HEALTH CLUSTER BULLETIN # 1

31 January 2018

South Sudan | Emergency type: Complex Emergency | Reporting period: 1 – 31 January 2018

- **5.1 MILLION** PEOPLE IN HEALTH NEED
- **2.4 MILLION** TARGETED
- **1.9 MILLION** DISPLACED
- **2.1 MILLION** REFUGEES

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Improving Health Access and Scaling up Responsiveness:**
  Three health facilities assessed and renovated in Nyirol County (Chuil PHCC, Pultruk PHCC and Bariak PHCU) (CMA).

- **Emergency WASH in Health Facilities in Conflict Affected Locations**
  Eight County Hospitals and seven Primary Health Care Centres assessed for water and sanitation needs to drive emergency Wash in health facilities. (WHO).

- **Quality Essential Clinical Health Services**
  Health cluster partners focus on Gender Based Violence (GBV) services in hard to reach areas of Torit, Ikwotos and Lopa/Lafon through mobile clinics (CARE).

- **Improving Resilience- Mental Health Response**
  Health and protection cluster partners join efforts to assess suicide rates in Malakal PoC. An action plan is developed

- **Humanitarian Development Nexus**
  HC Emergency Responder, Children Aid South Sudan (CASS) leads a 5month response working alongside CMA a development partner to respond to suspected cholera outbreak in Nyirol County from August 2017 to January 2018 and reaching 4,822 beneficiaries.

**HEALTH SECTOR**

- **HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS EARMARKED IN HRP TO IMPLEMENT HEALTH RESPONSE**
  - 43

- **MEDICINES DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS**
  - 8 ASSORTED MEDICAL KITS (CORE PIPELINE)

**HEALTH CLUSTER ACTIVITIES**

- **OPD CONSULTATIONS**
  - 29 422

- **DOSES OF ORAL CHOLERA VACCINE**
  - 1 381 836

- **EWARN SENTINEL SITES**
  - 39

**FUNDING SUS**

- REQUESTED
  - 130 M
  - 3.7 (2.8%)
- FUNDED (SSHF)
  - 126.3 M
  - 126.3 M

Photo: IHO.
Key Context Update

- South Sudan declared the end of its longest and largest cholera outbreak on 7 February 2018, with no new cases of cholera reported in over seven weeks. The fight against cholera in South Sudan has involved a range of emergency responder’s partners working together to enhance surveillance, deploy rapid response teams to investigate and respond to cases, provide clean water, promote good hygiene practices and treat cholera patients.

- Despite the agreement signed on the Cessation of Hostilities on 24 December 2017 between the Government of South Sudan and Opposition Forces, sporadic clashes still continued notably in the areas of Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Central and Western Equatoria. Inter-Communal Fighting specifically revenge killings, and cattle raiding continues to affect the Greater Bahr el Ghazal Region particularly in Gogrial, Tonj, Wau and Aweil East states and most recently in Nyirol County killing 30 civilians mostly women and children and wounding around 25 more.

- Joint statement issued by the African Union and United Nations on the situation in South Sudan strongly condemning the recent violations of the 21 December 2017 Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access in South Sudan.

- In January 2018, an influx of over 240 000 IDPs have been reported from Leer and Mayendit, Fangak and Waat Pageri Boma, Tonga and surrounding villages, Unity, Bazia County, Duk, Jamjang/ Rubkona, Aweil East and South Nyanlath payam, Gemezia, Masna area in Wau, Keew and Jekow payam.

Public Health Risks and Key Gaps

Disease Outbreaks

- By the end of January 2018, timeliness and completeness were 61% and 73% at county level for IDSR reporting and 72% and 77% at the health facilities for EWARS/IDP reporting respectively.

- A total of 150 alerts have been reported countrywide since the beginning of 2018. At least 48% of these alerts have been verified with the most frequent being acute bloody diarrhoea 36 (26%), acute watery diarrhoea 33 (23%), and suspect measles 30 (21%).

