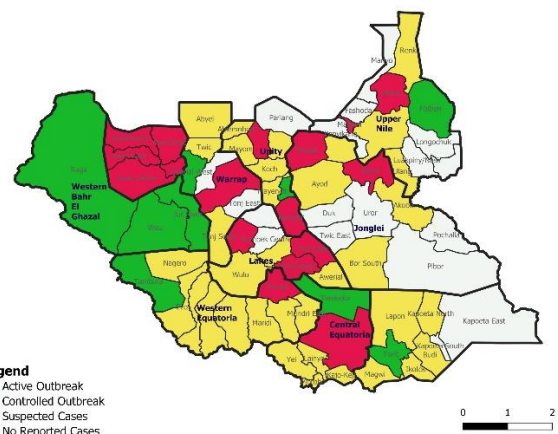



Highlights

- Surge in measles transmission continues as the number of counties with confirmed outbreak increase from 23 to 25 counties across the 10 states and three administrative areas.
- WHO and partners supported the Ministry of Health to vaccinate 87 693 children against measles in Cuibet, Yirol East and Yirol West counties of Lakes State.
- South Sudan launched the COVID-19 vaccination campaign on 28 January 2023 targeting 2.4 million people across 80 counties using the J&J vaccine.
- No new cholera cases were reported from Rubkona since epidemiological weeks 47, 2022.
- WHO distributed 4.1 metric tons of Health Emergency kits (101 emergency health kits) to seven Health Cluster partners in seven counties affected by humanitarian emergencies during the first month of 2023. The kits can support 51 300 people for three months.



Map showing counties with confirmed measles outbreaks in South Sudan, Jan 2023

Summary Statistics

	9.4 M	People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	6.3 M	Severely Food Insecure	1.1 M	People affected by flooding	25	Counties with measles outbreaks	13 992	Children vaccinated against measles
	1.4 M	Malnourished Children	540 K	Malnourished Women	39	Counties affected by flooding	0	Counties with cholera outbreak	18 233	Children vaccinated against polio/OPV3

Overview of the Humanitarian Crisis

- South Sudan continues to face multiple emergencies that are eroding communities' coping capacities and increasing humanitarian needs in the country in 2023. The communities faced critical needs in January 2023 owing to the impact of multiple emergencies such as recurring subnational violence, food insecurity, flooding, inaccessibility, and public health emergencies. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan 2023, it is estimated that 9.4 million people including 2.2 million women, 4.9 million children and 337 000 refugees, are projected to need humanitarian assistance and protection services in 2023.
- Although receding, the floodwater levels remained high in Bentiu and Rubkona towns of Unity State and multiple locations in Jonglei and Upper Nile States impeding livelihood activities, exposing people to waterborne diseases and disrupting the provision of basic services.
- Although projected to improve marginally from December 2022 to March 2023, the food insecurity situation is projected to worsen during the lean season, April-July 2023, as some 7.8 million people (63% of the population) will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, with 43 000 people likely to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Akobo, Canal/Pigi and Fangak counties of Jonglei State as well as Leer and Mayendit counties of Unity State.
- Further, hostilities erupted in several parts of the country in December 2022 and January 2023. The violence between communities in Greater Pibor Administrative Area displaced 17000 people to Pibor while the clashes between cattle keepers and host communities displaced 5000 in Mangala in Juba and

2500 people in Kajo Keji County. Nineteen people were killed during the violent clashes in Kajo Keji County.

