

Darfur

Images this week



IMCI in Darfur



WHO WD staff after the interview with leprosy victims, here with their children, in Hassa Hassa IDP Camp, Zalingei, West Darfur



Otash IDP Camp, Nyala



Water surveillance in South Darfur



Weekly Emergency Preparedness and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Sudan Activity Report

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Reporting Period Week 5 of 2007 (period: 11 February – 17 February)

GENERAL SITUATION:

Political, social, security overview for the week

Darfur Region

Darfur has been highlighted in the local and international media this reporting week as UN SG's Special Envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson and African Union Special Envoy for Darfur Salim Ahmed Salim held meetings in Darfur, with the field commanders of non-signatories to last year's Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), internally displaced persons (IDPs), and representatives of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) as well as a number of tribal chiefs. One of the clear messages sent out by the envoys is: there is simply no military solution to the Darfur crisis. The UN envoy said in a press conference that the starting point for the way forward is the political road.

On ground, the Darfur situation remains tense and volatile.

South Darfur

- The tension between the international community and the local authorities following the raid of an NGO guest house and the arrest of 20 humanitarian workers has now calmed down. Meetings between the UN community and the government body have resumed.
- The 4 WES workers abducted in December last year are still missing.
- On 13 February, the National Security seized a UN VSAT dish while being transported from Nyala Airport to UNMIS Headquarters, Nyala and took it the National Security (NS) station. NS requested a letter from UNMIS indicating that it is part of AMIS Light Package and Sudan Communication Authority's approval before its release.
- On 14 February, a Nyala local Police Colonel attempted to arrest South Darfur SLA/MM Commander Mohammed Shorba while in the South Darfur Wali's office in regards to the mass killing in Gereida. In reaction, the Commander's guards detained the Police Colonel at gunpoint. The Deputy Wali intervened and managed to diffuse tensions.

North Darfur

- 3 cases of carjackings and attempted carjackings targeting humanitarian organizations were reported this week.
- Aerial bombardments around the Korno general area were reported
- Increasing number of banditry attacks has been reported along the main Kepkabiya-Nagab road (main link from Fasher to SW parts of North Darfur).
- State Council. 2 new ministries have been created (Ministry of Livestock Two and Ministry of Information & Communication) in North Darfur. The total number of ministries is now ten. SMOH now has a new health minister, and ND has been sub divided from 7 to 14 administrative localities.
- On 14 February, the SLA/NSF in Kashaba recovered and handed over to AMIS a vehicle which was hijacked in an incident on 1 February during which one AU CivPol

officer was killed in Kassab IDP camp.

- On 13 February, an AMIS vehicle was hijacked by four armed men at the main Haskanita market (240 SouthEast of El-Fasher). The vehicle was recovered and handed over by the SLA/MM local authorities who attributed the incident to banditry.

West Darfur

- On 11 February, 4 armed men ransacked a storage room with food items recently delivered by WFP in Um Tajok (80 km E of El Geneina). The guard at the site is now recovering from the sustained gunshot wound.
- On 15 February, fighting was reported in Delebai villages (17km Southwest of Zalingei) between the Aballa and Targem Arab tribes.
- On 17 February, an UXO explosion left two children killed and two others injured in Asunga village (20 km West of El Geneina).

What is WHO doing?

Main events, interests and concerns for health

South Darfur

- Technical support from WHO to the SMoH for strengthening epidemic preparedness for meningococcal disease continues. The communicable disease surveillance officers of WHO is visiting the health clinics of high risk IDP camps to review the ongoing preparedness status. .
- An outbreak of Hepatitis-E has been laboratory confirmed in Otash IDP Camp of South Darfur after cases of acute jaundice syndrome were being reported from the camp. WHO organized meetings with its health partners to respond appropriately to the outbreak.
- Three suspected cases of meningitis were reported from Seleah and Labado area WHO and SMoH are investigating these cases.
- WHO team continuously monitor the sanitation situation in Otash camp. The environmental health officer makes a daily visit to the camp to check the implementation of different activities agreed upon by all partners to help decrease the high number of acute jaundice syndrome.
- Following report of meningitis cases in Muhajeria area, WHO in collaboration with the SMoH, have taken the following measures: enhanced surveillance including active case finding in the area, daily reporting and health education of the at risk population.
- WHO and IOM are planning for a pre-emptive vaccination campaign of returnees who are moving to the South Sudan where an outbreak from meningitis is currently ongoing. More than 30 000 IDPs are scheduled to go back to South Sudan in the next weeks/months.

