



**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (PHEOC)**

**COVID-19 WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT**

Issue No: 36

Reporting Period: 2-8 November 2020 (week 45)



**1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- A cumulative total of 2,980 cases have been confirmed and 59 deaths with case fatality rate (CFR) of 2.0 percent have been recorded, including 220 imported cases as of 8 November 2020.
- 1 case is currently isolated in health facilities in the Country; and the National IDU has 99 percent bed occupancy available.
- 2,673 cases (0 new) have been discharged to date.
- 136 Health Care Workers have been infected since the beginning of the outbreak with one death.
- 9,571 cumulative contacts have been registered, of which 8,942 have completed the 14-day quarantine. Currently, 80 contacts are being followed.
- 722 contacts have converted to cases thus far; accounting for 24.2 percent of all confirmed cases.
- Cumulatively, 47,020 laboratory tests have been performed with 6.3 percent positivity rate.
- There was cumulative total of 1,494 alerts of which 93.0 percent (n=1,389) have been verified and sampled; Most alerts have come from Central Equatorial (75.3 percent), Eastern Equatoria (4.2 percent); Upper Nile State (3.3 percent) and the remaining 17.2 Percent from the other States and Administrative Areas.
- As of 8 November, 24 Counties (30.0 percent) out of 80 Counties of ten states of South Sudan are affected (figure 1).

**2. BACKGROUND**

South Sudan confirmed its first COVID-19 case on 5 April 2020. To date 2,980 cases have been confirmed out of 47,020 tests performed by the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) and other decentralized Public Health Laboratories Networks in Nimule, Bor, and Malakal and UN clinics in Juba with 2,673 recoveries and 59 deaths, yielding the case fatality rate (CFR) of 2.0 percent. South Sudan is classified as having clusters of transmission in general and community transmission in Juba, the capital city.

**3. EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE**

**Descriptive epidemiology**

This report includes analysis for 2,980 cases the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC) has line listed as confirmed cumulative cases. There are 2,673 recoveries and 59 deaths with case fatality rate (CFR) of 2.0 percent. Cases detected among South Sudanese nationals accounted for (78.6 percent) of all cases, whereas (12.7 percent) are foreigners and 8.8 percent unknown. There have been 220 imported cases (2 new) have been registered to date coming mostly from Kenya (18), Uganda (35), Eritria (5), DRC (2), Somalia (1), Netherlands(1), South Sudanese returnees (91), and 67 unknowns.

Confirmed cases range from 2 months - 90 years of age with an average of 36.5 years. As for gender, 72.1 percent of confirmed cases were diagnosed in men, 23.6 percent in women, and 4.2 percent unknown. Young men within the 30-39 age groups are the most at risk for COVID-19. Geographical distribution of COVID-19 cases is shown in figure 1, and table 1 respectively.

As of 8 November 2020, the affected Counties are alphabetically: Abyei (52), Aweil Center (8), Aweil East (5), Baliet (1), Ikotos (5), Juba (2,379), Maban (7), Magwi (3), Malakal (84), Nyirol (26), Rubkona (10), Rumbek North (1), Rumbek Center (22), Rumbek East (1), South Bor (33), Tonj North (1), Torit (40), Twic Warrap (3), Twic East (2), Uror (2), Wau (31), Yambio (7), Yei (23), Yirol West (1), Unknown (11).



Figure 1: Distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases according to Counties