Emergency Response Activities

- **Coordination:** Partner coordination is supported at both national and subnational levels through weekly Emergency Responders Groups and bi-weekly Health Cluster meetings in the states. A plan is underway to deploy two sub-national cluster coordinators to enhance subnational cluster coordination. Further, technical officers were deployed to Pibor to support coordination and service delivery.
- **Provision of emergency health supplies:** WHO distributed around 4.1 Metric tons of Health Emergency kits (which can support 51,300 people for 3 months) to seven Health Cluster Implementing partners in seven counties affected by humanitarian emergencies during the first month of 2023. A total of 101 Health Kits (75 Interagency Emergency Health kits, 12 pneumonia kits and 11 cholera investigation and treatment kits and three sample collection and transportation kits for meningitis) were distributed to the health facilities and implementing partners in Leer Mayendit, Fangak, Canal/Pigi, Twic east, Tabura and Ezo Counties.
- **Health service delivery:** WHO supported the provision of frontline health services in Leer, Mayendit, Ayod, Fangak, Nassir, Twic, Rubkona and Abyei Administrative Area by supporting 30 static and mobile health facilities in collaboration with implementing partners who are sub-granted to provide integrated primary health services.
- **Support to nutrition response:** Supportive supervision was conducted in the stabilization center in Pibor where 8 health workers were provided on-the-job training on the management of severe acute malnutrition with medical complications and nutrition surveillance and reporting.
- **Outbreak prevention and response:** in 2022, a total of 1.6 million doses of oral cholera vaccines were administered in six cholera hotspot locations namely Rubkona/Bentiu IDP Camp, Leer, Juba, Awerial, Yirol West and Malakal/Malakal PoC. The remaining hotspot locations will be targeted for pre-emptive vaccination in 2023 when oral cholera vaccine doses become available.
- **Surveillance:** The Ministry of Health, WHO and partners enhanced surveillance, routine reporting and monitoring of weekly trends of priority diseases in emergency locations.
- **Water quality testing and surveillance:** WHO conducted water quality testing for 30 functional water points in Pibor to inform the safety of water being used for drinking and domestic use by the IDPs and host communities. Further, WHO conducted a sanitary survey in the IDP sites and host communities in Pibor to inform actions by the WASH cluster partners.

Surveillance, Epidemiological Update, and Response for Disease Outbreaks

Confirmed and suspected Outbreaks

Measles Outbreak

- The Ministry of Health declared a measles outbreak at the national level on 11 December 2022 after outbreaks were confirmed in 22 out of 80 counties.
- The surge in measles cases continues to be reported in 2023 as three counties confirm the measles outbreak. Overall, 25 counties have confirmed the measles outbreak since the start of 2022. Most recent outbreaks were confirmed in Tonj North, Cuibet, Yirol East, Yirol West and Mvolo Counties. As counties and partners continue to implement outbreak response interventions, the transmission remains active in 16 counties

- Cumulatively, 4339 cases including 383 laboratory-confirmed measles cases and 46 deaths (Case fatality rate of 1.1%) have been reported from 9 counties since January 2022.
- Public health response implemented include:
 - Reactive measles vaccination campaigns have been implemented in 19 counties where 858 274 children were vaccinated. The most recent reactive vaccination campaign was conducted in Cuibet, Yirol East and Yirol West counties by the state Ministry of Health with support from the National Ministry of Health and WHO where 87 693 children were vaccinated against measles.
 - Routine immunization through targeted mobile outreaches strengthened; supportive case management including vitamin A supplementation has been provided and surveillance for case detection, investigation, and management enhanced.
 - Investigation of suspected cases is underway in Fangak and Awerial counties.
 - Ministry of Health, WHO and partners are planning to conduct reactive measles vaccination campaigns in Tonj North, Nyirol, Mvolo and Mundri East counties in the coming weeks.
 - Planning is underway for a nationwide non-selective measles vaccination campaign which is earmarked to kick off in March 2023

Cholera Outbreak in Bentiu-Unity State

- No cholera cases were reported from Rubkona since epidemiological weeks 47 of 2022.
- The outbreak was confirmed in Rubkona County after the identification of the index case on 19 March 2022 in Bentiu IDP Camp.
- Cumulatively, 424 (30 culture-confirmed) cases and one death (case fatality rate, CFR, 0.24%) have been reported since the beginning of the outbreak.
- Public health response implemented include:
 - Coordination through taskforce at national and subnational levels, case management, community awareness and case detection and investigation.
 - Deployment and distribution of cholera kits to health facilities. 333 stool samples were collected and tested for *Vibrio cholerae*.
 - Conducted pre-emptive oral cholera campaigns in hotspot locations: more than 1.6 million doses administered in six hotspot locations including Rubkona and Bentiu IDP Camp.
 - Planning to conduct an after-action review from 21-23 February 2022 that will be followed by the closure of the event.

Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) Outbreak in Bentiu IDP Camp

- Since January 2023, a total of 124 new HEV cases including 14 RDT-positive cases have been reported from Bentiu IDP Camp and Rubkona County. No deaths reported since the beginning of 2023.
- A persistent HEV transmission has been ongoing in Bentiu IDP Camp and the surrounding host community since 2019.
- Cumulatively, 3921 cases and 27 (CFR, 0.7%) deaths were reported from 2019 to 2021.
- HEV transmission has reduced from a peak of 60 cases every fortnight by week 8, 2021 to 24 cases every fortnight by week 5, 2023.
- Public health response implemented include:
 - Multi-cluster response coordinated and monitored through HEV Task Force is underway. Health and WASH cluster partners continue to conduct active case searches in locations with confirmed or suspected cases. Targeted WASH intervention, including distributing WASH supplies and health promotion is being undertaken.

For more details, find the weekly IDSR Bulletins [here: https://www.afro.who.int/publications/south-sudan-weekly-disease-surveillance-bulletin-2021](https://www.afro.who.int/publications/south-sudan-weekly-disease-surveillance-bulletin-2021)

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Outbreak

- As of the end of January 2023, a total of 18430 COVID-19 cases, 18279 recoveries and 138 deaths (case fatality rate of 0.75%) have been reported.
- Over 2.3 million individuals (17.17 percent of the target population) have been fully vaccinated using different antigens delivered through several vaccination strategies. Notably, more than 38.15 percent of the targeted population have been fully vaccinated.
- The first phase of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign was launched on 28 January 2023 targeting 2.4 million people across 80 counties using the J&J vaccine. Phase two vaccination campaign will begin in March 2023.

For more information on the COVID-19 outbreak and public health response measures, refer to the national weekly situation update: <http://moh.gov.ss/covid-19.php>

Sudan Ebola Virus Disease (SUDV)

- On 11 January 2023, Uganda declared the end of the Ebola outbreak caused by the Sudan Ebola Virus, one of six species of the Ebola virus against which there are no approved therapeutics and vaccines.
- During this outbreak that was declared on 20 September 2022, a total of 164 cases (142 confirmed and 22 probable) and 55 confirmed deaths and 87 recovered patients were recorded.
- South Sudan has been ramping up preparedness and readiness measures in the high-risk areas along the border with Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- It is recommended that sustainable and long-term preparedness and readiness measures continued to be established in all high-risk areas to strengthen the country's capacity to respond to potential in-country or imported outbreaks.

Operational gaps and challenges

The operation response has been affected by several challenges such as:

- Limited funding to respond to numerous emergencies and needs.
- Weak coordination mechanisms at the sub-national level.
- Disruptive insecurity incidents and inaccessibility in conflict-affected counties.
- Huge operational costs measured against available donor funds
- Inadequate human resources for health service delivery at sub-national levels.

Budget

Name of appeal	Required US \$	Secured in US \$	Gap in US \$
WHE Operations	22 million	5 million	17 million
COVID-19 Response	9.7 million	7 million	2.7 million

Key Donors

WHO South Sudan country office appreciates the support provided by all our donors to address numerous emergencies needs across the country. Please find below the list of our donors supporting emergency operations in alphabetical order.

- African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
- Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
- Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE)
- European Union (EU)
- European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)-UK
- Global Alliance for Vaccine Initiative (GAVI)
- Government of Japan
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF)
- World Bank

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