- **Malaria** is the top cause of morbidity in the relatively stable states where it accounts for 37.3% of the consultations. However, among the IDP sites, acute respiratory infections (ARI) are the top cause of morbidity where they account for 25.7% of consultations followed by malaria with 17.5% of the total outpatient consultations.

- **Foodborne disease outbreak** - On 18 Feb 2018, a foodborne disease outbreak was reported in Bor Town, Jonglei state. A total of 434 cases including one community death (CFR 0.23%) were reported among individuals that attended the inauguration ceremony in Bor Town. A total of 19 samples were collected with the provision test results suggesting Salmonella species (further testing is underway). A multi-agency response led by the national and state Ministry of Health supported by WHO, UNICEF, ICRC, Doctors of the world, Red Cross South Sudan, Health Link, IMA, UNMISS, and other partners facilitated rapid containment.
of the event.

**Measles** – In February 2018, a new outbreak of measles was confirmed in Aweil East County after four measles IgM cases were confirmed in the National Public Health Laboratory on 24 February 2018. A total of 21 measles cases have been identified and line listed. A reactive measles campaign is slated for 26 to 31 March 2018 with IOM and IRC as the lead partners.

By the end of February 2018, a total of 83 suspect measles cases including one death were reported from 15 counties countywide. Out of these 15 counties, outbreaks of measles have been confirmed in Cueibet, Aweil Center, and Aweil East counties.

**Rubella – Jur River County** - A new outbreak of Rubella was confirmed in Jur River after four Rubella IgM positive cases were confirmed on 26 February 2018. The current response entails surveillance, line listing, and providing supportive care to newly identified cases. Routine EPI immunization has been enhanced in the county. A cumulative of 53 rubella cases has been reported and line listed in Jur River.

**Suspect meningitis** – In Torit, a new suspect outbreak of meningitis was reported from Iyire and Imurok payams on 15 February 2018 and 27 February 2018 respectively. Interagency response involving (National MoH, sMoH, CHDs, ARC, SCI, OCHA, WHO, UNICEF, CARE, SSR, HLSS) initiated since 20 February 2018. A total of 166 cases including 30 deaths (CFR 18.1%) have been reported from Torit. The transmission increased consistently from week 6 and reached a peak in week 9 with both the alert and action thresholds being surpassed in week 7 and week 9 respectively. The attack rates (cases per 100,000) are highest in persons 30 years and above. A total of 13 samples have been tested but the findings are inconclusive and have been referred to a WHO collaborating laboratory in Paris, France for further testing. The decision to vaccinate current awaits the outcome of definitive laboratory testing. The current response entails surveillance, case detection, laboratory investigation, case management, social mobilisation, and overall coordination of the response by the taskforce at state and national level.

**Rift valley fever (RVF)** – Investigations into the Rift Valley Fever (RVF) cases continued through the end of February 2018. The outbreak is believed to have started on 7 December 2018 with cases whose clinical and epidemiological profile was consistent with RVF. Most cases have been reported from Thonabutkok village, Yali payam, Yirol East County, Eastern Lakes state. By the end of February 2018, a total of 40 suspect RVF cases were reported in Eastern Lakes state. These were reclassified based on epidemiological investigations
Subject to change as the RVF laboratory case classification algorithm is currently being reviewed. and laboratory test results, such that as of 30 February 2018, there were a total of six (6) RVF confirmed cases, three (3) probable cases, and twelve (12) suspect RVF cases (laboratory results are pending). Nineteen (19) cases were discarded as non-cases following negative laboratory results for RVF and other common causes of viral haemorrhagic fever. On the other hand, a cumulative of 28 animal samples have been tested to date with nine (9) being RVF positive (3 IgM and 6 IgG). Current response entails surveillance and laboratory testing, supportive clinical care, surveillance, risk communications, and community sensitizations on hygienic animal handling. The formal outbreak declaration took place on 12 March 2018. The current efforts entail updating the action plan, mobilising resources, strengthening preparedness and community sensitisations as well as surveillance and investigation of new suspect cases.

