

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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

**Update # 46
Week 30 (22-28 July)
Date: 30 July 2019**

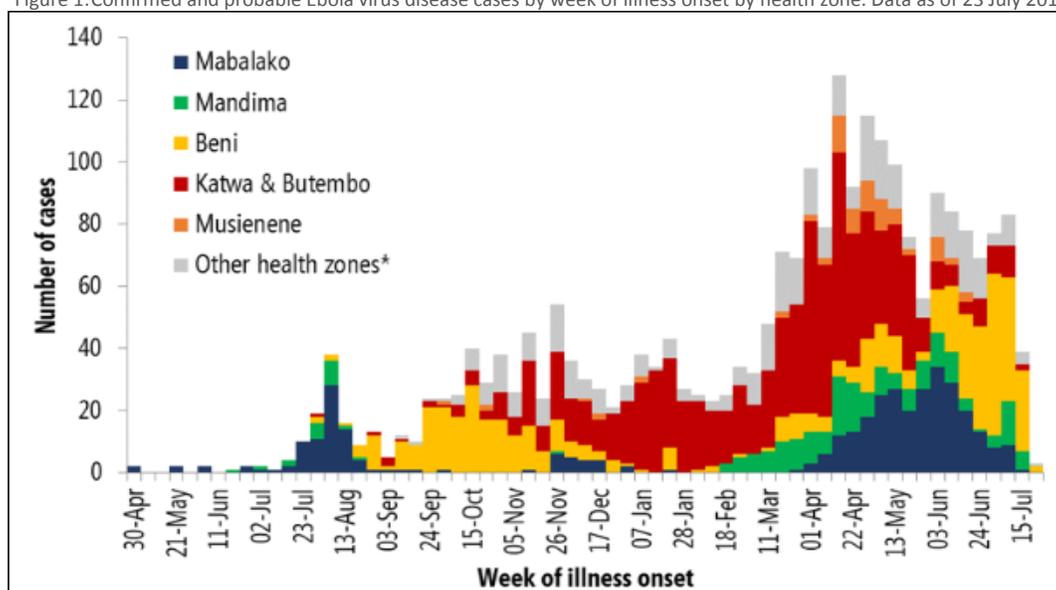
1. Highlights of the week

- Five Ebola alerts were reported from 19 – 25 July. Rapid response teams were deployed for case investigation and sample collection. GenXpert and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test results were negative for the two samples that met case definition.
- The Hon. Minister for Health and WHO Representative made a press statement at South Sudan Broadcasting Cooperation (SSBC) to dispel rumors and misinformation circulating following an EVD alert reported in Juba that created lot of panic. A lot of rumors were generated on social media.
- Two linked drills for National Rapid response team and case management teams were conducted in Juba on 26 July. The drills tested the functions of alert notification, Rapid Response Team activation, deployment, case investigation and transfer of a patient, triage and admission and isolation unit. The purpose of these simulation exercises were to the operational readiness of the RRT and the Case management team. Similar Drills will be conducted in Nimule, Yei, Maridi and Yambio in August
- One hundred and eighty (180) frontline health workers were vaccinated against EVD in Yei River state. The cumulative number of front-line health care workers in South Sudan is 2,973.

2. Situation update - Democratic Republic of Congo

- As of 27 July 2019, there were 2,669 EVD cases and 1,782 deaths (case fatality rate 67%) reported. August 1st marks one year since Ebola outbreak in DRC.
- Figure 1 below shows the EPI-curve of confirmed and probable EVD cases in DRC by week of onset by health zone.

Figure 1: Confirmed and probable Ebola virus disease cases by week of illness onset by health zone. Data as of 23 July 2019¹

