

UPDATE ON YELLOW FEVER OUTBREAK IN UGANDA

Background:

Yellow fever is a viral hemorrhagic fever which strikes an estimated 200 000 persons world-wide each year and causes an estimated 30 000 deaths. Yellow fever virus is the prototype of the family *Flaviviridae*, which currently contains over 70 viruses, of which most are arthropod-borne, including the dengue viruses. There are three different epidemiological patterns of yellow fever virus transmission: the **sylvatic or forest pattern**; the ***Aedes aegypti*-borne urban cycle**; and an intermediate cycle that bridges these two patterns. The different epidemiological patterns of transmission lead to the same clinical disease

- Incubation period of 2-6 days
- Human become viremic; capable of infecting mosquitoes
 - Shortly before onset of fever and for the first 3–5 days of illness
 - Virus has been found in the blood up to 17 days after illness onset
- The extrinsic incubation period in *Ae. aegypti* is 9–12 days
 - Once infected, mosquitoes remain so for life

Yellow fever is endemic in 34 countries of Africa with a combined population of 468 million. Yellow fever vaccine, one of the earliest viral vaccines to be developed, has proved safe and efficacious.

1. Uganda outbreak

As of January 31, 2011 a total of 244 cases including 55 deaths have been reported from 14 districts in Northern Uganda. Vaccination for Yellow Fever was concluded in the five districts of Abim, Agago, Kitgum, Lamwo, and Pader. The campaigns started Jan 22, 2011 and ended Jan 26, 2011. There were extensions however in selected sub-counties that failed to attain the desired coverage. Other activities including social mobilization, surveillance, and case management are concurrently ongoing. Travel Advisory: Travelers to and from Uganda should be protected against Yellow Fever by vaccination.

2. MOHSW Action taken following the outbreak in Uganda:

- National task force under the chairmanship of DPS was formed to oversee emergency preparedness and response to Yellow fever in the country. The task force meets every Wednesday for updates.
- PS has issued a press release regarding yellow fever to the public
- RAS and RMO's have been issued with alert on Yellow fever outbreak and they were instructed to take measures in event of any outbreak
- Strengthen disease surveillance to all border crossings, airports, sea ports and at Regions and district levels.
- Team of experts from national level will train RHMT and CHMT Kagera region neighboring Uganda.
- 2000 vials of Yellow fever vaccines have been ordered through MSD
- Training of laboratory capacity conducted by CDC Kenya to participants from KCMC, Bugando, MNH, Mbeya Referral and NIMR

3. WHO

Will conduct assess of yellow fever (YF) risk based on change of the disease epidemiology in recent years in the region and the need to assess how vulnerable and resilient is Tanzania currently to cope with an event of YF outbreak.