![RFV case distribution by time and outcome in Yirol East, wk 49, 2017 to week 10, 2018](image)

- South Sudan has been plagued by persistent cholera outbreak since 18 June 2016. By the end of January 2018, a cumulative of 20,438 cases with 436 deaths and a case fatality rate (CFR) of 2.13% were reported in 26 counties. However, following the integrated response by the national taskforce and partners, the last cholera cases were reported on 18 December 2018. The outbreak was officially declared over on 7 February 2018. Current efforts entail preparedness activities in transmission hotspots including preventive oral cholera vaccine campaigns, risk communication, and improving water, sanitation, and hygiene.

**WASH in Health Facilities**

- In South Sudan health care waste management and infection control is an environmental health risk. Recent assessment conducted shows suboptimal scoring of 40% compared to acceptable threshold of 70%. The assessment was conducted in 15 functional health facilities including County hospitals and primary health care centres (PHCC’s).

**Malnutrition**

- According to the September 2017, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the population of Western Bahr el Ghazal are classified in phase 4 Emergency (Raja and Wau counties) and phase 3 crisis (Jur River county). Over the past 5 months, severe food insecurity has affected over 70% of

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1 Subject to change as the RVF laboratory case classification algorithm is currently being reviewed.
the total population in Western Bahr El Ghazal (73% in September 2017, 67% October to December 2017, and 72% Jan-March 2018); these findings indicate that Western Bahr el Ghazal has the highest share of population affected by food insecurity across country for 3 consecutive periods, spanning 7 months. The food and nutrition emergency in this area has been contained due to the alert raised by the previous IPC analysis which classified pockets of populations in phase 5.

**Mental Health Care Gap**

- The WHO estimates that in situations of conflict like the case in South Sudan; the prevalence of patients with severe mental health condition increases from 2-3% before conflict to 3-4% after conflict. For mild to moderate mental health conditions like mild to moderate depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder, cases are likely to increase from 10% before conflict to up to 20% during conflict. Projecting these estimates to the 7.5million people affected by the conflict in the country; close to 300 000 people are likely to have severe mental health conditions and up to 1.5 million people are likely to have mild to moderated mental health conditions requiring urgent intervention. However, the mental health care gap in the country is extremely huge as very few humanitarian agencies are supported to facilitate clinical management of mental health conditions in the country. The result is that most cases do not receive the care and support they deserve thus, contributing to increasing suicide cases as is happening in Malakal PoC.

**Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)**

- South Sudan SGBV concerns remains one of the highest in the region with up to 65% of women and girls experiencing physical and sexual violence in their lifetime. With overall reduced Access to health service by population, CMR services including even the most basic GBV services are also limited, adhoc and severely compromised by the lack of the right and quantities of skill sets able to deliver an effective response.
Health Cluster Response

The 2018 HC Response Focusses on a 4-Pronged Strategy:

Improving Health access and scaling up responsiveness, Emergency Wash in health facilities, Provision of Quality essential healthcare services to the vulnerable and Improving resilience to the vulnerable population. 7 clinical packages have been identified to support the implementation of the health humanitarian response plan. The HHRP (Health humanitarian response plan) is aligned with 8 outputs:

% decrease in U5 mortality rate amongst IDP in camps, # of normal deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants, % of epidemic prone disease alerts verified and responded to within 48 hours, # of children 6-59 months receiving emergency measles vaccination in IDP camps, # of health facilities providing SGBV services, # of rape survivors who received CMR services in health facilities, # mentally ill persons received mental health and psychosocial support, # of health facilities providing MHPSS in IDP camps.

