

## Highlights

Sleeping Sickness	2
Polio	3
Roll Back Malaria	4
HIV/AIDS	5
UN Work Plan 2007	6
Essential drugs & biologicals	6
Human resources for health	6
New arrivals	7
Up coming events	7

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## Communicable disease

### Avian Influenza

The Avian Influenza (AI) Task Force was set up in Juba and has been meeting since April of this year when the first reports of HPAI (highly pathogenic avian influenza) affecting commercial poultry farms were reported in Khartoum. In Juba Southern Sudan the first report of HPAI was investigated from a house hold in the Hai-Jalaba area of the city. Reports of specimen results confirming H5N1 in a few chickens and one duck were received in early September.

After confirmation in backyard poultry, WHO, MOH and CDC along with MARF and FAO conducted a house to house survey in Juba covering as many homes as possible over 5 days to try to determine the true extent of the diseases among the poultry population in Juba and confirm the absence of human cases. The survey ended on 25 September with 1590 households visited. The data is currently being compiled and analyzed by CDC.

During the survey, all households that reported sick chickens were visited by FAO and MARF and double samples were taken from sick birds and sent to laboratories in Khartoum and Nairobi.

Since confirmation of the disease in chickens and ducks WHO, UNICEF, CDC and MOH along with support from USAID have been promoting health messages on radio and TV in Juba town.

Training was held for 50 health care workers in Juba teaching hospital including doctors, nurses, medical assistants and laboratory technicians. The two day training covered the ABCs of AI, case management, laboratory techniques and infection control to prepare health staff in the event of suspect human cases. Similar training is being carried out for veterinarians. The Avian Influenza task force meets regularly every Friday afternoon and three sub committees that focus on human health, animal health and the communications meet more frequently.



**The Move: with owner's permission. Chickens Transported to MoH "Laboratory" Occupied Temporarily by the MARF Lab. Technicians**  
Photo Courtesy of Tesfai Tseggai

**Sleeping Sickness**  
*Sharing Southern Sudanese expertise*

**International Training Course on the use of DFMO as first line treatment for the second stage of Sleeping Sickness**  
**Yei, 12 – 22 September 2006**

For the last four years Southern Sudan has acquired a large experience in the use of eflornithine (DFMO) as first line treatment for late stage (stage 2) sleeping sickness patients. The treatment outcome with eflornithine has proven successful with a lower fatality rate observed as compared to the classical drug for late stage sleeping sickness, melarsoprol.

With the aim of helping other endemic countries that would like to adopt eflornithine in their treatment protocols, WHO and Malteser co-sponsored and organised an international training Southern Sudan expertise with Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Ivory Coast was held in Yei, Central Equatoria State, from 11 to 22 September 2006 at the sleeping sickness hospital supported by Malteser in Yei.

A total of ten participants coming from Angola (4), Democratic Republic of Congo (4), Congo Brazzaville (1) and Ivory Coast (1) attended the training. The working languages for the training were French and Portuguese.

The training was divided into theory and on-the-job training in the ward.



*Introduction lecture, (Dr. Jose Antonio Ruiz, WHO)*

Prior to the training Malteser conducted out an active case search survey in the area of Mundri and Lui ( $\approx$  250 km from Yei) to ensure that enough patients would be admitted during the teaching period. A total of 26 second stage patients were under treatment at the time of the training.



*Administration of DFMO*

The international training was successful. Participants can now be considered as reference staff in their respective countries to teach additional personnel to implement DFMO as first line treatment for the late stage of sleeping sickness.

However, due to the fact that catheters are not widely used in some of the sleeping sickness treatment centers follow-up on their use must be emphasized and additional on-the-job training is recommended

## Polio Eradication

*Programme Activities for September / October 2006*

The major activities for this month in polio eradication programme are:

### AFP surveillance

All polio field assistants continue to do AFP surveillance looking for AFP cases and reporting to the hub and collecting and sending information to Loki. During the month a total of 4 AFP cases were reported from the regions. Polio field assistants continue to assist in the surveillance of measles and other EWARN diseases and collecting data when there is an outbreak.

