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Overview

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Emergency and Rapid Response Teams Missions

With funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Central Response Fund (CERF), MHU continued its Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) preparedness activities in Central Equatoria. In the first quarter of 2019, three new points of entry (PoE) screening sites were established, in Bazi, Salia Musala and Khor Kaya. As of the end of March 2019, IOM has established ten PoEs in South Sudan in support of the country’s efforts to avoid an outbreak of EVD.

As at 31 March 2019, a total of 209,595 individual travelers had been screened since September 2018. Of these, 145,264 individual travelers were screened during the first quarter.
Women for Women – Reproductive Health Education in Malakal PoC

Silviya Ayok* is a 34-year-old married mother of nine from Malakal PoC. She has been a beneficiary of family planning services at the IOM Malakal PoC Clinic since 2015. She says that she has learnt a lot from the IOM midwives on the importance and benefits of child spacing for both the mother’s health and family wellbeing.

Silviya is one of the reproductive health (RH) educators at the IOM clinic, providing group education sessions to women of childbearing age at the RH unit. She speaks to about 25 women daily on family planning, antenatal care, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. “I am living a healthy life as a mother because I practice family planning”, says Silviya.

She believes that women, especially women like her, should hold positions with power to educate others, so that they are able to make informed choices concerning their reproductive health needs. According to her, women attending the clinics feel free to share their experiences and insights, and ask questions as she is a woman herself. In safe spaces, IOM caters for the needs of vulnerable girls and women.

Silviya further shares that there is a fear amongst many of the women to involve men in reproductive health discussions. In her experience, there is little communication between men and women before seeking services at the clinic. For Silviya, men’s involvement is vital in addressing reproductive health needs.

Silviya encourages the youth and women in the community to learn from others, relate well with other people, motivate others and effectively listen to clients, which will support them to become good leaders and experts in various fields.

IOM clinics, through the health and hygiene promoters in the PoC, provide health and hygiene promotion and education messages to improve health-seeking behavior of the population within the PoC.

Providing Primary Health Care Beyond the PoC – Jebel Kheir Clinic

Amal Atibanit* is a 49-year-old resident of Hai Kosti, a village in Wau South, Wau County in Western Bahr el Ghazal State. After more than two years of displacement in the PoC, she has finally returned to her home. One of the main reasons for her return to her village is the newly-constructed IOM primary health care unit (PHCU) in Jebel Kheir. She expresses her gratefulness and explains, “If it had not been for this clinic, I would have needed money to hire a motorbike to Daniel Comboni Hospital in Wau, which is money that I do not have.” The Jebel Kheir PHCU provides primary health care to returnees and communities outside the PoC.

“My body is too weak and in pain, I cannot manage to walk long distances any more. The IOM clinic is near my village and easy to access,” Amal further narrates. She elaborates that improved social services like health care will give internally displaced persons (IDPs) more confidence to return home. She states that many people have already returned to her village because of access to basic services in their vicinity.

MHU, in collaboration with the IOM Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) unit, is actively conducting assessments to identify up to eight additional PoE screening locations in the next quarter.

In March, MHU deployed a Health Rapid Response Team to Mayom County, Unity State and another to Pibor County, Jonglei State. Both missions conducted reactive measles vaccination campaigns in response to confirmed measles outbreaks in the two locations. In Mayom, MHU vaccinated 56,647 children aged between 6 to 59 months. In Pibor, the team vaccinated 13,965 children between the ages of 6 months to 15 years.