

Key Figures					
Number of new suspected cases reported <sup>1</sup> in the last 7 days	14	Cumulative number of suspected cases	61	Cumulative number of cases	64
Number of new deaths reported in the last 7 days	01	Cumulative number of suspected deaths	06	Cumulative number of laboratory-confirmed cases	03

**Background:**

On 21 December 2023, the Ministry of Health was notified a suspected case of viral hemorrhagic fever from Yambio County, Western Equatoria State. The suspected case was a 24-year<sup>2</sup>-old male from Kangura village in Gangura Payam, Yambio County who presented with generalized body weakness, headache, epigastric discomfort, Fever, vomiting of blood and yellowish discoloration (Jaundice) of eyes.

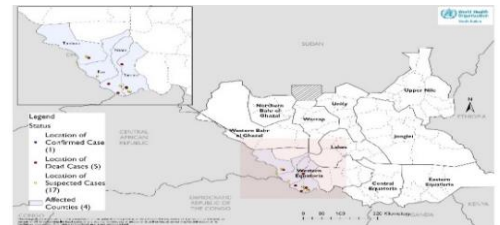


Figure 1: Location of Yellow fever outbreak in South Sudan

The patient was isolated at the health facility, and a sample was taken for further investigation. The sample tested positive for Yellow Fever on 24 December 2023 at the National Public Health laboratory.

The National Ministry of Health of the Republic of South Sudan declared a Yellow Fever outbreak on 24 December 2023 confirmation of the case and immediately activated the Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC) to response mode to facilitate pillar-based response to control and contain the outbreak. A multi-disciplinary team from the Ministry of Health, WHO and Partners at national and subnational levels was deployed to conduct an in-depth epidemiological investigation, active case search, community mobilization and sensitization in Gangura Payam (epi center), Yambio County, Western Equatoria State and surrounding Payams and Counties.

**Key highlights**

**Reporting period: 5th to 11th February 2024**

- Today, marks 53 days since the first case of Yellow Fever was confirmed on 24 December 2023.
- Fourteen (14) newly suspected Yellow Fever cases reported during the last 7 days. The cases were reported from Yambio (6), Tambura (3), Ezo (2) Nzara (2) and Ibba counties (1).
- A cumulative total of sixty-four (64) Yellow Fever cases (61 suspected and 03 confirmed) were reported from six counties in Western Equatoria state: Yambio (33), Nzara (09), Tambura (12), Ibba (04), Ezo (05) and Maridi Counties (01) as of 12 February 2024.
- No new deaths reported during the last 7 days.

<sup>1</sup> Number of cases detected in the last 7 days. This includes both at the health facility and community

<sup>2</sup> Further verification by national rapid response team revealed the age of the index case to be 24 years rather than 18 years.

- A cumulative total of six (06) suspected deaths were reported<sup>3</sup>, giving a case fatality ratio of 9.4%.
- Two (02) additional sample tested positive for Yellow Fever on 2 February 2024 at the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) and reconfirmed at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), given a cumulative total of three (03) laboratory confirmed cases as of week 5 of 2024.
- Preparations to conduct the Yellow Fever reactive vaccination campaign are ongoing following the deployment of 410,596 doses of vaccines to Yambio Western Equatoria state on 30 January 2024.
- Response activities (coordination, surveillance, laboratory, case management, risk communication and community engagement, vaccination, infection prevention and control etc) are being reinforced by State Ministry of Health and supported by partners (WHO, UNICEF, WVI-CGPP, CDTY, CMMB, Red Cross South Sudan, AMREF, JRS, IMA and TRI-SS)
- Preparedness activities are being strengthened in state and counties bordering Tambura and Ibba through guidance from Ministry of Health and State Ministry of Health with support from partners (WHO, UNICEF, CARE, Johanitter, AFOD and CORDAID).

## Current updates

### Coordination

- Coordination meeting with stakeholders and key partners have been shifted from daily to weekly at national level but daily meetings continue to be conducted at the sub-national level.

### Surveillance, Laboratory, and Reporting

- Fourteen (14) new suspected Yellow Fever reported during the last 7 days. The cases were reported from Yambio county (6), Tambura (3), Ezo (2) Nzara (2) and Ibba (1).
- Cumulatively, sixty-four (64) Yellow Fever cases (61 suspected and 03 confirmed) including 6 deaths were reported as of 12 February 2024, giving a case fatality ratio of 9.4%.
- All cases were reported from six counties in Western Equatoria state: Yambio county (33), Nzara county (09), Tambura County (12), Ibba county (04), Ezo county (05) and Maridi county (01) as of 12 February 2024
- Out of the cumulative 64 cases (61 suspected and 3 confirmed) males accounted for 52% and females accounted for 48%.
- Majority (92%) of the reported cases are 15 years and above whilst 12% are reported to be among 1 to 4 years old.
- Thirteen (13) samples subjected to PCR and serology tested negative for Yellow Fever at the NPHL.

