

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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

Update # 11

Date: 10 November 2018

1. Highlights

- A suspected Ebola virus disease alert was reported in Yei River State. The patient later died and investigation are ongoing.
- A high-level coordination meeting constituting of UN Agencies and key Humanitarian partners was held and formed strategic advisory committee (SAC) to provide technical support to the national task force.
- 40 Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) team members were trained from 6th – 8th November 2018 in Yei River State by ICRC and WHO.
- Boarder health screening has been strengthened with IOM opening two additional boarder screening points in Pure and Korigo bringing the total to 16 screening points. Assessments have been conducted to set up two additional screening sites by IOM. A total 418,305 people have been screened at all the 16 border screening points.
- UNICEF through implementing partner, Episcopal Church of South Sudan trained 122 social mobilisers in Ezo, Nagero, Yambio, Nzara and Tambura counties who reached 824 households with 4149 people on Ebola prevention messages.
- The construction of the ETU Juba is on track and is expected to be ready and handed over to the Ministry of Health by mid of November, 2018.

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

2.1. Latest updates

- Between 31st October to 6 November, 2018, 29 new cases were reported: Beni (15), Butembo (7), Kalunguta (4), Mabalako (2) and Vuhovi (1). Three (3) health workers from a health post in Beni and Kalunguta were among the newly infected.
- As of 10th November 2018, a total of 329 cases of EVD have been reported, of which 294 are confirmed and 35 are probable. Of the 294 confirmed cases, 170 died. Cumulative deaths are 205.
- A total of 27,360 eligible and consented people have been vaccinated including 9106 health and frontline workers, and 7,256 children since the start of vaccination on August 8, 2018.
- Contract tracing continues with almost 18,000 contacts registered since the start of the outbreak of which 5430 remain under surveillance as of 6 November. Follow up rates over the past week range from 91-94 percent in total across all health areas.
- The risk of spread to other provinces in DRC and to neighboring counties like South Sudan remains 'VERY HIGH'.
- It is therefore recommended that neighboring provinces and countries enhance surveillance and preparedness activities.

3. Public Health Preparedness and Readiness

3.1. Coordination

- A high-level coordination meeting constituting of UN Agencies and key Humanitarian partners was held and formed strategic advisory group (SAG) to provide technical support to the national task force. The members include WHO, UNOCHA, UNICEF, WFP, IOM, UNHCR, DFID, USAID-OFDA, ECHO, CDC, SCI, WVSS, and MEDAIR.

- Two national taskforce meetings chaired by the Hon. Minister of Health and co-chaired by the Incident Manager were held on 6th and 8th November 2018 at the PHEOC in Juba. The major themes of discussion included surveillance, risk communication and psychosocial support, Rapid Response, and Safe and Dignified Burial.
- Three states' task force forwarded their weekly minutes of meetings. These updates were discussed during NTF meetings.



The WHO vaccine expert making an online presentation during the NTF meeting held on 8 November 2018.

3.2. Resource mobilization

- Following the SAC meeting, a resource tracker matrix was circulated among partners and Donors to populate the funds received for Ebola preparedness and response. As of 10 November, \$7.3million has been mobilized representing 45% of the total required. This figure may change after input from other partners.

3.3. Surveillance and Laboratory

- On 6th November 2018, a 30-year-old male hunter from Loka in Lainya County, Yei River State complained of generalized body pain, headache and fever. On 7th November, he started vomiting blood and watery diarrhoea. On 9th November the patient went to Loka Round PHCU for treatment where he was referred to Lainya Hospital for further treatment. Upon arrival at the hospital, the patient was put on IV Quinine, Tramadol and IV Ringers Lactate in the ward. The patient however, continued to vomit blood more than seven times and diarrhea continued and he became irritable. On 11th November at around 3 am the patient passed away. Samples were collected and family members are awaiting for laboratory results. The other option was to have the support of the safe and dignified burial team.
- The EVD Task Force in Yei River convened an emergency meeting to provide guidance on the emergency response for the EVD alert.
- On 12th November 2018, WHO deployed a Rapid Response Team to support the packaging and transportation of the sample to Juba and onward shipment to Uganda Virus Research for laboratory confirmation. The results are expected by 13th November, 2018.
- The WHO County office has prioritized the Rapid Response Teams training in Rumbek from 3rd 7th November 2018.

3.4 Port Health and Screening

- IOM has opened two additional boarder screening points in Pure and Korigo bringing the total to 16 screening points. Assessments have been conducted to set up two additional screening sites by IOM.
- A total 418,305 people have been screened at all the 16 border screening points.
- Three supervisory visits were conducted in Okaba, Kaya and Juba International Airport by the Boarder Health Technical working groups. The purpose was to prove of the supervisory visits was to provide onsite mentoring and quality improvement.
- The electronic EWARS platform is being used to capture, aggregate, and analyze points of entry screening data with the table below, summarizing the number of travelers screened in week 44 at the active points of entry.

- A total of 14 Ebola alerts investigated since May 2018.

