HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEK 43

• The situation so far this week across Southern Sudan has remained relatively calm. However, there are signs of growing tension in the border areas in the greater Upper Nile region (Upper Nile State and Jonglei State) and Western Nile region (Lakes, Warrap, WBeG, NBeG and Unity State), as pre-referendum activities gather pace. UN agencies have been advised to remain vigilant during the period leading to the January referendum.

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION DAY 2010 IN SOUTH SUDAN

In Juba, the National Immunization Day (NID) was started on November 1, in a ceremony launched by the Minister of Health, which was attended by senior representatives from the Government of South Sudan and representatives from UN agencies – a Presidential Statement was also made to launch the NID across South Sudan. Similar launching ceremonies were held across all 10 states, spearheaded by State Governors, WHO representatives and health partners. An estimated 80% timeliness was observed this year in the start-up of vaccination efforts, with over 3 million children vaccinated across Southern Sudan.

Continued next page >>
Training on AFP case surveillance and supervision was conducted for 20,000 immunization personnel, including State EPI supervisors, County EPI officers, volunteer vaccinators and WHO field staff, a week prior to the launch of the NID. Immunization awareness campaigns were also conducted across Southern Sudan, with considerable success this year – immunization campaigns were extensively aired on local radio stations and newspapers.
COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

• In North Bahr el Ghazal State, the WHO team participated in a coordination meeting with the State Integrated Team – which includes WHO, UN agencies and NGOs – to review the flooding situation in many Payams across the state; and to deliberate solutions that address gaps that would improve disaster-response effectiveness – more specifically emergency flood-response and post-disaster intervention. One of the key action-points agreed upon, was the need to maintain stocks of pre-positioned emergency supplies, and maintain communication relay between emergency response personnel at the county level and state level supervisors.

The Integrated Team also participated in an emergency health and nutrition coordination meeting to deliberate the effectiveness of the health component in disaster-response and emergency assistance. It was agreed that the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and WHO coordinate intervention activities with health partners, to mobilize personnel and emergency supplies to the flood affected areas, with the aim of improving the capacity of community health workers and provide vital medical supplies to health facilities.

• In Jonglei State, the implementation of the NID was started on 2 November, with vaccines and immunization kits distributed to all county-level health facilities and vaccination centres. A review meeting was held by the WHO team and the State Ministry of Health, to assess the NID progress and to “map-out” solutions to problems faced during immunization campaigns. In attendance during the meeting were the State EPI Operations Officer, State Social Mobilizer, WHO Technical Officer and logistical team, STOP Team members, and the Field Supervisor for Bor South.
CAPACITY BUILDING

• In Jonglei State, the WHO team conducted on-the-job EPI training for community health workers, along with visits to cold-chain facilities. Supervision and monitoring of immunization activities and clinician sensitization were conducted in facilities run by SMoH, NGOs and privately owned clinics.

• A third review of the Guinea Worm Eradication Programme (GWEP) in the West Nile region (Lakes, Warrap, WBeG, NBeG and Unity State) was conducted to assess the progress made so far at the state-level, and to address the challenges faced in eradicating this parasitic disease – one of the main points raised by the participants was the need to increase awareness campaigns in remote areas. The GWEP review took place in Rumbek Town, Lakes State; and participants from all the five states attended the meeting, along with the SMoH Director General, WHO Representative for Sudan, MoH Staff and UNICEF.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE

• A total of 60 (75%) of the 80 counties submitted weekly surveillance reports to central level. Of these, 86% of all counties submitted timely epidemiological reports (before Wednesday 10:00am) to the Surveillance office in Juba.

• A total of 483 health facilities from 60 counties submitted weekly surveillance reports, and the proportion of health facilities submitting reports has slightly increased this week.

• Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Lakes, Eastern Equatoria and Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, all have the best surveillance reporting performance with 100% timeliness and over 50% completeness. While Jongle, and Unity State performed fairly this week. Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile State have poorly reporting performance.

DISEASE REPORTS*

Malaria:
17,916 cases of malaria and 14 deaths were reported across Southern Sudan.

Neonatal Tetanus:
7 suspected cases and one death were reported this week from the Juba Teaching Hospital.

Dysentery:
2,514 cases of bloody diarrhea were reported, with 6 deaths.

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD):
A total of 3,064 cases of AWD were reported this week, with one death of a child aged under 5 years from Unity State.
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE

- A total of 28,455 health events including 26 deaths were reported under surveillance this week.

KALA AZAR UPDATE:

- There are over 1,680 patients currently in-treatment at various facilities in the greater Upper Nile region. A MoU was signed between the Jonglei State Ministry of Health and MSF Belgium, to explore and target new areas that are in dire need of new KA treatment centers.

POLIO UPDATE:

- Eight new AFP cases were reported this week from Eastern Equatoria (2 cases from Ikotos), Western Equatoria (one from ibba and one from Maridi), North Bhar el Ghazal (one from Aweil South), Upper Nile (one from Luakpiny), Unity (one from Panyijar) and Warrap State (one from Twic).

To date, the total number of AFP cases for 2010 stands at 262 (232 discarded, one pending case for ERC and 31 lab pending). The annualized Non-Polio AFP rate stands at 4.15. Stool Adequacy = 97% and stool samples from the 231 AFP cases revealed 32 NPEV (13.79%) and 6 Sabin-like (2.59%) isolates.

* Information as per Epidemiological Data for WK 42, Data Next Page >>

CONTINUED (DISEASE REPORTS*)

Acute Jaundice Syndrome:

3 suspected case of AJS were reported from Western Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria State.

Measles:

2 suspected case of measles were reported from Western Equatoria State.

* Photo: © Harish Murthi/WHO
TIMELINESS OF IDSR REPORTS IN SOUTH SUDAN WEEK 32 - 42 | 2010

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK | 42
18 October - 26 October, 2010

Source: MoH/GoSS

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