

Sudan Health Highlights

Emergency Preparedness & Humanitarian Action (EHA)

Week 4, 21-27 January 2012



WHO continues to support health partners working in camps in Darfur by providing essential drugs and medical supplies.

Public health concerns

- Suspected cases of measles continue to be reported from Kassala State with 20 cases received from Halfa and 5 from River Atbara. This brings the number of cases to 290 with 11 deaths (case fatality rate of 3.8%).
- From beginning of 2012 up to this reporting week, a total of 41 suspected cases of meningitis were reported in Sudan with 1 death (case fatality rate of 2.4%). The cases were reported from Khartoum, Kassala, Gezira, North Kordofan, Gedaref and South Kordofan. By the end of the reporting week, disease trend remained stable as none of the epidemiological sectors reached alert threshold.
- Since the beginning of the diphtheria outbreak late 2011 in North Darfur, a total of 10 482 suspected cases were reported including 17 deaths (case fatality rate of 0.16%).
- In Blue Nile, access problems due to insecurity aggravated by issues in communication connection, has affected the reporting of sentinel sites for five consecutive months.
- In South Kordofan, water quality sampling activity has started in Kadugli town targeting areas where IDPs are temporarily sheltered.

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Transitional areas update

South Kordofan

In Kadugli, the town's environmental health situation has been identified as key issue to address in the coming months. The Kadugli Locality together with Water, Environment, Sanitation (WES), the State Ministry of Health (SMoH), and WHO discussed environment health concerns such as cleanliness and garbage collection in markets, streets and households; and an essential issue which needs to be urgently addressed is food safety and flies control procedures.

At least 65% of all health cadres in South Kordofan will avail of training activities by end of 2013. This was a commitment from the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) under the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), which has also called on all partners working in South Kordofan to implement capacity building activities for health cadres in South Kordofan in close coordination with CPD/SMoH.

Between 21 and 27 January, the number of consultations in accessible health facilities was 1 541, slightly higher than last week's 1 300 consultations mainly due to the increase in the number of sentinel sites which reported this week. During the week, 63 out of the 104 sentinel sites (60.6%) reported to the State's surveillance system while last week, only 56 sites submitted their reports.

From the total reported cases, the leading causes of disease burden in health facilities (accessible areas) were malaria with 928 cases (62%) and acute respiratory tract infection (ARI) with 483 cases (28%). For children less than 5 years old, the leading reported diseases were malaria (57%), ARI (36%), and dysentery (6%).

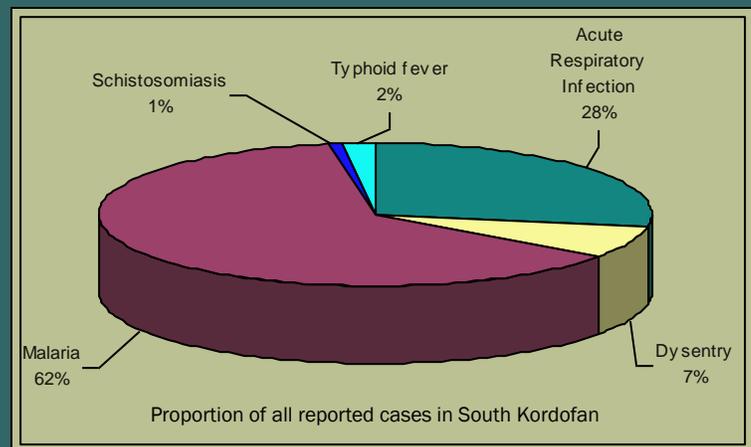
Water quality sampling activity has started in Kadugli town targeting areas where IDPs are temporarily sheltered - Masani, sector 3 and market sector. During the week, 8 samples were collected for rapid hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) testing.

Results showed that 100% of samples tested were positive to rapid test H₂S. Sampling activities as well as response/actions implementation were conducted by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) with logistics and technical support from WHO.

Blue Nile

Between 21 and 27 January, 57 sentinel sites or 67% of the total number of surveillance sites reported to the state's disease surveillance system. For five consecutive months, access problems due to insecurity aggravated by issues in communication connection, has affected the reporting of sentinel sites.

Malaria remained as the leading cause of attendance in health facilities under surveillance, and represented 27.6% to the total proportion. WHO through its partners will also focus on enforcing community awareness towards the importance of bednets use and proper steps towards the elimination of breeding sites at home level.





WHO, FMOH and SMOH-Kassala are investigating suspected cases of haemorrhagic fever in Abo Talha village, western Kassala locality.

Disease surveillance

- Suspected cases of measles continue to be reported from Kassala State with 20 cases received from Halfa and 5 from River Atbara. This brings the number of cases to 290 with 11 deaths (case fatality rate of 3.8%). Vaccination campaign started in affected areas targeting people from 5 to 30 years.
- Malaria remained as the leading cause of disease burden reported in health facilities in East Sudan Around 9.5% of the total number of consultations reported from the region was malaria .
- From beginning of 2012 up to this reporting week, a total of 41 suspected cases of meningitis were reported in Sudan with 1 death (case fatality rate of 2.4%). The cases were reported from Khartoum, Kassala, Gezira, North Kordofan, Gedaref and South Kordofan. Twenty one(21) cerebro-spinal fluid (CSF) samples were collected and showed no growth upon culture. By end of the reporting week, disease trend remained calm as none of the epidemiological sectors reached alert threshold.

