

HIGHLIGHTS

- During this week, WHO supported the State Ministry of Health, Northern Bahr el Ghazal state to conduct immunization of children in Internally Displaced Peoples camps of Jaac and Warchum.
- Investigated a suspected case of meningitis in Mayom County.
- Supported the Ministry of Health to organize for an emergency meeting to discuss the Upsurge in cases of Hepatitis E in Maban county.
- Verified suspected cases of rabies reported from Abeinom County.
- Supported case management of Khalazar in Mayom County following increasing numbers of admission.



Refugees in one of the refugee camps in Maban county lining for water. This county has reported increasing numbers of Hepatitis E cases in the past two month Photo: WHO/Dr Opoka Martin

Humanitarian Situation

- In the Abyei area, population return continued during this period. A total of 1,536 individuals (514) households returned from Wau to Abyei area. Out of the total number of households that returned, 377 were declared partial while 137 were reportedly complete households.
- Surveillance data indicates Hepatitis E cases are on the increase in Maban County. Over 115,000 refugees are settled in Maban county with limited and poor sanitation facilities. Humanitarian actors continue to respond and contain the outbreak.

AFFECTED POPULATION

Total target for health	2,900,000	
Newly Internally Displaced Persons	200,000	
Refugees in South Sudan	350,000	
Returnees from Sudan	125,000	
People in need of humanitarian support	4,600,000	

Source: UN/OCHA

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

- Hepatitis E is still ongoing in Upper Nile state. As of this reporting week, a total of 810 cases of Hepatitis E were reported from Maban and Pariang Counties hosting refugee camps alone. This brings the total number of cases reported since the outbreak to of 5,892 and 107 death.
- Surveillance data shows an increase in measles cases across the ten states of South Sudan.

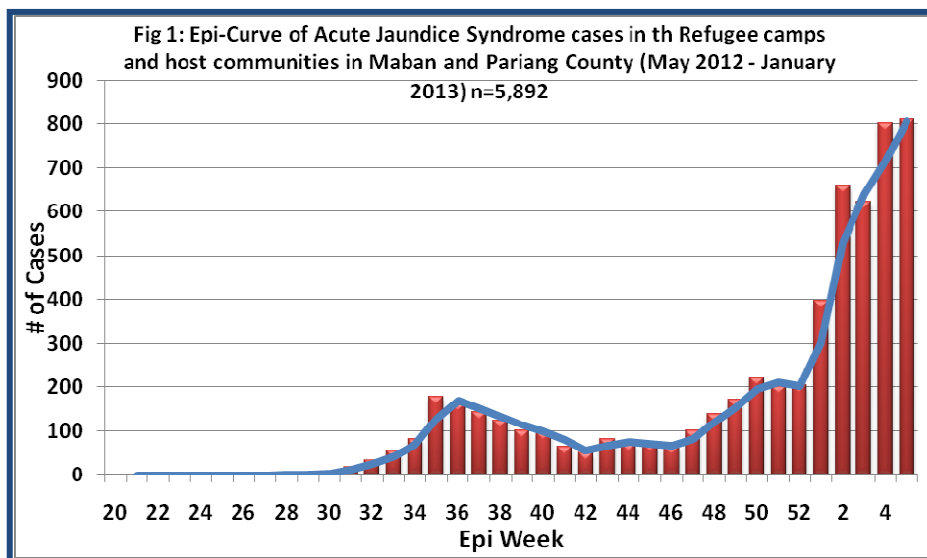
- Rabies remains a public health concern. The increasing number of dog bites in Raja and Abeinom areas in Unity state is a worrying situation in the state.
- Five cases of cutaneous anthrax were reported from Jur River this reporting period, while in Wau and Deim Zubeir, two suspected cases of Acute Jaundice Syndrome were reported. One sample was collected and sent to Juba for further analysis.

Health Situation

Communicable Diseases

- During week 4, the completeness and timeliness level of reporting from health facilities across the country slightly increased as compared to the previous weeks in 2013. In week 4, the average completeness rate of reporting in all the states was 57% (562 out of 993 facilities), while average timeliness was at 48% (477 out of 993 facilities). None of the health facilities in Lakes state submitted the weekly surveillance report during this period, while only seven (7) facilities from Jonglei submitted their weekly reports for week 4.

