

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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

**Update # 42
Week 26
Date: 02 July 2019**

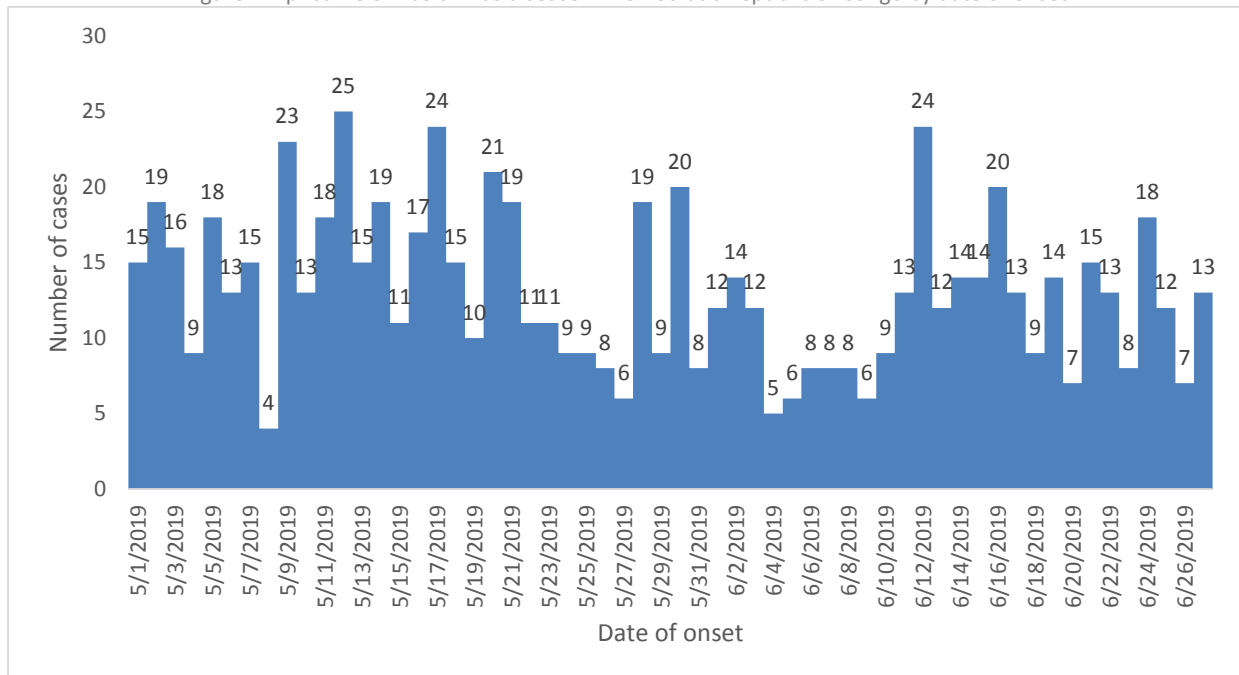
1. Highlights of the week

- A suspected Ebola virus disease (EVD) alert was reported in Yei on 25th June 2019. The alert was verified and discarded by the rapid response team given that it did not meet the EVD case definition.
- 75,349 screenings were conducted for Ebola virus disease in 31 points of entry. Since August, the cumulative number of screenings conducted for EVD is 2,391,408.
- The glove box for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machine has been installed and tested. An expert is in the country to mentor the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) personnel on procedure of sample testing and quality control for the period of two weeks.

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

- As of 27th June, 2019, a total of 2,297 confirmed cases and 1,553 deaths (case fatality ratio of 67.6 %) had been reported.
- Some 116 new cases and 94 deaths were reported over a period of June 18 to 27, indicating that the outbreak is not under control.
- Figure 1 below shows the EPI-Curve of new EVD cases in DRC. Although the recent trend in 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.
- An Ebola case is confirmed in Ariwara town of Aru territory, Ituri province; about 70 kilometres from South border.