### Supplementary Immunization Activities

Two rounds of Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDS) are planned over the next two months. The first round will take place between 5 to 8 November and Vitamin A will be administered along with the vaccination. The second SNIDS will be synchronised with the North of the country and take place from the 10 to 13 December.

A three day meeting to plan the the synchronisation was held in Southern Sudan for the first time in Rumbek on the 19 to 21 September 2006. Two State Ministers of Health, almost all State Health Director Generals and State EPI Officers along with the polio programme staffs participated in the planning meeting. The Director General of Health for Lakes region opened the meeting on behalf of the Lakes state minister of Health. Dr Abdullahi Head of Office for Southern Sudan office was in attendance on the first day of the meeting. Discussions focused on macroplans developed by the regions before the commencement of the meeting, and ways of coordination of SIA activities between the previous Ex-GOS towns and the Southern Sudan programme areas. The microplans will be submitted by the regions soon.

### Cold chain update

In view of the upcoming SNIDs in November and December, backhauling for cold chain equipments has started and regions are coordinating with Loki to ensure proper backhauling.

### Integration of communicable Disease Activities within the Polio Programme

Two additional activities are scheduled to be integrated into the November and December polio SNIDS.

During the November SNIDS, a survey will be carried out by the vaccinating teams to determine the names and numbers of villages in Southern Sudan with reported cases of Guinea Worm. The mass distribution of anti-helminth drugs is planned during the December round of the SNIDS.

Field staffs at all levels will be trained on these additional activities. During the September SNIDS planning meeting, Samuel Makoy, coordinator of the Southern Sudan Guinea Worm Elimination Programme was invited to provide information, data and the purpose of the Guinea Worm survey. Dr Mickey Richer, WHO Southern Sudan, trained tutors on the principles and guidelines for the mass distribution of the drugs. Robert Lobar, WHO Southern Sudan, will assist subsequent trainings of the polio field supervisors.



*Guinea Worm survey and distribution training*

Anti-helminth drugs help combat soil transmitted worms and improve the general health, nutrition, and development of children between 1 and 15 years. WHO has procured the necessary drugs for this intervention.

## Roll Back Malaria

### *A focus on Training of Trainers*

The major activity carried out this month was Training Of Trainers course on Management of uncomplicated falciparum malaria with focus on Artemisinin based Combination Therapy (Artesunate + Amodiaquine) and Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT). The training was conducted in Juba from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006 through RBM partnership including MoH/GoSS, Doctors from teaching hospital and WHO. The total number of participants attended the course was 21 and they were from the teaching hospital, health centers in Juba and Torit county who are implementing the new policy of Artemisinin based Combination Therapy.

The objective of the training was to update the participants on the antimalarial drug policy change in Southern Sudan and provide knowledge and skills on malaria case management by using RDT and ACT.

The outcome of the training was that both groups from teaching hospital/health centres and Torit to develop training plan of action for the health workers at the PHCUs in their respective areas.

Dr. Othwonh Thabo, the malaria focal point opened the training with greeting and welcoming the participants. He also briefed them about the process of over all the Antimalarial Drug Policy shift into this new Artemisinin based Combination Therapy, which they are going to be trained.

The contents of the training were:

- 1- Malaria Control Strategies
- 2- Diagnosis and Treatment of uncomplicated malaria
- 3- Diagnosis and pre-referral treatment of severe malaria
- 4- How to do Rapid Diagnostic Test
- 5- Malaria in Pregnancy
- 6- Malaria related anemia
- 7- Public education on malaria

A training manual was given to the trainees as the main document to be used for both this training and the one of the health workers in PHCUs.

A lesson plan was prepared (Tutors guide) for each subject of the contents with learning objective to be achieved at the end of each session, during the six days of the training.

Dr. Thabo, the malaria focal point closed the training with appreciation and the implementation of the expected outcome of the training by the participants of the training.

- a) United States Pharmacopeia Drug Quality and Information program: Aspects of quality assurance (import, manufacture, registration, donation, storage and distribution). The facilitator has also presented the approach to quality control of antimalarial drugs using three level testing approach
- b) Pharmacovigilance: Presentation of pharmacovigilance systems in each of the participating countries and pharmacovigilance in public health programmes with spontaneous reporting or intensive monitoring – Pros and Cons. The facilitator has also presented experience of Ghana with pharmacovigilance of Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy and Media communication on medicines safety reports.
- c) Presentations on challenges and lessons learnt with ACT implementation by the countries participated the meeting. The national malaria focal point was assisted to present the challenges and lessons learnt during the early phase of ACT implementation in Southern Sudan.