North Darfur

- WHO in collaboration with SMoH conducted a one day training/workshop focusing on case definition, clinical identification, investigation, treatment protocol and surveillance of meningococcal disease. A total of 32 participants (medical and paramedical staff from SMoH and other NGOs) participated in the training.
- WHO has handed over the health centre of Sani Karrow to the Village Health Committee of Sani Karrow, during a joint mission conducted by UNICEF and MDM Greece. In addition, MDM is now exploring possibilities on how to implement PHC services within the area of Dar Salam.

West Darfur

- Following an ambush of the International Medical Corps (IMC) mobile clinic in Um Khair area, IMC has temporarily pulled out its staff from Um Khair and Garsilla.
- A team of FMoH, UNICEF and WHO visited El Geneina and met with the health minister, hospital officials and discussed the wild polio case in Chad. The meeting also included planning for preparations and response needed at the State level.
- **15** staff members of the SMoH and WHO attended a one day training on AFP conducted by Dr Salah of WHO and the Federal team.
- Health partners and field actors were informed on the wild polio case in Chad and requested them to help raise awareness through the PHC clinics in the state and

strengthen AFP surveillance.

South Kordofan

- 2 suspected cases of meningococcal disease were reported from Abyei area.
- For this reporting period, 11 suspected measles cases were reported in Abyei. 7 out of the suspected cases were not vaccinated.
- WHO is coordinating with the SMOH to strengthen the disease surveillance system in the state of South Kordofan, particularly for epidemic prone diseases.
- WHO in collaboration with the SMOH is investigating the suspected measles cases reported this week. In addition, the SMOH with WHO and MSF-Sweden are preparing for a vaccination campaign in the Abyei area.
- WHO participated in the first assessment of 10 villages in Lagawa locality. This was done jointly with a group composed of Unicef, WFP and related government ministries. The second phase of the assessment will include another group of 13 villages in Kadugli locality. The second part of the assessment will take place in the period 13th 15th of February 2007. The final step in this phase will be selection of 10 villages, out of the surveyed ones, to host the ICRD pilot project.

Eastern Sudan

- The reports from the epidemiology departments of Kassala, Gedarif and Red-Sea States indicated that there is no new case of acute watery diarrhoea for this reporting period.
- Based on the records of the epidemiology department in Kassala, a total of 27 cases of Dengue fever with one death (CFR= 3.70%) were reported from the state so far.
- 6 suspected cases of meningococcal disease, 5 cases from Nahr-Atbra locality and 1 case from Kassala locality, have been investigated by SMOH and WHO.
- According to the malaria department of the Kassala State, the effect of insecticidal spray (which is on going due to out break of dengue fever) has decreased the number of reported malaria cases from 22% to 15% during the same reporting period in Feb 2007 compared to Feb 2006.

IDP camps around Khartoum

- 635 IDPs were screened this week by IOM at Dar-Alsalam departure centre.
- Acute respiratory infections and malaria are the major health problems of the IDPs in the camps around Khartoum.

MORE WHO ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES

South Darfur

Access to Health Care Services

Hospital care

- WHO team visited Kass hospital to monitor the care and services provided to the IDPs. The team was satisfied with the quality of care/ services the hospital has extended to the IDPs.
- In Nyala hospital, 88 IDPs were seen at the out patient department (OPD). 25 IDPs were admitted, 9 IDPs had major surgical operations while 7 had minor one operations.
- In Ad Daein rural hospital: 225 patients (107 IDPs) attended at the OPD; there were 44 admissions (23 IDPs), 16 IDPs had major surgical operations; and 20 minor surgical cases (5 IDP). 8 deaths were recorded in the reporting week.
- In Kass rural hospital: 279 patients (66 IDPs) were seen at OPD; 31 admissions with 20 were IDPs; one major surgical operation for an IDP and one IDP death were recorded.

