

Republic of South Sudan

Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Issue number 19
 Issue Date 20 May 2024
 Epidemiological week Week 19 (06 May – 12 May, 2024)

Suspected Measles Cases New (0) cases with date of onset in week 19 Cumulative (14,507)	Lab Confirmed New (0) Cumulative (1,172)	Epi-linked Cumulative (5,212)	Deaths New (0) Cumulative (269) CFR (1.85)
--	---	---	--

* The above data is cumulative from 2022

Background

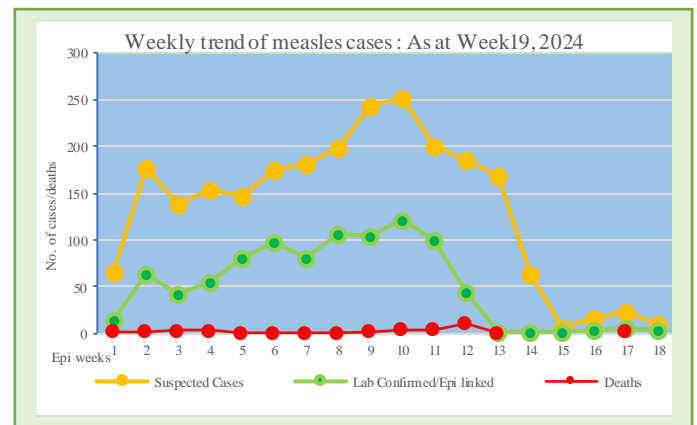
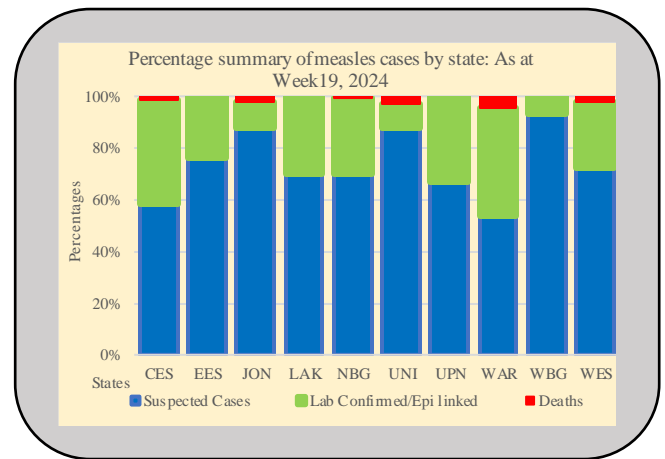
As of Epi week 19, 2024, a total of 2,402 suspected measles cases were reported, with 164 (6.8%) lab-confirmed, 41 suspected measles deaths, and a case fatality rate of (1.7).

The observed surge in suspected measles cases with a peak in week 10 and a steady decline since then, indicates an effective increase in interruption efforts.

The high discrepancy between suspected and confirmed cases highlights a critical need for enhanced sample collection and robust laboratory testing to ensure accurate diagnosis. Improving these aspects will aid in more precise outbreak investigation and reporting, allowing for more targeted public health interventions and resource allocation.

As of Epi week 19 in 2024, reactive vaccination efforts have led to county-wide campaigns in 13 counties (Maridi, Mundri East, Tonj North, Tonj South, Aweil East, Aweil South, Aweil Center, Aweil North, Aweil West, Yambio, Nzara, Ibba and Tambura) vaccinating 447,988 (90%) children against Measles, of which 2.3% are returnees. The campaign is ongoing in six IDP camps of Tambura County. Ezo county scheduled implementation for the first week of June 2024 (Details in Annexes).

Epi week 19 data shows ongoing outbreaks in **Fangak-Hai mozobin**, **Jur River** and **Wulu-Manyol**, but seven (7) counties reporting suspected/confirmed cases yet to reach the outbreak threshold and warranting further investigation and laboratory validation.



