

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



MINISTRY OF HEALTH *Office of the Minister*

24th December 2023

PRESS STATEMENT JUBA SOUTH SUDAN

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF HEALTH STATEMENT ON YELLOW FEVER OUTBREAK IN YAMBIO COUNTY, WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

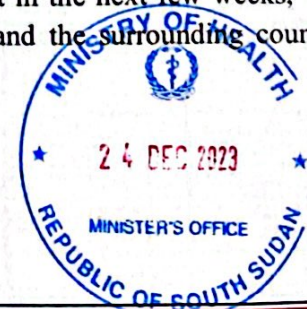
The Ministry of Health in South Sudan would like to inform the general public of the confirmation of an outbreak of Yellow Fever in Yambio County, Western Equatoria State.

On the 21st December 2023, an 18-year-old male case patient from Kangura village in Gangurapayam, Yambio County, Western Equatoria State (WES) developed symptoms of generalized body weakness, headache, epigastric discomfort, fever, vomiting of blood, and jaundice. The patient had previously received antibiotic treatment elsewhere without improvement before presenting to Gangura Primary Health Care Center. Given the alignment of symptoms with the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) case definition for Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF), the case was isolated, and a sample was collected and sent to the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) on 22nd December 2023.

The results of the sample collected from the case patient and tested at the NPHL on 24th December 2023 and later at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) confirmed Yellow Fever infection. Differential testing using Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) for Ebola and Marburg viruses was negative. Further differential testing for other diseases is currently ongoing.

The Ministry of Health has activated the Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC) to response mode to facilitate a coordinated response. A team of experts from national, subnational, WHO and partners were mobilized to conduct a detailed field investigation, active case search, community mobilization and sensitization in Gangura and its surrounding areas.

The Ministry of Health with support from WHO has applied to the International Coordination Group (ICG) that manages the Global Stockpiles of the Yellow Fever vaccines. We anticipate that in the next few weeks, Yellow Fever vaccines will be available and vaccination will commence in Yambio and the surrounding counties to contain spread of the virus.



Yellow fever is an infectious viral disease transmitted to humans through bite of mosquitoes infected by the Yellow Fever Virus. Symptoms include high grade fever, headache, general body aches, vomiting, blood in urine or stool and or yellow discoloration of skin and or eyes.

The Ministry of Health encourages the general public to observe the following:

1. All travelers in and out of the South Sudan MUST be vaccinated against Yellow fever.
2. Travelers are urged to comply with this travel requirement to ensure that the risk of spread of Yellow Fever through international travel is minimized.
3. The populations are advised to always sleep under a mosquito net.
4. Report any suspected cases to the nearest health facility or using the call center hotline number (6666)

In conclusion, the Ministry of Health re-emphasizes its call to the public to cooperate with officials during the investigation and response to the outbreak. The Ministry would also like to re-assure the South Sudanese and all other residents that with the experience and available expertise in the Country, this Yellow Fever outbreak will be contained.

Yours Sincerely,



Yolanda Awel Deng Juach

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