Forty frontline and three pipeline partners are approved by health cluster’s strategic advisory group (SAG) to implement the health activities for 2018 humanitarian response plan using any combination of seven-identified emergency response clinical packages to be tracked on a monthly basis. The health cluster aims to conduct analysis on partner progress and overall health activity performance on the Humanitarian Response Plan indicators. The purpose of this is to track Resources mobilized delivered versus the resources allocated and what has been achieved versus what was planned. The process aims to provide real time information for evidence-based decision making and on resources mobilized, resources allocated and health activity achievements. Below the January snapshot on the following analysis:

1. Health Cluster Partner 3W
3W Analysis Focussing on the Indicator * Number of People Reached* in January 2018

- 153,237 people reached by 40 frontline partners.
- Majority of the people reached are in former Lakes State 17% followed by Jonglei (15%). Eastern Equatoria has the lowest number of people reached by humanitarian during the period under review.

2. Initial Baseline Mapping of 2018 HRP Partner Facilities and Clinical Packages
Analysis and Distribution of the Clinical Packages
3. Analysis of a Cross Section Of Partners Response Targets for January, 2018

International Organization for Migration (IOM), Christian Mission Aid (CMA), Impact Health Organization (IHO) and Hope for Children and Women Foundation (HCAWFO).

- IOM on providing comprehensive HIV/AIDS services in 5 priority locations (PoC and IDPs sites), achieved 100% of their target.
- IHO capacity building on MHPSS for conflict affected states: Trained 16 health workers on MHPSS
- CMA on outpatient consultations reached 27% of their target (8654) and on Immunization reached 6% of their target providing 236 children with penta-valent vaccines:
During the period under review CMA vaccinated some 236 representing 6% of the 4,280 children targeted for penta-valent. Outpatient consultations were also provided for some 8,654 children, representing 27% of the total target.

- IOM is providing comprehensive HIV/AIDS services in 5 priority locations, thus achieving 100% of the target.
- IHO trained 16 health workers on MHPSS. The purpose of the training was to provide support on MHPSS in conflict affected areas.

**Health Cluster Subnational Response Analysis**

**Malakal PoC and Malakal town**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Malakal PoC. All clinics (IMC, IOM, MSF)</th>
<th>Malakal Town. All clinics (IMC, MSF)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of consultations versus number of AWD, ARI and Malaria cases</td>
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</table>

- IOM remains the largest clinic in the Malakal PoC with on average 48% of all consultations
- Consultations in IMC clinic in Malakal town increased from 59% in week 26 (2 July) of 2017 to 67% in week 3 (21 January) of 2018
- % of under 5 and over 5 population among consultations has remained stable in Malakal PoC throughout 2017 at 29/71. Number of children attending health facilities in Malakal town increased from 37/63 in week 26 in 2017 to 43/57 in week 3 of 2018.
- Consultations in the Malakal PoC clinics remained stable throughout 2017: There is a significant
increase from 322 (January 2017) to 1610 January 2018 in Malakal town.

- All major diseases under surveillance have seen an increase when comparing the first 3 weeks of 2017 with the same weeks in 2018, both in Malakal town as well as in the PoC.

**Disease Trends 3rd Week of January 2018**

- Observed Increasing trends in Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) in the Malakal town clinics in 2017 are reducing.
- Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) is increasing in all clinics in town and the PoC
- Overall decrease in Number of malaria cases in Malakal town and a noticeable slight increase in the PoC

**Joint Response to Increase in Number of Suicide (attempts) in Malakal PoC**

- Assessment into increased number of suicide (attempts) conducted late December 2017 reported many people suffering from cumulative distress and hopelessness caused by the protracted violence, lack of livelihoods/unemployment, poor living condition/congestion of PoC, idleness of the youth, domestic violence and abuses, limited freedom of movements, and further aggravated by alcohol and drug abuse, family disputes and violence, including domestic violence, and financial pressure.

- The MHPSS WG and the Protection Cluster developed a multi-sectoral action plan focusing on preventing people from committing suicide.

