South Sudan: Cholera Outbreak Situation Report

Situation report: No. 005
Date of onset of outbreak: 22 February 2023
Reporting date: 12 March 2023
Data Source: State Ministry of Health and National Public Health Laboratory

Key Weekly Highlights as of 12 March 2023

- Four (4) new Cholera cases have been recorded in the past 24 hours.
- Zero new death has been recorded in the past 24 hours.
- Cumulatively, 269 cholera cases and 1 death (CFR- 0.37%) has been recorded since the onset of the outbreak.
- Overall, 151(56%) of the cases are males and 118(44%) are females.
- The age group 1 - 4 years are the most affected with 224(83%)
- 192 (72%) of the cases are from Malakal Town, while 77 (29%) are from Malakal Protection of Civilians Sites (POC).
- Oral Cholera vaccination campaign has been planned to take place on 15 March 2023 targeting 53,000 individuals aged 1 year & above in the POC & Malakal town.
- The current cholera outbreak is localized in Malakal located in the smallest county in Upper Nile State on the side boarding Sudan.

Cholera response | Cumulative figures from 22 February to 12 March 2023

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<th>Cases</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>CFR</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td></td>
<td>269</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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Epi curve showing cholera cases in Malakal County as of 12th March 2023.

Cholera cases by Sex.

Cholera cases by agegroup.
Key Interventions

Coordination

▪ Ongoing National and State Cholera Taskforces continue to meet regularly to provide operational and strategic guidance to the ongoing response.
▪ A multisectoral National and State RRT continue to provide epidemiological investigation and technical support to the response interventions in Malakal County.

Surveillance

▪ WHO and partners continue to update and support data verification, harmonization and analysis across response pillars.
▪ A joint active case search is being conducted by both the National and State RRT teams at health facility and community levels in Malakal County.
▪ Surveillance heightened in at risk locations bordering Malakal in Upper Nile State
▪ WHO is supporting the orientation of the State Ministry of Health (SMOH)-Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team, and the MSF-Spain team on the electronic data collection tool or platform (eEWARS) to populate the cholera line-list.

Case management

▪ The state ministry of health is working closely with IMC to conduct triage in health facilities for cholera and referring to Malakal Teaching hospital.
▪ WHO is working closely with SMOH and partners to support and set up handwashing facilities at established ORP sites.
▪ Prepositioning of standardized Case Management charts to all IPs supporting CTUs (Case Definition to by displayed at HFs, ORPs and CTUs)

Infection Prevention & Control/WASH

▪ Water quality bacteriological test conducted in the humanitarian hub. Results will be shared during the week.
▪ Cleaning of 23 water storage tanks completed in Malakal POC
▪ Additional water storage tank replaced in Sector 2 Bloc P (increasing from 15,000 liters to 20,000 liters)
▪ Registration of institutions (schools and Health center) to receive handwashing facility and laundry soaps. The handwashing facility will also be installed in an identified places in the Market.
▪ Conducted joint WASH facilities assessment with RRC and IDP representatives in Malakal.
Risk Communication & Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Ongoing radio talk shows and jingles spots.
- UNICEF is working closely with WHO and partners to support the distribution of 107 IEC materials in Malakal town and POC.
- Distribution of 35 megaphones (25 in Malakal town 10 megaphones in POC) to facilitate health promoters to accelerate cholera awareness and preventive messages.
- Cholera awareness was conducted in 2 primary schools (Comboni Malakal, St. Andrew) and Assosa market.
- Ongoing daily Hygiene promotion activities on key cholera messages (causes, symptoms and prevention measures), and airing of pre-recorded cholera preventive measures (Nile FM Radio).

Laboratory

- MOH and WHO are providing orientation for partners on sample collection, filling of cholera investigation forms, and testing using RDT.
- Four (4) suspected Cholera samples were collected with 2 testing positive on RDT and they have been shipped to Juba for further laboratory investigation (culture &PCR). All four samples have been received by the NPHL and currently undergoing culture and PCR testing.

Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV)

- MOH with support from WHO and Partners are finalizing the pre-campaign activities for Oral Cholera Vaccination.
- The implementation of the OCV is scheduled for 15 March 2023.
- WHO is submitting a new request to the International Coordination Group (ICG) for additional oral cholera vaccines.

Logistics and supplies

- WHO is conducting the Quantification of additional supplies required for the response.
- WHO is hiring 2 additional vehicles to support response activities in Malakal.

Challenges

- Inadequate access to safe and clean water due to limited WASH supplies.
- Sub-optimal risk communication and community engagement in affected high-risk locations on cholera prevention and control measures.
- Inadequate RDT testing of suspected cholera cases at subnational level, most especially, health facilities and treatment centers.
Inadequate number of samples transported to the NPHL for further laboratory investigation.

Inadequate funding for partners to respond.

Lack of designated ambulance for the referral of cholera cases and designated vehicle for the safe dignified burial (SDB) team.

Identification and training of the SDB team.

Overcrowding in the POC due to the continued influx of IDPs poses a major challenge to the limited WASH facilities in the POC.

Need for additional cholera kit and investigation kit.

Inadequate of case definition and IEC materials in health facilities.

Way forward

Provision of clean and safe water.

Enhance cholera RDT testing of suspected cholera cases at health facilities and treatment centers.

Improve sample collection and transportation to the NPHL for further testing.

Accelerate the RCCE interventions at POC and Malakal town.

Finalize the cholera response plan and budget for resource mobilization.

Designate an ambulance to support the referral of cholera cases

Conduct training for the SDB team.

Quantify and ship additional cholera kits and investigation kits to Malakal County.

Print and distribute IEC materials

Fixing of 02 Bladder tank-10M³- to increase water productivity in the Daniel Comboni 1& 2 IDPs Camp with installation and construction Tap-stand platform concrete with 12taps.

Mobile sanitation activity in Malakal IDPs camps and at host community’s households’ level to maintain clean environment (digging trenches, construction of dumping Pits for waste management.

Meeting with Block leaders to discuss on their engagement in the response (PoC)

Decommission of non-functional latrines in the PoC

Coordination with MSF on WASH NFI distribution targeting the affected cases after discharge.

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