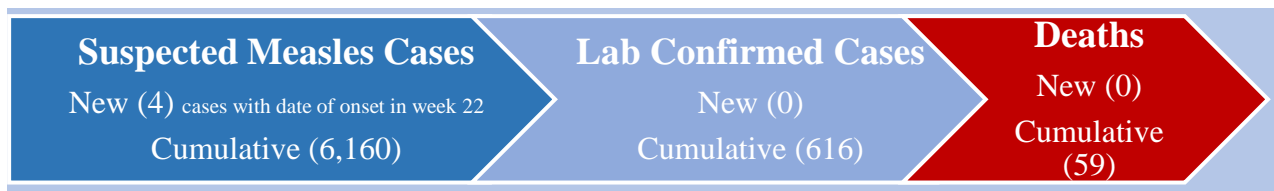




## Republic of South Sudan

### Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Issue number 17  
 Issue Date 06 June 2023  
 Epidemiological week Week 22 (May 29 – June 04, 2023)



\* Above data is cumulative from 2022

#### Background

Following the declaration of the measles outbreak in 2022, with a cumulative of 6,160 suspected cases reported 4,137 and 2,023 in 2022 and 2023, respectively and the reported low measles routine immunization coverage, a national measles follow up campaign was planned and conducted among children 6-59 months. ).

The campaign targeted 2,597,415 children and reached 2,383,771 representing 92% coverage as at 05 June 2023. However, some counties (Renk, Duk) recorded low coverages with need for mop ups.

The Sudan crisis with the influx of returnees has reiterated the need to enhance surveillance and provide immunization services, with a confirmed outbreak in Renk.

#### Key weekly Situation Update as of 04 June 2023

- Four (4) newly suspected cases this week
- No laboratory confirmed case has been reported in week 22
- Confirmed outbreak in Renk during week 21-22
- Positive results from twenty (20) samples tested in week 22 as follows: Duk 1, Blue Nile State (Kurumuk-Sudan) 1, Leer 1, Renk 3, Jur river 1 and Abyei (case from Sudan) 1
- Seven (7) newly epi-linked cases to index case from Renk
  - Three (3) of these cases from Jabalien-Sudan as returnees
- Two nasopharyngeal or throat swab received from Malakal for sequencing

Table 1: A snapshot of current measles situation in selected locations

COUNTY	# CONFIRMED	UNDER 5 YEARS	ABOVE 5 YEARS	# VACCINATED
Renk	4 (week 20-22)	4	0	2
Kurumuk (BNS-Sudan)	4 (week 18-20) Reported to MSF for action	3	1	0
Ulang	2 (week 20)	0	2	0
Duk	1 (week 21)	0	0	0
Abyei	1 (week 17) Returnee	0	1	0
Leer	1 (week 21)	1	0	0



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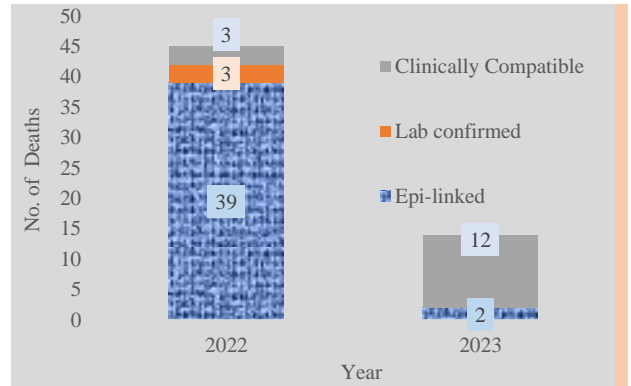
## Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

### Summary of cases as of 04 June 2023

Table 2: Yearly distribution of cases by final classification

FINAL CLASSIFICATION	2022		2023		TOTAL
	NO. OF CASES	%	NO. OF CASES	%	
Lab confirmed	392	9.5	224	11.1	616
Epi-linked	2,825	68.3	292	14.4	3,117
Clinically Compatible	391	9.5	1,362	67.3	1,753
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,608</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>5,486</b>
Discarded (-ve)	529	12.8	145	7.2	674
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,160</b>

