

A laboratory-confirmed case of Ebola haemorrhagic fever (EHF) reported from neighbouring Uganda raised a “high alert” for an epidemic threat in South Sudan. At all border crossings, as well as in the neighbouring districts, the Ministry of Health of South Sudan has enhanced active surveillance for detecting any suspected case of febrile illness with haemorrhagic manifestations.

Ebola haemorrhagic fever, caused by Ebola virus, is a severe form of viral haemorrhagic fever which is endemic in regions of central Africa.

About 1850 cases with over 1200 deaths have been documented since the Ebola virus was first identified in 1976 in the Western Equatoria state of (then) southern Sudan.

The health systems and the public health infrastructure in South Sudan remains fragile owing to protracted conflict. Many parts of South Sudan, including those bordering with Uganda, are heavily security compromised. The area has suffered from three outbreaks of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in the past.

In addition, there is heavy movement of population between Uganda and South Sudan through both official and non-official border crossings. Another outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever could be very deadly and devastating. It is therefore important to remain vigilant and enhance active surveillance for viral haemorrhagic fever, especially in bordering districts.

### **Related publications**

[Weekly&nbsp;epidemiological monitor;&nbsp;volume 4 Issue 20&nbsp;and 21 Sunday 22 May 2011&nbsp;\[pdf 274Kb\]](#)

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