



The shipment of vaccines arrived in response to WHO's proposal for US\$ 3.9 million for response activities from the Measles and Rubella Initiative Khartoum, 8 April 2015 - A first batch of much needed measles vaccines arrived Sudan this week, in response to the measles outbreak that has occurred in 23 states over the past months.

2 million measles vaccine doses were received in Khartoum international airport last Monday by the Federal Ministry of Health/WHO/UNICEF, out of 9.6 million doses ordered to support a mass immunization campaign, due to be conducted in the affected areas.

WHO, in support of the Government of Sudan and in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, developed a proposal to allocate US\$ 3.9 million last month from the Measles and Rubella Initiative (MRI), to cover the purchase of needed vaccines and other logistics and medical requirements, to enhance measles containment and response.

“Thanks to the contribution and hard work of all parties, WHO, jointly with the Federal Ministry of Health, has seen the MRI proposal confirmed, approved and implemented in a short time, and has contributed to the procurement and delivery of measles vaccines by sister agency UNICEF,” said Dr Naeema Al-Gasseer, WHO Representative in Sudan.

“Logistic staff in WHO Sudan and the Ministry have exerted intense efforts to ensure timely release of vaccines. With the first batch of vaccines received, the success of containment activities is now more likely than before. We will continue our efforts with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF to ensure the receipt of the rest of the vaccine doses in due time,” she added.

More than 1600 suspected measles cases (with 710 confirmed) have been reported from 23

localities in 12 states of Sudan since the onset of the measles outbreak in December 2014. Great effort has been undertaken to control the outbreak, including conducting response immunization campaigns.

Between 19 and 23 January, Gedarif and Kassala states of Sudan (where the outbreak first started) conducted a response measles immunization campaign in 11 localities. The arrival of the 2 million doses will accelerate conducting more mass immunization campaigns.

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