



**World Health
Organization**

OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE SUDAN

**Acute watery diarrhoea in Southern Sudan
19 March 2006**

The outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in Yei town has been declared over, six weeks after it started on 28 January 2006. The peak of the outbreak was reached sometime between 1 and 7 February 2006. The further spread of the disease amongst the vulnerable population has been contained although occasional new cases and deaths are reported, especially from remote villages and health facilities.

In Juba, the outbreak began a week later after possibly being introduced by a road traveller from Yei to Juba. The evolution of the outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in Juba suggested that the outbreak has levelled off as a result of the intensive public health interventions by the task force under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan, WHO, UN agencies, NGOs and other health partners. Fewer new cases are reported each day. Preliminary evaluation of data suggests that the main mode of transmission for the outbreak was person-to-person.

It is important to note that the outbreak although contained at individual locations, is not over. Other areas with cases of acute watery diarrhoea began appearing in the fourth week of the outbreak and are directly connected to Juba by either river or road. The number of new areas affected by the outbreak continues to grow and at least six states in Southern Sudan have been reported cases (seven states if the suspicious cases in Leer-Unity State are confirmed).

As of 17 March 2006, the cumulative number of cases so far reported from acute watery diarrhoea in Juba is 4,477 and the cumulative number of deaths reported from Juba, is 84 (case fatality rate: 1.88%). While in Yei, the cumulative number of cases reported from acute watery diarrhoea is 1,789 (from 9 March 2006) and the cumulative number of deaths stands at 53 (case fatality rate: 2.96%). In other areas reported cumulative cases total 2,219 cases with 79 deaths (case fatality rate: 3.56%). During last 24 hours, 21 cases and no deaths from acute watery diarrhoea were reported from Juba. Overall, between 28 January to date, 8,485 cases and 216 deaths with an overall case fatality rate of 2.55% was reported from this outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in Southern Sudan.

To break the chain of transmission, the task force under the chairmanship of the Federal Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan together with WHO, UN agencies, various NGOs and other partners are continuing to reinforce the surveillance systems, standardize case management, implement environmental control measures such as the chlorination of public water supplies, conduct health education and active hygiene promotion for prevention and closely monitoring and evaluating the response.