

Republic of South Sudan

Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update

Issue number: 22
 Issue Date: 11 June 2024
 Epidemiological week: Week 22 (27 May – 02 June, 2024)

Suspected Measles Cases New (2) cases with date of onset in week 22 Cumulative (14,528)	Lab Confirmed New (0) Cumulative (1,178)	Epi-linked Cumulative (5,212)	Deaths New (0) Cumulative (269) CFR (1.85)
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* The above data is cumulative from 2022

Background

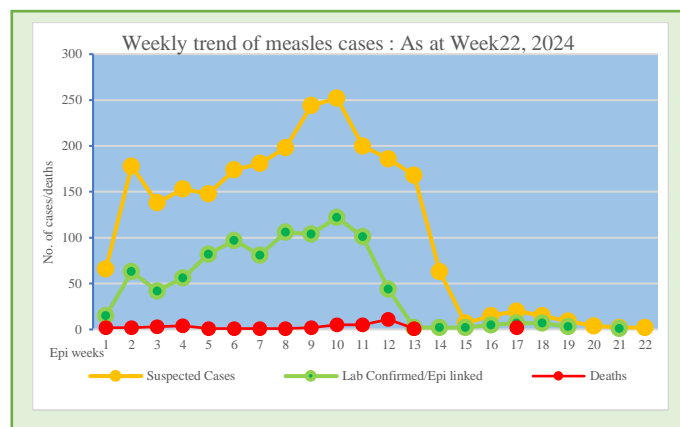
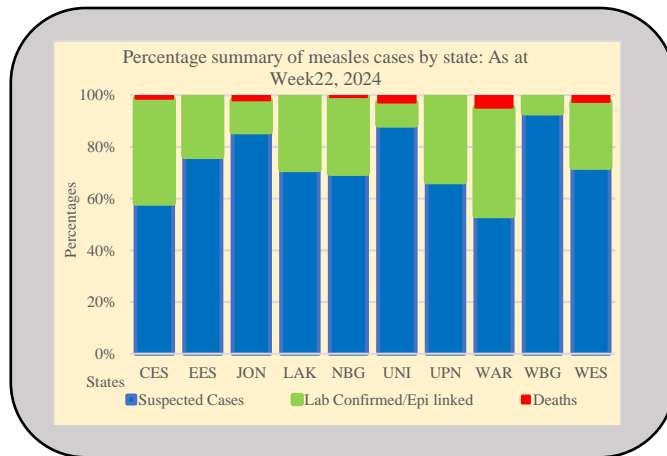
As of Epi week 22, 2024, 2,423 suspected measles cases were reported, 170 (7.0%) lab-confirmed, 41 reported measles deaths, and a case fatality rate of (1.7).

The observed surge in suspected measles cases peaked in week 10 and has had a steady decline since then, indicating an effective increase in interruption efforts.

The high discrepancy between suspected and confirmed cases is a clear indicator of the critical need for enhanced sample collection and robust laboratory testing. This is crucial to ensure accurate diagnosis and effective control of the outbreak highlights a critical need for enhanced sample collection and robust laboratory testing to ensure accurate diagnosis

As of Epi week 22 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) vaccinated 454,188 (91%) children against Measles, of which 2.3% are returnees. The campaign is partially implemented in six IDP camps in Tambura County. Ezo and Host community of Tambura counties scheduled to implement in the 2nd week of June 2024 (Details in Annexes).

Epi week 22 data shows no ongoing outbreaks. However, four (4) counties have reported suspected/confirmed cases yet to reach the outbreak threshold and warranting further investigation and laboratory validation.



Key weekly Situation Update as of 02 June 2024

- A total of 7 additional cases (weeks 20-22) have been reported this week from Raja (3) and Guit (2), Abiemnhom (1) and Morobo (1).
- One (1) measles confirmed case as well as 6 discarded cases from Raja, Guit and Abiemnhom
- Two (2) new cases reported with date of onset in week 22
- No new deaths reported this week
- No ongoing outbreaks (need for outbreak investigation to plan response)
 - Abiemnhom, Guit, Fangak and Rumbek East 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

