

Sudan

GENERAL SITUATION

- The security situation remained tense and volatile in Darfur. In the past weeks, 3 UN/NGOs vehicles have been hijacked in and around El Geneina, West Darfur and several more in South Darfur. Also, 4 workers of the Water and Environmental Sanitation department were abducted last week and are still missing. Access to many areas is by helicopter only.
- Significant movements and clashes of Government of Sudan troops and Janjaweed were reported from SLA controlled areas in North Darfur. Increased aerial reconnaissance and/or bombardments around Birmiza/Saiyah areas have left an unknown number of human and livestock casualties.
- Fighting in neighbouring Central African Republic has brought 400 families of refugees to the town of Um Dafok in South Darfur.
- The security situation in South Kordofan remains calm, as the government strike is over. The legal constitution for South Kordofan was finally accepted by Northern and Southern government parties and orientation sessions to the local community leaders and military are taking place in Kadugli and Kauda.
- The nation-wide Cholera outbreak is under control as no new cases have been reported in the past 4 weeks.

HEALTH

- The ongoing insecurity continues to negatively affect the access to health care for the population in Darfur, as many NGOs providing primary health care have suspended or minimized their activities.
- Similarly, the decreased NGO and UN activity is causing deterioration in the sanitary and hygiene conditions in IDP camps, reflected by an increase in bloody diarrhoea consultations in Abu Shoak IDP camp in North Darfur, and Otash camp in South Darfur. Also, several jaundice cases were reported from other vulnerable locations.
- Rumour investigation by WHO and the Ministry of Health into deaths with signs of fever, bleeding and vomiting of unknown origin in Kulchi, South Kordofan concluded the rumour was false.
- Two cases of suspected Acute Flaccid Paralysis were reported from west Kadugli county, and Demama county in Kauda, South Kordofan. Samples were collected and sent to Lokichoggio (Kenya) for laboratory confirmation.

Primary Health Care

- The IMCI programme opened a new PHC clinic in Gebel district, El Geneina town, West Darfur.
- Polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) were conducted in several locations in South Kordofan. WHO provided logistic and technical support.
- The final report of the WHO Primary Health Care facilities survey for the Red Sea State concludes that almost 30% of the visited 124 primary health care facilities, are not functioning. The same goes for 30.8% of the dispensaries, and 61.9% of primary health care units, partially due to lack of staff, drugs, basic equipment, or in dire need of rehabilitation. On the other hand, all 8 rural hospitals and 93.7% of the health centers are functioning with some gaps. Besides problems with regular power supply of electricity, no X-Ray service, nor blood bank, the main concern is the absence of a referral system in place.
- In Kauda, South Kordofan, Egyptian medical mobile clinics provided medical services to 154 IDPs.

Environmental Health

(i) Water Quality Monitoring

- Water quality monitoring continues in Abu Shoak IDP camp and Fasher town, North Darfur as part of the joint State Ministry of Health/WHO/UNICEF Environmental Health plan. WHO supported OXFAM with coli form testing kit.
- Continuous monitoring of water quality in combination with health coordination results in the regular repair of hand pumps and chlorination. This week, Terre des Hommes reported 2 non functioning hand pumps in Ardamata camp, West Darfur which will be repaired by the Water and Environmental Sanitation department (WES). Chlorination of water sources in Geneina, Habila, Morni and Um Shalaya IDP camps was carried out, also in West Darfur.

(ii) Sanitation

- An interagency sanitation assessment was initiated in Reyad, Kringding and Durti IDP camps in South Darfur by Tri-angle, SC-US and WES to identify any gaps in available latrines.
- An increased number of dysentery cases have been reported due to the recent deterioration in environmental health in Port Sudan.

(iii) Fly/Mosquito Control

- An 8-day insecticide spraying exercise is ongoing in Zam Zam IDP camp between WHO, UNICEF and other health partners to decrease the population of house flies, spreading diseases such as bloody diarrhoea.

Hospital /PHC Quality Services Support

- WHO continuous to ensure access to hospital care for IDPs. Surgery supplies were provided to El Fasher Teaching Hospital, and two emergency basic kits to the NGO Partner International Aid.
- The physical rehabilitation of health facilities remains an important aspect of WHO's work. The 1st phase of the Dental Health department rehabilitation in El Fasher Teaching Hospital was completed by the Kuwaiti Patient Health Fund this week. Works at Sani Karow and Guza Jamat health facilities is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

Coordination

- Weekly health coordination meetings are held in all WHO offices, co-chaired by the State Ministry of Health.
- All health partners are preparing for World AIDS Day on 1 December.