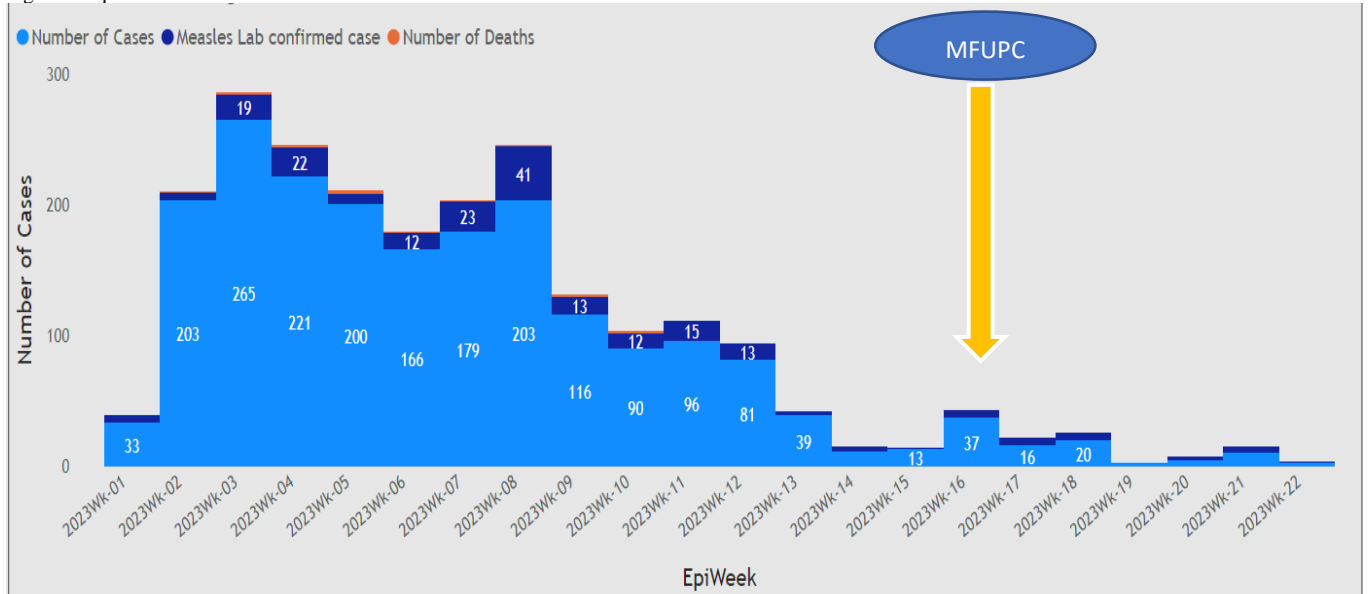
Figure 1: Deaths by year and final classification



A total of 59 measles-related deaths were reported since January 2022, with only 3 deaths among the lab-confirmed measles cases and 41 among the epi-linked cases.

Out of the 6,160 suspected measles cases, 3,117(50.6%) are epi-linked, 616(10%) lab-confirmed, 1,753(28.5%) clinically compatible, and 674(10.9) discarded cases have been reported from epidemiological week 1, 2022, to week 22, 2023. A total of 211 rubella positive cases from the discarded (negative measles cases)

Figure 2: Epidemic curve of measles cases in South Sudan 2023



**Note:** Measles cases have been reported from different counties throughout 2023. The observed peaks are driven by different counties that experienced surge in measles cases at different times.



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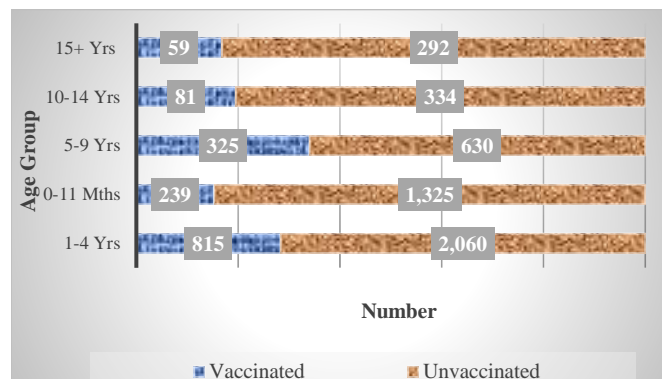
### Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Table 3: Distribution of reported measles cases and deaths by age groups in South Sudan, 2022-2023