Key weekly Situation Update as of 12 May 2024

- A total of 33 additional cases (weeks 12-18) have been reported this week from **Fangak (17)**, **Jur River (5)**, **Abyei (2)**, **Guit (1)**, **Wau (4)**, **Wulu (1)**, **Nagero (2)**, **Rumbek North (1)**.
 - Out of 23 samples tested, 12 were measles confirmed cases from **Rumbek North**, **Abyei**, **Jur River**, **Wau**, **Nagero** and **Fangak**, 11 discarded and 1 rubella confirmed case from **Fangak** and **Wau**
 - Two (2) additional deaths in week 17 from **Fangak** and **Guit** reported this week
 - No new cases reported with date of onset in week 19
- Three (3) ongoing outbreaks in **Fangak-Hai mozobin**, **Jur-River** and **Wulu-Manyol**
 - **Abyei**, **Rubkona**, **Terekeka**, **Yirol West**, **Wau**, **Rumbek North** and **Guit** continue to report suspected/confirmed cases yet to reach the outbreak threshold and need more investigation and samples collection for testing as per the revised SOP

Republic of South Sudan

Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

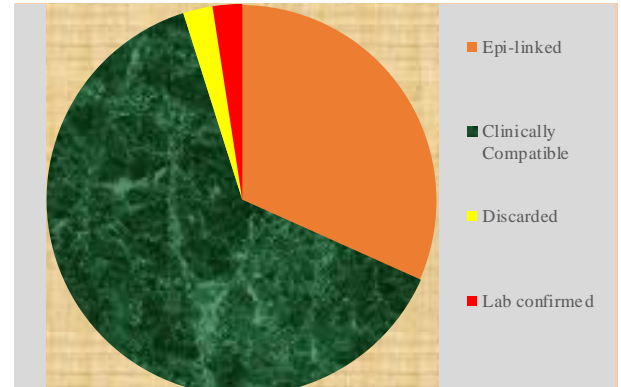
Summary of cases as of 12 May 2024

Table 1: Distribution of cases by final classification 2024

FINAL CLASSIFICATION	2024	
	NO. OF CASES	%
Lab confirmed	164	6.8
Epi-linked	772	32.1
Clinically Compatible	1,345	56.1
Total	2,281	95.0
Discarded (-ve)	121	5
Grand Total	2,402	100.0

