

**Table 1 Communicable diseases surveillance system (CDSS) core activities at different levels of CDSS in Khartoum state, 2005-2007**

Core activity	Locality (n = 7)		Health area (n = 19)		Health facility (n = 150)		Standard benchmark
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
<b>Case detection</b>							
Knowledge of diseases under surveillance	7	100.0	19	100.0	150	100.0	80
<b>Case confirmation</b>							
Capacity to transport specimens to higher level	7	100.0	18	94.7	26	17.3	80
Presence of specimen collection guideline	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	80
Follow-up of specimen results	0	0.0	2	10.5	-	NA	80
Keeps the specimen result	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	NA	80
<b>Data reporting</b>							
Availability of CDSS reporting form	7	100.0	19	100.0	150	100.0	80
Average time to prepare the weekly CDSS report (1 hr)	7	100.0	19	100.0	150	100.0	80
Forward urgent notification for list A diseases	-	NE	-	NE	-	NE	80
Submission of urgent notification within 24 hr	-	NE	-	NE	-	NE	80
Presence of zero reporting system	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	80
Submission of case-based investigation reports for all recommended cases	-	NE	-	NE	-	NE	80
<b>Data analysis</b>							
Performing trend analysis	7	100.0	19	100.0	0	0.0	80
Use of appropriate source of denominators		0.0		0.0		0.0	80
Aggregate case data by demographic category	7	100.0	19	100.0	150	100.0	80
<b>Epidemic preparedness and response</b>							
Involved in an outbreak investigation	7	100.0	19	100.0	0	0.0	80
Implementation of community prevention and control measures based on local data	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	80
Presence of written epidemic preparedness and response plan	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	80
Presence of emergency stocks of drugs and supplies	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	80
Existence of epidemic management committee	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	80
Presence of health education material	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	NA	80
Existence of vaccination strategy	7	100.0	19	100.0	-	NA	80
Presence of epidemic rapid response team	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	NA	80
Performance of mass vaccination campaign	7	100.0	19	100.0	-	NA	80
Calculation of vaccination coverage	7	100.0	19	100.0	-	NA	80
<b>Feedback</b>							
Received feedback from a higher level	7	100.0	19	100.0	150	100.0	80
Feedback seen as beneficial	1	14.3	12	63.2	10	10.0	80

NA = not applicable; NE = no evidence.