**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

The COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve in the African region. The disease has spread to over 30 countries in less than a month, now affecting all Member States except for Lesotho.

Currently, the majority of countries in the region are experiencing local transmission of COVID-19 and the number of countries with widespread community transmission is also increasing. The region has also observed increased incidences of importation of cases from affected countries within the region, according to WHO.

Public health systems globally continue to come under severe strain due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic with total numbers of infected individuals reaching 3,917,366 cases, and 274,361 people have died of the infection globally by the end of the week (WHO COVID-19 Situation report 111, 10 May 2020). In Africa, there were 42,626 cases (2,082) and 1,369 deaths, according to WHO.

South Sudan continues to see a rise in the number of confirmed cases, with 156 confirmed cases and two recoveries by 10 May. As reported by Voice of America (VOA), the Government says it has come up with new strategies to fight the pandemic, with more testing and contact tracing to be carried out.

**COVID-19 TIMELINE IN SOUTH SUDAN**

- **01 March**: 38,975 individuals reached through COVID-19 specific hygiene promotion sessions held at water points and households.
- **02 March**: 2,040 travellers screened for COVID-19 at Juba International Airport, Nimule Ground Crossing, and Wau Airport.
- **03 March**: 831 washable and reusable masks produced by MHPSS beneficiaries in Wau and Malakal for frontline humanitarian workers.
- **13 March**: Screening at IOM Managed PoE Sites.
- **14 March**: Screening at IOM managed PoE sites conducting COVID-19 screening.
- **15 April**: South Sudan Records Its First COVID-19 Recovery Cases. Two COVID-19 patients recovered and released from the treatment center in Juba, bringing the total number of active cases to 50.
- **19 March**: South Sudan Closes Borders. Closure of Juba airport and all borders. Curfew across the country from 8.00am - 6.00pm. Public institutions working half-day (7.30am - 1.00pm).
- **21 March**: South Sudan Records First COVID-19 Cases. The MoH confirmed two COVID-19 cases out of the 2,666 tests conducted according to MoH COVID-19 update, bringing the total to 156 confirmed cases.
- **04 May**: Revised Global HRP for COVID-19 Released. Revised COVID-19 Global HRP appeals for USD 6.71 billion launched to fight the virus in the world’s poorest countries, and address the needs of the most vulnerable people.
- **07 May**: COVID-19 Cases Confirmed Outside Juba Capital. South Sudan confirms cases outside of the capital Juba, in Abyei Administrative Area, Yei, and Rubkona.
- **15 April**: South Sudan President Relaxes Lockdown Measures. Curfew across the country reduced to 10.00pm-6.00am. Re-opening of restaurants, bars, and shops with observance of social distancing. Regional flights and public transport to resume.
**PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE**

**INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL**

IOM continued to support IPC/WASH activities at four IOM-operated PoEs (Yei Airstrip, Kaya, Nimule Ground Crossing, and Juba International Airport), and at the community level in Atende, Gimunu, Marakonye, and Yei.

IOM also continued to support IPC/WASH activities at 7 IOM-operated health facilities, namely Yei State Hospital, Kaya PHCC, Rhodoba PHCU, Panyume PHCC, Kerwa PHCC, Khorijho PHCU, and Morobo PHCC.

IOM continued to maintain 473 hand washing stations in total, as follows:

- **Hand washing stations,** Twic County: 2
- **Hand washing stations,** Bentiu PoC: 244
- **Hand washing stations,** Malakal PoC: 168
- **Hand washing stations,** Bentiu Logbase, Warehouse & Humanitarian Hub: 23
- **Hand washing stations,** Wau Town: 6
- **Hand washing stations,** Wau PoC: 25

- In Wau, five permanent handwashing facilities were completed in the Hajar market, Wau main market, Jour market, Wau Teaching Hospital, and Eastern Bank.
- MPHSS beneficiaries produced 831 washable and reusable masks in Wau and Malakal. The facemasks were distributed to IOM frontline humanitarian workers.
- In Wau, the construction of a case management centre in Muktaah PHCC is ongoing. The case management centre will have a case identification room and a staff PPE change room.

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**DISPLACEMENT SITES**

With the first COVID-19 case confirmed in Rubkona, Camp Management (CM) participated in an ad-hoc meeting at the Ministry of Health with WASH and Health partners, as well as Rapid Response Team, to reinforce COVID-19 risk communication and response plans. During the meeting, the participants emphasized the leading role of CM in COVID-19 risk communication and perception tracking to manage rumors that are anticipated to increase in Bentiu PoC.

In Bentiu PoC, CM liaised with the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Working Group and Internets to draft and air context-specific messages on COVID-19. These messages stress the importance of complying with the COVID-19 control and prevention measures.

In Bentiu and Wau PoCs, IOM CM continued to integrate COVID-19 risk communication activities with messaging on prevention and control measures, utilizing the approved IEC materials and reiterating science-backed facts on COVID-19 to counter rumors and misinformation.

In Wau PoCAA, CM facilitated two small and safe distance focus group discussions with Jur River IDPs to ascertain their level of knowledge on COVID-19, address concerns, and correct misinformation.

In Wau PoCAA, CM facilitated a meeting between the Community Leadership Committee (CLC) and OXFAM to agree on a distribution plan for 300 buckets with taps for handwashing to vulnerable households.