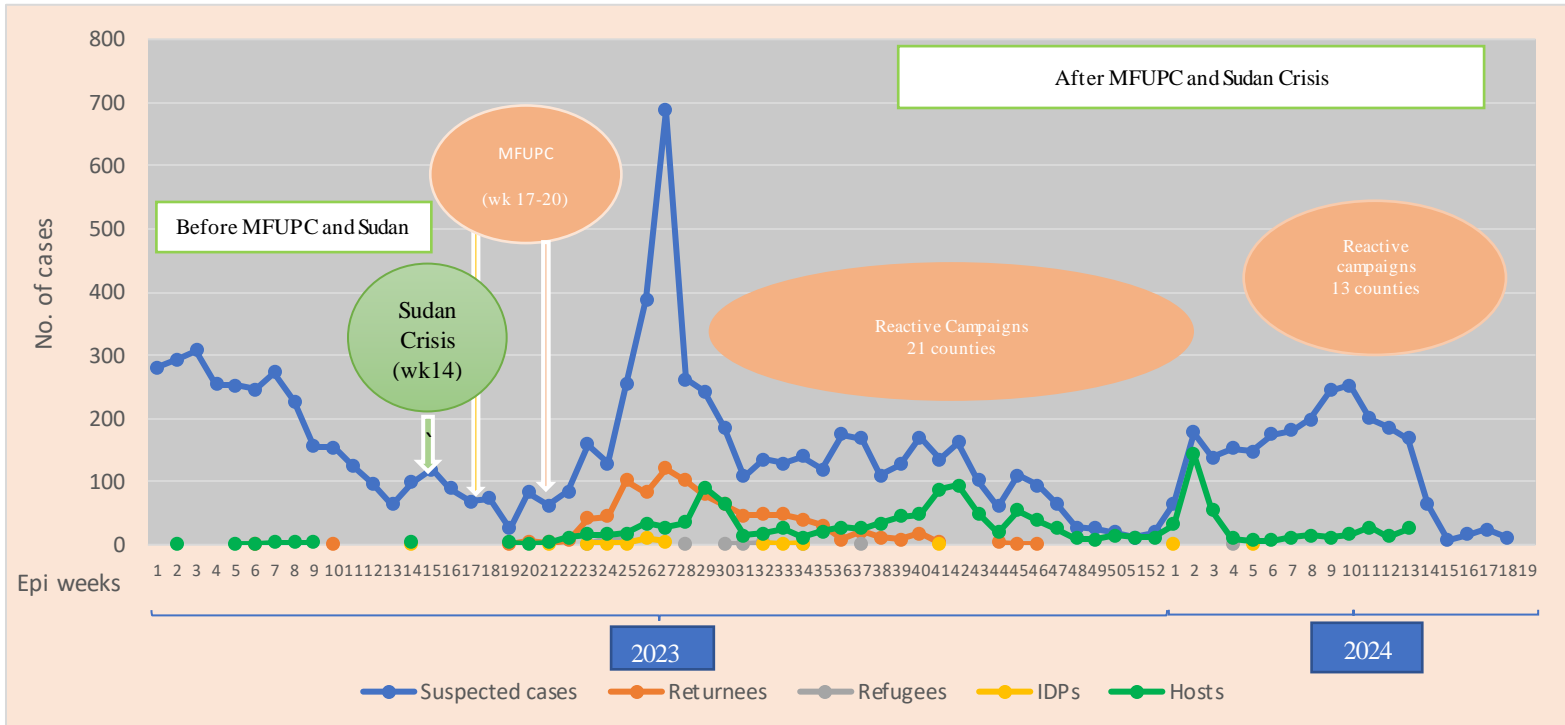
Out of the 2,407 suspected measles cases, 164 (6.8%) were lab-confirmed, 772 (32.1%) epi-linked, 1,335 (56.1%) clinically compatible, and 121 (5.0%) discarded cases have been reported as of epidemiological week 19, 2024. A total of 30 rubella positive cases from the discarded (negative measles cases)

Figure 1: Distribution of deaths by final classification: 2024



A total of 41 reported deaths, 26 (63.4%) were clinically compatible cases, 13 (31.7%) among the epi-linked cases, 1 (2.4%) from discarded cases and 1 (2.4%) from Lab confirmed cases

Figure 2: Trend of suspected measles cases against their residential status by (epi week1 2023 – week19, 2024)



Note: Measles cases have been reported from different counties throughout 2023-2024. The observed peaks are driven by other counties that experienced a surge in measles cases at various times. The Sudan crisis started in week 14 of 2023, with the influx of returnees and refugees since then. The nationwide MFUPC also took place from week 17-20.

Republic of South Sudan Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Figure 3: Map showing lab-confirmed outbreak counties in February (week16 to Week19, 2024)

