



Weekly EHA Activities Report

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Reporting Period Week 5 of 2007 (period: 27 January – 2 February)

GENERAL SITUATION:

Political, social, security overview for the week

Darfur Region

The security situation in Darfur continues to deteriorate with increasing violence against humanitarian workers and the local populace. Incidents of shootings, attacks, bombings and banditry against the international and local communities happened last week in various towns in the three States.

- On 1 February, an African Union civilian police officer from the Niger Republic was shot dead outside Kasab IDP Camp in Kutum, 105 kilometers Northwest of El Fasher, North Darfur.
- In South Darfur, the SLA/MM held a meeting with the humanitarian community representatives (UN and INGOs). The SLA/MM urged the international community to resume humanitarian operations/activities in areas previously abandoned due to insecurity. It was agreed that the UN and SLA/MM representatives enter into an operational agreement detailing the notification process, safety and security of the staff.
- The tension between the humanitarian community and the local authorities in Nyala, South Darfur (following the raid to an NGO guest house and the arrest of 20 humanitarian workers) has not subsided.
- In the towns of Derbat and Katur, North Darfur there were reports that two helicopter gunships and an Antonov plane bombed the two towns.
- In Adre, 27 kilometers West of El Geneina in West Darfur, clashes in the border between the Chadian opposition rebels and the Chadian National Army were reported.
- In North Darfur, reports of ground clashes between SLA (AW) and GoS around Dobo Umda, East Jabel Mara, (80 km SW of El Fasher), and aerial bombardments within the same area. So far, nine people were reported to have died from the clashes, whereas the figures on the injured and extent of destruction remain unknown.

HEALTH

Main events, interests and concerns for health

Dengue Fever in Kassala State, Eastern Sudan

This week, two more suspected cases of Dengue Fever were reported from Nahr-Atbara locality of Kassala state, thus, bringing the total number of suspected cases of Dengue fever reported from the state to 22, including 1 death. Only one case has been laboratory confirmed so far. Entomological survey, conducted jointly by WHO and the State Ministry of Health (SMOH) of Kassala state, has detected *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in the affected population settlements, the prime vector responsible for this localized outbreak of Dengue fever in the state.

Leprosy in Zalingei, West Darfur

Ten (10) leprosy cases have been detected in Hassihassa IDP camp of Zalingei amongst the newly arriving IDPs who were recently displaced from Twanga village about 15 kilometers west of Fur Baranga.

The Leprosy Mission in Zalingei/SMOH and WHO are collaborating to undertake necessary measures for treatment of these detected cases, as well as screen the contacts and alleviate the social stigma of the patients suffering from the disease.

South Darfur

- Epidemic preparedness for meningitis have been strengthened by WHO and SMOH.
- The number of acute jaundice syndrome (AJS) cases in an IDP camp in Nyala which were on the rise during last 4 weeks are currently declining following various public health interventions undertaken by WHO, the SMOH and the NGO partners on the ground.

North Darfur

- Despite the uncertain/fluid security situation and inaccessibility, there was a slight increase in the number of reporting units of the Disease Early Warning System (DEWS) of the Darfur, with 24 out of 32 surveillance sites (representing 75%) submitting their data on time.
- Malaria: Proportional morbidity of malaria in this week is 1%, same as previous week.
- ARI constituted 30% of all reported cases while the proportionate morbidity for ARI amongst the under 5 age group was 39%.
- Same as the previous week, bloody diarrhea (BD) cases represented 1% of total consultations.

West Darfur

- 28 out of 32 sites (representing 88%) of the Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) promptly provided information on the health status of the population in West Darfur.
- The total number of consultations reported was 16,904, a slight increase compared to the recorded 16,605 consultation in Week 4.
- The number of bloody diarrhoea cases recorded was 397.

South Kordofan

- Two hundred and sixty five (265) returnees from Khartoum are expected in Kadugli the next reporting week. Leading agencies involved in the process will be: IOM, UNICEF, triple R of UNMIS, WFP. WHO is also involved in health education activities.
- A meeting was conducted by Ocha on the 30th of January focusing on the status of Meiran Hospital. All health staff fled in October and the Hospital is not operational at the moment. The matter was followed up in Kadugli by WHO with MoH and Unicef. A further assessment of the situation is going to take place next week, WHO will be represented by the Abyei head of office.
- Kauda office was visited the 31st January. The main issues brought to attention were: About 1000 IDPs from Darfur are stationed there, in the proximity of the way station built by NRC. The way station has been taken over by Srrc and WHO is coordinating the access of the Health Centre in the way station so that IDPs can make use of it. WHO will provide transport to SoH for EPI activities. A further visit to Kauda will take place tomorrow the 4th February.
- The ICRD assessment will start on Monday 5th February, MoH and WHO are the focal point for Health and Nutrition.

