

## Current major events

### Suspected outbreak of ILI in south Sudan ?

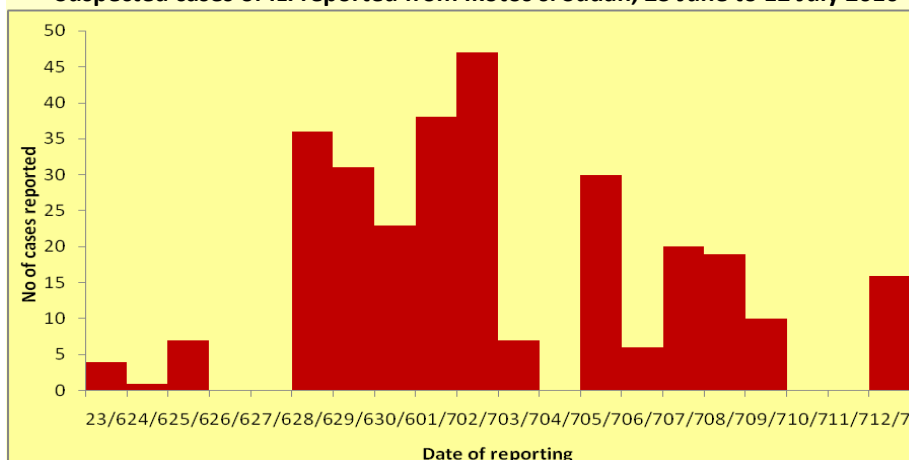
The Ministry of Health in southern Sudan, recently, reported an outbreak of suspected Influenza like Illness (ILI) from Ikotos County of Eastern Equatorial State.. A total of 295 cases with no related death were reported between 23 June to 12 July 2010. Fourteen nasopharyngeal swabs have been collected and sent to CDC/KEMRI for laboratory confirmation. Most (almost 92%) of the cases were reported from the Ikotos town and the median age of the cases was 8 years with a range from 0 to 50 years. The MOH with support from WHO office in Juba, south Sudan has deployed additional health workers in the county for case management and to monitor the situation through active surveillance..

### Editorial note

The current situation in southern Sudan merits attention. The outbreak started on 23 June and within three weeks as many as 295 cases were reported, mostly children. According to the report received from the WHO Office in Juba, the date of onset of the outbreak is not certain. The case investigations revealed that most of the cases were confined in the town of Ikotos. Most of the cases presented with mild illness characterized by cough, sore throat and fever not exceeding 100° F . There was no report of such illnesses from the area or from any other adjoining county in recent time. All the cases remarkably improved within 2 to 3 days following the onset of the fever.

The field investigation conducted jointly by WHO and the Ministry of Health, southern Sudan, further revealed that within Ikotos town, most of the cases were concentrated in a very small defined location and almost invariably, the cases reported history of close contact with similar cases having cough and fever 2 to 5 days preceding their onset of symptoms. The investigation team also found 2 cases in the same household

Suspected cases of ILI reported from Ikotos s. Sudan, 23 June to 12 July 2010



### Case definitions of ILI

A person with sudden onset of fever of >38 °C and at least one of the following two respiratory symptoms in the absence of other known causes:

- dry cough
- sore throat

with second case becoming symptomatic 5 days after coming in close contact with the first case. The other striking feature of this outbreak is that over 60% of the cases were in the 5 to 19 year age group. Only 3 cases (1%) were reported in above 50 years age group. Only 8 patients required hospitalization and most of the cases made self recovery.

While waiting for the laboratory confirmation of these cases, the situation needs strong vigilance with active surveillance to detect any symptomatic cases in the community and refer to health centers for appropriate management. The current situation in southern Sudan also re-emphasizes the need for sentinel surveillance for ILI and SARI in order to detect any acute respiratory illness of unknown origin early to prompt appropriate public health response. There is no room for complacency that pandemic influenza caused by pandemic (H1N1) 2009 strain is over yet. Cases of pandemic H1N1 2009 are still being reported from a number of countries in the tropical zones and southern Sudan lies within this zone.

### Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Cholera in Yemen & Djibouti; Dengue in Yemen and Sudan

### Current public health events of international concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

#### Avian influenza

Egypt	[109 (34), 31.1%]
Indonesia	[166 (137), 82.5 %]
China	[39 (26), 66.6%]
Global total	[500(296), 59.2%]

#### Dengue fever

Sudan	[3679 (12), 0.3%]
Yemen	[8109 (10), 0.1%]

#### AWD (Cholera)

Yemen	[ 300 (4), 1.3 %]
Benin	[ 278(2),0.72%]

#### Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

AFRO	No of deaths: 168
AMRO	No of deaths: At least 8516
EMRO	No of deaths: 1019
EURO	No of deaths: At least 4879
SEARO	No of deaths: 1883
WPRO	No of deaths: 1846
<b>GLOBAL Total</b>	No of deaths: 18,337

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate