



**World Health
Organization**

OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE SUDAN

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

The outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in Yei was declared officially over by the Under-Secretary of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Majok Yak on 14 March 2006. The official number of total cases and deaths as of 18 March 2006 is 1,794 with 53 deaths and a case fatality rate of 2.95%. The overall situation in Yei has stabilised and is improving daily with the last report received on 17 March indicating the outbreak has been contained and only sporadic cases are emerging.

The situation in Juba is improving as well as the number of cases has consistently decreased daily over the past three weeks and although the rains have started the number of cases continue to decline. The cumulative number of cases of acute watery diarrhoea reported from Juba as of 18 March 2006 is 4,501 and the cumulative number of deaths reported, is 87 (case fatality rate of 1.93%). However, the situation will be followed closely as the full rainy season has not yet arrived. During last 24 hours, 24 cases and one death from acute watery diarrhoea were reported from Juba. Between 28 January to today, 8,538 cases and 219 deaths with an overall case fatality rate of 2.57% was reported from this outbreak in Southern Sudan.

However, it is important to note that the outbreak although contained at individual locations, is not over. Cases of acute watery diarrhoea have now been reported in seven of the ten States in Southern Sudan and new locations continue to appear almost daily. The reports of increasing locations in the neighbouring States with increasing numbers of cases and deaths of laboratory confirmed (*Vibrio cholerae inaba*) acute watery diarrhoea in the areas outside of Juba continues to pose a serious challenge to the ongoing response efforts. The initial spread by road was from Juba to the east and north; however, on 17 March 2006 new reports indicated new cases are appearing in Ikotos which is on the road heading south to the border with Uganda. This situation also requires close monitoring and follow-up.

In Upper Nile State, after the importation of the index case on a barge from Bor (1 March 2006), the number of cases of acute watery diarrhoea reported continues to increase daily and as of 15 March 2006 has reached 478 cases with 13 deaths (case fatality rate of rate of 2.72%). Cases of acute watery diarrhoea in nearby locations outside of Malakal town are also increasing and include the towns of Nyilwak, Dolieb Hill and Wilnyang. In Unity State suspicious cases in Leer are under investigation.

To break the chain of transmission, the Task Force under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan with inputs from the Federal Ministry of Health 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 monitor and evaluate the response.

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

20 March 2006