Communicable disease control and environmental health interventions

Water quality monitoring:

- WHO team continues the water quality monitoring in the IDP camps in South Darfur to help step down the number of diarrhoea in the IDP community.

Solid Waste Management

- The clean up campaign continued through the week. WHO is continuously working with an INGO to create a community system of collecting garbage.

Surveillance and Reporting

- The Weekly Morbidity and Mortality Bulletin was produced and distributed to all 34 NGO and UN agencies working in health sector.
- The weekly reporting of EWARS, this week was from 54 (80%) reporting units against a set target of over 85%.
- The total population under surveillance for the current week was 905,530 compared to 812,400 in the week before.
- The total number of consultations reported was 27,555 compared to 24,311 for the week before.
- The number of bloody diarrhoea cases observed during the current week was 586 cases to 482 cases two week ago. The attack rate for the week is 6,4 cases for 10,000 compare to 5,9 in the last week.
- 181 cases of jaundice syndrome were recorded this week. Last reporting week, 146 cases were reported. 91% (165) of the cases are from Otash IDP camp. The incidence of the disease is 1,8/10,000.
- 3 suspected cases of meningitis were reported in South Darfur.
- ARI remains the leading cause of morbidity in all age groups followed by malaria. ARI attack rate remained high and is 37.5/10,000 while for malaria it is 21, 2/10,000.

Coordination and Health Information Management

- The weekly coordination meeting took place this week. The data from the EWARS were discussed and action adopted. The coordination reviewed the meningitis measures in different IDP camps.

Operations

- Following the frequent harassment by the National security of WHO staff at Nyala airport, WHO team leader raised the issue during the weekly meeting with the Deputy Governor. The matter will be discussed during the UN/ Gov't security meeting next week.

North Darfur

Access to Health Care Services

- Increasing IDP access to Health Services
 - (a) *Support to Hospitals with life saving drugs.* As part of ensuring continued access of IDPs to free health services, WHO (with support from ECHO) has this week supported Kutum & Mallet rural hospitals with various drug supplies.
 - (b) *Contribution to running cost.* WHO has supported Malleit Hospital (ECHO support) with an amount equivalent to US \$ 2165 as contribution to the running cost of the hospital for the period Oct-Dec 2006. This amount covers cost of fuel, engine oil and stationery.
 - (c) *Monitoring & Technical Support.* Continued with monitoring and technical support to 6 APWs engaged within Malleit, Kutum, Maternity & Fasher Teaching Hospital.
- PHC Quality Services
 - In addition, WHO has supported SMoH to provide PHC quality services to both the 2 Health facilities (Gusa Jamat and Sani Karrow) in this regards these 2 HFs have received assortment of PHC drugs for 3 months up to May 2007.
 - WHO continued with the mapping and updating of PHC profile is continued.
 - Under implementation of IMCI approach, WHO has provided 3 INGOs with assorted IEC materials on community best practices.

Communicable disease control and environmental health interventions

Surveillance and Reporting

- Despite the uncertain/fluid security situation and inaccessibility, there was a significant increase in the number of reporting units, with 27 out of 29 currently functioning reporting units (representing 93%) reporting units submitting their reports and giving information about the health status of the population. Population under surveillance is 407,157 compared to 381,441 during the previous week.
- Malaria: Proportional morbidity of malaria in this week is 1% same as previous week.
- Same as the previous week, bloody diarrhea (BD) cases represented 1% of total consultations. Separately, 7 cases of jaundice were reported this week (1 was from Kazan Tungur, 2 from Kassab, 2 from Kabkabia and the last 2 were from Mustareeha).
Action point: The probable contributory factors to these cases could be linked to poor sanitary conditions and limited access to safe water for domestic use. WHO/SMOH has enhanced surveillance/monitoring activities, provided support for water/EH activities and continues to advocate for beefing up of environmental health/sanitation activities within these general areas.
- No cases of measles, meningitis, AFP or neonatal tetanus were reported during this period.
- No suspected case of AWD reported in North Darfur.

Water Quality Monitoring:

WHO continued providing logistical support (transport) to SMoH (Environmental Health) for continued water quality monitoring targeting privately owned open wells within Fasher locality and advising watsan implementing agencies on sanitary improvements around water sources and appropriate chlorination/disinfection procedures.

