In this reporting period:

- Following the confirmed cases of polio in Ikotos and Aweil South counties in Eastern Equatoria state and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states respectively, South Sudan declared Polio a national public health emergency in South Sudan.
- The Ministry of Health, Republic of South Sudan declared a measles outbreak in Malakal county, Upper Nile state.
- WHO in collaboration with other partners supported the Central and State Ministries of Health to conduct mop up campaigns for polio among children aged 0-5 years in Ikotos and Budi counties, Eastern Equatoria State, Aweil South county, Northern Bahr el Ghazal state and Gogrial West county, Warrap state.
- The organization continued backstopping states and partners with drugs to respond to the floods in the flood affected states of Jonglei, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile.
- WHO also participated in floods interagency assessments in Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states.

Humanitarian Situation

- Returnees continue arriving to different parts of South Sudan. In this period, barge convoys, two of passengers and 2 two of luggage departed Renk with an estimated 947 passengers on board. The barges are expected to stop over in Malakal and arrive Juba in two weeks’ time. WHO in collaboration with the State Ministry of Health, Central Equatoria state and other health partners will conduct vaccination of children under five and women on arrival.
- Heavy rains that started in the past weeks continued into this reporting period causing flooding that destroyed of homes and fields in most parts of the country. Humanitarian partners continued to respond to needs of those people affected by flooding by providing medical support, food and non food items. Partners assessed up to 130,400 people to be in need of humanitarian assistance in accessible areas affected by floods.

Public Health Concerns

- Flooding continued in most parts of the country, as a result humanitarian needs including health needs have increased especially for the displaced persons. Those displaced are at high risk of contracting water borne diseases due to poor human waste disposal and respiratory diseases.
- With the confirmed cases of polio in South Sudan, there is a threat to the health of children under five years in South Sudan. The risk even increases more with the reported cases in the neighboring countries of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. WHO, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and other partners have stepped up efforts to ensure that the risk of other children getting the wild polio virus is minimized. Vaccination exercises are being organized for the country in order to reach thousands of children at risk.
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Health Situation

- The data in this section of the report focuses on week 39. In this reporting period, a total of 52,590 health event cases and twenty seven (27) deaths were reported from 84% of the functional health facilities. Malaria accounted for 79% of the reported health events followed by acute watery diarrhea. Completeness and timelines of reporting in this period was at 84% and 56% (compared to 80% and 50% in week 39) respectively.

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD)

- A total of 8,853 acute watery diarrhoea cases (Incidence rate of 107.1 per 100,000 populations) were reported across the country during this reporting period, with eight (8) related deaths (CFR 0.09%). Children below five years of age accounted for 60% of all the reported AWD cases. Figure 2 shows comparison of AWD cases and deaths from the ten states in Week 39. Upper Nile state reported the highest number of cases followed by Unity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes and Jonglei states. Warrap state reported the least numbers of cases followed by Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria states.

Measles

- Twenty one (21) suspected cases of measles (incidence rate of 0.25 per 100,000 population) with no related death were reported across the country. The overall incidence rate decreased in week 39 as compared to week 38 (0.46 per 100,000 populations). The suspected measles cases were reported from Unity state (8), Upper Nile state (5), Central Equatoria state (4), Eastern Equatoria State (3) and Western Equatoria state (1).
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Maternal and child Health

- In this reporting period, WHO continued providing support to four selected hospitals in South Sudan in the area of Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics and Neonatal Care (CEmONC). In Malakal Teaching Hospital, Upper Nile state, the programme continued providing on job training for health workers handling mothers in the maternity ward based on inadequate skills gaps identified. The gaps were mainly indentified in the use of partographs, infection control, management of the third stage of labour, post-operative management of patients and postnatal care.

Expanded Programme on Immunization/Polio Eradication Initiative

- Following confirmed cases of polio in Losite payam, Ikotos county, Eastern Equatoria state, and in Aweil South county, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, a rapid response team of the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF were dispatched to the areas of the outbreaks to conduct further investigations. In Ikotos, the teams reinvestigated the confirmed polio case by conducting a detailed case investigation and clinical examination of the polio patient and supported the supervision of the ongoing mop up campaign in the county. During the visits, the teams met with the County Health Department team and AVSI (Lead health partner in Ikotos) to discuss the required resources to implement the campaign; AVSI committed to support the county health department during the campaign with vehicles to drop vaccines to two locations in Ikotos while WHO pledged transportation of ice packs to Ikotos and distribution of vaccines to Tsertenya, Imatong and Katire while UNICEF provided vaccines used for the campaigns in Ikotos and Aweil South counties.

- In addition, WHO supported the on job training of vaccinators in Bira Primary Health Care Centre, Losite payam Ikotos county. The trained vaccinator supported the campaign exercise in Ikotos county and will support the monitoring of the communities of vaccination during the campaigns.

