Viral haemorrhagic fever cases in Darfur reach 200, including 104 deaths

According to the Ministry of Health (MoH), a total of 200 suspected viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) cases, including 104 deaths, were reported in 12 localities in South, East, Central, West and North Darfur as of 30 October.

Of the 105 samples taken from suspected cases and people who had contact with suspected cases, and tested at the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in Khartoum, 28 tested positive for Dengue fever in North and West Darfur. A further seven tested positive for Hepatitis E in West Darfur, four were positive for Chikungunya in West and Central Darfur, and nine were positive for White Nile Virus in West, North and Central Darfur.

The state with the highest number of cases was West Darfur (121) followed by Central Darfur (37), North Darfur (34), East Darfur (7) and finally South Darfur (1). West Darfur had the highest number of fatalities (81), followed by 15 in North Darfur, seven in Central Darfur and one in South Darfur.

In response, the MoH and health partners have prepared an outbreak response plan covering all aspects of coordination, disease surveillance, vector control, case management and community mobilization, and information sharing. Joint verification teams from the MoH and World Health Organization (WHO) were deployed to the affected states and vector control activities have been initiated in the most affected localities. In North Darfur, the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) will deploy a public health officer to El Sireaf locality. Technical guidelines for Dengue fever as well as WHO guidelines for diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control have been disseminated to all health partners. The UN Children’s Agency (UNICEF) and the international NGO World Relief and Save the Children are supporting health education activities in Kereinik and El Geneina localities in West Darfur. Medical teams have also been deployed to West Darfur to support case management.

WHO encourages health partners to send additional mobile teams to Kereinik locality in West Darfur and El Sireaf locality in North Darfur as these are the two most affected states. Strengthening entomological surveillance to guide vector control activities is also

**Viral Haemorrhagic Fever in Darfur (As of 30 October 2015)**

Source: MoH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Darfur</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Darfur</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Darfur</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Darfur</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Darfur</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FUNDING**

1.04 billion requested in 2015 (US$)

57% reported funding
encouraged, as well as mobilising additional resources to expand response activities. Since most of these VHF viruses are transmitted by mosquitoes or contaminated water, WHO also encourages strengthening coordination between health actors and actors working in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. Health partners have mobilized resources for the initial response but additional funds are required to continue effective response and control the outbreak.

### North Darfur: whooping cough outbreak in El Sireaf

Whooping cough cases continue to increase in North Darfur’s El Sireaf locality where 410 cases have been reported as of 28 October, according to the SMoH. The outbreak started in early September and has affected all age groups including infants, children and adults. No deaths have been reported so far.

Out of the 14 samples collected, four tested positive for Pertussis (Whooping cough). About half (193) of all cases have been reported in the Alhariga village where the outbreak started. The remaining cases are from eight neighbouring villages. The majority of cases are of people under 15 years.

In response, the SMoH, WHO and health partners on the ground are implementing a three-month action plan in the locality. These activities include the strengthening of surveillance, proper case management, effective community mobilization, and active case finding. The international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières Spain (MSF-Spain) has initiated case management and community awareness-raising activities and from 17-22 October, the MoH vaccinated over 16,600 children under five years. MoH and WHO teams have been deployed to the locality to assist in response activities. The rate of transmission seems to be decreasing, according to WHO.

Whooping cough is a highly contagious bacterial disease of the respiratory tract that occurs mainly in infants and young children and is easily transmitted from person to person through droplets. The first symptoms generally appear 7–10 days after infection, and include a mild fever, runny nose, and a cough followed by whooping, hence the common name of whooping cough. Untreated patients may be contagious for three weeks or more following onset of the cough. Whooping cough can be prevented by immunization.

### Suspected cases of Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS) in Shangil Tobaya

According to the SMoH, as of 27 October the cumulative number of all suspected Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS) cases—a viral infection—in North Darfur’s Shangil Tobaya, Dar El Salam locality, stands at 104. The SMoH has sent nine (9) samples to the NPHL for confirmation and results are still pending. In the meantime, WHO, SMoH and health partners have started strengthening health promotion activities and are coordinating with water and sanitation partners to improve water quality and strengthen hygiene interventions.

### Central Darfur: 800 homes damaged by rains

An estimated 2,000 people in Central Darfur’s Zalingei locality—whose homes were damaged by heavy rains and are living under trees and in temporary shelters—are in need of assistance.
need of humanitarian assistance, according to the Government’s Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). On 20 October, an inter-agency mission—including staff from OCHA, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), HAC and the international NGOs Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany (VSF-G)—visited the affected villages of Kurgo, Kankulai and Golba to assess the situation. Findings identified 86 households (about 430 people) as eligible for emergency shelter and household supplies. Other humanitarian needs include education, health, as well as water and sanitation services.