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



3. Ebola Situation update from Uganda

- As of 30th June 2019, a total of 03 confirmed cases with 100% fatality rate.
- As of 30th June, there are 93 contacts under follow up with none developing signs and symptoms suggestive of EVD
- Cumulatively, 1437 individuals have been vaccinated: 78 contacts, 747 contacts of contacts and 612 frontline health workers
- Active case search and death surveillance ongoing in health facilities and communities as the district response team investigates all alerts

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



4. Public Health Preparedness and Readiness

4.1. Coordination

- The Undersecretary for the Ministry of Health chaired the national task force (NTF) meeting that was attended by several humanitarian partners, including UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and donors. Partners were thanked for their continued preparedness efforts whilst noting the importance of sustaining the gains made so far in preventing the disease spreading into South Sudan.
- Coordination meetings were conducted by Ebola state task forces (STFs) in Jubek, Maridi, Nimule, Tambura, Yambio and Yei.
- Meetings were also conducted by the respective technical working groups (TWGs) to provide technical guidance and support to the respective technical pillars of the work.

4.2. Resource mobilization

- Implementation of the second National EVD Preparedness Plan (April to September) is under way with a financial requirement of US\$ 12.2 million. The plan remained unfunded with US\$10.8 million urgently needed to ensure that preparedness targets are met. Case management and risk communication faced the largest shortfalls

4.3. EPI-Surveillance and Laboratory

- A suspected EVD alert was reported in Yei on 25th June 2019. The alert was verified and discarded by the rapid response team given that it did not meet the Ebola case definition. A supportive supervision was conducted at Juba Police Hospital to pilot the supportive supervision checklist developed jointly by various TWGs. Observations and recommendations for improving the tool and implementation have been provided
- The State Minister for Health of Yei River State conducted a supportive supervisory with EVD state task force to Morobo County. The purpose of the visit was to strengthened coordination and preparedness with area flowing the confirmed Ebola cases in Uganda.

4.4. Border Health and Screening

- Some 60,043 screenings were conducted for EVD at 31 points of entry. The cumulative number of screenings conducted since August 2018 reached 2,334,059. See table 1 below for more information.
- The schedule for joint monitoring visits at Points of Entry (POE) screening sites was finalised and shared with partners. Assessments and planning continued with a view to establishing new POE screening sites.

Table 1: Summary of screenings from 31 points of entry

Primary screened		Secondary screened		Alerts	
Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative
75,349	2,391,408	53	1,413	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 team in Nimule.
- Conducted a scenario-based mentorship for health care workers at the isolation unit in Juba
- Conducted training for ambulance drivers in Juba on safe handling of EVD and other viral hemorrhagic related diseases.

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

- Conducted data cleaning and entry of EVD KAP Survey forms (1020) and transcription of 20 FGDs. Analysis and tabulations will be to be completed by 5 July.
- Conducting radio broadcasts, house-to-house visits, and community leaders' engagement meetings ongoing. Increased emphasis on areas and audiences prioritized as per recommendations of NTF Emergency Meeting following confirmed EVD cases in Uganda imported from DRC recently.

4.7. Operations & Logistics

- The glove-box for PCR machine has been installed and tested. An expert is arriving on 1 July 2019 to certify the PCR machine, which will enable full confirmation of Ebola cases in country without the need to send samples abroad.
- Isolation unit modifications are close to completion in Nimule, Yambio and Yei. A joint technical mission will take place early in July to review the work undertaken in view of previous recommendations.

4.8. Vaccines and Therapeutics

- The EVD vaccination exercise was finalized. A total of 2,793 from a target of 3,000 frontline health workers (93%) have been vaccinated, with no serious adverse effects reported.

5. Challenges/Gaps

- Additional funding is urgently required to fully operationalize the second National EVD Preparedness Plan.
- Limited access to areas within Yei River County due to insecurity.
- Limited joint supportive supervision of health facilities from national to state level. The joint supportive supervision started in Juba last week.
- The recent cases in Uganda also shift the threat with the Uganda / South Sudan border now of increasing concern due to the high volume of people moment between the two countries.

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, SSRIC, SSUHA, TRISS, UK/DFID, UMCOR, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMISS, UNOCHA, USAID/OFDA, WFP, WHO, World Bank, WVSS

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This report was produced by the EVD secretariat with technical support from the World Health Organization.