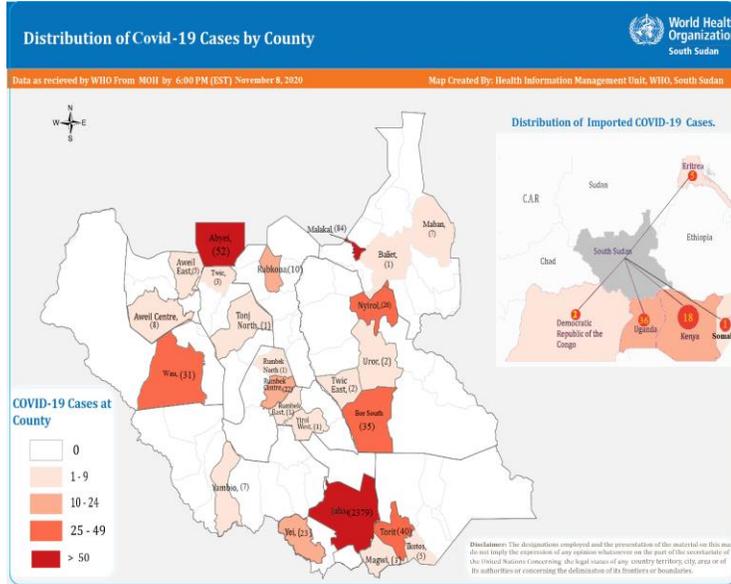


Table 1: Summary of COVID-19 Cases by State including imported as of 8 Nov 2020

State	Cases		Deaths	
	New	Cumulative	New	Cumulative
CES	10	2402	0	44
EEC	0	48	0	2
Jonglei	0	65	0	1
Lakes	0	25	0	6
NBG	0	13	0	0
Unity	0	10	0	1
Upper Nile	0	92	0	4
Warrap (including Abyei)	0	56	0	0
WBG	0	31	0	0
WES	0	7	0	0
Imported	0	220	0	1
Unknown	0	11	0	0
Pending classification	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2980</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>

**Contact tracing summary**

- 9,571 cumulative contacts have been registered of which 8,942 have completed the 14-day quarantine. Currently, 80 contacts are being followed;
- As of 8 November 2020, the total number of contacts (old and new) that have been monitored has reached 9,571. Out of these 93.4 percent (n=8,942) contacts have completed 14-day quarantine period.
- Currently, 80 contacts are being followed; of these 95 percent (n=76) contacts were reached.
- 722 contacts have converted to cases thus far; accounting for 24.2 percent of all confirmed cases.

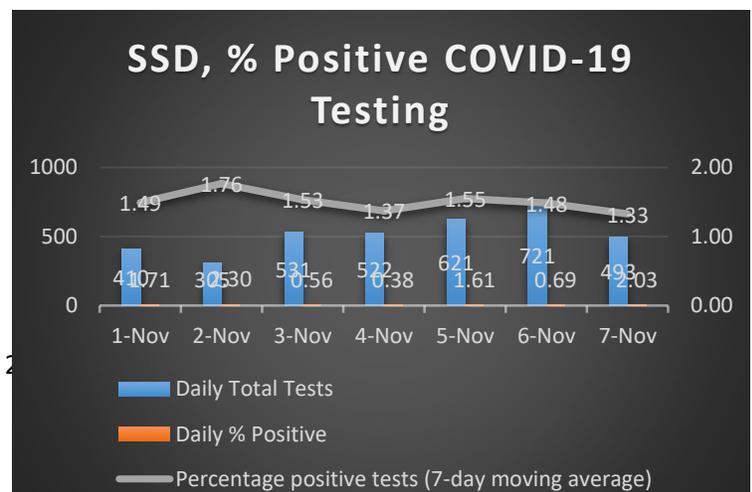
**4. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION / RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS**

**4.1 COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP**

- Ongoing discussions with the Medical Advisory Panel (MAP) of the NTF, the NSC and TWGs to update the South Sudan COVID-19 guidelines to clarify on outstanding issues such as the COVID-19 negative certificate validity period, issues around quarantine (Q14), exemption for category of people including humanitarian actors from Q14, and guidance on use of Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT), amongst others. A meeting is scheduled for 9 November to engage with MAP.
- COVID-19 Transitional Roadmap discussions amongst stakeholders are ongoing including with the NSC and the Inter-Agency Leadership Team for mainstreaming COVID-19 into other response and coordination structures aimed at strengthening incident management system in both the short and long terms for humanitarian and development activities.