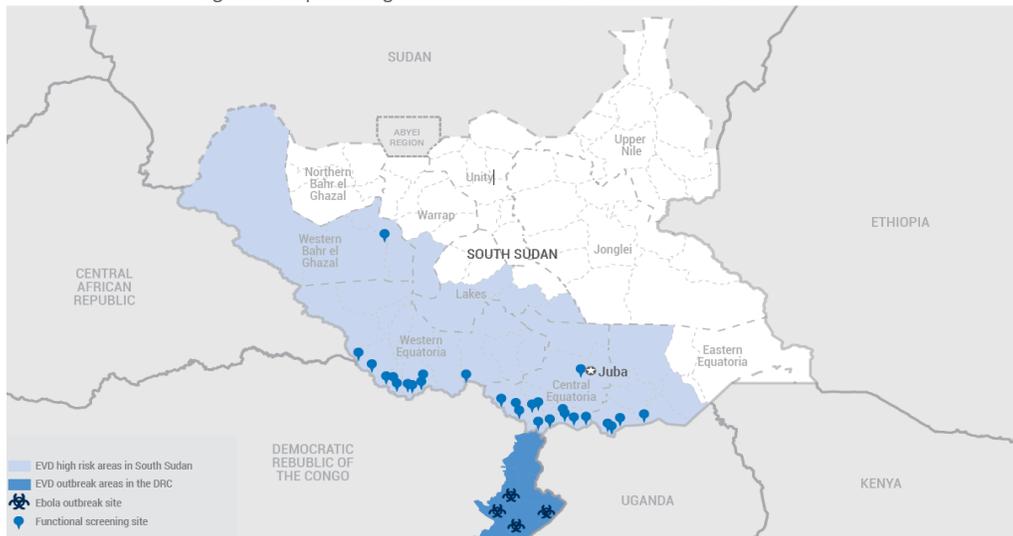


3. Situation update - Uganda

- On 24 July, 2019 the Ministry of Health and WHO in Uganda declared the end of Ebola virus Disease (EVD) outbreak which occurred in Kasese district. The Declaration was made after 42 days elapsed since the death of the last Ebola virus Disease (EVD) confirmed case in Kassese District. Visit the link below for more information on the joint press release from Uganda; <https://www.dropbox.com/s/olh0czx3tdfyhjd/Joint%20Press%20Release-%20Weekly%20travel%20advisory%20on%20EVD%20.pdf?dl=0>

¹ Data in recent weeks are subject to delays in case confirmation and reporting, as well as ongoing data cleaning. Other health zones include: Alimbongo, Ariwara, Biena, Bunia, Goma, Kalunguta, Kayna, Komanda, Kyondo, Lubero, Mangurujipa, Masereka, Mutwanga, Nyankunde, Oicha, Rwampara and Tchomia

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 23 and 25 July 2019, two coordination meetings were conducted by the EVD Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and the National Taskforce (NTF) on Ebola preparedness respectively.
- Coordination meetings were conducted by EVD State Task Forces (STFs) in Jubek, Torit (Nimule), Gbudwe (Yambio), Yei River, Maridi, and Tambura states.
- Weekly meetings were conducted by the respective Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to provide technical guidance and support to partners implementing EVD preparedness activities.
- WHO led a simulation exercise (Drill) in Juba on 26 July. Similar exercises will be conducted in Nimule, Yei, Maridi and Yambio through 5 August. The purpose of the drills is to test preparedness readiness in EVD high risk areas.

4.2. Resource mobilization

- The second National EVD Preparedness Plan (April – September 2019) with a financial requirement of US\$ 12.2 million is 38% funded (including secured funding and confirmed commitments).

4.3. EPI-Surveillance and Laboratory

- Five Ebola alerts were reported from 19-25 July 2019. Rapid response teams were deployed for case investigation and sample collection. GenXpert and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test results were negative for the samples that met case definition.
- The second alert was reported in Juba on 24 July. A rapid response team was deployed for case investigation and sample collection. A blood sample was collected and transferred to the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in Juba on Wednesday morning that tested negative for EVD-Zaire strain using GenXpert and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) on 26 July from Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI).
- A consignment of laboratory reagents, consumables and a refrigeration unit were supplied to the NPHL by WHO on Monday 22nd July.

4.4. Border Health and Screening

- For the Epi-week 30, some 80,314 screenings were screened for EVD at 32 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 of entry is currently ongoing. IOM is also conducting population flow 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	22 generated, 8 met case definition

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

- WHO prepositioned a VHF-500 personal protective equipment (PPE) kit in Yei isolation facility.
- South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) conducted training of trainers (TOT) for the safe and dignified burial (SDB) team in Yei to provide regular refreshers/simulation for SDB teams in Morobo and Bazi.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted training for two ambulance teams in Juba. The purpose of the training was to equip the teams with skills for safe referral of Ebola suspected cases to the isolation units

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

- The Hon. Minister for Health and WHO Representative held a press statement at SSBC to dispel the rumor following an EVD alert reported in Juba that created lot of panic as there were lots of rumors and misinformation on social media.
- South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC), Internews, IOM and UNICEF are expanding their 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 and dignified burial for 40 volunteers was conducted by SRCC in Yei. Sensitization of 45 wildlife service personnel by UNICEF was undertaken in Nimule.
- Basic analysis of knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) survey data was completed by the UNICEF. Further analysis at state-level is currently ongoing. Qualitative analysis of focus group discussions (FGD) is being reviewed.

4.7. Operations & Logistics

- The WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO) has identified and defined two regional stockpiles for personal protective equipment (PPE) in Dubai and Accra. These regional hubs have the mandate to dispatch PPEs within 72 hours in the event of a confirmed case of EVD in South Sudan.

4.8. Vaccines and Therapeutics

- The Yei STF through the support of 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
- The vaccination team in Yei River state was mobilized to conduct the vaccination of front line and health workers who were not vaccinated during the first round of vaccination in the state. In addition, 5 logistics staff members travelled to Yei to support the cold chain logistics for the vaccination.
- The Ebola vaccine stock in country was due to expire on the 31 July 2019 and the ministry of health (MoH) requested for some areas in Yei to be prioritized as they were not covered in the first round of vaccinations. The decision was informed by capacity and vulnerability issues.
- A total number of 180 front line and health workers were vaccinated in Yei. Thus, the total number of health workers who received Ebola vaccines to date is 2,973.

5. Challenges/Gaps

- Inadequate funding for strategic organizations and partners to implement the EVD operational plan with focus on their areas of comparative advantage.

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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