Due to the drier-than-normal conditions in the southern part of the country, deterioration of the already unstable food security situation is expected that could affect up to 4.2 million people in the coming months.

Due to drought, a significant fall in food availability and rise in food insecurity and malnutrition is expected for vulnerable populations, especially among small-scale farmers and pastoralists, who comprise the bulk of Sudan’s rural poor. An increase in acutely malnourished children is reported.

Sudan is particularly vulnerable to disease outbreaks and is currently undergoing prolonged measles and dengue outbreaks. It is likely that decreased water quantity and quality due to drought will lead to an increased incidence of water-borne diseases such as cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases.

Prolonged drought is likely to lead to population displacement, closure of clinics and lack of access to health care.

Under WHO leadership, the health sector is coordinating with the Ministry of Health and health partners, and working closely with other sectors to develop a multi-sectoral El Niño Preparedness and Response Plan.

WHO current priority actions are:
- Assessment and monitoring of the impact of the El Niño on health;
- Deployment of expert epidemiologists and laboratory specialists from headquarters, regional offices, and Sudan Country Office to support the response to the ongoing dengue fever outbreak and strengthen the country capacity for laboratory based surveillance and epidemiological analysis;
- Strengthening of entomological surveillance and timely reporting;
- Provision of reagents necessary for in country laboratory confirmation;
- Control of dengue fever outbreaks;
- Strengthening the Early Warning and Response System along with community based surveillance focusing on states affected by the humanitarian crisis;
- Support of the ongoing countrywide measles vaccination campaign, and securing resources for a follow-up vaccination campaign against measles in 2016.

*INFORM (Index for Risk Management) is a global risk assessment index for humanitarian crises and disasters: [http://www.inform-index.org/](http://www.inform-index.org/)