

Each week, the World Health Organization Department for Health Action in Crises in Geneva produces information highlights on the health aspects of selected humanitarian crises. The WHO contributions in each situation are provided through a mix of different WHO programmes: the staff involved is drawn from WHO field and country offices, often with support from different departments in WHO regional offices and Headquarters. The remit of the WHO departments specifically concerned with Emergency and Humanitarian Action in Crises is to increase the effectiveness of the WHO contribution to crisis preparedness and response, transition and recovery. This note, which is not exhaustive, is designed for internal use and does not reflect any official position of the WHO Secretariat.

HORN OF AFRICA



Assessments and events:

- The epicentre of this crisis straddles Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya.
- In the *Gedo Region* of Somalia, two consecutive rainfall and crop failures coupled with persistent insecurity have led to loss of human life and severe erosion of productive assets. The assessed global acute malnutrition was 23.8 percent, while the severe acute malnutrition was 3.7 percent, indicating a severe nutrition crisis. Alarming crude and under-five mortality rates were assessed at 1.04 per 10,000 persons per day and 2.46 per 10,000 persons per day, respectively. Severe water shortages are exacerbating the situation.

Actions:

- The Ethiopia Federal Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF, launched a four-day, house-to-house polio immunization campaign on 14 April. The campaign targets five million children under the age of five in 15 identified high-risk zones of the country.
- Regional Offices AFRO and EMRO agreed that an Inter-Regional Emergency Hub will be established in Nairobi. This hub will be afforded the capacity for: technical support for operations; short field missions to complement country capacities; information management; regional comparative analysis; and stakeholder coordination.
- WHO estimates that a total of USD 12.3 million is required to cover the health needs of the people at risk for the next 9 months. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has granted two donations of USD 1.9 and 2.1 million respectively to WHO for life saving activities in the Horn of Africa (220 000 for Djibouti, 1.34 million for Eritrea, 813 600 for Ethiopia, 730 000 for Kenya and 704 540 for Somalia).

SUDAN



Assessments and events:


- On 18 April, the Federal Ministry of Health announced one suspected human case of avian influenza in Khartoum. Laboratory tests carried out 19 April by WHO experts were negative for avian influenza.
- The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Animal Resources, the Ministry of Science and Technology, WHO, FAO, and other partners are working together to coordinate containment measures, increase surveillance and ensure effective response to avian influenza.
- On 13-17 April, DGR, HAC visited Sudan at the invitation of the Federal MoH to assess achievements and identify gaps in health services throughout the country. DGR was joined by H.E. the Minister of Health in visits to El Fasher, Nyala and Juba where they met with state and local health authorities and WHO health staff in the various health centres rehabilitated by WHO.
- Security in Darfur remains unpredictable and access to many areas is increasingly difficult, especially but not only in *West Darfur*, where phase IV is still activated in areas situated north of Al Geneina.
- In *North Darfur*, an assessment was conducted in Wada'ah, Al Fasbir, an SLA-area hosting many IDPs from South Darfur, to review water and sanitation resources and estimate needs for the rehabilitation of the local health facilities. Plans are finalized with the State MoH and local community leaders.
- In South Darfur, the State Water and Sanitation agency has requested WHO's assistance in evaluating water provision in sections of Kalma Camp, where an estimated 90 000 IDPs are currently living.


Actions:

- WHO is providing the Ministry of Health with technical assistance in relation to the one suspected human case of avian influenza. This support covers active surveillance, strengthening of laboratories to facilitate diagnosis and the supply of personal protective equipment.

More information is available at:
<http://www.emro.who.int/sudan/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In <i>North Darfur</i>, training on meningitis surveillance and case management was conducted for 34 medical assistants and 10 medical doctors from different health facilities, including both State MoH and international NGOs. • In <i>South Darfur</i>, WHO and the Finish Red Cross continue working with the Nyala Teaching Hospital to open a new emergency room. Most of the basic biomedical equipment has been installed. WHO delivered two electric generators to Eddeain and Kass Hospitals. • To support active community involvement in water supply, sanitation and hygiene activities, WHO and the Kuwaiti Patient Help Fund conducted community training on environmental related diseases for 57 participants. Similar training will continue throughout April and likely into May. • WHO and UNICEF have begun formulating water and sanitation plans for cholera preparedness; WHO will compile training materials for various aspects of cholera preparedness. • In <i>Gedaref</i>, WHO conducted a mission with the State MoH to coordinate training on meningitis case management and assess the overall state response to meningitis and leishmaniasis. • In 2005, activities were supported by the European Commission, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. In 2006 contributions were received from Switzerland, Ireland and Finland, as well as from the Common Humanitarian Fund.
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<p>CHAD</p> 	<p>Assessments and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clashes between Government and rebel forces resulted in a deterioration of the security situation with consequent evacuation of non-essential UN staff. Humanitarian aid programs in the Eastern part of the country, where more than 200,000 refugees from Darfur are accommodated in a dozen of camps, have been affected. Basic services including health care have been reduced to the essential. Food, water and medicines have been stockpiled in all camps. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO has kept the Abeche sub-office operative. Despite the security situation, the early warning system for the early detection and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases set up by the Ministry of Health and WHO has continued to work. • No major outbreaks have been reported during the last weeks. One new emergency health kit, containing medicines and medical supplies to cover the need of 10,000 people for three months will be delivered to Abeche. • In 2005, WHO activities in Chad were made possible by a contribution from the United Kingdom and a loan from CERF. No funds have been received for 2006.
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<p>UGANDA</p> 	<p>Assessments and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meningitis epidemic in Gulu is now under control. The last confirmed case was on 28th March. • A WHO and DFID joint supervisory and monitoring team visited Kitgum Matidi IDP camp and referral hospital to assess the progress being made. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of health workers on the new malaria treatment policy concluded in Gulu, Pader, Kitgum, Lira and Apac districts. • The guidelines and training plan for orientation on the new malaria treatment policy have been completed. • WHO/HAC in Kitgum supported the DDHS to investigate a suspected outbreak of bloody diarrhoea near Kitgum town. A total of 25 suspected cases were seen. But the number of cases had not reached an epidemic proportion. • In 2005-2006, support for WHO's activities has been received from the European Commission, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.
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LIBERIA