WHO ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES

What is WHO doing?

South Darfur

Coordination and Health Information Management

- The WHO Darfur Coordinator and WHO Team Leader discussed with the SMOH

strategies to continually assist the IDPs in the State and the shipment in the future of drugs to three (3) rural hospitals and the Nyala Teaching Hospital. In the said meeting, the Minister commended WHO's support to hospitals in South Darfur. He informed WHO team of the decision taken by the Governor of the State to give facilities/additional benefits to medical officers willing to work in Nyala hospital. This is the result of the discussion between WHO Representative in Sudan and the Minister of Health on possible ways and means to attract more medical specialists to serve the State and help improve the quality of health care to IDPs and the conflict affected population.

Access to Health Care Services

- Drug donation was made to an INGO based in the outskirts of Nyala. The INGO runs a health centre which offers services to a population of 12,000.
- WHO donated drugs to the AMIS mobile clinic. The AMIS mobile clinic will be serving the population in remote villages, unreachable these days due to insecurity.

Communicable disease control and environmental health interventions

- Epidemic preparedness for meningitis has been strengthened by WHO and the SMoH.
- WHO team made a visit to Otash IDP camp to monitor the activities conducted by different partners in view of the increasing number of acute jaundice syndrome cases. Findings were discussed with field actors. Corrective measures were discussed and adopted .
- WHO team randomly collected ten (10) samples of water from the water points and house holds in Otash camp for monitoring of residual chlorine. The result is to be shared and discussed with watsan partners. Four sample of water were taken for bacteriological test. One sample shows contamination. The result was communicated to watsan partners for appropriate measures.
- With the initiative of WHO team, a clean up campaign will commence on Sunday. This will help clean the environment and decrease the risk of feco-oral transmission of diseases.

North Darfur

Coordination and Health Information Management

- Following on from the developed plan for situation analysis and assessment of IMCI services at the health facility level in El Fasher Locality, SMoH with the support from WHO has completed the assessment all the 29 health facilities this week. A similar exercise is now planned for Malliet area and will cover 8 IMCI facilities.

Access to Health Care Services

- As part of ensuring IDPs continued access to free health services, WHO (with support from ECHO) has this week supported the Maternity Hospital with the provision of various drugs. The El Fasher Teaching Hospital on the other hand was provided with an assortment of laboratory reagents and equipment.
- WHO has supported Maternity Hospital through a contribution to the cost of the hospitals' consumed fuel, engine oil and stationary which is pegged at 10,000USD.
- With support from WHO, the rehabilitation of Guzat Jamat was completed and the PHC facility was handed over to the Village Development Committee this week. Guzat Jamat is approximately 130km (one way) south west of El fasher town, and this facility will provide PHC services to 11 villages (with an estimated population of 30,000 persons).

Communicable disease control and environmental health interventions

- WHO continues to provide logistical support (transport) to SMoH (Environmental Health) for continued water quality monitoring targeting

privately owned open wells within Fasher locality. Eleven (11) samples collected this week for bacteriological/physico-chemical analysis. Out of these 11 samples, 6 samples had between 0.1-0.6mg/l, (with 5 samples reporting NIL) and 2 samples were bacteriologically unfit for human consumption. WHO has advised the well owners on sanitary improvements around water sources and appropriate chlorination procedures. Additionally, WHO has supported SMOH by provision of six (6) water testing kits (chlorine testing kits) chlorine and seven (7) boxes of reagent (each for 250 tests).

- To help solve the garbage collection problem within Al Salaam IDP camp, WHO supported SMOH in the coordination and meetings to convene the main watsan implementing agencies within the camp. Out of this, a response plan was formulated, and IRC will start implementing garbage collection and disposal activities, WHO will support technically and UNICEF will provide any additional support that may be needed.