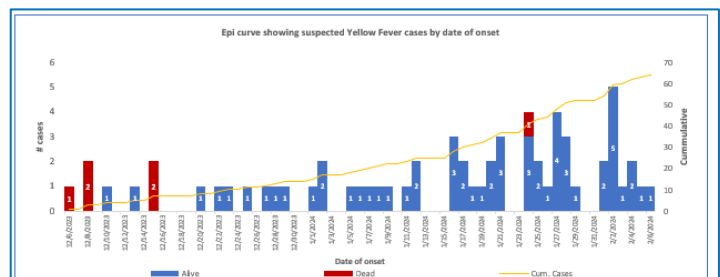


Figure 2: Epi curve showing suspected Yellow Fever cases in Ezo, Tambura, Nzara and Yambio 2023 to 2024 by date of onset

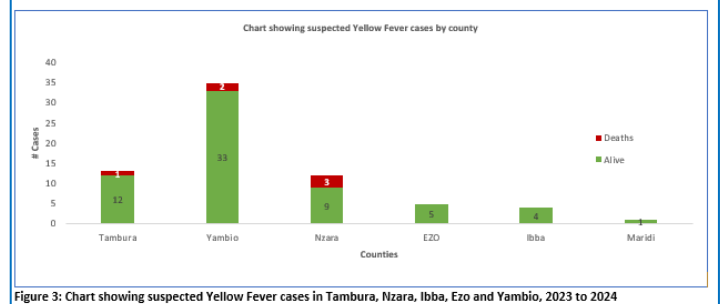


Figure 3: Chart showing suspected Yellow Fever cases in Tambura, Nzara, Ibba, Ezo and Yambio, 2023 to 2024

<sup>3</sup> A death reported from Yambio with an onset of fever on September 15, 2023, was excluded as it did not meet the revised outbreak case definition.



**Case management**

- All health facilities alerted to screen and triage for suspected cases using the outbreak case definition.
- An Interim Case management guide developed to support health care workers in management of patients.

**Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)**

- Partners continue to conduct community engagement through their home health promoters and community key informants.
- Enhancing RCCE activities during church services and market days to sensitize community members on reporting suspected cases and the preparation of the yellow fever vaccination campaign is ongoing.
- Twenty-seven (27) health care workers oriented on Yellow fever outbreak response focusing on risk communication and community engagement for vaccines uptakes (Tambura, Nzara, and Yambio)
- Radio spot broadcasting on Yellow Fever prevention and control in continue to be produced.

**Vaccination**

- The ICG has authorized an extra 223,743 doses of the Yellow Fever vaccine to be allocated for the remaining two counties of Ibba and Ezo counties.
- UNICEF has initiated all necessary processes to ensure the arrival of the vaccines in the country before the third week of February.
- Preliminary activities for the Yellow Fever campaign have been concluded, encompassing the training of team and payam supervisors, vaccinators, recorders, social mobilizers, and crowd controllers. Additionally, the cold chain and vaccine distribution have commenced in preparation for the campaign
- Supervisors, totaling 10 from the Ministry of Health and 3 from partner organizations, have been trained and dispatched to WES to provide support for the campaign.
- Ongoing social mobilization efforts are currently underway, with a scheduled campaign launch on the 13th of February 2024. The Honorable Minister of Health, and various partners will be leading this initiative.

**Logistics and supplies**

- Partners availing the transport means for supporting the vaccination campaign

**Implementing Partners by Pillar**

Pillar	Partner supporting
Coordination	MOH, WHO
Surveillance	MOH, WHO and CGPP-WVI
Case Management	MOH, WHO, MSF-Spain, CMMB, and CGPP-WVI
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	MOH, IOM, ICRC, CGPP-WVI, UNICEF, WHO
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	MOH, WHO
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)	MOH, WHO, CGPP-WVI, UNICEF, CDTY, TRI-SS, CMMB and Red cross South Sudan
Vaccination	MOH, WHO, UNICEF, CGPP-WVI, AMREF, CMMB and CDTY, CRSO,HPF



<b>Vector Control</b>	MOH, and WHO
<b>Logistics</b>	MOH, WHO, UNICEF, MSF-Spain, WVI

### Pillar leads and co-leads

Pillar	Lead (MOH)	Co-lead
<b>Coordination</b>	Dr John Rumunu/Atem Mayen	Dr Aggrey/ Kwuakuan (WHO)
<b>Surveillance</b>	Dr Lasu Joseph/Agnes Jokudu	Sheila Baya (WHO)
<b>Laboratory</b>	James Ayei	Andrew Baguma (WHO)
<b>Case Management</b>	Dr Harriet Pasquale /Dr Yohana	William Ruai (WHO)
<b>IPC/WASH</b>	Nyankiir Ajing	Abraham (WHO)
<b>RCCE</b>	Mary Obat	Aping (UNICEF)
<b>Vaccination</b>	George Legge	Dr Anthony (WHO)
<b>Vector Control</b>	Constantino Doggale	Malaria Consortium/Mentor Initiative)
<b>Logistics and Supplies</b>	Hillary Hakim	WHO

### Challenges

- Lack of partners support to carry out vector control activities to reduce the risk of yellow fever transmission.
- Limited partners on the ground to support the response especially RCCE activities in other counties.
- Community perceptions regarding patients with jaundice, particularly their preference for traditional healers.
- Limited capacity to manage severe cases at the available health facilities and difficulty in follow-up of suspected cases at home.
- Limited capacity at health facilities for sample collection, packaging, and transportation.

### Next steps

- Strengthen coordination at the national, state, and counties levels.
- Continue monitoring and analysis of surveillance data, active case search, investigation of alerts.
- Capacity building for health workers on sample collection, packaging, transportation, case detection and case management and reporting.
- Finalize the Yellow Fever outbreak preparedness and response plan.
- Disseminate information, education, and communication materials in Arabic and Zande on Yellow Fever transmission, prevention and control.
- Engage more partners and other stakeholders for resource mobilization.
- Engagement of traditional healers.
- Develop SOPs for all pillars to standardize the process of removing duplicates and replacing them with new cases.



**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (PHEOC)**

**Weekly Situation update on the Yellow Fever outbreak in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan**

*Date: 12 February 2024*

*Situation Report Number 029*



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