Assessments and events:

- WHO, UNICEF, FAO and WFP have begun the countrywide Food Security nutrition and Mortality survey. Training of enumerators and pre-testing of the tools in the field have been conducted. The survey has begun in all counties.
- Six working groups (each focusing on a particular topic) have been created and are being coordinated by the Ministry of Health to prepare a health policy and plan of action. The working groups are identifying gaps and planning a rapid assessment.

Actions:

- WHO developed, facilitated and financed the mortality component of the Food Security, nutrition and Mortality survey.
- A task force composed of MoH, WHO and UNFPA is reviewing a rapid assessment questionnaire to be used for the health policy and plan of action preparation.
- In 2006, WHO's interventions in Liberia are strengthened thanks to funding from the European Commission. Ireland has also pledged funds.

WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP



⇒ A UN Seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people will take place in Cairo on 26-27 April. The theme of the seminar is "International Efforts at Alleviating the Palestinian Economic and Humanitarian Crisis".

Assessments and events:

- OCHA organized a meeting to brief donors on the humanitarian consequences of the funding situation and the humanitarian response.

Actions:

- Together with representatives from the MoH and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, WHO participated in a TV programme to promote WHO's four recommendations to address the needs of the health workforce.
- WHO organized the weekly donor coordination meeting on Avian flu with representatives from the MoH, UN agencies and donors to update on the situation and the funding response.
- WHO organized a meeting with UN agencies to finalize the joint UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, and FAO proposal against the Avian flu outbreak.
- In 2005, WHO's activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were funded by AGFUND, the European Commission, Norway and the United States.

INTER-AGENCY ISSUES

- **Avian and Human Influenza.** On 20 April, the IFRC launched its Avian Influenza Preparedness, Mitigation and Response Appeal.
- **Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.** The Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration met on 21 April.
- **UNHCR.** On 21 April, UNHCR briefed the donor community in Geneva on its cluster responsibilities and activities in the designated pilot countries.
- **IASC Plenary.** The next IASC Plenary meeting at the level of Heads of Agency will take place in Geneva on 24 April. The meeting will discuss the Humanitarian Reform initiatives, NGO engagement and participation in the IASC, the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and humanitarian work as well as Avian and Human Influenza.
- **Refugee Children.** On 25 April, the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, the Secretariat of the United Nations Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children and UNHCR will hold a thematic consultation in Geneva on violence against children in refugee and post-conflict situations.
- **ECHA.** On 26 April, the meeting of the UN Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs is expected to discuss Darfur, Northern Uganda, South Sudan and the West Bank and Gaza.
- **Transition Issues.** On 27 April, the UNDG-ECHA Working Group will report on the workshop which took place in Marrakesh, Morocco at the end of February, update on the UNDG/ECHA Multi-Donor trust Fund review and plan for the full UNDG Principals meeting to take place in the margins of ECOSOC in July
- **Tsunami Recovery.**
 - The next meeting of the IASC-UNDG Taskforce is scheduled for 26 April.
 - On 28 April, the Global Consortium on Tsunami Recovery will discuss status reports, policy issues and lessons.

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- **Emergency Response Training.** From 30 April to 13 May, WFP will hold a residential Emergency Response Training, in Revinge, Sweden, co-hosted by the Swedish Rescue Service Agency.
- **Humanitarian Coordinator System.** The first meeting of the IASC Group on issues related to the Humanitarian Coordinator will take place on 5 May.
- **Information Management.** Preparations are under way for the IASC workshop on inter-agency information management in Geneva on 8-9 June.
- **Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) Training of Trainers.** OCHA is organizing a CAP Training of Trainers Workshop in English in Geneva on 16-18 May.
- **Cholera control in emergency settings.** On 17 May, WHO will brief the IASC weekly meeting in Geneva on cholera control in emergency settings.

Please send any comments and corrections to crises@who.int

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