Suspected meningitis cases	Percentage from the total number of cases (41)
Female	59%
Male	41%
Children under 1 year old	27%
Age group 1-4 years	58%
Age group 5-14 years	10%
Age group 15-24 years	5%

From the reported cases, 41% were male and 59% were female, 27% of cases were children under 1 year old, 58% in the age group 1-4 years, 10% in group 5-14 years and 5% in 15-24 years group.

- Since the beginning of the diphtheria outbreak in November 2011 in North Darfur, a total of 10 482 suspected cases were reported including 17 deaths (case fatality rate of 0.16%). Cases were reported from the localities of Al Leayt, El Tawisha, El Fasher and Tawila. From the 98 swabs collected, 15 samples were positive. Preparations are underway for the vaccination campaign targeting children (and adults) in the affected localities.
- Acute respiratory infections (ARI), bloody diarrhoea (BD), clinical malaria (Mal), were the leading causes of disease burden in health facilities.
- During the week, 14 suspected cases of acute jaundice syndrome (AJS) were reported from Greater Darfur (12 cases in South Darfur and 02 case from West Darfur).
- Four suspected measles cases were notified from North Darfur, 1 case from South Darfur (Dimso) and no cases from West Darfur. This week, 12 deaths were reported from North and West Darfur and were attributed to ARI and other causes (9 fatalities).



WHO supports Eldeain hospital in the installation of environmental health facilities.

Secondary healthcare

A field monitoring visit was conducted to Eldeain rural hospital in South Darfur to follow up the installation of environmental health facilities including the construction of 5 latrines, setting up of incinerator and provision of waste containers. During the visit, construction of facilities was in its final stage. The new latrines will serve all patients in the hospitals with limited usage by hospital staff. The unit including a septic tank and well will be connected to the nearby sections to operate the internal latrines and minimize the load of the old waste water system of the hospital. The distribution plan for different waste containers to wards will be completed next week.

With support from WHO and UNFPA, 25 medical doctors were trained on emergency obstetric care (EmOC) at Nyala Teaching Hospital. The training was conducted to strengthen technical capacity of EmOC facilities and ensure accessible EmOC and neonatal care in the State.

In West Darfur, WHO continues its work with health partners at facility level to ensure proper registration, reporting and collection of data on maternal mortality.

Primary healthcare

In South Darfur, a training/workshop on health system mapping, completeness and system updating was conducted during the week. During the workshop criteria for ideal primary health care system infrastructure was discussed in the presence of local political authorities.

In West Darfur, an assessment mission was conducted to Nyerou with International Medical Corps (IMC), State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and Islamic Relief Agency (ISRA) for the construction of a health facility in the locality.

Coordination

In West Darfur, eye campaign targeting the elderly has been planned by HelpAge International and WHO for 2012. WHO is coordinating with El Geneina Eye Hospital to support the campaign which will focus on consultations and eye operations (for different eye diseases).

Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) society member in different projects in West Darfur has been encouraged to allow HIV positive individuals to live positively and remain healthy. This activity began in 2008 in West Darfur with support from UNDP. During a meeting between WHO, Sudan National AIDS Programme and health partners issues discussed were related to patients lost due to cessation of funds. It has been recommended to establish a new system for all partners to include PLWHA society members in different activities.

Merlin has expressed its interest to support 15 health facilities out of the 26 facilities previously supported by Medair. All sites selected are priority areas. Merlin will commence activities in West Darfur on 1st March 2012.

In West Darfur, the health facility run by the Saudi Red Crescent (Saudi RC) Alsalam IDP Camp in Zalengei has been closed without any notification to SMoH. A team composed of SMoH, WHO, UNICEF, International Medical Corps (IMC) and OCHA visited the clinic on 23 January and confirmed that the clinic has not been functioning. This situation was discussed during the recent health coordination meeting and it was recommended that contacts be made with Saudi RC to ascertain conditions leading to abrupt closure of the health facility.

Environmental health

Darfur

Water quality control activities were conducted in Nyala town, South Darfur. So far, 1 394 samples were collected and analysed for simple water quality, 1 292 samples (93%) were found within the WHO required free residual chlorine (FRC) level.* As follow up action to recommendations raised during the previous monitoring, 7 direct pumping wells were disinfected by State water Corporation and 150 households were visited for awareness raising activities on water safety and sanitation.

East Sudan

During the week, water resources covered by chlorination in Kassala State was 55.7% (217 out of 389 water sources). In addition, 47 water samples were collected and tested for FRC from 5 localities were all within the WHO recommended level for safe drinking water.*

* WHO recommended free residual chlorine (FRC) level for safe drinking water is 0.2 to 0.5 mg/L.

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