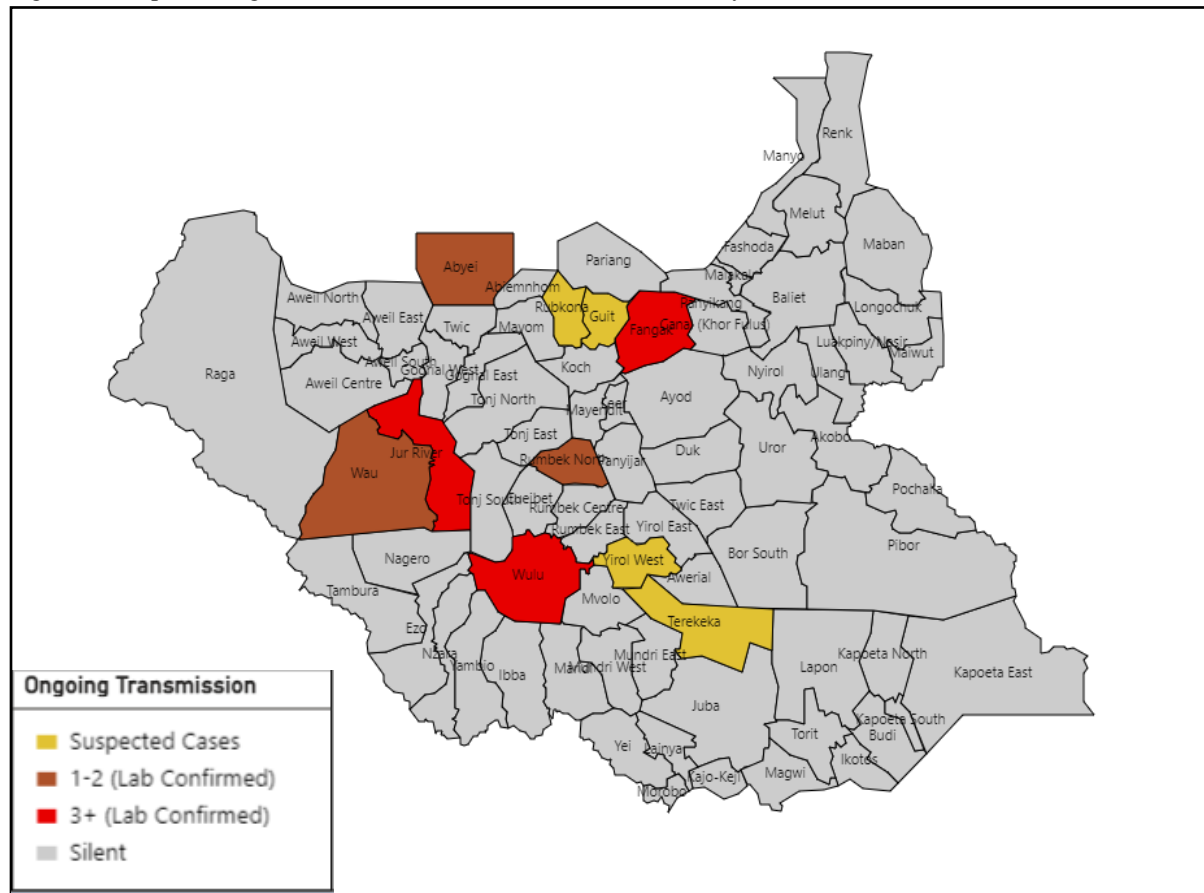
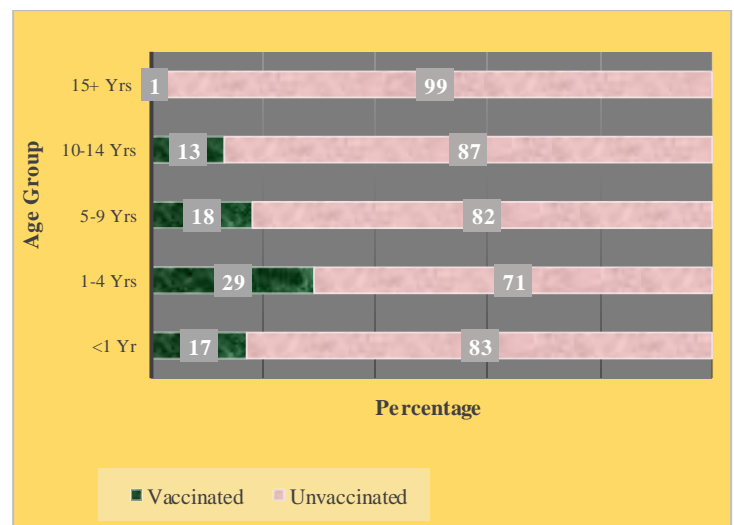


