

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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

Update # 39
Date: 8 June 2019

1. Highlights of the week

- A suspected EVD alert was reported in Ezo in Tambura state on 2nd June 2019. A patient – a 7-year-old female child presented to a health care facility with typical malaria symptoms, Loss of appetite, joint pain, fever and headache. She was treated for malaria. Her condition worsened and she was transported to the Holding Unit for further investigation. The state Rapid Response Team (RRT) investigated, collected samples, disinfected the house, listed all contacts, and advice the community on preventive measures. The GenXpert test was negative for Ebola Zaire strain. The sample was sent for Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and the results is pending.
- UNICEF distributed standard Infection, Prevention and Control &WASH supplies for all isolation units, holding units and 70 health facilities across high risk states.
- WFP conducted a monitoring visits to Isolation Units in Nimule (Torit state), Yambio (Gbudue State) and Yei (Yei River State) to assess the status of the Isolation Units.

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

- As of 7th June 2019, a total of 2,045 confirmed cases and 1,381 deaths (case fatality ratio of 67.5 %) have been reported.
- Some 121 new cases and 94 deaths were reported from 28st May to 7th June 2019, indicating that the outbreak is not under control. Figure 1 below shows the EPI-Curve of new EVD cases in DRC.

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

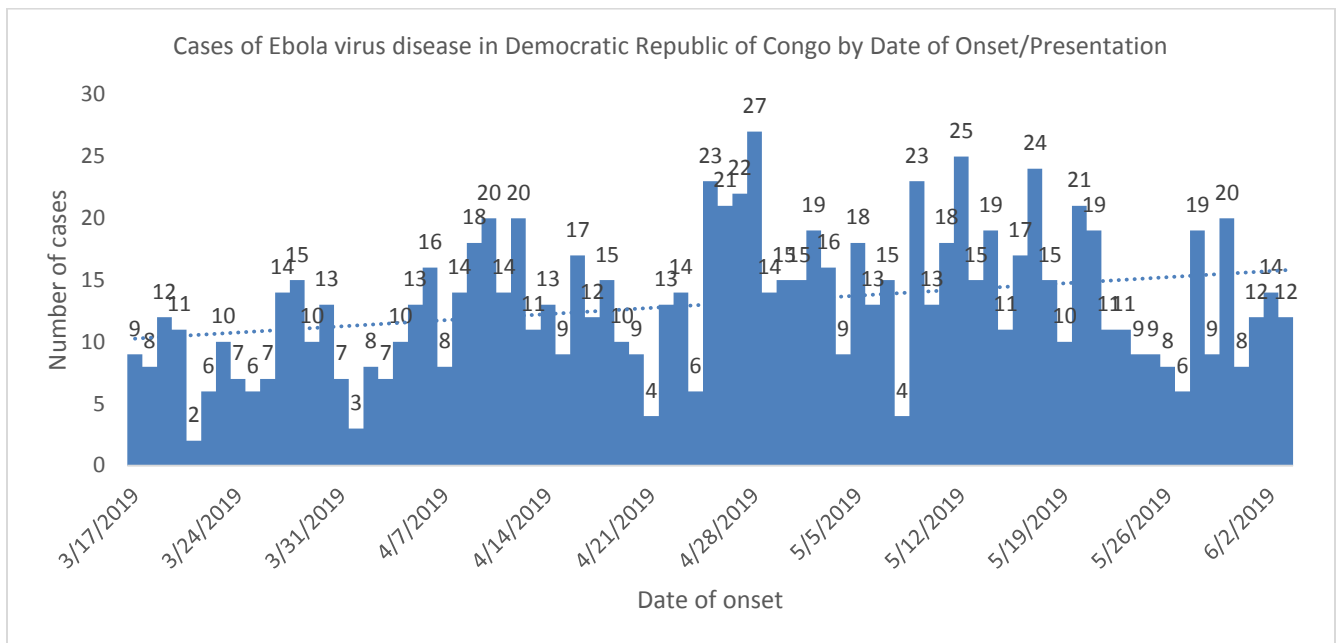
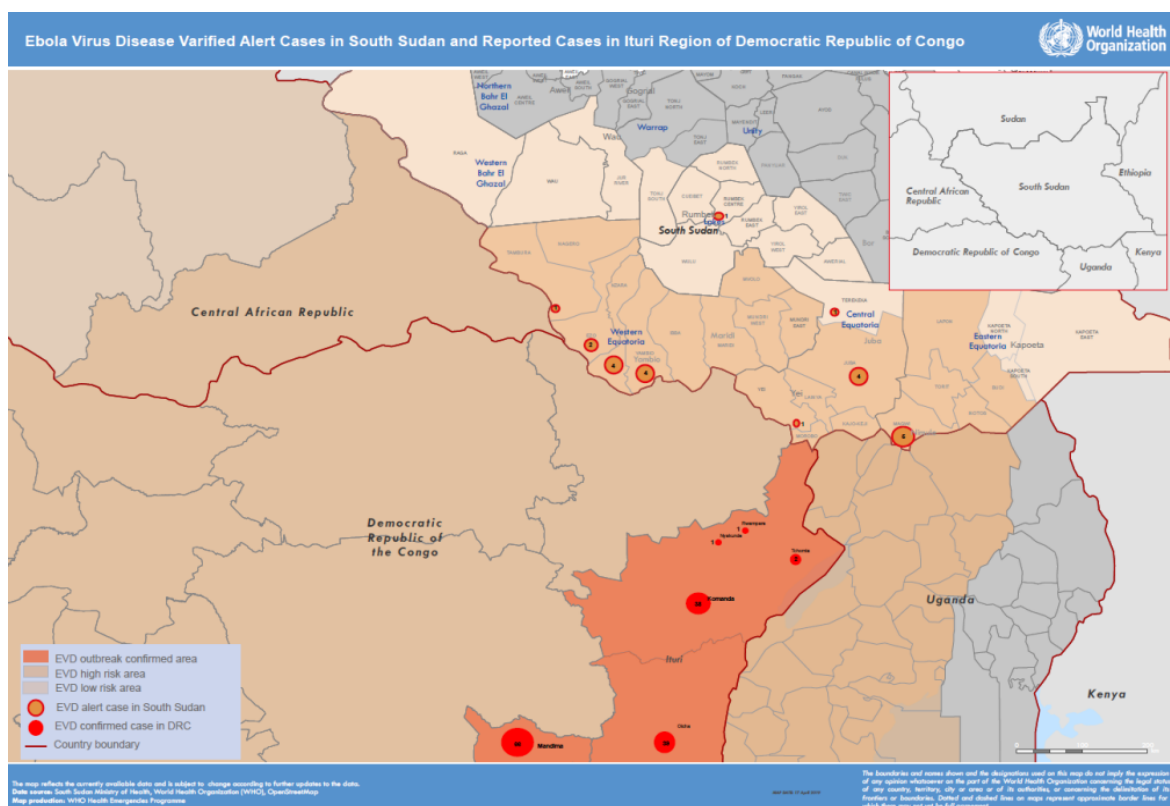


