



Update on Meningococcal meningitis in Sudan - 30 March 2006

Between 01 January and 28 March 2006, outbreaks of meningococcal meningitis have been reported in 15 of the 25 States throughout Sudan, with 1 335 reported cases and 145 deaths (case fatality rate (CFR) 10.9%).

Six states (Blue Nile, Gedaref, South Kordofan, Kassala, Warab and West Bare-el Ghazal) have case incidence above the epidemic threshold (10 cases/100,000 inhabitants in a week) for meningococcal diseases.

In the two Southern States of Warab and West Bare-el Ghazal there have been reports of 774 cases with 121 deaths (CFR 16.6%) between 21 February to 27 March 2006. Laboratory investigation (by PCR) of CSF samples conducted at NAMRU-3 in Cairo have isolated *Neisseria meningitidis sero group- A* as the causative strain of this outbreak of meningococcal meningitis.

The IDP camp in Zalingei in West Darfur reported 35 cases of meningococcal disease and 1 death (CFR: 2.86%). *Neisseria meningitidis sero group - W135* has been confirmed (by laboratory culture) in the Hamidiya.

Cumulative reported cases and deaths 01 January to 28 March 2006

States	Cases	Deaths	CFR
Blue Nile	46	6	13.0%
eljazira	20	1	5.0%
Gedaref	120	3	2.5%
Kassala	43	9	20.9%
Khartoum	222	1	0.5%
North Darfur	15	0	0.0%
Sennar	8	0	0.0%
South Darfur	5	0	0.0%
North Kordofan	1	0	0.0%
West Darfur	9	0	0.0%
West Darfur IDP camp in Zalingei	35	1	2.9%
South Kordofan	26	3	11.5%
River Nile	2	0	0.0%
Warab	348	33	9.5%
West Bare-el Ghazal	426	88	20.7%
White Nile	9	0	0.0%
Total	1335	145	10.9%

Response

A national task force consisting of Federal Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and other NGOs are coordinating the public health response to this outbreak. State led task forces led by the State Ministry of Health and WHO have been established in all affected States.

WHO has provided drugs for case management as well as other emergency supplies for outbreak investigation as well as technical guidance on outbreak control and case management.

A mass vaccination campaign with bivalent vaccines (A/C) has been completed in Blue Nile and in Kassala state and is continuing in South Kordofan and Gedaref state.

The WHO request to the International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision for Epidemic Meningitis Control (ICG), for a mass vaccination campaign in Darfur using trivalent vaccines (ACW) has been approved and the vaccines have arrived in Khartoum. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have provided funds for the vaccination campaign in the Zalingei IDP camp.



Distribution of Meningitis Cases Reported from Different States in Sudan, March 2006

Map Ref: 2006-0027



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