Background

Following the declaration of the measles outbreak in 2022, with a cumulative of 6,245 suspected cases reported, 4,137 and 2,107 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 of 13 June 2023. However, some counties (Renk, Duk) recorded low coverages with the need for mop-ups.

Also, 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 11 June 2023

- Five (5) new suspected Measles death recorded for week 23.
- A total of twenty-six (26) suspected Measles cases reported this week
- No laboratory-confirmed case has been reported in week 23
- Confirmed outbreak in Renk still active with Sixty-seven (87) newly epi-linked to the index case
  - Ninety percent (90%) of these cases were from Halagaya camp, whiles 10% were from Riverside, with 59% unknown vaccination status and 40% zero dose children
- Seventeen (17) of the reported suspected cases were from Renk, including the five (5) suspended Measles deaths.
- Pending samples from Wulu, Lainya, Rubkona, Renk, Fangak, Bor, and Cueibet in the lab.
- Two pending nasopharyngeal swabs received from Malakal for sequencing

Summary of cases as of 11 June 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINAL CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO. OF CASES</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>NO. OF CASES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab confirmed</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epi-linked</td>
<td>2,825</td>
<td>68.3</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinically Compatible</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discarded (-ve)</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>4,137</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2,107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Republic of South Sudan
Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Out of the 6,245 suspected measles cases, 3,201 (51.1%) are epi-linked, 616 (10%) lab-confirmed, 1,001 (16%) clinically compatible, and 674 (11%) discarded cases have been reported from epidemiological week 1, 2022, to week 23, 2023. A total of 211 rubella positive cases from the discarded (negative measles cases) lab-confirmed 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.

A total of 64 measles-related deaths were reported since January 2022, with only 3 deaths among the lab-confirmed measles cases and 45 among the epi-linked cases.

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.

### Table 2: Distribution of reported measles cases and deaths by age groups in South Sudan, 2022-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of cases</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-11 mths</td>
<td>1,137</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4 yrs</td>
<td>1,931</td>
<td>46.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 yrs</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 yrs</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15+ yrs</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,137</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Majority 4,488 (72.1%) 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.

Note: Generally, 4,707 (75.6%) were unvaccinated (zero, unknown) including 3,430 (72.8%) children <5 years. Among children less than one year old (1,568 cases), 84.7% (1,329 cases) have not been vaccinated against measles compared with 239 (15.3%) vaccinated. This trend is observed across all the age groups.

Figure 3: Distribution of measles cases and their vaccination status, 2022-2023

Note: Generally, 4,707 (75.6%) were unvaccinated (zero, unknown) including 3,430 (72.8%) children <5 years. Among children less than one year old (1,568 cases), 84.7% (1,329 cases) have not been vaccinated against measles compared with 239 (15.3%) vaccinated. This trend is observed across all the age groups.
Republic of South Sudan
Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

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).
- 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 concluded
  - 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 14 June, 2023
  - Mop up campaign to be conducted in Renk from 26th -30th June, 2023
  - Post Campaign Evaluation for the National wide Measles campaign ongoing to determine other areas for Mop up.
  - Set up vaccination points at entry points for the refugees and returnees.

Demand 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 breakthrough 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

For more information, please contact:

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