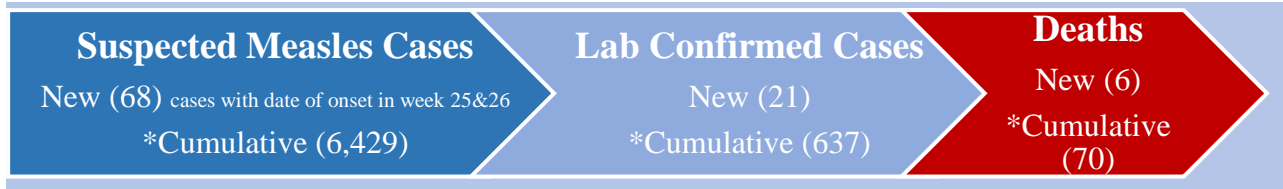




Republic of South Sudan

Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Issue number 19
 Issue Date 5 July 2023
 Epidemiological week Week 26 (June 26 – July 02, 2023)



* Above data is cumulative from 2022

Background

Following the declaration of the measles outbreak in 2022, with a cumulative of 6,429 suspected cases reported 4,137 and 2,291 in 2022 and 2023, respectively, and the reported low measles routine immunization coverage, a national measles follow-up campaign was conducted among children 6-59 months.

The campaign targeted 2,597,415 children and reached 2,386,290, representing 92% coverage as of 4 July 2023. However, some counties (Renk, Duk) recorded low coverages with the need for mop-ups which have been conducted. 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.

The mop-up campaign commenced on 26 June 2023 and was completed on 30 June 2023 in Renk Upper Nile, Aweil in Northern Bahr El Ghazel, and Rorok in Unity, data showed 65% and 62% coverage for Measles and OPV with an extended target of 15 years.

Key weekly Situation Update as of 5 July 2023

- Six (6) new deaths were recorded in Guit – 1, Renk – 3, and Rubkona – 2
- A total of Sixty-eight (68) newly suspected cases were recorded, 42 (62%) of the cases have been reported from the refugee camps.
- Out of the 68 cases, 21 new laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported in the following counties; Maban-7, Leer-4, Melut-3, Bentiu PoC-3, and Rubkona-2.
- Confirmed outbreak in Renk is still active with a cumulative total of 127 cases, Ninety-three (93) epi-linked to the index case.

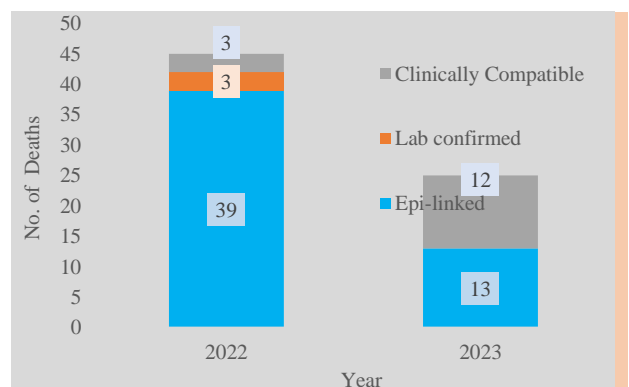
Summary of cases as of 5 July 2023

Table 1: Yearly distribution of cases by final classification

FINAL CLASSIFICATION	2022		2023		TOTAL
	NO. OF CASES	%	NO. OF CASES	%	
Lab confirmed	392	9.5	245	11	637
Epi-linked	2,825	68.3	376	18	3201
Clinically Compatible	391	9.5	610	29	1001
Discarded (-ve)	529	12.8	145	7	674
Grand Total	4,137	100	2,291	100	6429

Out of the 6,429 suspected measles cases, 3383(52%) are epi-linked, 637(10%) lab-confirmed, 1001(16%) clinically compatible, and 674(11%) discarded cases have been reported from epidemiological week 1, 2022, to week 23, 2023. A total of 212 rubella positive cases from the discarded (negative measles cases)

