

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Weekly Update on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Preparedness Activities in South Sudan

Update # 43

Week 27 (1 – 7 July)

Date: 8 July 2019

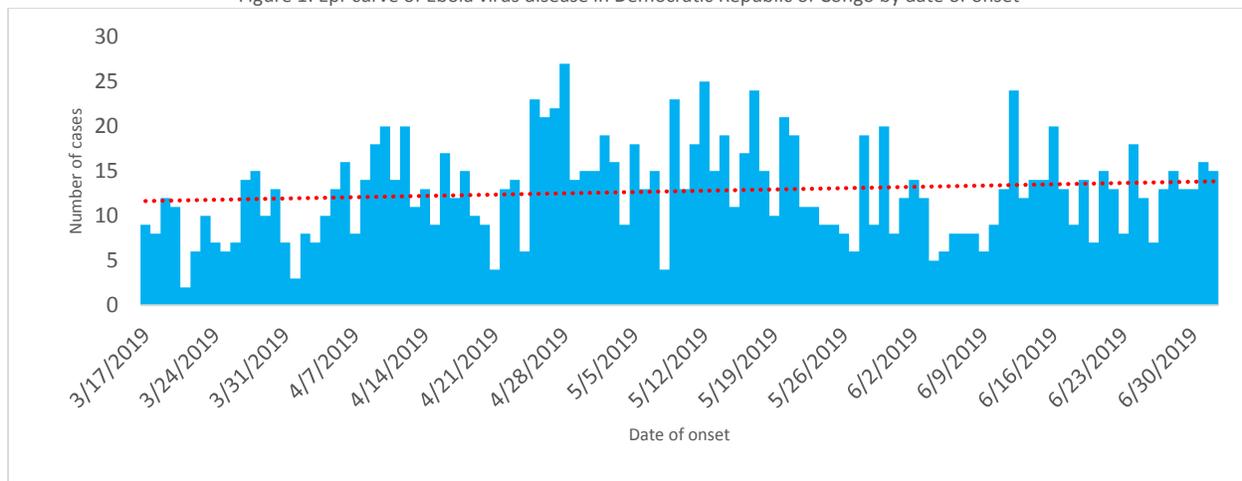
1. Highlights of the week

- Two suspected Ebola virus disease (EVD) alert were reported in Yei on 5 and 6 July 2019. Samples was shipped to juba National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) for preliminary testing and sent for confirmation in Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI). Results are expected between 8 and 10 July respectively.
- On 6 July 2019 the first preliminary test for Ebola conducted at the national Public Health Laboratory in Juba using the recently installed polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machine was invalid. Confirmation is now being pursued from the Uganda Virus Research Institute.
- 84,804 screenings were conducted for EVD at 31 points of entry during week 27. The cumulative number of screenings conducted since August 2018 is 2,494,212.
- EVD Secretariat and WHO convened a meeting with implementing partners to coordinate follow up actions following the confirmed case of EVD in Ariwara in DRC, just 70 km away from South Sudan. Staff from WHO, IOM and WFP deployed to Yei to engage with partners and review and strengthen preparedness measures. The team comprised WHO (Logistician, HF IPC WASH, Risk Communication and Epidemiologist) and humanitarian partners (IOM & WFP). On Friday 5th July the WHO team travelled overland to Kaya border crossing where they provided technical supervision and guidance to the implementing partner to isolate, install IPC measures, collect and pack samples and manage a suspect patient.
- IOM continues to monitor people crossing the DRC border to South Sudan, and strengthen screening.
- The EVD Secretariat and WHO provided a briefing to Heads of Cooperation in South Sudan, with epidemiological updates, a summary of preparedness measures to date, and an overview of the funding situation and additional requirements.
- On July 5 2019, the Undersecretary for Health, Dr. Makur Kariom issued a press release on the situation of Ebola preparedness activities in South Sudan. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards EVD prevention and preparedness, and acknowledged ongoing efforts of donors and operational partners.

2. Situation update - Democratic Republic of Congo

- As of 6 July 2019, 2,408 confirmed cases and 1,625 deaths (case fatality rate 67.5 %) had been reported.
- 90 new cases and 139 deaths were reported over a one week period (25 June to 2 July) indicating that the outbreak is not under control.
- Figure 1 below shows the EPI-Curve of new EVD cases in DRC. Although the recent trend in the number of new cases each week is decreasing this should be interpreted with caution given the high number of unknown contacts within the community.
- Ring vaccinations continue around Ariwara within close proximity of South Sudan border with some 626 frontline health care workers vaccinated as of 1 July.