The outcome of this meeting was that each member country to introduce the quality assurance and pharmacovigilance of antimalarial drugs (ACT) together the efficacy assessment.

## HIV/AIDS

*WHO /HIV/AIDS programme partners scale up VCT and ART services in Southern Sudan*

### Introduction

World Health Organization (WHO) has been supporting the Southern Sudan Aids commission and Ministry of Health with the scaling up of VCT and ART services in Southern Sudan. There are now three WHO support ART centres (Juba, Wau and Malakal Teaching Hospitals) and one MSFCH/IMC supported VCT/ART centre in Kajo Keji hospital.

### Scaling up of VCT and ART services

WHO facilitated the running, distribution and stocking of the three VCT/ART centers with ARV Drugs, supplies and Rapid HIV/AIDS test kits to last over six months. For the month of August 2006, a total of 139 clients received pre-test counselling and accepted testing for HIV using the HIV rapid test in Juba VCT. Of this total, 26 clients (19%) tested positive for HIV. All clients testing positive have had access to post -test counselling and education for ART (pre-ART care).

For the period February 2006 – Sept 2006, 121 (One hundred & twenty one) people living with HIV/AIDS in Juba, Wau, Kajo Keji and Malakal are receiving ARVs. Target for 2006 is 200 PLWHA on treatment.

### Rehabilitation of VCT/ART infrastructure

In an effort to strengthen the VCT/ART infrastructure in state hospitals, WHO has supported the Ministry of Health with the construction and renovation of three VCT/ART facilities. The three VCT/ART facilities are in the Teaching hospitals of Juba, Wau and Malakal and have space for counselling, laboratory, Doctors room, Drug store, meeting room, Adherence counselling rooms and Nurses room. WHO in collaboration with SNAP will equip and furnish these VCT/centres.

### Capacity Building/ Training

#### a) Training of Health workers in ARV supply chain management

In collaboration with SNAP, two health workers from the ART clinic in Juba where trained in ARV drug supply chain management system in Khartoum. This workshop was organized to equip the Health workers with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage the ARV supply chain.

#### b) Training of Health workers in HIV/AIDS management information system

WHO further provided training in HIV/AIDS management information system for the VCT/ART teams in Juba and Wau and trained 15 Health workers to ensure proper and complete HIV/AIDS data collection, recording and reporting.

### Community HIV/AIDS Awareness and Health Education

WHO participated in the UNDP organized advocacy workshop for people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Sudan. The workshop was attended by over 40 PLWHA and emphasis was on Human rights. WHO also supported the Association of people living with HIV/AIDS with planning and development of work plan to be funded under the UNIADS PAF funds. The main priority activities of the association included, awareness rising for the community on HIV/AIDS through IEC dissemination, Advocacy, and support for the psychosocial programme.

### Technical Support Supervision

WHO has continued to provide regularly technical support to VCT/ART programmes in Juba, Wau and Malakal towns through on-job training. In an effort to improve the planning, supervision, coordination and technical support to Ministry of Health and partners in HIV/AIDS programming, WHO has continued to build the capacity of the HIV/AIDS state coordinators with on job planning and management

Standardisation of VCT/ART Guidelines: At the moment, there are no national standard guidelines that are being used in Southern Sudan. The development of the standard ART treatment policy guideline and the strategic frame work is a key priority for MOH, GoSS Aids Commission. WHO is working closely with UNHCR and MOH to develop standard HIV/AIDS management information system for Southern Sudan in collaboration with the monitoring & Evaluation working group.



## UN Work Plan 2007 Health and Nutrition Sector

World Health Organization, as the lead agency for the health sector, has been working with UNICEF, the lead agency for nutrition, in the development of the UN Work Plan for Health and Nutrition - 2007.