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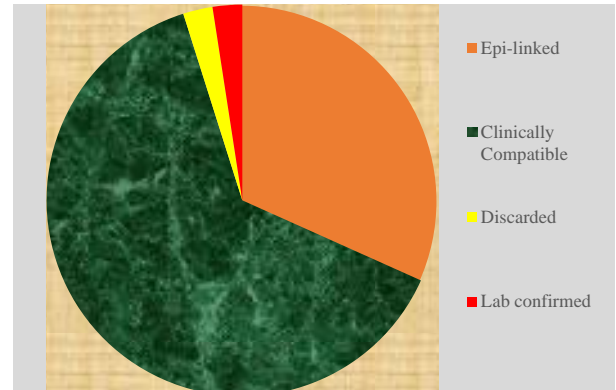
Summary of cases as of 02 June 2024

Table 1: Distribution of cases by final classification 2024

FINAL CLASSIFICATION	2024	
	NO. OF CASES	%
Lab confirmed	170	7.0
Epi-linked	772	31.9
Clinically Compatible	1,345	55.5
Total	2,287	94.4
Discarded (-ve)	136	5.6
Grand Total	2,423	100.0

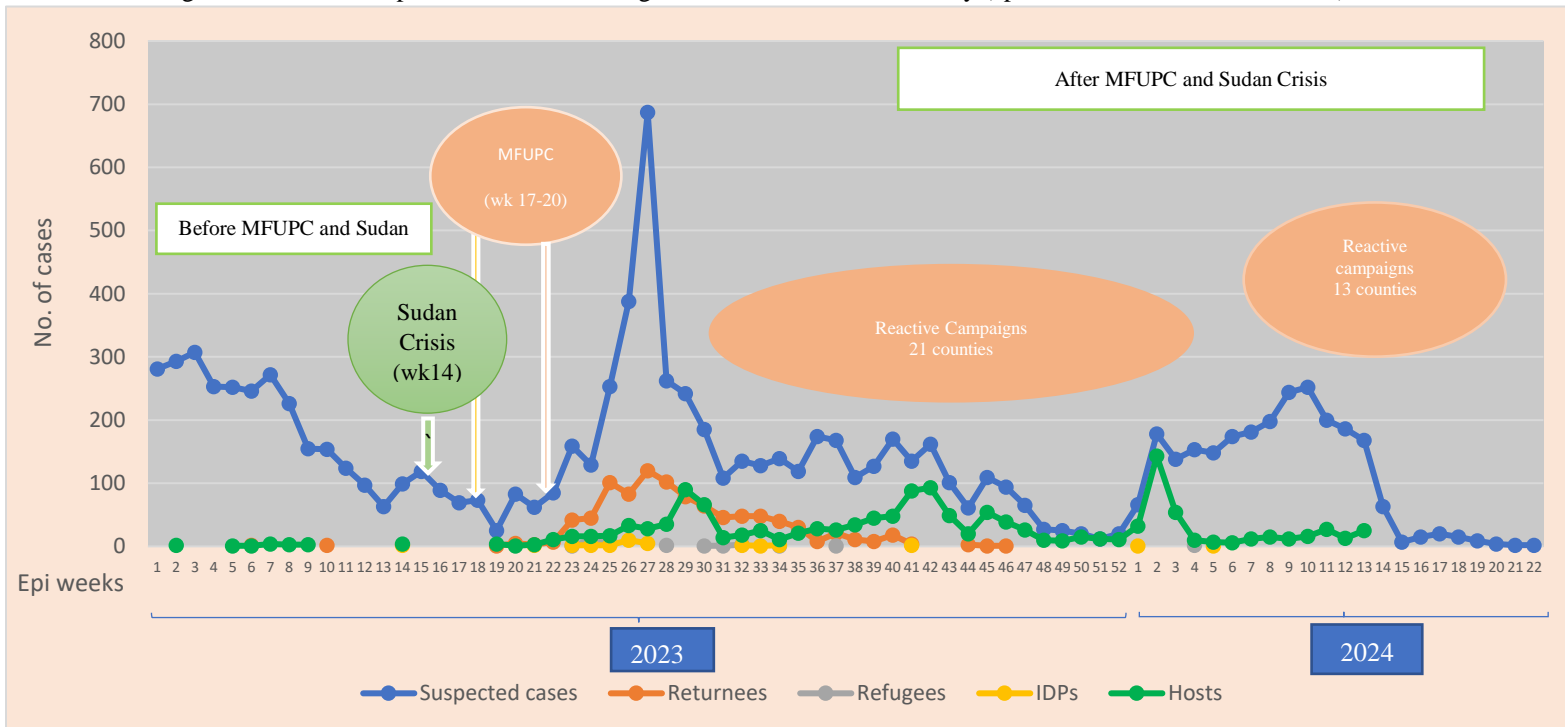
Out of the 2,423 suspected measles cases, 170 (7.0%) were lab-confirmed, 772 (31.9%) epi-linked, 1,345 (55.5%) clinically compatible, and 136 (5.6%) discarded cases have been reported as of epidemiological week 22, 2024. A total of 32 rubella positive cases from the discarded (negative measles cases)

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 – week 22, 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.

