



## ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA OUTBREAK IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Between 28 January and 21 May 2006, 14,196 cases and 424 deaths with an overall case fatality rate of 2.99 percent have been reported from the outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in Southern Sudan. The outbreak began in Yei on 28 January 2006 and rapidly spread to Juba by road. The outbreak has been reported and confirmed in seven of the ten states in Southern Sudan (*Central Equatoria State, East Equatoria State, Jonglei State, Lakes State, Upper Nile State, Unity State and West Equatoria State*). In another state (*Northern Behr el Ghazi*), reports of suspected cases have been received and are being investigated.

A Task Force under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan with support from the Federal Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, various NGOs and other partners have been set up to coordinate the overall response to the outbreak. Meanwhile, surveillance for acute watery diarrhoea and case management have been strengthened, environmental control measures such as the chlorination of public water supplies geared up and active hygiene promotion intensified to ensure interruption of the chain of transmission of the outbreak. The Task Force in Southern Sudan is also closely monitoring and evaluating the efficiency of the on-going response efforts being carried out to contain the outbreak.

In Yei, Juba, Kajo-Kegi, Pibor, Lekongole, Gumruk, Bor, Padak, Terekeka, Lohutok area, Atar Badodi, Narus and Malakal stool specimens have been tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae inaba*

Although the wave of the outbreak is waning in the urban locations, with continued and rapid population movement, the outbreak is progressing to involve many rural communities in hard-to-reach areas where the existing health systems capacity to contain the outbreak remains weak. Efforts are, however, underway to interrupt transmission in these areas as well.

### **For further information:**

<http://www.emro.who.int/sudan/>

25 May 2006