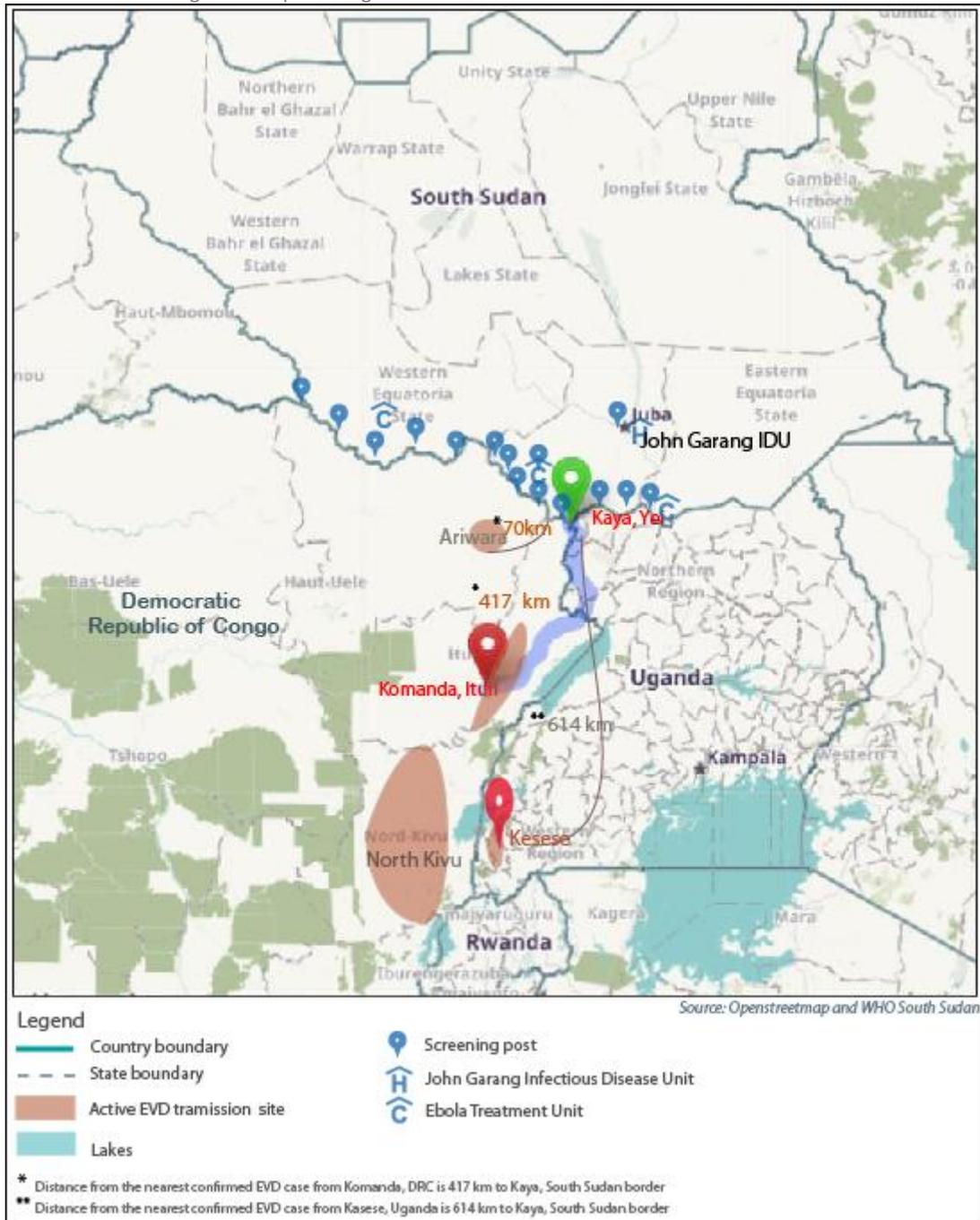
Figure 1: Epi-curve of Ebola virus disease in Democratic Republic of Congo by date of onset



3. Situation update - Uganda

- As of 6 July 2019, a total of 3 cases had been confirmed, all of which resulted in death (case fatality rate 100%).
- 4 July 2019 was day 21 since the death of the last confirmed case. 93 contacts have been under follow up with no one reported with developing signs and symptoms suggestive of EVD since the outbreak was declared on June 12th 2019.
- 1,437 individuals have been vaccinated: 78 contacts, 747 contacts of contacts and 612 frontline health workers.
- Active case search and death surveillance are ongoing in the health facilities and the communities as the district response team continue to investigate all alerts.