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Figure 3: Map showing lab-confirmed outbreak counties in May (week19 to Week22, 2024)

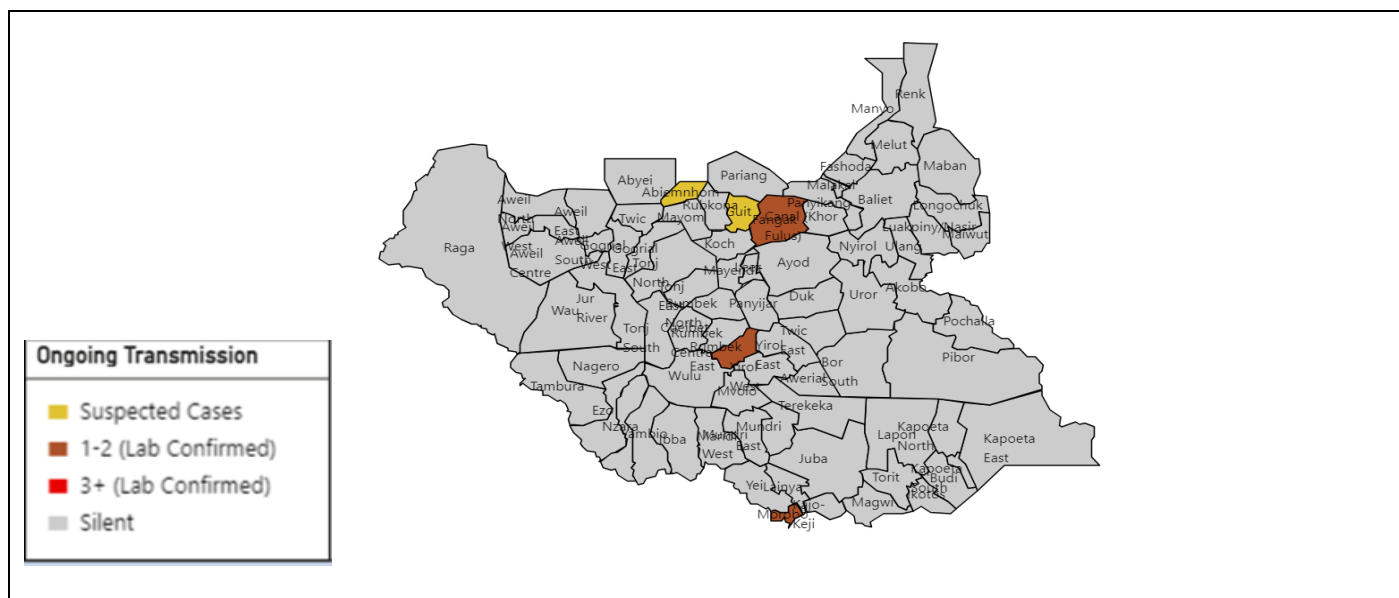
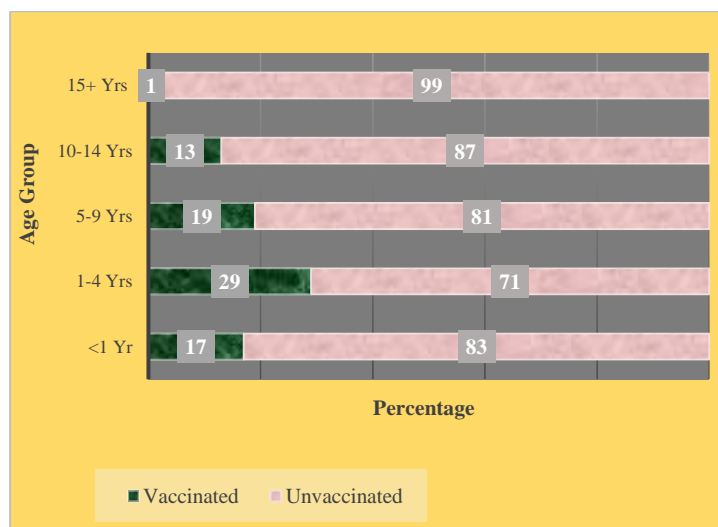