Age Groups	2022				2023			
	No. of cases	%	Deaths	%	No. of cases	%	Deaths	%
0-11 mths	1,137	27.5	10	0.9	428	21.2	2	0.5
1-4 yrs	1,931	46.7	27	1.4	947	46.8	8	0.8
5-9 yrs	612	14.8	4	0.7	344	17.0	3	0.9
10-14 yrs	277	6.7	2	0.7	138	6.8	1	0.7
15+ yrs	180	4.4	2	1.1	166	8.2	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0.7</b>

*Note: Majority 4,443(72%) of all the measles cases are children below 5 years of age considering both years. The case fatality rate is highest (1.4% and 0.9%) among children age 1-4 years in 2022 and 5-9 years in 2023. 47 out of the 59 deaths were among children below age 5 years*

Figure3: Distribution of measles cases and their vaccination status, 2022-2023



*Note: Generally, 4,641(75.3%) were unvaccinated (zero, unknown) including 3,385(72.9%) children <5 years. Among children less than one year old (1,564 cases), 84.7% (1,325 cases) have not been vaccinated against measles compared with 239(15.3%) vaccinated. This trend is observed across all the age groups.*

#### Coordination

- Incident management system in place to respond to the Measles outbreak
- The measles outbreak and its response have been adopted as a standing agenda in different fora (National Steering Committee, EP and R, HCC, and EPI TWG).
- Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R), EPI-TWG, and Health Cluster forums discuss the response's technical and operational issues, challenges, and gaps.
- Partners Measles sitrep sent on weekly basis

#### Surveillance and Laboratory

- Enhanced surveillance ongoing in silent counties
- Sample collection to resume as campaigns in most states have reached the 30 days mark.
- Enhance surveillance for VPDs especially at the points of entry for the refugees, returnees from Sudan and in the silent counties
- Ensure weekly reporting (including zero dose reporting where applicable)

#### Case Management

The MOH, WHO, and partners are intensifying measles case management (including vitamin A administration), surveillance, and risk communication in locations with suspected and confirmed outbreaks

#### Vaccinations

- Nationwide measles campaign ongoing
  - Current data shows that 2,383,771 (92%) were vaccinated with Measles vaccines, 1,515,897 received Vitamin A, 58,274 deworming, and 1,137,887 MUAC screening as at 05 June, 2023
  - Mop up campaign to be conducted in Renk, Duk .
  - Post Campaign Evaluation for the National wide Measles campaign ongoing to determine other areas for Mop up.



## Republic of South Sudan

### Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

- 3 areas identified in 3 states (Renk, Wodwil and Rorai camps) with huge numbers of refugees and returnees and in line with the South Sudan SOPs, plan to conduct Measles and OPV vaccination with age range from 6 months to 15 years and 0 month to 15 years respectively.
- Set up vaccination points at entry points for the refugees and returnees.

#### Deamand Generation/ Communication

- Demand generation activities ongoing for the planned measles follow up campaign (radio talk shows and jingle broadcast)

#### Operational challenges and gaps

- Inadequate detailed investigation of suspected measles cases and deaths in counties reporting
- Inadequate sample collection for laboratory confirmation and classification cases of suspected measles cases
- A high proportion of unvaccinated/unknown status children (75%) was detected among the cases, noting routine immunization gaps.
- Post Campaign Evaluation to be conducted to determine the quality of the campaign
- Areas of low coverage planned for a Mop Up Routine Immunization (MURI)
- Plan for targeted response where Measles cases occur
- Refugee Situation with cases already reported from the Blue Nile ( Guideline issued on Immunization) to be addressed

#### Way Forward

- MOH and partners to support ongoing nationwide measles campaign
- State and County MOH to continue weekly reporting of measles cases (including zero reporting where applicable)
- Prompt detection and management of measles cases
- Strengthen routine immunization

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