
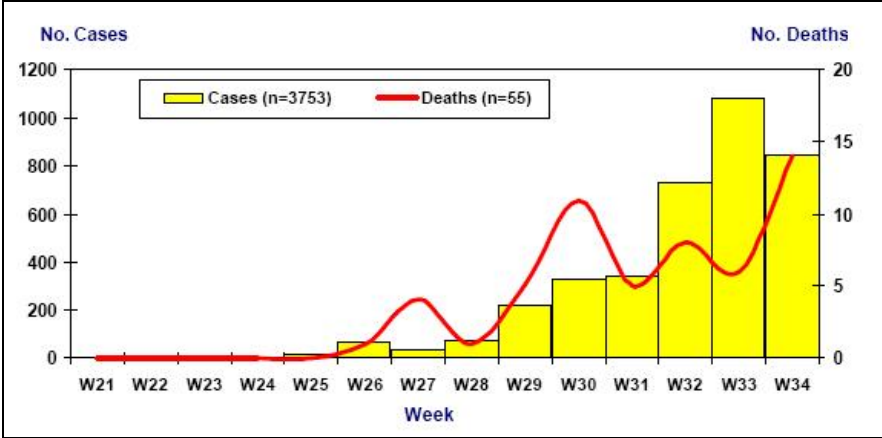




Health Action in Crises (WHO/HAC) Highlights - No 25: Monday, 6 September 2004

The WHO/HQ Department for Health Action in Crises aims to produce a running note on select current issues at weekly intervals. This note—which is by no means exhaustive—is designed for internal use and does not reflect the official position of WHO.