In Wau, IOM CM and Shelter/NFI teams are repairing some of the empty shelters that were identified through a mapping exercise to re-allocated to vulnerable households living in congested areas.

In Wau Hai Masna collective centre, as State Focal Point in Western Bahr el Ghazal, IOM CCM is supporting the national non-governmental organization Action for Development (AFOD) with regular service monitoring and scaling up of COVID-19 preparedness and response activities following new influxes to the site from Jur River. The influx is attributed to the eruption of inter-communal fighting between pastoralists and agrarian communities in Akuyo and Kuajiena villages.

In Kolom, Abyei Administrative Area, IOM constructed individual emergency shelters for 112 households displaced by conflict. IOM initially planned to build communal shelters; however, as a precautionary measure, shelters were modified to ensure sufficient space to avoid congestion.

**POINTS OF ENTRY**

**Arrivals and departures screening for COVID-19 conducted, reaching a total of 2,040 travellers, as follows:**

- 185 individuals screened at Juba International Airport
- 1,855 individuals screened at Nimule Border Crossing
- 0 individuals screened at Wau Airport

Screening and triage activities are ongoing in all IOM health facilities. A suspected COVID-19 case that was evaluated at the IOM sector 3 clinic in Bentiu PoC was referred to MSF for testing, and was later confirmed positive. IOM has taken steps to ensure that appropriate preventative measures are taken to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers and POC populations accordingly.
IOM continued to conduct weekly assessments of mobility and COVID-19 preparedness at eight displacement sites and 47 points of entry/transit hubs, including those prioritized by the Points of Entry Technical Working Group, with the latest weekly update available [here](#).

DTM developed a draft concept note for a joint DTM and WHO urban COVID-19 cross-sectional community study, which aims to ascertain the prevalence of COVID-19 within the urban area of Juba and collect household information that may correlate with COVID-19 risk and vulnerability. With support from the DTM HQ GIS specialist, the team in Juba developed a preliminary enumeration area and sampling tool using high-resolution satellite imagery and building footprints.

DTM participated in the COVID-19 Risk Communication Training in Malakal to familiarize field staff with the changes in the standard operating procedures (SoPs) for data collection, respecting COVID-19 prevention measures.

DTM supported the WASH cluster and FSL cluster to distribute handwashing facilities, soap, and cooking oil as part of the COVID-19 response in Wau PoCAA.

IOM gathered weekly multi-sectoral updates on population movements at key transit points, areas and sites, affected population categories, type of measures imposed, ongoing response and needs, to feed into ongoing COVID-19 response. Globally collated data is available [here](#).

**P IP ELINE**

IOM Core Pipeline is scaling up transportation for prepositioning of critical WASH items in the Bentiu and Wau logistics hubs. Eight trucks with 24.8 MT of WASH supplies are en route to the western corridor to support COVID-19 preparedness for vulnerable counties near Bentiu and Wau.

Procurement of COVID-19 WASH pipeline supplies funded by DFID, OFDA, and CERF is currently ongoing.

**C OORDINATION NOTES**

- IOM participates in the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) with OCHA, partners, and other stakeholders.
- IOM is a member of the Needs Analysis Working Group (NAWG), a key platform that provides decision-makers (ICCG) and responders with data and analysis on impact and needs to help prioritize response based on identified needs.
- IOM participated in a coordination meeting with WASH partners on the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy.

**R ISK COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- IOM continued with COVID-19 awareness and hygiene promotion activities to communities at Bentiu and Malakal PoCs, as well as outside the PoCs in Wau, Twic, and Juba.
- Hygiene promotion sessions were held at water points and households, including through the utilization of megaphones, reaching 38,975 individuals (8,057 men, 11,777 women, 8,714 boys, 10,370 girls, and 57 PSNs), with key messages including signs, symptoms and prevention measures, all aligned with the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Technical Working Group guidance.
- IOM displayed awareness messages on COVID-19 at the IOM-installed handwashing stations in order that beneficiaries can read messages every time they wash hands.
- A total of 19 Hygiene Promoters (6 women; 13 men) were trained on COVID-19 in Malakal PoC and Twic.
- In Wau, COVID-19 IPC/WASH training was provided for 20 key informants (13 women; 7 men), including Chiefs, women leaders, youth leaders, teachers, social workers, and social mobilizers in Hai Kosti and Jebel Kheir PHCC.
- 10 individuals (16 women; 4 men) in one Water Management Committee in Nyaing were trained on risk communication, community engagement, and IPC/WASH measures.
- In Malakal, MHPSS teams led 18 awareness raising activities, reaching 424 direct beneficiaries and 3,776 indirect beneficiaries, with key messaging on MHPSS considerations during COVID-19 and its prevention, aimed at behavioral change while tackling misinformation.
- In Wau, 145 psychosocial support team members (63 women; 82 men) conducted risk communication on COVID-19 in Wau POC AA, Hai Masna collective site, Jebel Kheir, and in 17 bomas in Wau, reaching 3,703 beneficiaries.
- In Bentiu, MHPSS teams led 17 awareness raising activities, reaching 1,341 beneficiaries (411 children; 930 adults), with key messaging on COVID-19 and its prevention, aimed at behavioral change while tackling misinformation.

**MOBILITY**

**PIPELINE**

IOM’s COVID-19 response activities are supported by: