

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Weekly Update on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Preparedness for South Sudan

Update # 38
Date: 1 June 2019

1. Highlights of the week

- The vaccination of the frontline and health care workers against Ebola in South Sudan has been finalized. The cumulative number vaccinated is 2,793.
- The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test results for the reported EVD suspected case from Yambio in Gbudue state on 21 May 2019 was negative for Ebola Zaire strain (see weekly update #37 for more about the alert).
- International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted Training of Trainers (TOT) training for 30 clinicians on Case management in Juba.
- Official handover document of EVD burial site in Luri County, Jubek State was obtained.

2. Ebola Situation update from North Kivu of Democratic Republic of Congo

- As of 27 May 2019, a total of 1,926 confirmed cases and 1,287 deaths (case fatality ratio of 67%) have been reported.
- Some 73 new cases and 58 deaths were reported from 21st to 27th May 2019, indicating that the outbreak is not under control. Figure 1 below shows the EPI-Curve of new EVD cases from 16th April to 27th May 2019.

Figure 1: Epi-cure of Ebola virus disease in Democratic Republic of Congo by date of onset

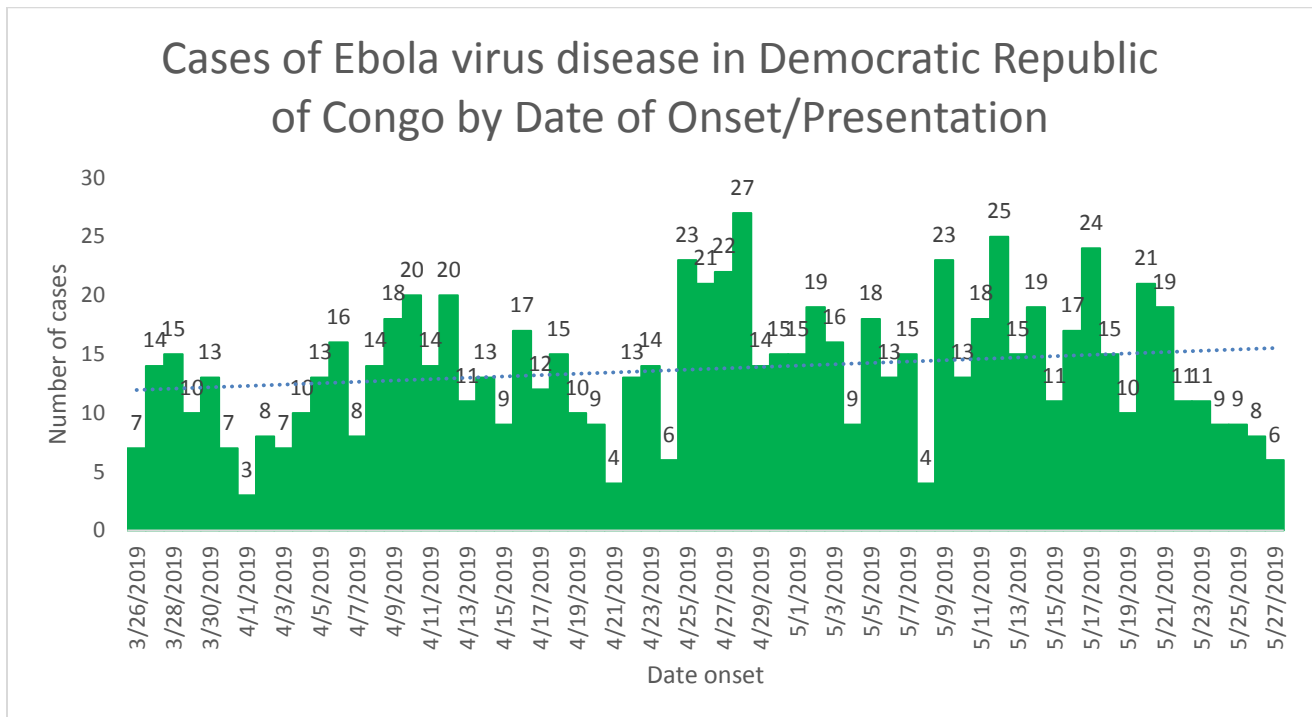
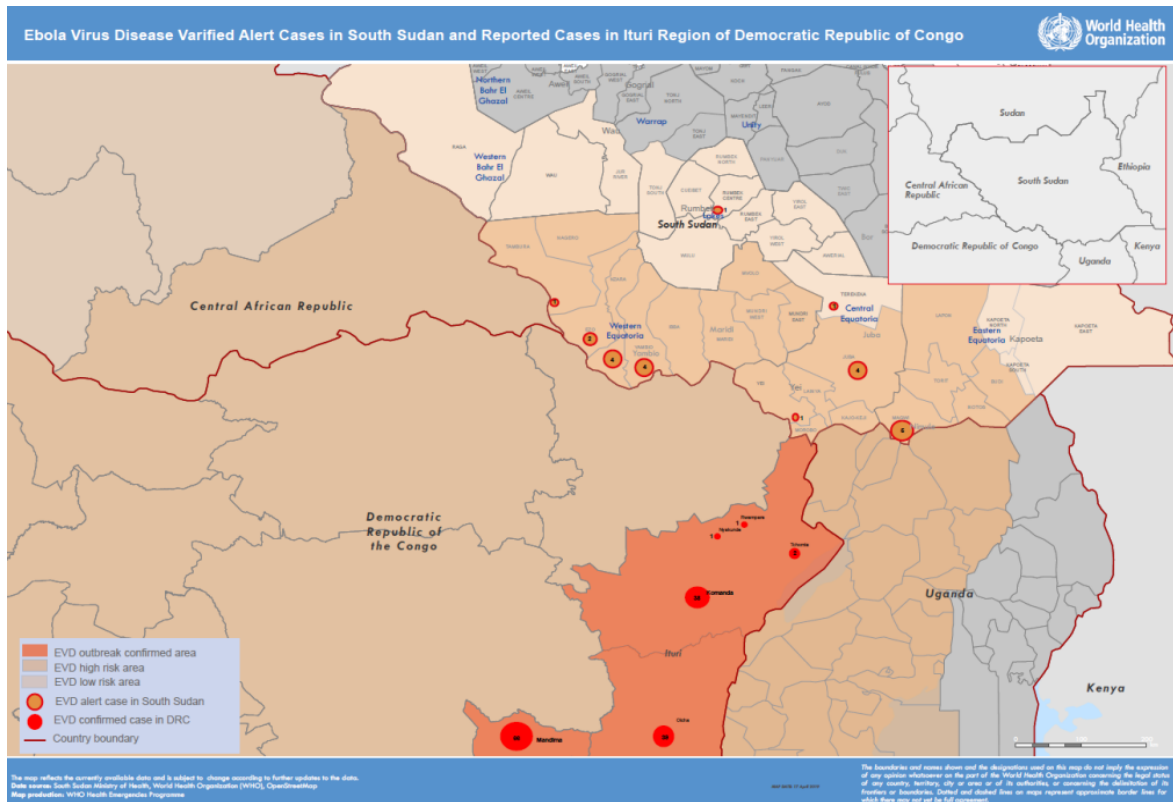


Figure 2: map showing Ebola virus disease verified alerts in South Sudan and reported cases in DRC



3. Public Health Preparedness and Readiness

3.1. Coordination and personnel deployment

- The National Task Force (NTF) meeting was conducted on 30 May 2019 at the PHEOC in Juba.
- Coordination meetings were conducted by Ebola taskforce in Jubek, Yambio, Yei and Nimule/Torit states.
- Weekly meetings were also conducted by the Technical Working Groups to provide technical guidance and support to the respective preparedness pillars.

3.2. Resource mobilization

- The NTF published a second National EVD Preparedness Plan, April –September 2019. The plan costed at around US\$ 12.2 million, the purpose of the plan is to optimize EVD preparedness and response by implementing prioritized activities.
- Some US \$12.8 million (78%) was mobilized against US \$16.3 million in the first National EVD Preparedness Plan from August 2018 – March 2019. A gap of 12% unfunded activities was carried over from the first national preparedness plan.