Similarly, in Deleij town in Wadi Salih locality, heavy rains reportedly destroyed 405 homes affecting an estimated further 2,000 people, according to community leaders. The people are reportedly in urgent need of emergency shelter and household supplies. Strong winds also destroyed the nutrition centre in Deleij internally displaced persons (IDP) camp run by the international NGO International Medical Corps (IMC) which is currently assisting 83 people with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 480 with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). IMC established the 15-room nutrition centre in Deleij IDP camp in 2006. The centre provides primary health, antenatal and nutritional care services to the estimated 21,000 people displaced in the camp and people from the host community. Rehabilitation of the nutrition centre is currently ongoing. Wadi Salih locality has a global acute malnutrition rate of about 10.5, according to the 2013 Sudan Simple Spatial Survey Methodology (S3M) survey. Aid agencies have yet to assess the needs of the affected people in Deleij town.

Over 197,600 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan since mid-December 2013

The total number of South Sudanese refugees, who arrived in Sudan since violence erupted in South Sudan in mid-December 2013, stands at 197,635 as of 28 October, according to UNHCR. This is a decrease from two weeks ago due to the onward population movement of refugees from Kharasana, West Kordofan. The 2015 South Sudanese Regional Refugee Response Plan was launched on 17 December 2014, with inter-agency requirements for Sudan set at US$152.1 million. As of 22 October, the response plan had received 22.5 per cent of Sudan’s requirements.

Poor water and hygiene services and response activities in White Nile State

In White Nile State, the water, sanitation and hygiene services remain worrisome in most of the refugee sites except for Dabat Bosin, according to UNHCR. The water supply in most sites is below the UNHCR post-emergency standard of 20 litres per person per day. Moreover, most sites far exceed the UNHCR post-emergency standard of 20 people per latrine, with El Redis II the highest with 196 people per latrine. UNHCR and partners are working to meet acceptable standards in water and sanitation services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Water (litres/person/day)</th>
<th>Latrines (persons per latrine)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al Alagaya</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dabat Bosin</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jouri</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Kashafa</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Redis I</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Redis II</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Um Sangor</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNHCR

Over the past two weeks, WFP continued to provide newly arriving South Sudanese refugees with much-needed food aid. In White Nile State, WFP distributed 1.786 metric tons (MT) of Plumpy’nut nutrition supplement to 478 new arrivals, including 309 children
under five years and 169 pregnant and nursing women. In addition, some 44.85 MT of food was distributed through the Emergency Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (eBSFP) to 6,796 people (5,783 children under five and 1,013 pregnant and nursing women) in four sites in White Nile State. Some 3.84 MT of eBSFP food was distributed in South Kordofan’s Abu Jubaiba and Abbasiya localities to 594 people (522 children under five and 72 pregnant and nursing women).

**Most of the patients at the Kharasana clinic are South Sudanese refugees**

According to WHO, out of the 150 people who seek health assistance in West Kordofan’s Kharasana health centre every day, 120 are South Sudanese refugees whose ailments are mostly hygiene-related, according to findings of a mission conducted to the area from 27-29 October. In response, WHO sent two rapid response kits to the Kharasana health centre which are enough to cover the health needs of 6,000 people for three months. WHO has also initiated the construction of a separate health clinic at the Kharasana refugee site, which will be completed in 45 days.

In response to the sanitation needs, the national NGO Voluntary Humanitarian Assistance Programme (ASSIST) has constructed 40 new latrines in the Kharasana refugee site—bringing the total number of latrines in the area to 121—and 12 showers. An additional 155 latrines will be built in November. Meanwhile, about 120,000 litres of water is being trucked in daily to the site. According to UNHCR, there are an estimated 8,300 refugees in Kharasana and an estimated 25,000 in West Kordofan.

**Vocational training for South Sudanese refugees in South Kordofan**

UNHCR is working with the Ministry of Social Welfare to sponsor vocational training for South Sudanese refugees. On 26 October, in South Kordofan’s Kadugli town, 25 South Sudanese men started a three-month training course in construction and electrical skills while 25 South Sudanese women started training in sewing.

**Blue Nile: 8,500 primary school children to benefit from school feeding programme**

Some 8,500 primary school children in Blue Nile’s Geissan locality have been targeted for a school feeding programme aimed to encourage school enrolment. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Blue Nile State signed a technical agreement with HAC to implement this programme. This is the second phase of school feeding programmes implemented by ADRA and national partners, including the Ministry of Education and Mubadroroon. The programme also includes livelihood initiatives that aim at improving the income of the families of students and prevent them from dropping out of school to work.

According to the Sudan Out-of-School Report issued by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF on 10 September, about 46.8 per cent of primary school-age children in Blue Nile State are out of school. Of the enrolled children in the state, more than 40 per cent do not have seats in their classrooms and sit on the ground. Information from the 2008 Baseline Survey on Basic Education indicates that 41.7 per cent of schools in Blue Nile State lack access to clean water and latrines.