,804	2,494,212	46	1,1465	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).

- The quantitative Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice(KAP) survey has been completed as has analysis of the data. The qualitative analysis of the data from the focus group discussions (FGD) is ongoing.
- A short summary of the preliminary and top-line findings from both the KAP and FGDs will be shared at next NTF on 18 July.
- RCSMCE TWG partners providing technical inputs on 11 and 12 July to the Rapid Response Team Training of Trainers' training being conducted by the ECHO-funded Consortium of Alima, Concern and GOAL.

#### 4.7. Operations & Logistics

- The interagency assessment of structural upgrades to the Isolation Units in Nimule and Yambio took place on 12 July based on the agreed scope of works. A similar assessment of the Yei isolation unit is due to take place the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> July. The assessment findings will be shared during the week of 15 July 2019. by the mission participants MSF, WHO and WFP.
- Personal Protective Equipment was issued to Alima from UNHCR stock, following on from a request from IMC
- Ground work underway for a common storage unit to be constructed in Nimule under WFP/Logistics Cluster management.

#### 4.8. Vaccines and Therapeutics

- Nothing significant to report. The EVD vaccination exercise in South Sudan has vaccinated 2,793 frontline health workers with no serious adverse effects reported.

#### 5. Challenges/Gaps

- Additional funding is urgently required to fully operationalize the second National EVD Preparedness Plan.
- 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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