Figure 2: map showing Ebola virus disease verified alerts in South Sudan and reported cases in DRC



3. Public Health Preparedness and Readiness

3.1. Coordination and personnel deployment

- The National Task Force (NTF) meeting was conducted on 6 June 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 in collaboration with state rapid response team investigated one alert that was reported from Ezo (Gbudwe state) on 3rd June. The alert was investigated, house disinfected contacts listed, and community mobilized.
- EPI-Surveillance in collaboration with Lab, IPC and case management finalized joint supportive supervision tool. The tool will be shared with high-risk states for endorsement. The states will test the tool in few health facilities.
- Analyzed the EVD free-toll hotline (66-66) data and identified gaps and provided recommendation. The finding and recommendation were presented to the Technical Working Groups and the National Taskforce.
- The EPI/Surveillance and Laboratory TWG continued with updating of Standard of Operation Procedures (SOPs). Each pillar is finalizing their own document and representatives from each pillar will meet to ensure harmonization across pillars.
- The Laboratory TWG finalized preparation to conduct the EVD Lab training in Maridi on the 12 June 2019.

3.4. Port Health and Screening

- Some 135,760 incoming travellers 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 2,337,783. See table 1 below for more information.
- Border Health and Point of Entry (POE) Technical Working Group finalised schedule for Joint monitoring visit at the POE sites. The scheduled has been shared with all partners.
- Continued with assessments and plans to establish new Points of Entry Sites (POE).
- 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
135,760	2,337,783	106	1,290	0	19 generated, 6 met case definition

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

- Finalized development of a training guide and SOPs for EVD ambulance teams to stream line operations of ambulances.
- UNICEF distributed standard Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) &WASH supplies for all isolation units, holding units and 70 health facilities across high risk states.
- Completed development of a joint supportive monitoring tool, the tool will be disseminated to state Technical Working Groups.
- Reviewed and adopted new Terms of References (TORs) for the TWGs. The IPC/CM/SDB TWG also resolved to conduct meetings bi-weekly.
- Developed and shared guidance document on types and quantity of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements with Logs TWG.
- Received from partners and uploaded IPC/WASH assessment reports from 69 health facilities to kobo tool. Analysis of data and reporting is ongoing.

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

- Conducted Ebola awareness advocacy with religious and community leaders on the occasion of Eid-al-Fitr congregations in Juba, and reaching nearly 25,000 people with 10,000 flyers and 40 banners in multiple languages on routine immunization, Ebola, and cholera messages.
- Continued with Ebola awareness and community mobilization activities through radio broadcasts, house-to-house visits, community leaders' engagement.

3.7. Logistics

- Completed updating the Logistic technical working group Standard Operating Procedures(SOPs)
- 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.
- Deployed logistics staffs to Yei & Nimule.
- Conduct Isolation Units monitoring visits to Nimule, Yambio & Yei

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, SSDO, SSRC, SSUHA, TRISS, UMCOR, UNCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMISS, UNOCHA, WFP, WHO, WVSS.

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