Table 2: Distribution of reported measles cases and deaths by age groups in South Sudan, 2024

Age Groups	2024				
	No. of Suspected Cases	No. of Confirmed Cases	%	Deaths	%
<1 yr	672	25	3.4	21	3.1
1-4 yrs	932	71	7.6	16	1.7
5-9 yrs	329	25	7.6	3	0.9
10-14 yrs	259	15	5.8	0	0.0
15+ yrs	210	28	13.3	1	0.5
Total	2,402	164	6.8	41	1.7

Note: More than half 1,604 (66.8%) of all the suspected measles cases are children below 5 years of age. The case fatality rate is (1.7%) while 798 (33.2%) are among other ages from 5 years and above.

Figure3: Percentage distribution of measles cases and their vaccination status: 2024



Note: 1,923(80.1%) were unvaccinated (zero, unknown) including 1,221(63.5%) children less than 5 years. Among children less than one year old 672 cases, 561(83.4%) have not been vaccinated.

Surveillance and Laboratory



Republic of South Sudan

Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

- Enhanced surveillance ongoing in silent counties
- Sample collection for all counties that last had a confirmed measles outbreak in the last four weeks to track the Measles epidemiology.
- 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
- In collaboration with partners and MOH, WHO is prepositioning kits to support case management in counties with active outbreaks.

Vaccinations

- As of Epi week 19, Thirteen counties implemented a Measles reactive campaign to vaccinate **447,988 (90%)** under five children. Out of the total vaccinated, **10,299 (2.3%)** are returnees from Sudan
 - 12 counties (Maridi, Mundri East, Tonj North, Tonj South, AWE, AWS, AWC, AWN, AWW, Yambio, Nzara and Ibba)) completed the campaign.
 - The campaign is ongoing in Tambura in the six IDP camps the campaign. It will be extended outside the camp once the security situation improves in the remaining payams of the county.
 - Ezo County also delayed the campaign due to insecurity related to Tambura. The state and County teams are discussing dates for the implementation depending on the security situation.
- MOH has yet to secure additional doses of measles vaccine to cover the remaining outbreak-affected counties. Five counties (Rumbek East, Wulu, Juba, Yei and Morobo) have reported confirmed outbreaks and submitted revised MPs for the response.
- Targeted vaccination response has also been considered an option using the limited vaccine doses in the country.
- MoH will work with identified partners to ensure quality campaigns
- POE/Temporary transit post-vaccination activities are ongoing in 13 sites of 5 states with Measles and OPV vaccines targeting children under fifteen years.
 - Vaccination activity started in nine POE and transit posts in Akobo, Juba, Melut, Malakal, Aweil East, and Aweil North counties.
 - As of Epi week 19, a total of 14,517 and 14,217 children were vaccinated with Measles and OPV, respectively, at the POE/temporary transit sites.

Demand Generation/ Communication

- Demand generation activities ongoing for the planned mop-up and reactive campaigns as well as routine immunization (radio talk shows and jingle broadcast)

Operational challenges and gaps

- Inadequate detailed investigation of suspected measles cases and deaths in counties reporting suspected cases of measles
- Inadequate sample collection for laboratory confirmation and classification cases of suspected measles cases
- A high proportion of unvaccinated/unknown status children (80%) was detected among the cases, noting the inadequate quality of investigations and gaps in immunization, especially among the returnees and refugees.
- Late and constant retrospective reporting of suspected cases
- Incomplete and inaccurate filling of line lists and CIFs

Republic of South Sudan Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Way Forward

