**PRESS STATEMENT Juba, 15 April 2022**

**Ministry of Health statement on declaring a cholera case in South Sudan**

Following the report of two suspected cholera cases from MSF Bentiu PoC Hospital on 21 March 2022, the Ministry of Health investigated the alerts and would like to inform the general public that one sample tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae.*

The confirmed case is a 2-years and 5 months -old male resident of Bentiu. The case tested positive for cholera both on rapid diagnostic testing (RDT) in Bentiu and by microbiologic culture in the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in Juba. These culture results were further confirmed in the National Microbiology Reference Laboratory in Kampala, Uganda.

The initial suspect case presented with watery diarrhea, vomiting, and moderate dehydration on 21 March 2022, one day after their illness started.

The patient were admitted to MSF Bentiu PoC Hospital and has been discharged.

The Ministry of Health is vigilantly monitoring the situation. Active case finding was conducted in the households and their neighborhood and did not identify additional cholera cases.

A steady rise in acute watery diarrhea cases has been reported in both the Bentiu IDP camp and the host community but no additional cases of cholera have tested positive following RDT screening.

The Ministry of Health and partners are conducting further investigations into these cases and additional findings will be shared in due course.

The Ministry of Health would like to reiterate that there is no cholera outbreak in South Sudan and there is no reason to panic. However, vigilance should be maintained to prevent community transmission and spread in populations with inadequate access to safe drinking water, poor personal hygiene, and inadequate access to improved sanitation facilities.

Given the congestion of displaced populations in high ground areas and contamination of the safe water sources in Unity State, two rounds of pre-emptive oral cholera vaccination campaigns were conducted targeting almost 200,000 individuals aged one year and above.

The Ministry of Health will continue to work with partners to ensure preparedness and response efforts are fully implemented and the people of South Sudan are protected from cholera.

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