

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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

Update # 49  
Week 34 (9-25 August 2019 )  
Date: 26 August 2019

## 1. Highlights of the week

- Four Ebola alerts were reported from 19-25 August 2019 in Juba and Yambio. Rapid response teams (RRT) were deployed for case investigation and sample collection. Of the four alerts, three samples were collected, testing negative using GeneXpert and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).
- In addition, the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) tested these samples for Marburg, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and Rift Valley Fever (RVF). Nevertheless, the tests were negative for all possible differential diagnosis.
- A full scale simulation exercise was conducted in Juba, Nimule and Yei on 14 August 2019. Preliminary findings and recommendations were shared to the members of the National Taskforce (NTF) on 16 August in a debriefing session, to inform ongoing implementation of EVD preparedness activities in South Sudan.
- 72,032 primary screenings were conducted during Epi-week 34 along with 105 secondary screenings, at 32 points of entry. The cumulative number of screenings conducted since August 2018 is 3,094,201. See table 1 below.



## 2. Situation update - Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

- As of 20 August, a total of 2, 909 EVD cases were reported, of which 1, 953 cases died (overall case fatality ratio 67.1 per cent).
- During the period between 27 July and 18 August a total of 215 confirmed cases were reported, with the majority reported from the health zones of Beni (33%, n=70) and Mandima (20%, n=44).
- On 12 August, the mandatory 42-day follow up period for Ariwara contacts was completed.
- The outbreak has spread to South Kivu. So far, a 24-year-old mother, a seven-month-old and a seven year-old-boy were confirmed positive. The mother and seven-year-old boy died, while the seven-month-old is under case management. Contacts are listed and under follow-up, and frontline health workers and contacts have been vaccinated.

### 3.1 Coordination

- A National Task Force (NTF) coordination meeting was conducted on 22 August 2019.
- State Task Force (STF) coordination meetings were also conducted in Jubek, Torit (Nimule), Gbudwe (Yambio), Yei River, Maridi, Wau, and Tambura.
- Meetings were conducted by the respective Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to provide technical guidance and support to partners implementing EVD preparedness activities.
- WHO's States Coordinator visited Wau to support the STF meeting and verify the request for re-prioritization.

### 3.2 Resource mobilization

- Coverage of the second National EVD Preparedness Plan (April – September 2019) with a financial requirement of US\$ 12.2 million remained at 38 per cent (including secured funding and confirmed commitments).
- An application through UNICEF to the Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) of the Provision of Essential Health Services Project funded by the World Bank remained under review and consideration for approval.

### 3.3 EPI-Surveillance and Laboratory

- Four Ebola alerts were reported from 19-25 August 2019 in Juba and Yambio. Rapid response teams (RRT) were deployed for case investigation and sample collection. In three cases samples

Figure 1 Full scale simulation

were collected, testing negative using GeneXpert and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

- The Epi-surveillance TWG finalized a review of its Operational Plan. Some new activities were included. However, there are still challenges with the availability of resources to implement the activities in a timely manner.

### 3.4 Case Management, IPC – WASH

- World Health Organization (WHO) provided recommended technical specifications for hoods and goggles for Rapid Response Teams (RRT), and discussions related to procurement were finalized.
- Data from assessments of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in Health Facilities was presented during the TWG meeting, with corresponding recommendations for future programming.

### 3.5 Border Health and Point of Entry (PoE) Screening

- For the Epi-week 34, approximately 72,032 primary screenings were conducted, along with 105 secondary screenings, at 32 points of entry. The cumulative number of screenings conducted since August 2018 is 3,094,201. See table 1 below for more information.

Primary screened		Secondary screened		Alerts	
Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative
72, 032	3, 094,201	34	1,913	0	22 generated, 8 met case definition

Table 1: Summary of screenings from 32 points of entry

### 3.6 Risk communication, community engagement and social mobilization (RCCE&SM)

- On 14 August 2019, representatives from the TWG participated in the full scale simulation exercise in Juba, Yei, and Nimule, including de-briefings to NTF and STF.
- The TWG prioritized key action points from the exercise to improve EVD preparedness in South Sudan.

## 4 Challenges/Gaps

- While new funding opportunities are under exploration and further donor contributions are being planned, limited funding for some technical pillars and key activities continues to constrain EVD preparedness activities.

## 5 Donors and partners involved in EVD preparedness and readiness

MOH, AAH, ACROSS, ALIMA, AMREF, ARC, Canada, CDC, CERF, CMMB, CONCERN, COPE, CORDAID, CUAMM, DFCA, ECHO, ECSS, GAVI, Germany, GOAL, HELP, HLSS, HPF, IFRC, CONCERN, JUHANITTER, 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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This update was produced by the EVD Secretariat with technical support from the World Health Organization and is endorsed by the Ministry of Health.