- A total of eight hundred ten (810) Hepatitis E cases and eight (8) related deaths were reported from the refugee camps in Maban and Yida in epidemiological week 5. Of these cases, 76% and 100% of the deaths were reported from Yusuf Batil camp in Maban, where the upsurge of the disease has been recorded since early December 2012. As seen in figure 1, a total of 5,892 hepatitis E cases and 107 related deaths have been reported since the outbreak began in the refugee camps in Maban and Pariang Counties, Upper Nile and Unity States respectively. Cases and deaths recorded in Yusuf Batil camp in the past 9 weeks also increased four folds as compared to the cumulative cases recorded since the beginning of the outbreak. Jamam, Gendrasa and Doro equally recorded increased cases in the past 9 weeks. UNHCR together with health and WASH partners have taken steps to contain the surge of cases in all camps, Yusuf Batil in particular.



- Assessments conducted by MSF Holland and Belgium in Yusuf Batil and Doro respectively on water and sanitation conditions in the camps indicated that there are major gaps in sanitation and hygiene situation at household and Sheikdom levels. There are very few hand-washing facilities at the households levels, while decommissioning full latrines is a major problem in all camps. Waste management at the camps and market place is also a major gap that requires urgent attention. UNHCR and other partners are fully committed to scaling up water and sanitation interventions to address existing identified gaps during the assessments.



A joint team between WHO and MOH conduct a validation exercise for Khala azar investigation kits Old Fangak in Jonglei state Photo: WHO



WHO staff in a Laboratory in Old Fangak during the kala azar investigations Photo: WHO

- In this reporting week, thirty three (33) suspected measles cases were reported from Juba, Budi, Kapoeta East, Wau, Maridi and Yambio counties. State Rapid Response teams and health partners are currently investigating the reported cases, and blood samples are expected to be collected and sent to Juba for further investigations. Measles surveillance was enhanced across the country, and all state surveillance officers have been equipped with required materials for investigations.
- While in Guit County, Unity State one suspected case of meningitis case was recorded in, a child under five years of age. Since the start of the year, a total of eleven (11) suspected meningitis cases have been recorded.
- Malaria remained the leading cause of morbidity and mortality reported 5 contributing to 72% of all cases, and 48% of all reported death. In this period, a total of 24,015 suspected malaria cases and 19 related deaths were reported across the country. Of these cases and deaths, 39% and 24% were in children below five years of age respectively.

Immunization

- To strengthen immunization and reduce chances of importation of diseases from neighboring states and countries, WHO in collaboration with the state Ministry of Health, Western Equatoria state organized and held a meeting between South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The meeting was held between two boarder areas of Ezo, Republic of South Sudan and and Doruma District, Democratic Republic of Congo. This attended by 16 participants from South Sudan and 9 from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The teams discussed issues on Routine Immunization and Expanded Programme on Immunization, National Immunization Days/Supplementary Immunization Activities and Integrated Diseases Surveillance Response. The team agreed that the Ezo team will cover Nabiapai and Sumba villages during National Immunization Days only while other activities will be taken care of by the Democratic Republic of Congo government.
- WHO also participate in the support supervision of the second round of Neonatal tetanus in the greater Equatoria region. The campaign targeted women of child bearing age, aged between 14 – 49 years of age. The campaign targets to have women of child bearing age vaccinated at least for times. The number of persons vaccinated has not yet be finally complied and shared.