- Mop up campaigns were conducted in Ikotos and Budi counties, Eastern Equatoria state, Aweil South, Northern Bahr el Ghazal state and Gogrial East, Warrap state in this period. The campaigns started off on 27 September to 4th October, 2013 targeting 544,865 children less than 15 years in all the 4 counties in the 3 states.
In addition, WHO, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF also developed a comprehensive plan for the response to the outbreak. Among the plans agreed on were: planned Supplementary National Immunization Days (SNIDS) and three National Immunization Days scheduled for October to December 2013 targeting the population of children aged 0 – 15 years. The supplementary national immunization days will target 3.3 million while the national immunization days will target a population of 8.2 million children aged 0-15 years per round.

- With the confirmed outbreak of polio in Ikotos Eastern Equatoria State and Aweil South, Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance was intensified in the affected states. Acute flaccid paralysis surveillance accompanied by laboratory investigations is used to demonstrate the presence or absence of a polio virus circulating in community. Stool specimens are collected from all the cases of acute flaccid paralysis case identified at health facility and in the community level and sent to the laboratory. Screening has been intensified at the health facilities and community in the high risk areas. Out of the seventeen (17) new acute flaccid paralysis cases reported during this period, Aweil South county recorded two (2), while Ikotos recorded, zero (0) since the reporting of the outbreak.

- Following flooding in Malek payam, Rumkek Central County Lakes state where 300 households are displaced, WHO supported the State Ministry of Health with one basic unit of Interagency Emergency Health Kits 1 of 2, one basic unit of Interagency Emergency Health Kits 2 of 2, one Emergency kit type B and one Diarrhea kit to support the management of patients seeking medical treatment from at Malek health facility. This followed a recommendation by the flood interagency assessment team that visited Malek payam.

- To support the mop up campaigns of immunization against polio in Aweil South county, the organization supported the training of community volunteers on integrated disease surveillance and response in the rural areas. It is hoped that this will enhance surveillance of Acute flaccid paralysis at the county following confirmed cases of polio in the area. In a mop up campaign in Bor town a total of 22,277 children under five were vaccinated against polio following reports of the outbreak in Ikotos county Eastern Equatoria state and Aweil South Northern Bahr el Ghazal state. The campaign targeted 127,000 children achieving a vaccination coverage of 102%.

- WHO also supported the State Ministry of Health Jonglei state to conduct investigations of a suspected Guinea worm cases in Modit village in Wuror county in this reporting period. During the investigation, a suspected case was confirmed as having guinea worm. Community awareness and sensitization of the community was conducted in the area of Madit village. South Sudan is on the verge of interrupting indigenous guinea worm disease transmission in the country. Since January 2013 to 22 September 2013, only 104 cases of guinea worm cases were reported in the country, a figure lowered than 521 cases in reported in the same period in 2012.
As a response to flooding in Bor county, WHO in collaboration with the State Ministry of Health and other partners namely: IMA and UNICEF formed rapid medical teams and mobile clinics who visited the most affected villages within Bor county. Four teams were formed to run two mobile clinics in Malou village and Hai Machuor village, all within Bor town. In addition the agency donated assorted drugs and supplies to the two mobile clinics. A total five hundred and seventy nine (579) curative consultations in Hai Machuor clinic were reported in one week with ninety one (91) children under 5 years were diagnosed with malnutrition, nine of them were diagnosed with moderate malnutrition and three diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition. In Malou mobile clinic, three hundred and fifty nine (359) curative consultations were reported in one week and one hundred and seventy nine (179) children under five screened for malnutrition, of these forty three (43) were diagnosed with moderate malnutrition and nine (9) diagnosed with severe malnutrition.

In Pibor, WHO continued supporting the County Health Department by strengthening the mobile medical centre in Pibor town. The agency did this by providing life saving essential drugs and incentives to the health workers at Pibor county health Department. In this reporting period, four thousand, nine hundred and fifty one (4 951) children were vaccinated against polio and measles around Pibor payam with support of WHO.

In this reporting period, WHO participated in flood interagency assessment in Tonj South County during which the assessment teams established that most areas in Malual, Mouk, Mabior, Yar and Thiet are severely affected causing damages to houses, crops and roads. The team also established that four thousand, one hundred and eighty four (4 184) individuals in eight hundred and eleven (811) households were affected in three payams of Gogrial West County and three thousand and three hundred (3 300) individuals in five hundred and fifty (550) households found to be in need of humanitarian support. As a recommendation for health cluster partners, there is a need to replenish drug stocks at health facilities in the affected payams and a need to strengthen disease surveillance.

Together with the Ministry of Health and other health partners like UNICEF, the organization responded to the polio outbreak in the three states of Eastern Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states. The agencies conducted mop up campaigns targeting children aged 0-15 years of age. The campaign targeted 544,865 children, however the total number of those vaccinated in all the three states will shared in the following weeks report.
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Plans

- Participate in the mop up campaigns for the Wild Polio Virus in Ikotos and Budi, Eastern Equatoria state, Aweil South Northern Bahr el Ghazal state and Gogrial West counties in Warrap state.

- Travel to Wuror county to conduct an assessment of suspected acute jaundice syndrome and measles cases. During the week in focus 27 suspected cases with of measles and 11 suspected cases of acute jaundice syndrome were reported in Yuai, Pathai and Modit villages in Jonglei state.

- Continue supporting the health response to floods in all flood affected areas by providing emergency medical supplies to cover the much needed gaps.

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