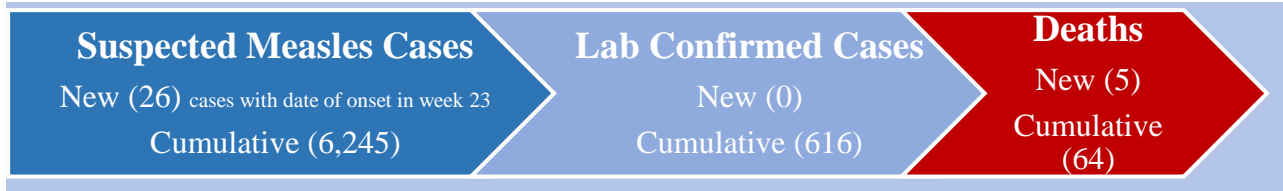




## Republic of South Sudan

# Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Issue number 18  
 Issue Date 15 June 2023  
 Epidemiological week Week 23 ( June 05 - 11, 2023)



\* Above data is cumulative from 2022

### Background

Following the declaration of the measles outbreak in 2022, with a cumulative of 6,245 suspected cases reported, 4,137 and 2,107 in 2022 and 2023, respectively, and the reported low measles routine immunization coverage, a national measles follow-up campaign was planned and conducted among children 6-59 months.

The campaign targeted 2,597,415 children and reached 2,383,771, representing 92% coverage as of 13 June 2023. However, some counties (Renk, Duk) recorded low coverages with the need for mop-ups.

Also, 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.

### Key weekly Situation Update as of 11 June 2023

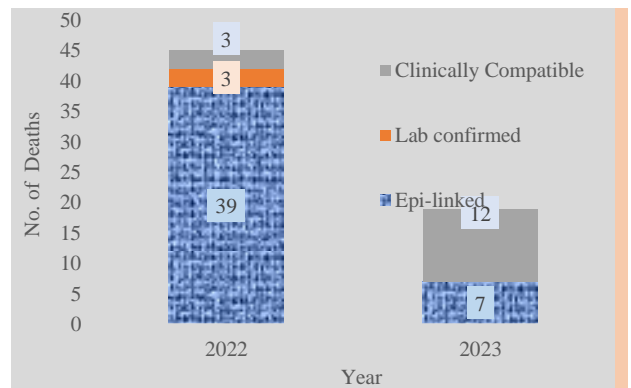
- Five (5) new suspected Measles death recorded for week 23.
- A total of twenty-six (26) suspected Measles cases reported this week
- No laboratory-confirmed case has been reported in week 23
- Confirmed outbreak in Renk still active with Sixty-seven (87) newly epi-linked to the index case
  - Ninety percent (90%) of these cases were from Halagaya camp, while 10% were from Riverside, with 59% unknown vaccination status and 40% zero dose children
- Seventeen (17) of the reported suspected cases were from Renk, including the five (5) suspected Measles deaths.
- Pending samples from Wulu, Lainya, Rubkona, Renk, Fangak, Bor, and Cueibet in the lab.
- Two pending nasopharyngeal swabs received from Malakal for sequencing

### Summary of cases as of 11 June 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	224	11	616
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
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6245</b>