Figure 2: map showing Ebola virus disease associated risks to South Sudan



4. Public Health Preparedness and Readiness

4.1. Coordination

- On 2 July 2019 EVD Secretariat and WHO convened a meeting with implementing partners to coordinate follow up actions following the confirmed case of EVD in Ariwara in DRC, just 70 km away from South Sudan. Staff from WHO, UNICEF, IOM and WFP deployed to Yei to engage with partners and review and strengthen preparedness measures.
- On 3 July 2019 EVD Secretariat and WHO provided a briefing to Heads of Cooperation in South Sudan, with epidemiological updates, a summary of preparedness measures to date, and an overview of the funding situation and additional requirements.
- On July 5 2019, the Undersecretary for Health, Dr. Makur Matur Kariom, issued a press release on the situation of Ebola preparedness activities in South Sudan. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards EVD prevention and preparedness, and acknowledged ongoing efforts of donors and operational partners.
- Coordination meetings were conducted by Ebola State Task Forces (STFs) in Jubek, Torit (Nimule), Gbudwe (Yambio), Yei River, Maridi, and Tambura.
- Weekly meetings were conducted by the respective Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to provide technical guidance and support to the respective preparedness pillars.

4.2. Resource mobilization

- The second National EVD Preparedness Plan April – September 2019 with a financial requirement of US\$ 12.2 million is 36% funded (including secured funding and confirmed commitments).

4.3. EPI-Surveillance and Laboratory

- A suspected Ebola virus disease (EVD) alert was reported in Yei on 5 July 2019. Sample was shipped to Juba for testing at the national Public Health Laboratory.
- On 6 July 2019 the first preliminary test for Ebola conducted at the national Public Health Laboratory in Juba using the recently installed polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machine was invalid. Confirmation is now being pursued from the Uganda Virus Research Institute. Although areas for improvements towards establishing full capacity for rapid PCR analysis need to be addressed, this event has marked a giant step forward for South Sudan.
- Planning of simulations, including table-top exercises, drills and a full-scale simulation is ongoing, to be conducted through July and August.

4.4. Border Health and Screening

- For the Epi-week 27 (July 1 – 7, 2019), 84,804 screenings were conducted for EVD at 31 points of entry. The cumulative number of screenings conducted since August 2018 is 2,494,212. See table 1 below for more information.
- IOM deployed a team in Kaya entry point, 70 km from Ariwara where the nearest case of EVD to South Sudan was confirmed. The team is monitoring people crossing from DRC border to South Sudan and strengthening screening procedures for travellers passing through Kaya entry point.

Table 1: Summary of screenings from 31 points of entry

Primary screened		Secondary screened		Alerts	
Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative
84,804	2,494,212	46	1,1465	0	21 generated, 8 met case definition

4.5. Case Management, Infection Prevention, and Control/WASH and Safe and Dignified Burial

- Conducted refresher training for the safe and dignified burial team in Nimule, Yei and Juba.
- Following the confirmed Ebla case in Ariwara, strengthening IPC/WASH supplies especially in health facilities and screening points along the borders of Yei river state.

4.6. Risk communication, community engagement and social mobilization (RCCE&SM).

- Intensified community and radio messaging to enhance vigilance/reporting for suspect case from visitors to South Sudan from DRC and Uganda.
- Coordinated with partners and other TWGs to identify modalities and options for expanding and further strengthening engagement activities in border areas of Morobo, Kajokeji, and Nimule. (UNICEF and SSRC had recently deployed new mobilisers in some of these areas).
- Enhance engagement activities to focus attention on transporters, cross-border traders/travelers, and the uniformed services in the border areas (including cross-border collaboration where feasible).

4.7. Operations & Logistics

- The glove-box for PCR machine has been installed and tested. An expert arrived on 1 July 2019 to certify the PCR machine for Ebola confirmation.
- Isolation unit modifications are under completion in Nimule, Yei and Yambio. A joint technical mission is scheduled for 12 July 2019 to review work per the recommended enhancements.

4.8. Vaccines and Therapeutics

- Nothing significant to report. The EVD vaccination exercise in South Sudan has vaccinated 2,793 frontline health workers with no serious adverse effects reported.

5. Challenges/Gaps

- Lack of cartridges for GeneXpert testing as well as reagent for PCR machine.
- Additional funding is urgently required to fully operationalize the second National EVD Preparedness Plan.
- Limited access to areas within Yei River County due to insecurity.
- Limited joint supportive supervision of health facilities from national to state level. The joint supportive supervision started in Juba last week.

6. Recommendations

- The glove-box provided for PCR in PHL should be replaced with a new version to enable the safety of laboratory workers.
- The coordination between National and Lower level should be enhanced by conducting a regular field supervision.

7. Donors and partners involved in EVD preparedness and readiness

MOH, AAH, ACROSS, AMLIMA, AMREF, ARC, Canada, CDC, CERF, CMMB, CONCERN, COPE, CORDAID, CUAMM, DFCA, ECHO, ECSS, GAVI, Germany, GOAL, HELP, HLSS, HPF, IFRC, IMC-UK, Internews, IOM, IRC, JICA, MEDAIR, MSF, OXFAM, REACH, SAC, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, Solidarity International, SPLA, Ministry of Interior, SSDO, SSHF, SSRC, SSUHA, TRISS, UK/DFID, UMCOR, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMISS, UNOCHA, USAID/OFDA, WFP, WHO, World Bank, WVSS.

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