SUDAN	DARFUR CRISIS																																													
 <p>A map of Sudan showing major cities like Khartoum, Nyala, and Juba, and geographical features like the Nile River and the Red Sea. Neighboring countries like Libya, Egypt, Chad, Ethiopia, and Kenya are also labeled.</p>	<p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis E continues to be a significant health threat in Darfur. Between 22 May and 27 August, 3,753 cases¹ and 55 deaths of suspected Hepatitis E were reported from all reporting health clinics in Darfur through the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN). <div data-bbox="544 589 1430 1025">  <p>The graph shows a progressive increase in reported cases from week 28 to week 33. A slight decrease in the number of reported cases is noticed in week 34. The number of deaths also shows a steady increase over the period.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Week</th> <th>No. Cases</th> <th>No. Deaths</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>W21</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>W22</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>W23</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>W24</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>W25</td><td>50</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>W26</td><td>100</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>W27</td><td>150</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>W28</td><td>200</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>W29</td><td>300</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>W30</td><td>350</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>W31</td><td>350</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>W32</td><td>700</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>W33</td><td>1100</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>W34</td><td>850</td><td>18</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 60-day plan has been developed by the Outbreak Preparedness and Response Working group—comprised of representatives from WHO, UNICEF, State and Federal Ministries of Health, and NGOs—to reduce the incidence of Hepatitis E in the IDP camps of Kalma, Kass, Wehida, and Taiba, South Darfur. The total population to be covered by the control plan is approximately 120,000. • A joint three-week assessment by the Government of Sudan, UN agencies and NGOs linking food security and nutrition data began this week. The assessment will cover 60 locations across the Greater Darfur. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO, MSF-France, and Epicentre are investigating the Hepatitis E outbreak via a case control study in Mornei camp, West Darfur, 28 August - 15 September. • In response to the reported Hepatitis E outbreak in South Darfur, WHO and the Health and Hygiene Working Group are developing strategies to deliver community health education messages in IDP camps. Messages target high risk groups such as pregnant women. • The polio vaccination campaign in Sudan Liberation Army areas of North Darfur was successfully concluded. However, following increasing insecurity and at the recommendation of UNSECOORD, launch of the measles campaign was postponed until 7 September. Polio vaccinations in several locations around Nyala and Ed Daein, South Darfur, have been delayed due to security incidents. • The second round of the cholera vaccination campaign in Mussei camp, South Darfur, reached 94% coverage. • Agencies are mobilizing medical supplies including primary health and trauma kits to go to conflict-affected areas South of El Fasher. OCHA is coordinating the efforts, in consultation with WHO, UNICEF, Malteser and other health providers. • WHO and SMOH provided a maternal and child health (MCH) kit to International Medical Corps (IMC) to establish its clinic in the Al Jeer and Al Sharef camps near Nyala. 	Week	No. Cases	No. Deaths	W21	0	0	W22	0	0	W23	0	0	W24	0	0	W25	50	0	W26	100	2	W27	150	5	W28	200	8	W29	300	10	W30	350	12	W31	350	10	W32	700	12	W33	1100	15	W34	850	18
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¹ The included graph shows a progressive increase in reported cases from epidemiological week 28 to week 33. A slight decrease in the number of reported cases is noticed in week 34. This decrease may, however, be due to delayed reporting from some reporting units. It is possible that this trend will be revised.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for WHO humanitarian operations in Darfur has been provided by African Development Bank, UK's Department for International Development, and the governments of Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, Norway and United States. <p style="text-align: center;">SUDANESE REFUGEE CAMPS IN CHAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 26 June and 2 September, a total of 1,077 cases and 35 deaths of suspected Hepatitis E were reported from Sudanese refugee camps Goz Amer and Goz Abal and from the neighbouring communities Koukou, Am-Ouchar, Am - Bitin, Habile, and Aradibe in Chad. • The WHO Hepatitis E investigation team arrived in Koukou near Goz Amer camp on Saturday, 2 September. The purpose of their mission is to identify risk factors of the disease and recommend appropriate control measures, including water and sanitation interventions.
<p>IRAQ</p>  <p>The map shows Iraq with major cities like Baghdad, Samarra, Mosul, and Karbala. Neighboring countries include Turkey, Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. A scale bar indicates 0, 50, 100 km and 0, 50, 100 miles.</p>	<p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The security situation in Iraq continues to affect health care through movement restrictions, limited access to health facilities, power outages, and lack of necessary medicines, particularly in Najaf. Insecurity also hinders the delivery of medical supplies to final destinations. • Violence in Najaf during the 5-26 August period resulted in reports of 945 deaths and 1,882 injuries due to gunshots. • A team from the Iraq MoH/National Drug Quality Control Laboratory (NDQCL) is holding consultations with WHO in Amman on the UNDG Trust Fund Project to re-establish the NDQCL and review the list of laboratory requirements for the Centre. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO is supporting the Iraqi MoH-led Polio National Immunization campaign by providing technical support for preparations and covering the cost of health workers, transportation, training, meetings, health education materials and independent monitoring. The campaign was launched on 4 September and will run for five days. • WHO has submitted a new proposal for the daily provision of 200-250 cylinders of medical oxygen to the 12 hospitals in Ninawa Government for the rest of 2004. • The European Commission-funded Leishmaniasis and Malaria indoor spraying campaign and fogging activities are proceeding as expected. Spraying campaigns have reduced the incidence of these two diseases. • WHO is providing technical and logistic support to Centres for Disease Control Baghdad to conduct six Viral Hepatitis workshops in different governorates. • WHO is providing technical support for a survey to determine the prevalence and intensity of Schistosomiasis and Soil-Transmitted Helminths among schoolchildren. • MoH/Kimedia received shipments of WHO emergency procurement items. • Current WHO humanitarian actions in Iraq are made possible through funding by ECHO and UNDG.
<p>WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP</p>  <p>The map shows the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Key locations include Dayr al Balat, Khan Yunis, Abasan, and Rafat. It also shows the 1967 Israel-Palestine Line and areas currently occupied by Israel. Neighboring countries are Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Israel.</p>	<p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF and MoH held a workshop on 31 August in Ramallah to review Measles Control and Supplementary Immunization. • The Health Sector Working Group took place 1 September. The national health plan and the health information were the main topics discussed. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO led the health sector group in the elaboration of the West Bank and Gaza Strip health situation analysis for the Consolidated Appeal Process 2005. The health sector analysis was drafted according to inputs received in participatory meetings with the Ministry of Health, health service providers and health sector UN agencies (UNFPA, UNRWA, UNICEF and OCHA). • WHO organized the participation of two WHO staff and two Ministry of Health staff in a Mental Health training in Scotland (19-31 August). • WHO is providing inputs to the UN Report to the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of Palestinian Women. • Current WHO humanitarian actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been made possible by 2004 funding from USAID, AGFUND, and the Government of Norway, as well as pre-2004 funding from ECHO.

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UGANDA



Events:

- The number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northern Uganda has more than tripled in 24 months; it now stands at 1.6 million. Eighty per cent of IDPs are women and children fleeing violence and abduction.
- The already fragile health status of IDPs is further endangered by lack of quality care and unsanitary camp conditions. Malnutrition, diarrhoea, malaria, conflict-related injury, HIV/AIDS, reproductive ill-health, and outbreaks of communicable diseases are the most pressing health concerns.

Actions:

- In recent months, WHO has conducted health assessments in IDP camps in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Katakwi, Kaberamaido, Lira and Soroti in Northern Uganda. According to these assessments, the following actions are urgently needed:
 - ensuring that humanitarian health assistance is in line with international standards;
 - monitoring disease burden including malnutrition and providing early warning of epidemics;
 - reducing excess mortality and morbidity due to communicable diseases;
 - supporting provision of reproductive health services and control and prevention of HIV/AIDS;
 - supporting immunization;
 - improving health education and promotion;
 - reinforcing psychological services;
 - strengthening/supporting efforts to improve water and sanitation.
- WHO is appealing for US\$ 890,000 to reduce excess mortality and morbidity of IDPs in Northern Uganda by ensuring their access to a minimum health care package and carrying out the actions listed above.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



Events:

- As a result of the 1-3 September 2004 hostage situation in school N1 in Beslan Town, Republic of North Ossetia:
 - the official death toll stands at 326-335 people, of whom 156-186 are children;
 - an estimated 700-800 people were wounded, mostly suffering from shot wounds and burns;
 - 332 people including 202 children remain hospitalized in Vladikavkaz and Beslan (this is down from 542 persons and 330 children on 4 September);
 - many people are still missing.

Actions:

- The local WHO team, with support from our Moscow office, and working under the Direction of the European Regional Office in Copenhagen, is collaborating with UN system agencies, the ICRC, and NGOs, to help local authorities respond to urgent needs. WHO is:
 - assisting in health sector coordination, helping to manage incoming donations to hospitals. WHO is keeping track of agencies' donations, and moving to fill gaps as soon as they are identified.
 - conducting the next hospital assessments in Beslan and Vladikavkaz on Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th September. This will be followed by a health coordination meeting aimed to ensure urgent needs are rapidly addressed.
 - working with the Ministry of Health towards the establishment of a post-trauma counseling unit.
 - ensuring the supply of material for blood safety - obtaining some from Member States, procuring the rest locally so as to save time in transport.
 - clearing the dispatch of five complete trauma kits-covering 100 surgical interventions each-and five burn dressing modules-covering 40 sterile dressings each-from the WHO/Government of Italy warehouse for immediate transmission by USAID to Beslan.
- Reports were received on 6 September on the limited local capacity to handle and distribute donated relief supplies arriving from abroad. WHO is working with local authorities and other UN agencies to help reinforce supply handling and logistics capacity on the spot.
- WHO is appealing for US\$ 100,000 to support immediate relief efforts in Beslan. In addition, WHO (in conjunction with other UN agencies) plans to move forward with a regional initiative to strengthen local capacity to improve health sector emergency preparedness. The implementation of the plans will require at least US\$ 1 million. Plans are being developed by staff from the WHO Representative's office in Moscow and the WHO European Regional Office in Copenhagen, working in close co-operation with local and national authorities.
- The above-outlined programme of work will compliment ongoing health programmes now being implemented in the region by WHO and other health actors. WHO is grateful to the UK DfID and the governments of Norway and Canada for their support of current programmes in the Russian Federation.