Response

- During this reporting period, WHO supported the State Ministry of Health, Northern Bahr el Ghazal state to conduct immunization campaigns in Jaac and Warchum Internally Displaced Peoples camp (IDPs). Four hundred and twenty three (423) and 221 children under five were immunized respectively in the two camps. Jaac IDP camp hosts 4,000 displaced persons while Warchum hosts 1,116 internally displaced persons. In addition 524 children received vitamin C in Jaac and 250 were given vitamin C in Warchum IDP. Jaac Primary Health Care Unit is supported by IRC while Warchum is being supported by Healthnet TPO. Women in Warchum were also vaccinated against tetanus. A total of 350 mosquito nets were distributed to families in Warchum IDP during this period. The health facilities are well stocked with routine vaccines.
- The organization also supported MSF –F with triple packages for specimen transportation and further provided TI media and one kit Pasotrex to respond suspected cases of meningitis in Northern Bahergazel and Unity states.
- WHO also supported the county health department of Abienom with 10 vials of anti rabies immunoglobulin to respond to the increasing number of dog-bites. Fact sheets and management protocol were produced and supplied. This follows reports of death as a result of rabies in the county. In addition, 50 vials of anti rabies and 10 vials of the anti snake were given to MSF-Swiss in order to support the response in Agok and Abeinom.
- In response to the health needs of displaced people in Jaac, WHO supported health Health net TPO, a health partner with an assortment of drugs to strengthen the management of the common illness in the IDP camp.
- To support the state ministry of health cover the much need gap of Kala azar drugs, WHO supported Boaw Primary Health care with Kala azar drugs. These will be used to support other patients in addition to the 37 who are already admitted at the health facility. It's expected that this will cover the much need gap caused by shortage of drugs from the Mayom county health department.

Coordination

- In this reporting period, WHO supported the Ministry of Health to convene an emergency meeting to discuss Hepatitis E situation in Maban. The meeting that was chaired by the Minister of Health emphasized the poor need for Partners to strengthen Water and Sanitation conditions in the refugee camps. It was agreed by all partners that all the identified gaps would be improved. Among the areas that need strengthening are social mobilization and health education and Water and Sanitation services for the refugees. Weekly health task force meetings were also held at the State Ministry of Health during which WHO provided highlights of the Weekly Morbidity and Mortality trends in Maban.



Health Cluster partners attending a meeting. This health cluster meeting was chaired by the Minister of health. This cluster meeting focused on the escalating numbers of Hepatitis E in Upper Nile state. Photo: WHO



A woman receives tetanus vaccine in Juba. WHO participated in the support supervision of tetanus vaccination campaign for women of reproductive age. Photo: WHO



- WHO also supported the State Ministry of Health to co chaired the Health and Nutrition cluster meeting in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state. The meeting attended by partner agencies; UNICEF, OCHA, IRC, Healthnet, Concern World Wide, MSF France and Spain, Malaria consortium, and other local NGOs discussed the response towards IDPs in Jaac and Warchum and their needs. It was agreed that all partners support the response in order to make the response process to the needs of the people swifter. WHO pledged to assist the state and partners with extra drugs and supplies to fill existing gaps. It was agreed in the meeting that Health Information System in the state is weak and needs strengthening and needs strengthening by all partners. WHO also pledged support to Health with vaccines to be used in the immunization of children in the camps.
- In Western Bahr el Ghazal state, health coordination meeting was held to discuss the evolving situation in Raja. Tension remains high in the western city of Raja and reports of new displacement from the Firika area following the clashes were evident. It was recommended that training for health workers in case management of common illness and enhancing disease surveillance in the facilities serving the affected population be conducted.
- In order to ensure good coordination of all health activities and funding. WHO participated in an inter cluster working group meeting to discuss the current humanitarian situation and funding and peer review process/allocation, timelines for the CHF round one..

Planned Activities

- Hand over the newly constructed maternity ward in Bor State Hospital to the State Ministry of Health Jonglei state.
- Conduct emergency health assessment mission to Jaac and Warchum, Northern Bahr El Ghazal
- Conduct rapid response trainings in Bor, Jonglei and Torit in Eastern Equatoria State.
- Conduct training for health workers on case management for hepatitis E in Maban County
- Conduct support supervision for health workers so as to strengthen disease surveillance and response in Western Equatoria State.
- Participate in the evaluation exercise for ECHO in the 10 states of South Sudan.
- Conduct four days Rapid Response Team training on outbreak investigation and response in Eastern Equatoria and Western Equatoria States.

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