West Darfur

Coordination and Health Information Management

- WHO team and the DG of SMOH, have presented the micro-plan for meningitis preparedness and response to the Deputy Wali (Governor) and his cabinet on February 15.
- The weekly health coordination meeting was held on February 15, 2007. The meeting chaired by SMoH, and co-chaired by WHO was attended by SMOH, 4 UN agencies, and 13 NGOs including 2 local NGOs (UNICEF, IRW, IARA, OCHA, CAM, ICRC, SC-US, UNFPA, MSF-F, IMC, MEDAIR, MSF-CH, SMOH, CONCERN, HAI, ADRA, WR, SIMA and WHO)

Access to Health Care Services

Primary Health Care

- **112** volunteers have been trained on basic vaccination techniques in WD state from February 5-17, by SMOH, UNICEF and WHO.

Communicable disease control and environmental health interventions

EWARS

- **28 (88%) sites out of 32** of the EWARS provided information about the health status of the population in WD.
- The total number of consultations reported was **23,459** compared to **23,780** reported consultations in the last reporting week.
- The number of bloody diarrhoea cases observed during the current week was four hundred ninety six (**496**), as opposed to five hundred forty four (**544**) cases in the previous weeks.
- Eleven (**11**) cases of acute jaundice syndrome are recorded this week, (**4**) cases from Um Dukhun AU.
- ARI remains the leading cause of morbidity in all age groups (**14.6%**), followed by Other Diarrhoea (OD) (**9.2%**).
- No cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), meningitis, measles, neonatal tetanus or

Acute Watery Diarrhoea notified.

Environmental Health & Vector control activities

Water quality

- WHO monitored MOH water activity it found that; 3 samples were taken from 2 sources from camps and one source from IMC health clinic.
- Results are 2 sources recorded uncountable total of coli form (Riyadh camp, IMC clinic) and one source is clean, free chlorine is need to be adjusted and faecal coli form is zero in all sources.

Solid waste management

- Geneina market and hospital are being cleaned-up by town locality and monitored by WHO.

Others:

- WHO prepared and presented paper on **Indoor Air Pollution** to 35 CRS staff training on manufacturing of the improved mud stove.

South Kordofan

Coordination and Health Information Management

- The SMoH together will commence a comprehensive health facility survey. WHO will participate in the survey by providing them with EHA health facility survey form. The health survey will start on February 20 up to March 5, 2007.

Communicable disease control and environmental health interventions

- The culture results of the first two specimens were positive for *Neisseria meningitides* (Group A); and found to be Sensitive to Ampicillin, Chloramphenicol, Ceftriaxone and Gentamycin. A 3rd CSF sample was sent to Khartoum for culture.
- 30 boxes of Emergency Kit B/Kit 3 were donated by WHO to the SMoH.
- WHO is supporting the resident Chest physician of SMoH to re-enforce/establish DOTs centres in the state. A supervisory tour is expected to start next week.

Eastern Sudan

Coordination and Health Information Management

- WHO is coordinating 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.
- WHO participated in a meeting called by Minister of Health and attended by all UN agencies working in Health sector as well as NGOs for better coordination with State Ministry of Health.

Communicable disease control and environmental health interventions

- Insecticidal spray is on going for the vector control in the high risk areas.
- WHO is planning a training course for medical doctors, medical assistants and laboratory technicians on dengue fever Red-Sea State next week.

Operations

- UN agencies face a common problem regarding the free movements in and out of Kassala State. Resident Coordinator's office has taken the issue to Wali's office.

Others

- The training of new staff for the 27 additional sentinel sites has been completed.

IDP camps around Khartoum

- To assist in the flow of the IDP return operations, IDPs will be accommodated in centralised points (departure centres) for 1 to 2 nights. Most of the operations including health assessment and assistance take place inside the departure centres.
- To ensure IDPs health and continued access to free health services, WHO secured

5000 doses of bivalent meningococcal vaccine which were released to IOM/Khartoum on 19 February 07.

- A meeting was conducted by OCHA on 11 February and discussion was focused on IDPs organised return.

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