**4.2 LABORATORY**

- Cumulative 47,020 samples tested as of 8 November 2020. Figure 5: Laboratory testing positivity data: 7-day count and moving average, 2-8 Nov
- Cumulative 2,980 positive cases confirmed across the country with 6.3 percent positivity rate.
- South Sudan’s daily testing average positivity proportions this reporting week is shown in figure 5. The trend line in





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gray shows the average percentage of tests that were positive over the last 7 days. The orange bars show the percentage of tests conducted each day that were positive.

- The second phase of GeneXpert decentralization for COVID-19 testing has been complete and functional in seven sites: Maban, Tonj, Kapoeta, Awiel, Yirrol, Makpondu, and Nzara, with training provided to Lab Technicians. WFP/UNHAS coordinated and facilitated GeneXpert transportation to all the sites. The third phase is planned to cover mostly sites bordering Sudan that are to be upgraded by WHO and the UNDP/Global Fund. The sites include amongst others Renk, Agok in Abyei, and Kuajok. A team visited Agok (Abyei) during the week to support installation of GeneXpert and provide necessary training. The site will be managed by MSF Swiss.
- The Lab TWG has discussed the Ag-RDT protocol with a timeframe of 30 November 2020 to complete and put on testing in the Country. All the recommendations for the performance base lab verifications are to await the WHO consultations on the WHO pre-qualified Covid-19 Ag-RDT kit, and the costs, procurement arrangements, to meet the timeframe.
- The TWG has held discussion with the Chinese Embassy in Juba to discuss on the use of the IgM RDT antibody to be used strictly by people travelling to China, who have to be tested using both the RT-PCR and the IgM Antibody certificates. Recommendations given for the team, is to go and get the validation and the paperwork from the Chinese government and the China CDC.

**4.3 SURVEILLANCE**

Below are activities accomplished:

- TWG collaborated with Lab and Case Management TWGs to edit the RDT protocol as a field verification investigation vs a verification-only exercise.
- TWG is following up with IDSR and EP&R to get the final ARI and COVID-19 alerts reported data for the month of September.
- Plans to integrate the epidemiology and surveillance response capacities into IDSR continue. TWG participated in a meeting with BH/POE, Case Management, and IPC to discuss the transition planning template to submit to the PHEOC and the OCHA COVID-19 Secretariat to standardize the information capture processes and required data on human resource, funding, and gradual transfer of functions to the governmental public health and/or local implementing partners.

**4.4 CASE MANAGEMENT**

Below are key highlights of achievements for the week:

- EVD Isolation facilities in Ezo and Yei have been repurposed to COVID-19 facility and handed over to CMMB for operationalization. No case admitted so far in Ezo, while in Yei, a suspected case was admitted but later discharged after negative test result. In Nzara County, the Authority has availed a site for establishment of COVID-19 facility however, the structure requires some renovation.
- Ongoing engagement with RCCE TWG on mitigation of Stigma affecting patients with COVID-19 under home-based care.
- MHPSS hotline is currently functional in Wau, Bor, Malakal, Bentiu, Torit, Yambio and Yei. In the past 3 weeks, 145 people access the hotline for COVID-19, MHPSS and GBV related matters.
- TWG is updating data reporting tools for facility based and home-based case management to DHIS 2.

**Medair Home Care Support System  
27<sup>th</sup> Oct-2 Nov, 2020**

- Active patients by COB 05/11: 10
- Discharged: 28

Total Reached (Alerts + confirmed cases)	Enrolled	Declined	Admitted to IDU at time of first call	Deceased at time of first call	Not qualified
49	67.4% (33)	10.2% (5)	0% (0)	2.0% (1)	20.41% (10)

Total Enrolled	Male	Female	Asymptomatic	Mild	Moderate	Severe
33	72.7% (24)	27.3% (9)	51.5% (17)	45.5% (15)	3.0% (1)	0% (0)

**4.5 INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC):**

IPC TWG leadership continues to support National and State level coordination. Partners continues to implement and monitor activities with improved collaboration of an integration of WASH services with RCCE, Health and Nutrition actors in health facilities,



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POCs, and communities at risk. Based on progress reports received from 11 implementing partners: UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, ACTED, AHA, CEDS, IAS, NSDO, OXFAM, SP, and WVI. Find below achievements collectively implemented across the Country.