Table 2: Distribution of reported measles cases and deaths by age groups in South Sudan, 2024

Age Groups	2024				
	No. of Suspected Cases	No. of Confirmed Cases	%	Deaths	%
<1 yr	674	26	3.9	21	3.1
1-4 yrs	944	76	8.1	16	1.7
5-9 yrs	333	25	7.5	3	0.9
10-14 yrs	262	15	5.7	0	0.0
15+ yrs	210	28	13.3	1	0.5
Total	2,423	170	7.0	41	1.7

Note: More than half 1,618 (66.8%) of all the suspected measles cases are children below 5 years of age. The case fatality rate is (1.7%) while 805 (33.2%) are among other ages from 5 years and above.

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



Note: 1,939(80.1%) were unvaccinated (zero, unknown) including 1,232(63.6%) children less than 5 years. Among children less than one year old 674 cases, 562(83.4%) have not been vaccinated.

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Surveillance and Laboratory

- Enhanced surveillance ongoing in silent counties
- Sample collection for all counties with 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
- WHO is prepositioning kits to support case management in counties with active outbreaks in collaboration with partners and the MOH.

Vaccinations

- As of Epi week 22, Thirteen counties implemented a Measles reactive campaign to vaccinate **454,188 (91%)** 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 partially implemented in Tambura County only in six IDP camps. Implementation to the host community is scheduled together with Ezo County implementation.
 - Rumbek Center in Lakes State preparation is ongoing to implement the reactive campaign.
 - Vaccine and supply delivered,
 - Training of vaccinators and supervisors is ongoing,
 - Implementation scheduled from 10th to 11th of June 2024.
 - Ezo County also delayed the campaign due to insecurity related to Tambura. The state and County teams scheduled implementation to be in the 2nd week of June 2024.
- MOH has yet to secure additional doses of measles vaccine to cover the remaining outbreak-affected counties. Four counties (Jur River, Juba, Yei, and Morobo) have reported outbreaks with revised MP.
- Targeted vaccination response has also been considered an option using the limited vaccine stock in the country.
- MoH will work with identified partners to ensure quality campaigns
- POE/Temporary transit post-vaccination activities are ongoing in 12 sites of 6 counties in CES, Jonglei, Upper Nile, and NBG 4 states with Measles and OPV vaccines targeting children under fifteen years.
 - Vaccination activity is ongoing at the POE/Temporary transit posts in Akobo, Melut, Malakal, Juba, Aweil East, and Aweil North counties.
 - As of Epi week 22, 24,021 and 23,338 children were vaccinated with Measles and OPV 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



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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 June 2024)

#	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
2	Mundri East	16,577	8,294	7,780	16,074	97%	Completed
3	Tonj North	63,216	36,203	36,511	72,714	115%	Completed
4	Tonj South	25,913	12,131	11,987	24,118	93%	Completed
5	Aweil West	58,672	27,174	27,277	54,451	93%	Completed
6	Aweil North	46,998	21,097	22,857	43,954	94%	Completed
7	Aweil South	29,871	17,336	17,885	35,221	118%	Completed
8	Aweil Center	30,548	15,659	16,532	32,191	105%	Completed
9	Aweil East	108,621	35,193	35,274	70,467	65%	Completed
10	Yambio	45,770	20,751	22,424	43,175	94%	Completed
11	Nzara	19,722	8,851	10,411	19,262	98%	Completed
12	Ibba	12,652	5,567	5,750	11,317	89%	Completed
13	Tambura	16,940	2,580	2,726	5,306	31%	Partial
Total		499,526	223,707	230,481	454,188	91%	



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

State	County	# of POE Sites	Measles			OPV		
			6 to 59 Months	5 to 14 Years	Total Vaccinated	0 – 59 months	5 to 14 Years	Total Vaccinated
Central Equatoria	Juba	3	665	224	1,089	545	321	866
Jonglei	Akobo	2	10,226	6,104	16,330	10,814	5,711	16,525
Upper Nile	Melut	3	3,094	371	3,465	3,118	375	3,493
	Malakal	1	43	66	109	44	66	110
Northern Bahr El Ghazal	Aweil East	1	378	893	1,271	390	902	1,292
	Aweil North	2	1,462	295	1,757	888	164	1,052
Total	6	12	15,868	7,953	24,021	15,799	7,539	23,338

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