



World Health Organization  
Southern Sudan Office



## Acute Watery Diarrhea outbreak in Southern Sudan

**Juba, 11 April 2006** - The Acute Watery Diarrhoea outbreak in Southern Sudan although contained at individual locations is continuing its spread and is posing a serious challenge to the ongoing response efforts. The outbreak has now been reported in 7 of the 10 states in Southern Sudan and new locations continue to appear almost daily. During the last 24 hours, a total of 52 cases and 0 deaths from acute watery diarrhoea were reported from Juba.

Overall, between 28 January to date, a total of 10,689 cases and 285 deaths with an overall case fatality rate of 2.67% was reported from this outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in Southern Sudan.

The situation in Juba town has deteriorated as the number of cases increased over the last week. This recent increase is most probably due to the lack of safe water available in the town. Efforts are being made to intensify water and sanitation interventions. New locations out of Juba report cases almost on a weekly basis. As of 9 April 2006, the cumulative number of cases reported, so far, from acute watery diarrhoea in Juba is 5,108 and 98 deaths (case fatality rate: 1.92%).

Overall, the situation in Yei is stable and improving daily with the last report received as of 31 March indicating the outbreak has been controlled with only a few cases are appearing in town (1-2/day). The number of cases now stands at 1,832 (through 31-03-06) and 54 deaths (case fatality rate: 2.95%). Insecurity (LRA) in outlying villages has caused a decrease in monitoring of the peripheral situation. The peak of the outbreak in Yei was reached somewhere between 1 to 7 February 2006.

In Malakal in Upper Nile State after the importation of the index case on a barge from Bor (01-Mar) the number of cases of AWD reported is now decreasing and as of 30-03-06 has reached 615 cases with 11 deaths (CFR= 1.79%).

In other areas the cumulative number of cases reported is 3,749 cases with 133 deaths (case fatality rate: 3.55%). In these areas cases of AWD began appearing in the fourth week of the outbreak directly connected to Juba by either river or road. The number of new areas affected continues to grow and at least 6 states in Southern Sudan are involved (seven if the suspicious cases in Leer-Unity State are confirmed).

Public health response operations are underway, jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan, the Federal Ministry of Health, WHO and other United Nations and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) partners to contain the outbreak and limit further spread of the disease amongst the susceptible population. Actions include strengthening of the surveillance and reporting system; uniform case management and environmental control.

Table-1: Total number of reported cases and deaths from Acute Watery Diarrhoea, Southern Sudan  
28 January – 9 April 2006

Town	Date the first "index" case was reported	Number of cases reported in last 24 hours	Number of deaths reported in last 24 hours	Case-fatality rate in last 24 hours	Cumulative number of cases reported till date	Cumulative number of deaths reported till date	Overall case-fatality rate
Yei (up to 31/03)	28/01/06	NA	NA	-	1,832	54	2.95%
Juba	06/02/06	52	0	0%	5,108	98	1.92%
Other*	11/02/06	NA	NA	NA	3,749	133	3.55%
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>10,689</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>2.67%</b>

NA: not available

\* Not all areas have reported through 9-04-06.

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