

EBOLA PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN SOUTH SUDAN

#1 / Project Report

Overview of Disaster Risk

On 1 August 2018, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) declared a new outbreak of Ebola virus disease in North Kivu Province. As of 20 June 2019, 2,181 cases had been reported and confirmed in DRC, resulting in 1,459 deaths and 722 survivors. 3 cases of Ebola were also diagnosed in Uganda. This outbreak the second-worst Ebola outbreak in history, behind the 2014 to 2016 West Africa epidemic which killed more than 11,300 people. In its most extreme form, the viral hemorrhagic fever leads to uncontrollable bleeding and death.

With the deadly Ebola outbreak in Congo now an international emergency, neighboring South Sudan and its war-weakened health system is a major concern, especially after one case was confirmed near its border. There are two likely routes of Ebola importation to South Sudan, directly from DRC or via Uganda. Based on geographic proximity to the provinces in DRC experiencing the current outbreak, the volume of travel and trade, and the previous history of Ebola in the country, seven states have been assessed to be at highest risk of transmission, namely Gbudwe, Jubek, Maridi, Tambura, Torit, Wau, and Yei River. In addition, the possibility of an indigenous outbreak of Ebola in South Sudan cannot be discounted.



Screening for Ebola where travellers are tested for fever as well as questioned about recent travel from high-risk Ebola areas, or exposure to the victims of Ebola, for example, attendance at a funeral.

Current Situation

- South Sudan's Ministry of Health has launched the Ebola preparedness and response which focuses on coordination, case management, capacity building, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Isolation facilities and holding units have been established along the border in Western Equatoria. These facilities will be used to hold suspect cases when blood test is being carried out and once the blood test is positive for Ebola, the suspect case will be referred to Ebola Treatment Unity.

World Vision Resilience Response

This project seeks to reduce and mitigate the risk of cross-border spread the diseases, particularly the Ebola Virus Disease. Specifically, the project aims to strengthen South Sudan's Ebola readiness by conducting effective screening and creating awareness among communities in Western Equatoria that are at high risk of Ebola. This includes:

- I. Training faith and community leaders in Ebola preparedness and response, especially risk communication



Faith leaders (Muslim and Christian) talk on the radio for an hour a couple of times a week to sensitize population on Ebola, raising awareness and clarifying questions and doubts listeners might have.



2. Providing solar lighting to health facilities and isolation units to allow uninterrupted provision of healthcare services, including screening and management of Ebola suspect cases.
3. Constructing latrines and improving medical waste management in health facilities and isolation units to minimize the spread of Ebola
4. Improving water supply in isolation units and health facilities to prevent disease outbreak

Moving forward

The Survival Fund by World Vision Singapore allows us to reach out to disaster-stricken victims and is a way to allow us to stand in the gap while both bracing at-risk communities and providing relief to those recovering from disasters. To learn more, visit www.worldvision.org.sg/disaster.