3.3. EPI/Surveillance and Laboratory

- The EPI/Surveillance, Laboratory TWG and IPC/ASH have finalised the identification of health facilities in high-risk areas for joint assessment visit. The TWG drafted a checklist for supportive supervision at health facilities; the purpose of the supportive supervision is to provide real time feedback and support to the health workers at any given facility regarding the extent and quality of preparedness measures being implemented.
- Continued with updating of Standard of Operation Procedures. Each pillar is finalizing their own document and representatives from each pillar will meet to ensure harmonization across pillars.
- Discuss ways to restructure the TWG meeting schedule.

3.4. Port Health and Screening

- Some 71,987 incoming travelers were screened for EVD at 31 points of entry for the reporting week 20, bringing the cumulative number of travellers screened since August 2018 to 2,202,023. See table 1 below for more information.
- Border Health and Point of Entry (POE) Technical Working Group finalised plan for Joint functionality assessments at the POE sites. The scheduled has been shared with all partners.

Table 1: Summary of screenings from 31 points of entry

| Primary screened | | Secondary screened | | Alerts | |
|------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reporting Week | Cumulative | Reporting Week | Cumulative | Reporting Week | Cumulative |
| 71, 987 | 2,202,023 | 46 | 694 | 0 | 19 generated, 6 met case definition |

3.5. Case Management, Infection Prevention, and Control/WASH and Safe and Dignified Burial

- Continued development of a training guide for EVD ambulance teams and Standards Operating Procedures to stream line operations of ambulances.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted a Training of Trainers (TOT) training for 30 clinicians on Case management.
- South Sudan Red Cross SSRC conducted a refresher training for Save and Dignified Burial (SDB) teams.
- Official documentation for acquisition of luri burial site obtained.

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

- Explored ways to expand and strengthen collection, reporting, systematic analysis, and response to circulating EVD rumors and community opinions in all high-risk counties.
- Final version of evidence review briefing paper on socio-economic/cultural dynamics related to consumption of bush meat by SSHAP and *Anthological* was received and shared.
- Discuss ways enhance training and establishment of multi-partner SORT teams for outbreak preparedness using 72-hour response plan as basis, at State and National level.

3.7. Logistics

- Completed updating the TWG's Terms of Reference (TORs).
- Conducted basic humanitarian logistics training attended by some EVD partners.
- Sent a contractor to Nimule on Thursday, 30 May 2019 to start ground work on the Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) erection and Isolation Unit modifications. Yambio contractor to arrive on Friday and for Yei (Yei River State) early next week.

3.8. Vaccines and Therapeutics

- Finalized EVD vaccination exercise in South Sudan, a total of 2, 793 frontline health workers have been vaccinated. So far there is no serious adverse effect reported.

4. Challenges/Gaps

- Lack of funds to operationalize the National EVD Preparedness Plan 2.
- Access to areas outside Yei River County due to insecurity.
- Limited joint supportive supervision of health facilities from national to state level. The joint supportive supervision started in Juba last week.
- Long porous border with Ituri Province of Democratic Republic of Congo and the likelihood of importation of EVD into the Republic of South Sudan.

Donors and partners involved in EVD preparedness and readiness

MOH, Germany, USAID/OFDA, CERF, SSHF, DfID, ECHO, GAVI, UNICEF, HPF, Canada, WHO and UNHCR, World Bank, JICA, IRC, IFRC, DFCA, AAH, ACROSS, AMLIMA, AMREF, ARC, CDC, CMMB, CONCERN, COPE, CORDAID, CUAMM, ECSS, GOAL, HELP, HLSS, IFRC, IMC-UK, Internews, IOM, MEDIAR, MSF, OXFAM, REACH, SAC, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, Solidarity International, SPLA, Ministry of Interior, SDDO, SSRC, SSUHA, TRISS, UMCOR, UNCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMISS, UNOCHA, WFP, WHO, WVSS.

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