Figure 1: Deaths by year and final classification

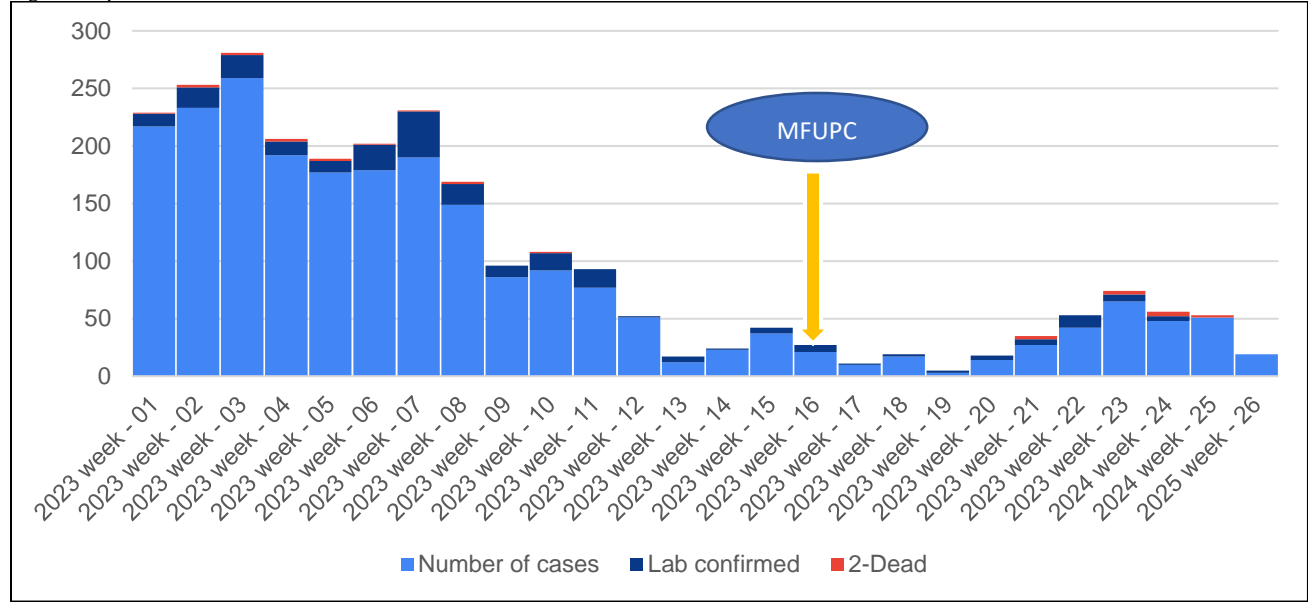


A total of 70 measles-related deaths were reported since January 2022, with only 3 deaths among the lab-confirmed measles cases and 51 among the epi-linked cases.



Republic of South Sudan Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

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



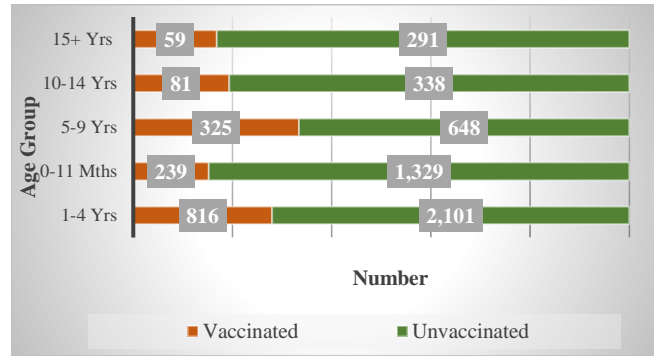
Note: Measles cases have been reported from different counties throughout 2023. The observed peaks are driven by different counties that experienced surge in measles cases at different times.

