

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH *Office of the Minister*

Date: 28/10/2024

PRESS STATEMENT JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

SUBJECT: STATEMENT ON THE DECLARATION OF CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN RENK COUNTY, UPPER NILE STATE

The Ministry of Health received a report of suspected cases of cholera from Wunthou Primary Health Care Center on 8th October 2024.

Since 11th October, 2024 up to date, a total of 33 samples of suspected cholera cases have been reported from Renk County of which a total of six cases have been confirmed positive at National Public Health Laboratory using culture. However, no death has been reported so far. The proportion of males among all suspected and confirmed cases is 47% (n=32), while 53% (n=32) are females. The most affected age group is 15 years and above.

The Ministry of Health, therefore, declares an outbreak of cholera in Renk County, Upper Nile State, South Sudan, based on confirmation of cholera by culture and confirmed evidence of local transmission in Renk. The following measures are put in place to response to the outbreak:

- Activate an Incident Management System to response mode;
- Strengthen response interventions with a focus on Multi-sectoral Coordination, Surveillance, Case Management, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)/ Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Risk Communication and Community Engagement, (RCCE), Safe and Dignified burial, Points of Entry (PoE), and Operations and Logistics;
- Establish and support Cholera Treatment Units (CTUs) and continue to collect additional samples for culture/PCR testing;
- Develop an immediate cholera response plan for the mobilization of resources to support the response interventions and containment of the outbreak;
- Submit a request to the International Coordinating Group (ICG) for oral cholera vaccines to conduct a reactive vaccination campaign;





- With the efforts to establish evidence of local transmission and deployment of rapid support teams, the Ministry of Health with support from WHO has already delivered necessary supplies including rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), cholera kits, and emergency health kits and;
- The Ministry of Health will continue to work with WHO and other partners to ensure response interventions are fully implemented and the people of South Sudan are protected.

The Public is encouraged to observe the following public health measures to prevent the spread of cholera and other diarrheal diseases:

1. Drink and use safe water that has been treated with chlorine or boiled;
2. Always wash your hands with soap and clean water before cooking and handling food, eating and feeding children, and after using the latrine/toilet or cleaning children after they have used the latrine/toilet and after taking care and touching a cholera patient;
3. Use latrines to defecate. Do not defecate in or near a source of drinking water;
4. Cook food well, keep it covered, eat it hot, and peel fruits and vegetables. Always wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly with clean and safe water before eating them and;
5. Keep a clean environment at home and in public places and dispose of liquid and solid waste safely.

The public is urged to remain calm and observe all the above measures to prevent further community transmission.

The Public is further urged to be vigilant and report all suspected cholera cases to the national outbreak hotline 6666 or the nearest health facility, County Health Department, and/or state ministries of Health.



Yolanda Awel Deng Juach
Minister, Ministry of Health,
Republic of South Sudan, Juba