Figure 1: Deaths by year and final classification

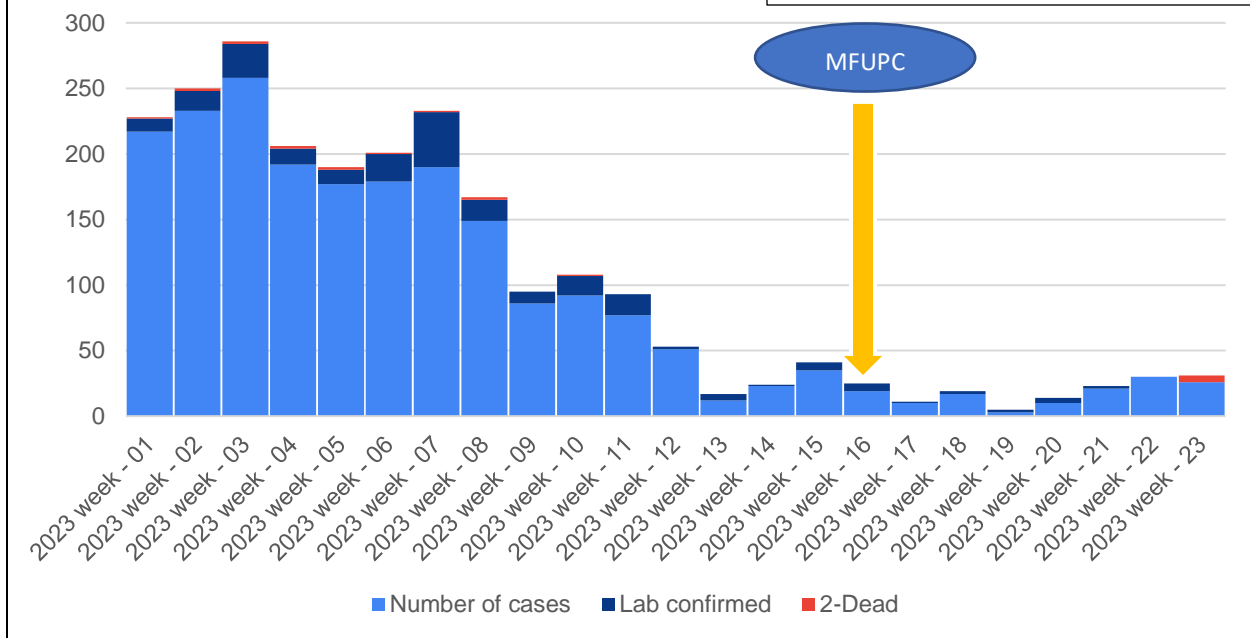




## Republic of South Sudan Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Out of the 6,245 suspected measles cases, 3201(51.1%) are epi-linked, 616(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 211 rubella positive cases from the discarded (negative measles cases)

A total of 64 measles-related deaths were reported since January 2022, with only 3 deaths among the lab-confirmed measles cases and 45 among the epi-linked cases.



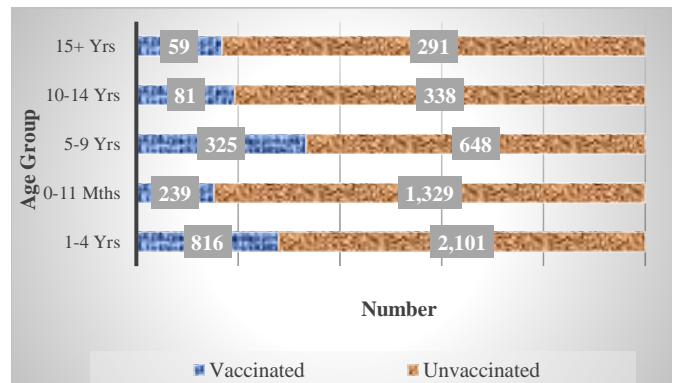
**Note:** Measles cases have been reported from different counties throughout 2023. The observed peaks are driven by different counties that experienced surge in measles cases at different times.

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	27.5	10	0.9	432	20.7	3	0.5
1-4 yrs	1,931	46.7	27	1.4	988	47.3	12	0.8
5-9 yrs	612	14.8	4	0.7	362	17.3	3	0.8
10-14 yrs	277	6.7	2	0.7	142	6.8	1	0.7
15+ yrs	180	4.4	2	1.1	166	7.9	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.7</b>

**Note:** Majority 4,488(72.1%) of all the 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. 47 out of the 59 deaths were among children below age 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

#### 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 on weekly basis

#### 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 concluded
  - 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 to be 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.
  - Set up vaccination points at entry points for the refugees and returnees.

#### Deamand Generation/ Communication

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

#### 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)
- Plan for targeted response where breakthrough Measles cases occur
- Refugee Situation with cases already reported from the Blue Nile ( Guideline issued on Immunization) to be addressed



## Republic of South Sudan Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

### Way Forward

- MOH and partners to support ongoing nationwide measles campaign
- 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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