



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

## **Press Statement on the update on Malaria Upsurge and the Blood Donation**

**27<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
P. O. BOX 7272,  
KAMPALA - UGANDA**

**Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu  
Minister of State for Health in charge of Primary Health Care**

The Ministry of Health wishes to inform the public that the country has to date undertaken a number of measures to curb the ongoing Malaria upsurge being experienced in selected districts. The upsurge was detected earlier on in a few districts in northern Uganda but spilled over to other districts.

The increase in cases has been reported majorly at the Health facility level and at the community level in the affected districts. However, the increase in cases at health facility level are not the same as parasite in the general population.

The Ministry of Health attributes these increased cases to a number of factors among which are; Aging of nets; Seasonality & climate change; Heavy and intermittent rains creating breeding sites; Behaviour of people staying out late; Travels/ Movement from low to high transmission areas and vice versa; and Increase in refugees for some districts.

In addition, Uganda is currently in the Pre-elimination phase (meaning extremely very low parastemia in the population), a situation that is very prone to epidemics. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), any country that is in the pre-elimination phase has more chances of Malaria disease outbreaks.

The current Malaria upsurge has affected half the country with approximately 65 districts involved. The affected areas include;

**Buganda region:** Butambala, Kalangala, Kampala, Kassanda, Kayunga, Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Kyotera, Luwero, Mityana, Nakasongola, Rakai

**Busoga sub-region:** Bugweri, Buyende, Kaliro, Kamuli, Luuka, Mayuge, Namayingo

**Bunyoro sub-region:** Kagadi, Kakumiro, Kibaale, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Masindi

**Acholi Sub-region:** Amuru, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nwoya, Pader, Agago

**West Nile sub-region:** Adjumani, Arua, Koboko, Maracha, Moyo, Nebbi, Pakwach, Yumbe, Zombo

**Lango sub-region:** Apac, Kole, Kwanja, Omoro, Oyam

**Karamoja sub-region:** Amudat, Kaabong, Kapelebyong, Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit

**Teso sub-region:** Amuria, Kumi, Soroti

**Eastern region:** Bulambuli, Busia, Manafwa, Mbale, Namisindwa, Sironko

**Western region:** Bundibugyo, Kamwenge, Kanungu, Kisoro

Due to the magnitude of the upsurge, the Ministry of Health has now partnered with Rotary Malaria Partners and Uganda Blood Transfusion Society (UBTS) to carry out a

blood donation campaign for three months to increase the availability of blood throughout the country.

The blood donation campaign is against the background that Anaemia is one of the serious complications associated with severe malaria. Following the recent malaria upsurge and epidemic, the number of uncomplicated cases progressing to severe malaria has increased based on routine DHIS2.

Routine DHIS2 continues to report an increase in severe malaria and anaemia that has increased blood transfusion needs in districts where upsurge has been reported. This blood donation drive aims to avail blood stocks in areas where it is severely lacking.

The Rotary Malaria blood donation campaign seeks to boost blood collection by at least 15% and will target secondary school children, corporate organisations, government Ministries, Agencies and Departments, key club members and the private sector.

The campaign, expected to last three months (August, September and October), will begin today at the Ministry of Health headquarters where key ministry officials are expected to donate blood.

The Rotary malaria Partners and the Uganda Blood Transfusion Services will further conduct blood donation drives at the City Square, Nakasero (UBTS) offices, Shell Ben Kiwanuka and then move further to upcountry sites in selected districts. The Regional Blood banks of Kitovu, Mbale, Mbarara, Nakasero, Gulu and Gulu will act as the main campaign centres.

The nine collection centres of Hoima, Masaka, Kabale, Rukungiri, Jinja, Lira, Angal and Soroti and Mengo Rotary Blood Bank will act as designated places for the blood storage and clearing.

Currently, there are 25,000 units of blood in the country. This campaign intends to increase the units of blood to 50,000 by November 2019.

The Ministry of Health would like to encourage the public to donate at least one pint of blood to save three lives. We also appeal to the general public to;

1. Sleep under a mosquito net every night to avoid Malaria
2. Always seek early treatment from the nearest Health Facility within 24 hours of onset of symptoms
3. Take and complete your dosage of Malaria medicine as advised by the health worker
4. Use of mosquito repellents are encouraged for those who can afford.

5. Clear all mosquito breeding sites (stagnant water, bushes and broken containers) around your homestead
6. All pregnant women must attend all antenatal care visits and take the intermittent preventive therapy.
7. Avoid self-medication and sharing of medicine.

The public is further urged to be vigilant and report any suspected Malaria cases to the nearest health facility, or call our toll-free line on **0800-100-066**.

I wish to thank the Rotary Malaria Partners for their tireless efforts in ensuring that the Malaria upsurge is brought to an end.

I thank you,

**For God and My Country**

**Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu**  
**Minister of State for Health in charge of Primary Health Care**  
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