- 278 out of 780 people observed to use handwashing stations on entering churches, health facilities and schools, markets, and other public places in Torit, Rajaf POCs, Aweil and Maban.
- 93 out of 400 people who received a face mask and actually wear it during sensitization activities organized in Torit, Juba, Aweil and Maban.
- 450,890 people were engaged and reached with integrated COVID-19 and hygiene promotion services across the country.
- 6,345 people reached with WASH facility upgrades through repairs, rehabilitation, and new construction in Aweil, Torit, Yambio, Malakal and Anackdiar, Abyei, Nimule, Maban, Rumbek, Riyol, Awrial, Cueibet, Rubkhona and Wau Counties.
- 780 face masks distributed in communities in Juba, Rajaf, kator and Malakal, Torit and Aweil.
- 450 Health care workers and community WASH workers trained (including refresher) in IPC measures in Juba, Malakal, Magwi and Wau and Aweil, Magwi, Nimule, Abyei, and Maban, Cueibet, Awerial, Melut and Kapoeta Counties.
- 25 health facilities including COVID-19 treatment facilities supported with PPE and IPC supplies in Juba, Rajaf and Kator, Aweil and Maban, Torit and Nimule, Cueibet, Awerial, Melut, and Kapoeta Counties.
- 178 hand washing stations installed in health facilities and communities and provided with soap or 0.05% chlorine solution across the Country.

**4.6 RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE):**

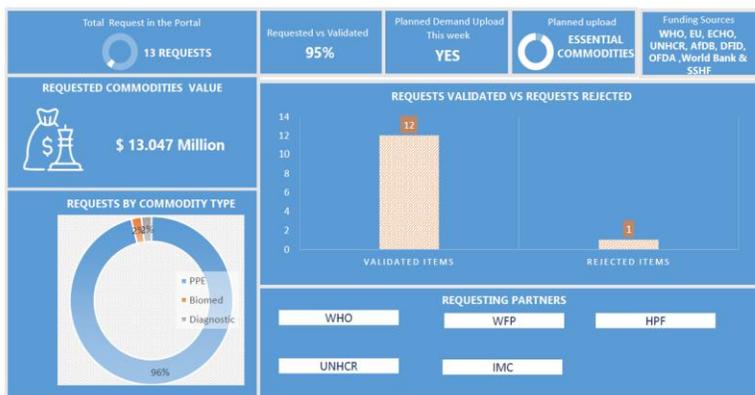
The following key achievements were registered during the reporting week:

- A total of 101,255 individuals (58,021 females and 43,234 males) were reached with key COVID-19 messages by community mobilisers through interpersonal awareness sessions at the household visits and another 67,536 persons received key COVID-19 messages through megaphone-walks.
- 33 community influencers received training / orientation on Risk Communication and Community Mobilization issues on COVID-19. These include religious leaders, teachers, women and youth leaders were oriented on COVID-19; as well as mental health and psychosocial support.
- 1,043 radio jingles were aired in 10 local languages through 40 radio stations across all 10 states in the country. 33 weekly talk shows on COVID-19 have been hosted, in which different content experts and influencers participated.
- COVID-19 related rumors were tracked and responded during this week.
- A total 28 Community mobilizers have been trained on COVID-19

**4.7 OPERATION SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS (OSL)**

- Following the arrival of South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) funded COVID-19 PPE commodities in South Sudan, WFP through the Logistics Cluster, and WHO, as co-leads of the Operational Support and Logistics Pillar, re-launched the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Common Request System, aimed at consolidating requests of in-country COVID-19 PPE commodities.
- During the reporting week, seven requests from two organisations (UN Youth and Tear fund) were received and approved by the Inter-Agency technical team on 4 November totaling 16,907 PPE items allocated from the common pool for six locations across South Sudan (East Pochalla, Kajo-Keji, Magwi, Morobo, Twic and Urur).
- Between 2 and 6 November, 5 COVID-19 samples have been transported from Agok (3), Akobo (1) and Bentiu (1) to Juba for testing.
- The movement of Rapid Response Team for COVID-19 related activities continues to be supported by the provision of nine vehicles in four locations: Bentiu (1), Juba (5), Nimule (2), and Tambura (1).

