



# South Sudan: Cholera Outbreak Situation Report

Situation report: No. 002

Date of onset of outbreak: 22 February 2023

Reporting date: 09 March 2023

Data Source: State Ministry of Health and National Public Health Laboratory



**Cholera response** | Cumulative figures from 22 February to 8 March 2023

**220**

Cases

**1**

Death

**0.5%**

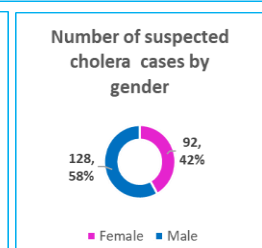
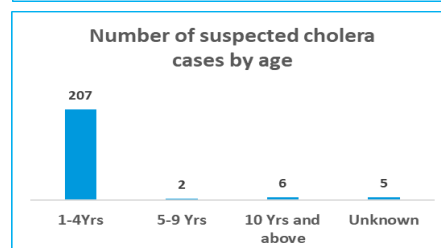
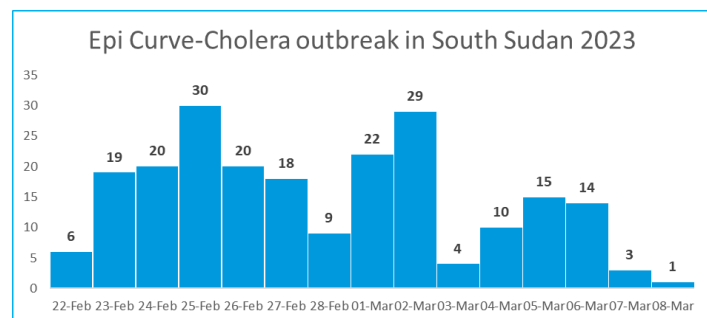
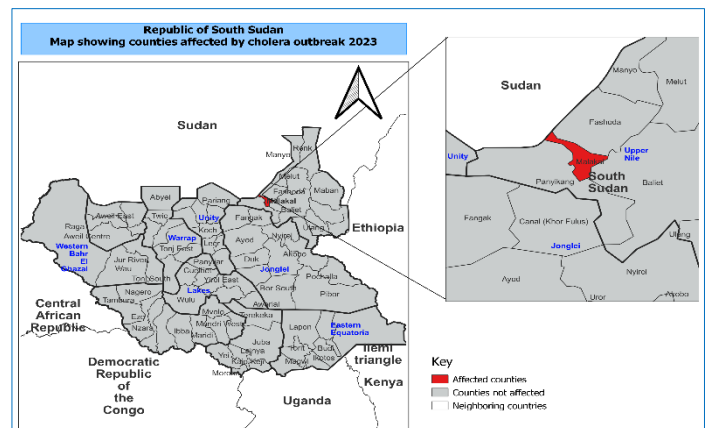
CFR

**Not graded**

Grade

## Key Weekly Highlights as of 08 March 2023

- In South Sudan, Malakal County in Upper Nile state has reported 220 suspected cases of cholera with 2 laboratory confirmed cases.
- Case fatality ratio (CFR) is 0.5% (1/220). The cholera death was reported from the POC
- 41 new cases have been reported in the past 48hrs as of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 since the declaration of cholera outbreak in Malakal County in Upper Nile state
- Zero new death has reported in the past 48hrs.
- Cumulatively, a total of 220 cholera cases including one (1) death have been line listed since the beginning of the outbreak.
- Overall, case patients between 0-4years old are mostly affected with 207 (94%) of the 220 cases reported.
- Of these, 150 (68%) are from Malakal Town, while 70 (32%) are from Malakal Protection of Civilians Sites (POC).
- As of 09 March, the cholera outbreak is limited in one of the smallest counties in Upper Nile Sate, bordering Sudan.
- An Oral Cholera vaccination campaign has been planned to take place on 15th March 2023 targeting 53,000 individuals 1yr & above in the POC & Malakal town.
- The cholera outbreak is localized in Malakal County, the smallest county in Upper Nile State on the side boarding Sudan.



## Key Interventions

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### Coordination

- The National Incident management system was activated to provide technical and operational guidance on the evolving situation in Malakal County.
- The National & State Cholera Taskforces continue to meet regularly to review progress and to take public health decisions.
- A multisectoral National RRT has been deployed to Malakal for further epidemiological investigation and to support response activities in Malakal County.

### Surveillance

- Daily update of line list from CTUs/CTCs by WHO & partners supporting case management
- Reporting tools such as the Cholera case definition, case investigation, & sample collection tools were distributed to the health facilities and community level to strengthen surveillance.
- Implementing partners are conducting screening/triage in health facilities in Malakal County.
- The National & State RRT teams in Malakal are continuing to conduct active case searches at the health facility & community level.

### Case management

- WHO provided cholera kits to MSF-Spain in the designated cholera treatment units as follows: Cholera central module - 1 Kit - 50 cartoons, Cholera central renewable - 4 Kits, Cholera community drug module 3 Kits, Cholera Community ORP module 6 Kits, and Cholera investigation 3 Kits
- Health cluster partners to assess the Cholera treatment unit (CTUs) in PoC and Malakal town including the possibility of extending CTC in PoC and the former Covid-19 treatment center in Malakal hospital (16 beds capacity) to be re-purposed for cholera treatment in the event of the upsurge of Cholera cases.
- WHO to work with SMOH & Partners to establish more Oral Rehydration Points (OPR) in the existing health facilities and in the community.

### Infection Prevention & Control/WASH

- Ongoing assessment to identify risks for transmission in the community, including access to safe water and sanitation, sanitary survey, environmental hygiene, and key risk behaviors.
- Some 28 water samples were collected and tested from Malakal PoC and Malakal town for Water Quality Testing (WQT). Of these, 05 water samples were reported to be contaminated with fecal coliform, 14 water samples tested negative for fecal coliform and 09 samples pending testing



- A sanitary survey was conducted at PoC with 768 functional sanitary facilities accessible to some 41,917 people in sectors 1, 2, 3, 4, and the buffer zone areas. Some 30 sanitary facilities are reported to be non-functional.
- Ongoing prompt WASH measures including water quality testing to ensure adequate chlorination at the point of use.

### **Risk Communication & Community Engagement (RCCE)**

- Ongoing radio talk shows and jingles spots.
- The RCCE sub-cluster in Malakal has been tasked to accelerate health education and community awareness.
- Radio Miraya FM (UNMISS Radio) and Nile FM (Humanitarian Local Radio) covered press statements on the Cholera declaration conducted by the State Acting Governor and Minister of health aiming at strengthening community sensitization, advocacy, and resource mobilization.
- UNICEF received the Cholera IEC materials, and distribution to Health facilities and the community is ongoing.

### **Laboratory**

- The MOH and WHO are conducting orientation to partners on sample collection, filling of cholera investigation forms, and testing using RDT.
- 2 suspected Cholera samples were collected and will be sent to Juba for further testing (culture & PCR).

### **Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV)**

- The MOH, WHO, and Partners are finalizing pre-campaign activities for Oral Cholera Vaccination
- The Plan date for the implementation of the OCV is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2023
- WHO is submitting a new request to the International Coordination Group (ICG) for additional oral cholera vaccines.

### **Logistics and supplies**

- WHO is conducting the Quantification of additional supplies required for the response.



## Challenges

- Inadequate access to safe & clean water due to limited WASH supplies
- Sub-Optimal risk communication and community engagement in affected high-risk locations on cholera prevention and control measures.
- Inadequate funding for partners to respond.
- Lack of designated ambulance for the referral of cholera cases and designated vehicle for the safe dignified burial (SDB) team.
- Identification and training of the SDB team
- Overcrowding in the POC due to the continued influx of IDPs poses a major challenge to the limited WASH facilities in the POC.
- Need for additional cholera kit and investigation kit

## Way forward

- Provision of clean and safe water.
- Accelerate the RCCE interventions at POC and Malakal town.
- Finalized the cholera response plan and budget for resource mobilization.
- Designate an ambulance to support the referral of cholera cases
- Conduct training for the SDB team.
- Quantify and ship additional cholera kits and investigation kits to Malakal county.

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