**Response**

1. Psychosocial hotline, awareness raising campaigns via radio (Nile FM) and at key areas in the PoC, and dissemination of key messages on positive coping and early warning signs
2. Capacity building
   - Humanitarians - community based suicide prevention, positive coping skills, survivors and family members- psychological first aid Community members (block leaders, religious leaders, youth leaders, CWG members) - identification of warning signs of suicidal ideation and behavior, appropriate responses and referrals
3. Promoting “hope” within the community, and inspiring youth and others to channel their creativity and self-resilience through arts, sport, cultural activities.

Further efforts are underway to increase livelihood opportunities in and around the PoC, organize vocational trainings, and improve living conditions (including decongestion of PoC) and advocacy for the possibility for people to return to their homes.
Bentiu PoC and Bentiu Town

- Under 5 mortality rate = 0.14/day/10,000
- Crude mortality rate = 0.13/day/10,000

**Concerns:** Malaria cases not declined pre-rainy season in Bentiu PoC

**Response:** MSF and Mentor have an agreement about larviciding, solicited and prepositioned for malaria commodities, enhanced community messaging for malaria prevention.

- Since 6 December there have been suspected cases of rabies as a result of mainly dog bites and cases continue to be seen in January 2018. In January 2018, there were 29 cases bringing the total to 33 cases including 2 deaths.
- The health cluster and MSF are working on the procurement of human anti-rabies and immunoglobulins to support the response.
NB: The red bars represent suspected Rabies-related deaths

Wau IDP Site and Wau Town
IEHK and Outbreak Response Kits to Partners:

WHO Wau hub dispatched 8 cartons of supplementary malaria modules, 5 cartons of basic malaria modules, 4 carton of basic unit drugs items, 2 cartons of pneumonia kits to the State Ministry of Health and 3 cartons of basic unit, 3 cartons of diarrheal kits (ORS modules), 2 cartons of pneumonia kits, 6 cartons of ringer lactate, 6 cartons of gloves, 3 cartons of emergency kits type-B, 2 IDSR weekly reporting form to IDPs and crisis affected populations in Bazia/Kpile payam in Wau county.

Juba POC

During the month of January 2018, IMC health providers conducted a total of 6810 consultations among them 2034U5 (43%) and 4776 above 5 (57%). Percentage distribution of the top three morbidities, 26% (1757) cases for ARI (19% (1300 cases on malaria and 6% (390) on AWD.
Health Cluster Core Pipeline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>First quarter Resources available for Core pipeline received on December 2017</th>
<th>Items procured</th>
<th>Items prepositioned</th>
<th>Distribution locations/partners and quantities</th>
<th>Plans on trainings</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>USD 900,000</td>
<td>Orders placed to procure IEHK, Cholera, SAM trauma and surgical supply kits</td>
<td>108 IEHK, SAM, Cholera, pneumonia, and trauma</td>
<td>AMREF, IRC, IMC, ALIMA, Samaritan purse, world vision, Nile Hope RMF, UNKEA, Johanneter, Child aid, CARE, Relief International, MSF, Live Well South Sudan and prepositioned in state hub offices (Aweil, Torit, Rumbek and Yambio)</td>
<td>Training on the basics of WHO kits use: Fixed for the 3rd week in March 2018</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>USD 599,735</td>
<td>400,000 doses of measles procured while ARKTEK 10; Vaccine Carrier (RUSH) 250 and on their way Cold Boxes 50</td>
<td>All 400,000 doses of measles prepositioned and to last for 2 quarters</td>
<td>9,000 Juba, 43,670 Wau, 1,800 Rumbek, 16,500 Kuajok, 9,620 Aweil, 17,730 Malakal, 12,500 Torit, 7,750 Yambio, 5,200 Kapoeta</td>
<td>Training on Effective Vaccine Management: Fixed for the 3rd week of March 2018</td>
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Progress on Health Cluster Work Plan

- Coordination: In January 2018, 10 coordination meetings held both at national and sub-national levels.
- Monitoring and verification: Between December 2017 and January 2018, the Health cluster team at the national level conducted three monitoring and verification missions to Wau, Malakal and Aweil.
- Strategic Review and resource Mobilization: The cluster developed a strategic plan for mobilizing resource from the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund SSHF standard allocation 1 and received 3.7 Million
Partner Implementation Key Highlights

- **Christian Mission Aid (CMA)** assessed and renovated three health facilities in Nyirol County (Chuil PHCC, Pultruk PHCC and Bariak PHCU).