**SUPPLY PORTAL ACTIVITIES DASHBOARD**





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### 4.8 POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

- 11,597 travelers underwent primary screening at various screening points: Juba/JIA- 5,001, Wau-1,158, Nimule-3,431, and Amiet/Abyei - 2,007 conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). There was no traveler who underwent secondary screening.
- In Renk border – Wunthou land crossing, no passengers arrived or screening activities took place as Sudanese communities residing in Joda bordering South Sudan blocked trucks from crossing the border.
- There is on-going Hygiene promotion and COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement activities by various points of entry partners at the respective PoE locations.



PoE in Abyei during the Joint supervision mission. (Photo credit/Alai/IOM)

- NGO Comitato Collaborazione Medico (CCM) has stopped activities at the Nadapal border as at 31 October 2020 due to funding shortfall. However, CORE Group has indicated willingness and resource capacity to cover existing gap.
- The PoE TWG conducted a joint monitoring and supportive supervision mission in Abyei from 2-5 November to conduct. The team held meetings with the local authorities including the Minister of Health, the MoH Director General, attended the COVID-19 Health Cluster which doubles as State Task Force (STF), visited the PoE in Amiet market that borders Sudan, held discussions with community leaders, and the PoE screeners, and visited COVID-19 facility in Abyei under construction supported by IOM.
- MoH with support of IOM conducted a sensitization workshop in Renk for the Border Officials including Immigration Officials. The team also held a meeting with the government's inter-agency stakeholders and discussed Integrated Border Management Committee-a government response to address border challenges.

## 5. MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Funding challenges across pillars. As a result, the IPC TWG reported reduced number of active partners and operational coverage.
- Limited adherence of IPC measures such as wearing of mask, hand washing and physical distance observed in public places and correct use of PPEs among health care workers.
- Poor reporting by partners on case management impacting over all response reporting/ support, and data management.
- Testing from the states where no testing facility is available, still problematic, (sample collection not done in a timely manner as well as transportation to Juba, compounded by poor motivation due to unpaid incentives for RRT.
- Stigma reported against COVID-19 patients discouraging new cases to seek for medical care. The TWG is working on addressing this issue together with all Home based care partner and RCCE TWG.
- Limited PPE availability for COVID-19 facilities and Triage points highlighted across all States. Despite the high level of knowledge registered, there still persistent low perception of risk among the population requiring regular advocacy by all stakeholders including NSC. Stigma reported against COVID-19 patients also discouraging new cases to seek for medical care.
- Limited access and mobility to communities and health facilities due to heaving rains/ flooding, poor logistics, and insecurity. Also Protest by Youths in Upper Nile (Renk and Melut) interrupted some COVID-19 intervention including case management. Also, IPC TWG reported low monitoring and supportive field supervision -due to travel restrictions and low funding.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITY FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

- Review and update of South Sudan COVID-19 Guidelines on COVID-19, and dissemination to wider audience.
- Revise and update the strategies for surveillance, testing, case management and contact tracing as the outbreak evolves.
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- Continue engagement with the National and State authorities for mitigation campaign aimed at reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission during community events including funerals and wedding.



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- Scale up risk communication and community engagement to address the stigma associated with COVID-19 in South Sudan especially with target groups of IDPs living in PoC camps and with community contacts observing quarantine in large households.

**7. CONCLUSIONS**

Ongoing stakeholders’ discussions including amongst TWGs on the COVID-19 transitioning roadmap into other response and coordination structures aimed at strengthening incident management system in both the short and long terms for humanitarian and development activities.

For any clarifications, please contact

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