Others

- WHO has continuously supported (logistics & personnel) the SMOH to enable the Ministry to satisfactorily implement the on going human resources survey for health. All the teams have been dispatched to the 5 localities, and the exercise is 50% complete within Elfasher, Kutum and Malliet. So far the implementation of planned survey is moving smoothly with no major incidences/hurdles reported and the last team is expected back to Fasher around the 13th of February 2007.

West Darfur

Coordination and Health Information Management

- The ECHO team (from Brussels, Chad, and Nyala) visited the Zalingei hospital. The ECHO team toured the different departments and services provided by the hospital. The Director General of the hospital informed them due to the support the hospital is receiving from WHO and MSF-F, the IDPs, conflict affected population as well as local residents of Zalingei are getting free and unfettered health care services in the hospital. Also present was the Medical Director of Garsilla hospital who was also clearly grateful to the support of WHO and the free services provided by the hospital to the IDPs and conflict affected population in Wadi Salih locality.

Access to Health Care Services

- Members of WHO Sub-Office in El Geneina are conducting assessment of PHC clinics in five (5) IDP camps in Zalingei.
- WHO donated thirty seven (37) boxes of blood supplies- including 12 collection bags, 24 boxes of infusion sets, and a box of needles - to the blood bank of El Geneina hospital.
- WHO trained twenty six (26) Nurses on January 29-February 01, on basic nursing skills, hygiene precautions, infection control and the prevention of blindness at the El Geneina Eye hospital.

Communicable disease control and environmental health interventions

- In response to the early preparedness for epidemic meningitis, a mission from WHO El Geneina Sub Office composed of the Head of Office and the Surveillance Officer visited Zalingei on 1/2/2007 and pre-positioned the following supplies in Zalingei and Garsilla hospitals: **Rapid test kits for meningitis (Pastorex), T.I media, Lumber puncture kits (LP Kits)**
- WHO plans to pre-position the same supplies in Kulbus and Fur Baranga rural hospitals in West Darfur
- During this high risk season of epidemic meningitis, WHO is working closely with its health partners for enhancing surveillance for early detection of cases...
- Five (5) different water sources in three IDP Camp and in El Geneina town

itself were tested. From the 5 tested, only 3 are well chlorinated and are not contaminated with E. coli species.

- WHO has donated 80 liters of Abate insecticide to the Malaria department of SMOH.
- WHO Donated a computer to the water laboratory staff of SMOH in order to enhance their database and information sharing.

Others

- In relation to the **Darfur human resources survey**, WHO, FMOH, and SMOH have conducted the micro-planning sessions in El Geneina, West Darfur on January 24-25. WHO is logistically supporting the activities of the survey teams, facilitating and coordinating meetings with all the partners, UN agencies and INGOs. The survey started in El Geneina locality on January 31st.

South Kordofan

Coordination and Health Information Management

- WHO continues its coordination with MoH to produce or create a check list on Health Information
- WHO in Kadugli coordinates with the other UN agencies for the arrival of returnees from Khartoum this week and in the next few months.

Eastern Sudan

Coordination and Health Information Management

- WHO in Kadugli coordinates with the State MoH of Kassala and Red Sea State at the regular disease outbreak preparedness and response task force meetings for Dengue fever and CSM.

Communicable disease control and environmental health interventions

- Insecticidal spray is on going for vector control in high risk areas.
- Entomologist arrived from Khartoum on the request of WHO sub office for vector control survey for Kassala and Gedarif States. The entomologist confirmed the presence of prime vector Aedes Aegypti in all areas of Kassala locality where the cases started coming in from 5th of January. He has also confirmed the presence of vector in Al-Gash locality; while the Nahr-Atbra and Setit are found to be free of the prime vector.

Operations

- The convoy of five (5) UN Vehicles - WHO, UNICEF, RCO, WFP and UNMOS - one of them WHO # 76/48 to the Hames-Koreib for health assessment was stopped mid way and was asked to go back to Kassala after waiting 3.1/2 hours at the check point.
- On 3 February 2007, WHO vehicle # 76/56 was stopped at the Raiba check point (Kassala). Onboard were the NMO and Entomologist. They were requested to go back to Kassala town since they didn't have travel permit from the National Security.

Others

A presentation was done by Head of the WHO sub-office on dengue fever for medical doctors, interns and final year students at the Kassala Teaching Hospital. The activity was held in collaboration with the General Director and Medical Director of the hospital. A total of 60 participants attended the lecture.

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