- **WHO**: SAM kits distributed to stabilization centres to treat of over 4,500 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and medical complications; HIV test kits delivered (300 Determine and 40 Unigold) to MSF in preparation for the demobilization of about 500 child soldiers in Yambio, Western Equatoria region; supported investigation and prevention, coordination, surveillance, risk communication, case management, logistics and rapid response to the suspected to the rift valley fever.

- **UNICEF**: RRM Health mission to Ganyiel, Farajalla (Unity) and Mboro (WBG); community engagement, case search for suspected RVF cases and death of animals in Yirol east with Chaddo (implementing partner), distribution of 200 LLITN (Yali Payam) and to 66 households in Thonabutkok malaria hot spots.

- **Impact Health Organization (IHO)** – provided mobile health services in three Bomas of Gemeiza and Magala Payam, namely; Malang, Diar and Gemeiza reaching 3,264 individuals including vaccinating 925 children under 5 years and distributing 322 female condoms.

- **The Rescue Initiative South Sudan (TRI-SS)** – provided mobile team response in Keriwa, Pure Ajio, Logobere, Abraham’s zone in Yei, former in the Greater Equatoria Region reaching 1,189 individuals with consultations and 1,076 people with health education messages on communicable disease prevention.

- **IOM** - initiated a mobile medical response to areas outside of Wau town from end of 2017, at Farjallah PHCC, Baggari County. 976 curative consultations conducted, 27% (267) children under 5, 61 screened for malnutrition, (1.6%) had Severe Acute Malnutrition.

- **CARE International** – through mobile response provided emergency health, nutrition and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services in hard to reach areas of Torit, Ikwotos and Lopa/Lafon reaching 1,504 clinical consultations 515 children vaccinated, 955 dewormed; 196 pregnant mothers received antenatal care, 247 women of reproductive age received tetanus vaccine, 121 pregnant women counselled and tested for PMTCT; 1,738 under 5 children screened for malnutrition, 218 cases of MAM and 44 SAM identified and 449 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) screened using MUAC.

- **UNFPA**: UNFPA established a One Stop Centre (OSC) in Juba Teaching hospital. This Centre has increased access to survivor centered health, Psychosocial support, police and legal services within the framework of integrated approach using the health facility as an entry point. There is need for replication of such models.
Humanitarian Development Nexus

Children Aid South Sudan (CASS) handed over the PHCC in Chuil Payam to Christian Mission Aid after implementing rapid response emergency health activities from September 2017 to January 2018. Chuil Payam is one of the hard to reach areas in the conflict affected state of Jonglei. Some communities in this payam have to walk a distance of 3 to 4 days before they can reach a health facility in Lankien which housed the UNHASS airstrip. Humanitarian access to this community is extremely difficult.

Analysis of the Response:

- Humanitarian /Emergency partners work together leveraging both financial and technical capacities to provide essential lifesaving health to a vulnerable and hard to reach populations.
- 6% out of 4,822 curative consultations and treatment on malaria and diarrhoea availed to children under 5.
- Surveillance blind spot and lack of healthcare and referral for TB affected individuals identified in the location. 16 TB consultations—with only one individual referred. 5.
- Emergency partner hands over a facility back to the development partner to continue with regular health program.

Implementation Challenges -

- While the HC has mobilized 3.7 Million from the SSHF to support the 1st quartile implementation, there remains a gap of 28 MUSD in the first quarter.
- Access and bureaucratic impediments including continued attacks on healthcare remain a challenge for a continued smooth delivery.

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