- Lab-confirmed outbreaks to be followed with detailed outbreak reports
- Root cause analysis planned and led by MOH
- MOH and partners to support the planned mop-up campaign and other measles activities
- State and County MOH to continue weekly reporting of measles cases (including zero reporting where applicable)
- UNICEF will fill in the anticipated Measles vaccine rupture.
- Prompt detection and management of measles cases
- Addition of Vitamin A in future responses and inclusion of nutrition teams
- Blood samples to be collected from suspected cases in counties that continue to report, and the lab confirmation is beyond four weeks to monitor the epidemiology
- Collection of nasopharyngeal swabs from new cases
- Strengthen routine immunization at POEs and within the community
- Prioritize case management to reduce morbidity and mortality.
- Enhance risk communication and community engagement in health and help-seeking behavior.
- Root Cause Analysis been planned by the NMOH.

Annex: Measles Reactive Vaccination (Jan to May2024)

#	County	Target Population (6 to 59 months)	Children vaccinated			Coverage	Status of Implementation
			Male	Female	Total		
1	Maridi	24,025	12,871	13,067	25,938	108%	Completed (Final data submitted)
2	Mundri East	16,577	8,294	7,780	16,074	97%	Completed (Final data submitted)
3	Tonj North	63,216	36,203	36,511	72,714	115%	Complete (Final data submitted)
4	Tonj South	25,913	12,131	11,987	24,118	93%	Complete (Final data submitted)
5	Aweil West	58,672	27,174	27,277	54,451	93%	Complete (Final data submitted)
6	Aweil North	46,998	21,097	22,857	43,954	94%	Complete (Final data submitted)
7	Aweil South	29,871	17,336	17,885	35,221	118%	Complete (Final data submitted)
8	Aweil Center	30,548	15,659	16,532	32,191	105%	Complete (Final data submitted)
9	Aweil East	108,621	35,193	35,274	70,467	65%	Complete (Final data yet to be submitted)
10	Yambio	45,770	20,482	22,145	42,627	93%	Complete (Final data submitted)
11	Nzara	19,722	8,851	10,411	19,262	98%	Complete (Final data submitted)
12	Ibba	12,652	3,705	4,051	7,756	61%	Complete (Final data yet to be submitted)
13	Tambura	16,940	1,566	1,649	3,215	19%	Ongoing
Total		499,526	220,562	227,426	447,988	85%	



Republic of South Sudan Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Annex 2: Phase II POE/Temporary Transit site Measles and OPV vaccination April 2024

State	County	POE Site	Measles				OPV			
			6 -11 months	12 - 59 months	6 - 14 Years	Total Vaccinated	0 – 11 months	12 - 59 months	6 - 14 Years	Total Vaccinated
Central Equatoria	Juba	Juba Airport	73	6	0	79	47	11	0	58
Jonglei	Akobo	Akobo Hospital	1,544	2,484	2,789	6,817	2,064	2,146	2,231	6,441
		Old Akobo	993	1,841	1,515	4,349	1,091	1,792	1,728	4,611
Upper Nile	Melut	Friendship	35	182	30	247	46	212	30	288
		Palouch PHCC	134	694	104	932	141	795	123	1,059
		Palouch PHCU	56	206	23	285	30	105	8	143
Northern Bahir El Ghazal	Aweil East	Majokyithiou	28	225	593	846	40	222	602	864
	Aweil North	Jaac	166	122	97	385	85	72	0	157
		Majakbol	118	213	78	409	116	216	85	417
Total		9	3,219	6,020	5,278	14,517	3,743	5,618	4,856	14,217

Dr. John Rumunu Incident Manager E: ori.moiga@gmail.com P: +211 924 767 490	Dr. Joseph Lasu Emergency Preparedness & Response Director E: josh2013.hsu@gmail.com P: +211 921 395 440	South Sudan PHEOC E: sspheoc@gmail.com P: +211 925 851 662/ +211 917 235 355	Dr Aggrey Bategereza EP&R TL, WHO E: bategerezaa@who.int P: +211 924222030
---	---	--	--

For more information, please contact above persons

This report was prepared with technical support from World Health Organization, Juba.