Table 2: 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%	10	22%	471	21%	3	12%
1-4 yrs	1,931	47%	27	60%	1,092	48%	16	64%
5-9 yrs	612	15%	4	9%	388	17%	4	16%
10-14 yrs	277	7%	2	4%	147	6%	2	8%
15+ yrs	180	4%	2	4%	167	7%	0	0%
Unknown	2	0%	0	0%	26	1%	0	0%
Total	4,139	100%	45	100%	2,291	100%	25	100%

Note: Majority 4,628(72.1%) of all 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. 56 out of the 70 deaths were among children below age of 5 years

Figure3: 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.

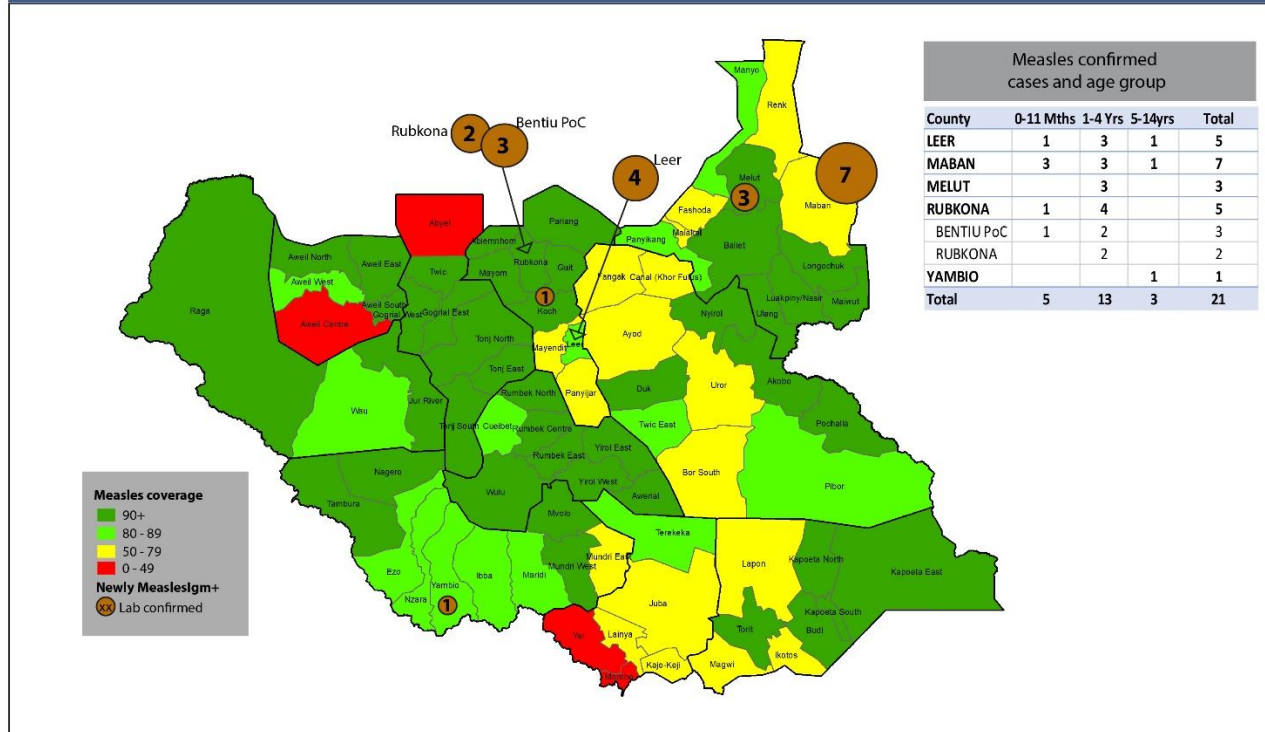


Republic of South Sudan

Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Summary of cases as of 5 July 2023

Measles coverage and the number of newly confirmed measles cases



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 weekly

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



Republic of South Sudan

Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

- 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 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.
- Majority of new cases are amongst the refugees and returnees with the need for immunization at POE

Demand Generation/ Communication

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

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)

Way Forward

- 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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