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INTER-AGENCY INITIATIVES

- **Central African Republic.** Following an earlier request by OCHA for CAP assistance in the Central African Republic, WHO will support the CAR UN country team from 11-26 September with preparations of the Common Humanitarian Action Plan.
- **Algeria.** The 6th Pan-African Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will be held in Algiers, Algeria, from 8-13 September. The theme of the Conference is "Consolidating the Red Cross and Red Crescent role as a reliable and effective civil society partner". WHO will participate.
- **Sudan**
 - WHO will participate in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Taskforce on Darfur on 14 September.
 - The first meeting of the core learning group in support of the OCHA real-time evaluation of humanitarian response to the Darfur Crisis will take place on 7 September. WHO pledged US\$10,000 to support the process and will participate in the group.
 - During the next IASC weekly meeting in Geneva on 8 September, IOM will brief on its planned activities in Western Sudan. In addition, Director, OCHA Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division (IDD), will debrief on his mission to Sudan (including Darfur) and Uganda.
 - Preparations are underway for the 8 September meeting of the UN Inter-Departmental Taskforce on Sudan in New York. Agenda items include the findings of Joint Implementation Mechanism's second mission to Darfur; the expanded African Union mission in Darfur; Security Council proceedings; updates on the Abuja and the Naivasha Peace Talks; and the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM).
- **Uganda.** A Workshop on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict will take place in Kampala on 9-10 September.
- **UNDG Executive Committee.** The UNDG EXCOM (Heads of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP) will meet in New York on 7 September to discuss the UN structure in Southern Africa and an enhanced response to HIV/AIDS.
- **IASC Working Group.** Preparations have started for the 22-23 September IASC Working Group meeting in New York. Draft agenda items include the response to Darfur, lessons learnt from the Bangladesh floods, ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment follow-up, Good Humanitarian Donorship, CAP issues, and polio. The Representative of the WHO Director-General for Health Action in Crises will participate.
- **World Conference on Disaster Reduction.** In the context of preparations for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, January 2005), WHO submitted proposals—on topics including capacity-building, hospital mitigation, and health and risk reduction, among others—for participation in the thematic sessions to the Inter-Agency Secretariat for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).
- **Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs.** The Representative of the Director-General for Health Action in Crises will participate in the 7 September ECHA meeting, during which humanitarian developments in the Democratic Republic of Korea, Liberia, Nepal and Darfur will be discussed.
- **Wilton Park.** WHO will participate in the next Wilton Park seminar on "The Immediate Response to Disasters: Improving national and international frameworks", which will be held between 13-16 September in Sussex, United Kingdom.
- **GBV in emergency settings.** Preparations are underway for the 7 September meeting of a subgroup of the IASC Gender Taskforce on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in emergencies. The subgroup is creating a Matrix on GBV programming and implementation in emergency situations, which will eventually be part of guidelines on GBV control in emergency settings.
- **Internal Displacement.** Preparations are underway for the 7 September meeting of the Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement in Geneva. Draft agenda items include the OCHA inter-agency Division on Internal Displacement (OCHA/IDD) and the IDP Policy Package. The Representative of the Director-General for Health Action in Crises will participate.
- **Triplex.** WHO is participating in Exercise TRIPLEX in Norway from 5-10 September.

Please send any comments and corrections to kollert@who.int.

MAP DISCLAIMER: *The presentation of material on the maps contained herein does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or areas or of its authorities, or concerning the delineation of its frontiers or boundaries. Map source: Perry Castaneda Library Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin.*

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