WHO and UNICEF have a history of working very closely together to improve the health and nutrition status of the people of Southern Sudan. For many years, UNICEF and WHO have worked closely together to ensure the procurement of the necessary vaccines and implementation of National and Sub National Polio Immunization Days and Mass Measles Campaigns. During outbreaks of communicable diseases such as cholera and meningitis, WHO investigates verifies and provides technical assistance to outbreaks and UNICEF assists with supplement supplies and logistic support.

Nutrition and health are integrally linked, especially in areas and times of crisis and emergency. The joining of the Health and Nutrition Sector for 2007, offered an opportunity to synchronize the strengths of WHO and UNICEF and improve planning, implementation and overall relations with other UN agencies, Government, NGOs, Donors and other stakeholders. Transparency, respect and commitment were and remain the key elements of successful joint programming. UNICEF and WHO worked very closely together to gain a total understanding of the different needs of the two sectors and the stakeholders involved at all levels in order to combine them into one. The result of this process is a comprehensive and realistic Work Plan 200



Juba Central Medical Store

### ***Essential Drugs and Biologicals***

WHO helped organize and facilitate a Pharmaceutical workshop of the Ministry of Health entitled "Towards Better Pharmaceutical Services in Southern Sudan ", conducted from August 28 – 31, 2006. The workshop was partly financed by WHO. During the workshop the formation of Pharmaceutical Society of Southern Sudan (PSSS) was formalized and various general policy issues discussed and guidance was given by the senior MOH officials, including the Minister of Health. Currently the revision and finalization of the draft Essential Medicines list is in progress.

### **Human Resources for Health**

*'Shaping the direction of Human Resources development policy in Southern Sudan'*

The World Health Organization supported the Ministry of Health in the preparations of a stakeholders' workshop on Human Resources for Health (HRH) conducted from August 9 to 10, 2006. The main objective of the workshop was to reach consensus on the overall direction of HRH and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in the development of HRH in the country.

The workshop, including representatives of five states, the central MOH/GoSS, NGOs and consultants.

At the end of the Workshop, a working group was set up to work on the Human Resource Development Policy and Plan. The working group is currently working on the Human Resource Development Policy.

## New arrivals

Two new staff members have recently joined the WHO Southern Sudan Office

**Dr Abdul R. Wurie, EWARNS Epidemiologist** joined the WHO team in Juba on 5 October 2006.



Dr Wurie's primary responsibility is to support the Southern Sudan MoH to strengthen the diseases surveillance system through the implementation of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System (IDSR). Dr Wurie can be contacted through the WHO Southern Sudan Office Juba or via email at: [arwurie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:arwurie@yahoo.co.uk)

**Mr Adili Matontu, Public Health Officer**, joined the WHO Juba team on 25 September 2006.



Mr Matontu's primary responsibility is to assist the coordination, monitoring and supervision of health action related to Returnees and IDP interventions. Mr Matontu will also assist the WHO-EHA Coordinator in all aspects related to emergency response, operations, preparedness and capacity building. Mr Matontu can be contacted through the WHO Southern Sudan Office Juba or via email at: [admatontu@yahoo.com](mailto:admatontu@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming events

### Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDS)

#### **5 to 8 November 2006**

Vitamin A supplement will be administered with the vaccinations.

#### **10 to 13 December 2006**

The December SNIDS are planned to be synchronised with the North. Along with the vaccination, anti-helminthic drugs will be administered for the treatment of intestinal worms.

#### **Roll Back Malaria**

During October, WHO will organise Training of Trainers sessions on malaria control in Malakal and Wau.

### **Tuberculosis/ HIV Workshops**

Workshops on TB and HIV prevention and treatment will be held in Torit from 8 to 13 November and from 24 to 29 November in Wau.

### **Guinea Worm Review Meeting**

The Southern Sudan Guinea Worm Review Meeting 5 to 6 December 2006

### **World Aids Day 1 December 2006**

#### **"Stop Aids. Keep the Promise"**

The theme of World Aids Day 2006 is on accountability. World Aids Day 2006 is an opportunity asks politicians and leaders to be accountable for promises made on AIDS, support local, regional and global civil society movements to develop a sense of joint identity and increase global public awareness of AIDS.