South Sudan Ebola Response | Monitoring of EVD screening activities at Points of Entry in countries prioritized for Ebola preparedness activities

Year: 2018
 Week number: W44 From: 2018-10-29 To: 2018-11-04

Name of PoE	Passengers Screening Information			EVD Alerts		
	# screened	# isolated	# under Voluntary Home Quarantine	# reported	# validated	# suspects
Bazi Border	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gangura Border	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juba International Airport	3,359	0	0	0	0	0
Kaya	2,190	0	0	0	0	0
Kaya Border	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maridi Airstrip	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nimule Border	6,207	0	0	0	0	0
Okaba	999	0	0	0	0	0
Panjala Docking River	469	0	0	0	0	0
Sakure Border	18	0	0	0	0	0
Wau Airport	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yambio Airport	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yei Airport	27	0	0	0	0	0
Yei RRC	9	0	0	0	0	0
South Sudan	13,278	0	0	0	0	0

Note
 This table is generated automatically from EWARS South Sudan. It has been deployed since December 2013, following the eruption of political violence. From May 2017, it has been scaled up to provide support to all 80 counties across the country. It is supporting MoH and partners to strengthen integrated disease surveillance and response (IDSR). <http://ss.ewars.ws/login>



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

- 40 Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) team members were trained from 6th – 8th November 2018 in Yei River State by ICRC and WHO.
- WFP delivered four tents each to Yambio for World Vision and Nimule for CORDAID. The delivery to Wau for IMC and Yei will be re-scheduled.
- All SoPs including IPC/WaSH (Isolation Facility and ETU, Safe & Dignified Burials) have been compiled for validation from 14th -16th November, 2018.

3.6. Risk communication, community engagement and social mobilization

- UNICEF through implementing partner, Episcopal Church of South Sudan trained 122 social mobilisers in Ezo, Nagero, Yambio, Nzara and Tambura counties who reached 824 households with 4149 people on Ebola prevention messages.
- Child friendly psychosocial support messages related to Ebola are being integrated into risk communication and social mobilization messages.
- Rumor management and monitoring strategy and tools are under development. The strategy will look into how to dispel rumors and misconceptions.
- The Emergency toll-free hotlines (6666) remain active providing information on EVD and related issues.
- Ebola prevention IEC materials were developed in English and have been translated into Arabic, Zande and Bari.

3.7. Logistics and Personnel deployment

- Two additional consultants were deployed by WHO to support coordination and logistics for EVD preparedness and response.

- Received the 3 PPE Kits from Ghana. Plans are underway to procure aprons locally to complete the kits. Additional 13 PPE Kits to be procured from WHO HQ.
- Following the opening of the new Juba International airport terminal, the logistics team visited the facility to identify the location for the new screening areas.
- The construction of the ETU Juba is on track and is expected to be ready and handed over to the Ministry of Health by mid of November, 2018.
- Five (5) Motorbikes were sent to Yambio, two (2) motorbikes and a new generator 13kva to Yei River State to boost the capacity of the response efforts on the ground.
- Yambio State to rent 4 more vehicles and we are to send one more WHO vehicle to Yei pending the approval of the UNMISS convoy. One (1) vehicle has already been rented locally for Nimule.
- A PCR machine is expected to arrive in country along with a technician to support the installation.

3.8. Vaccines and Therapeutics

- A teleconference was conducted by the national task force for EVD with Geneva. During the TC, WHO Headquarters made a presentation on who is eligible for the Ebola vaccination.
- The Health Cluster is mapping the frontline health workers including traditional healers in high risk States.
- An additional expert on Vaccination is expert to be deployed to support the Ebola vaccination.

3.9. Safety and Security

- UNOCHA facilitated access for IOM to conduct assessment to open additional screening points in Tekori and Lujulu.
- Access, Safety and Security technical working group (TWG) continues to contact the partners responsible for security in IO areas to improve access to high-risk locations that are currently inaccessible due to insecurity.
- More UN personnel have completed the WHO e-PROTECT online training on Ebola awareness.

3.10 Updates from States

Yei River State

- 50 community leaders and other stakeholders were sensitized on EVD relevant information (UNICEF, WHO and other partners).
- The STF dispelled an existing rumor among the community leaders that Ebola travels only by water or wind from DRC to South Sudan.
- The Ministry of Health with support from WHO, UNICEF and SSDO conducted IPC/CM training for 21 clinicians.
- There are active on-going humanitarian coordination and STF meetings in Yei state.
- WHO continues to provide technical support to the State Ministry of Health and ICRC on the installation of isolation facility at Yei hospital.

Yambio

- Wau STF identified all required committees.
- Risk comm./Soc. Mob. committee working with WASH cluster in creating awareness on Ebola relevant information.
- The STF resolved to conduct STF and health cluster meetings on alternate schedules (every Wednesday).
- The STF tasked WHO to mobilize more partners to attend STF meetings.
- The STF is planning to reactivate the county taskforce.

Wau

- WFP delivered all the required tents at the prioritized PoEs.
- WFP expedited the clearance of emergency preparedness materials from Customs offices.
- State Task Force has developed Ebola preparedness budget on the 29th October 2018.
- The State Task Force meetings are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly.

4.0. Challenges/Gaps.

The critical preparedness gaps currently entail:

- Inaccessibility due to bad road, insecurity and communication barrier
- Delayed installation of isolation facility in Juba and other high-risk states.
- Human resource gap to support EVD preparedness activities especially in the high-risk States.

5.0. Recommendations and priority follow up actions

- The relevant authorities to negotiate for partners to access communities in EVD high risk areas.
- Fast-track the installation of isolation facilities in EVD high risk states.
- Mobilize for more resources to facilitate recruitment and deployment of the required additional human resources for EVD preparedness and response.

6.0. Conclusion

- The focus for the NTF in the coming week is to:
 - Fast-track the implementation of Ebola vaccination for the frontline health workers including the traditional healers.
 - Validate all the SOPs for EVD preparedness and response.
 - Engage and sensitize non-health actors at Juba international airport to support the implementation and enforcement of the EVD screening of incoming travelers.

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, 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 Purse, Medair, REACH and UNHASS.

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