



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## FAO Presentation FSCL

Update on suspected anthrax outbreak in  
Kuajok

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# Introduction

- Anthrax is a widespread zoonotic disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*,
- The organisms (spore) can stay on soil for over a decade
- Animals get infected when they graze on infected grazing area
- Humans get infection from domestic livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, buffaloes, pigs and others) or wild game animals
- humans get infected by direct or indirect contact with animals or their products.
  - Persons may also become infected by handling or consuming meat from animals that are sick with or have died of the disease
  - Exposure (occupational hazards) include those handling infected carcasses and those employed in the processing of bones, hides, wool and other animal products.




# Anthrax in livestock

## Signs and symptoms

- Sudden death (**abrupt fever**, staggering, trembling, breathing difficulty, convulsions depression and death,
- Blood oozing from natural openings (mouth, nose and anus)
- Bloat (swollen stomach in short period)
- No rigor mortis (No stiffness of body after death)
  
- **Jok Nyial in Dinka**
- **Nyakalokan in Toposa**
- **Nyongi Durjo in Bari**


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# Control and prevention

- Vaccination of livestock (animal vaccine available)
  - Avoid grazing in infected grazing areas
  - Treatment with antibiotics (but often difficult due to sudden death)
  - No opening and eating of animals that died from anthrax
  - Safe disposal dead animals
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# Anthrax control in humans

- The control of anthrax is based on its prevention in livestock.
  - Prevention in humans are costly and likely to be ineffective .
  - Treatment with antibiotics
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# Threat of biological warfare/terrorist attacks

- Anthrax bacteria can be used in preparation of biological weapons
- **Developed during world war-1 and world war-II.**
- In 2001, envelopes containing the B. anthracis organism were sent through the envelopes to people in United States affecting 22 people.
- Is easily produced (in laboratory) and lasts for a long time once disbursed.
- It's odorless, colorless and tasteless

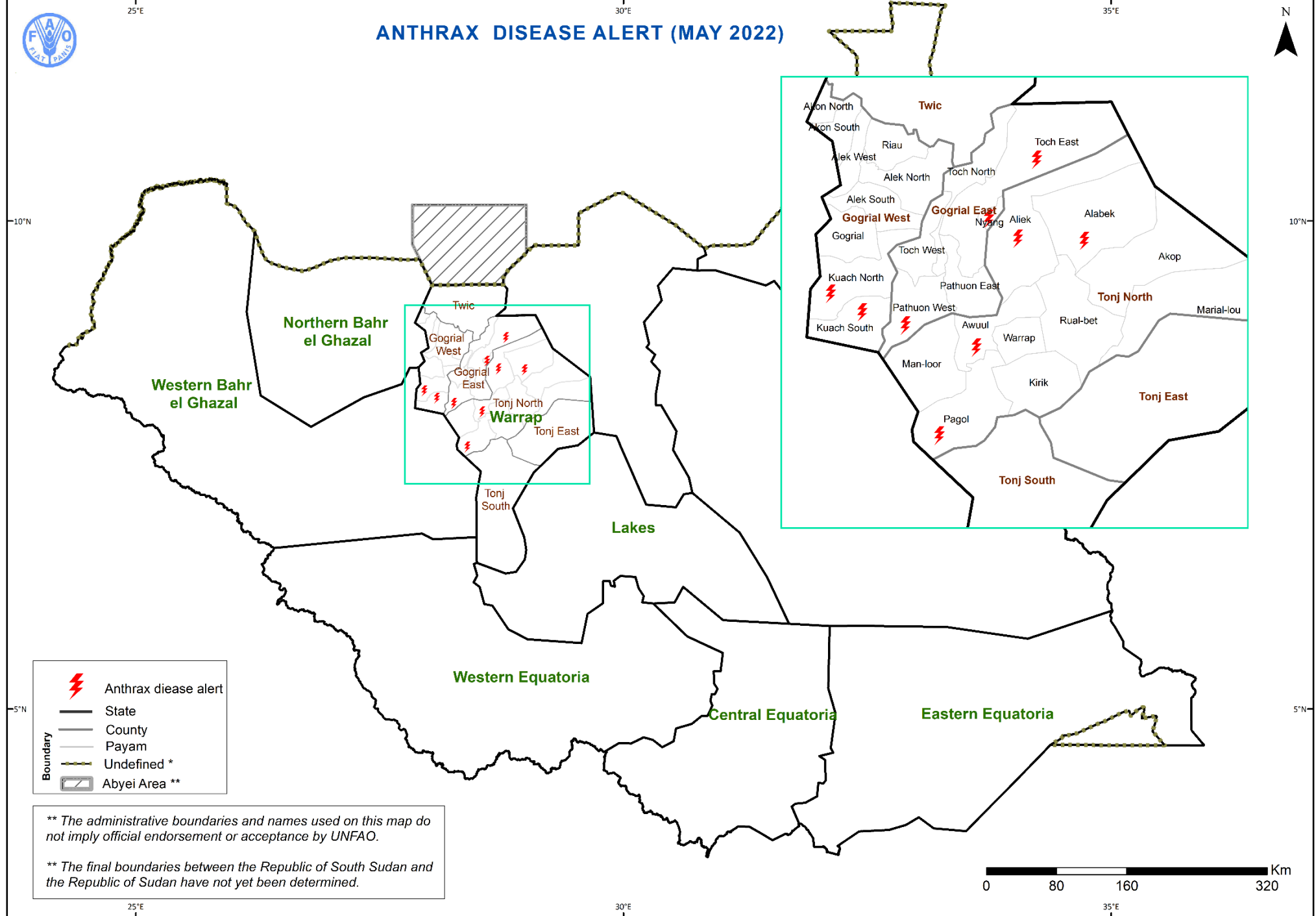


# Kuajok anthrax update

- In February 2022, suspected anthrax cases were detected at the Kuajok hospital
  - In April 2022, 8 Human samples tested positive by PCR for bacillus anthracis from a regional laboratory in Arua Uganda
  - **Most of the reported human cases are cutaneous**
  - 17 – 24<sup>th</sup> May **one health** joint investigation in Warrap
  - **In livestock there are reports of deaths in small ruminants in Gogrial and Tonj North**
  - Livestock samples collected for laboratory confirmation
  - Ongoing vaccinations on small and large ruminants
  - Awareness messaging on radios in Warrap and Juba (Eye radio) ongoing
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# ANTHRAX DISEASE ALERT (MAY 2022)



Anthrax disease alert

State

County

Payam

Undefined \*

Abyei Area \*\*

\*\* The administrative boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UNFAO.

\*\* The final boundaries between the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Sudan have not yet been determined.

