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Current affected States in South Sudan and at risk of epidemic States in Sudan, Cholera Outbreak-2014

Cholera outbreak in South Sudan requires vigilance in Sudan

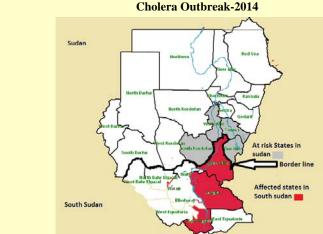
The ministry of Health of South Sudan officially declared an outbreak of cholera in the capital, Juba on 15th May 2014 . Since the start of the outbreak on 23 April 2014, up to 2 June 2014, a total of 1209 cases including 29 deaths (CFR 2.4%) have been reported. 99% of the cases have been reported from Juba County in Central Equatoria State. Nine out of 15 Payams (districts) in the County have reported cases of cholera. The outbreak is spreading northward and suspected cases have been reported from Kaka in Manyo County in the border with Sudan.

Editorial note

The ongoing cholera outbreak in South Sudan, with recent reported suspected cases from counties in Upper Nile State, at the border with Sudan, should be a cause of concern to Sudan and the WHO/EMRO.

In 2006, an outbreak of cholera in former Sudan (Sudan and South Sudan) started in Yei County at the border with Uganda and DR Congo but later spread to Juba and to the northern parts of the Country. By the end of the year (2006) the outbreak had spread and affected all the 25 States of Sudan. The current outbreak may spread to Sudan in the same way. This is much so, specially in the border areas like the White Nile, Blue Nile, Sennar and South Khurdufan States. The movement of refugees from South Sudan to Sudan due to the current conflict in South Sudan, may play a role in spreading the disease to the vulnerable areas that lack safe water and improved sanitation.

Since the late 1970th, Sudan reported Acute watery Diarrhea and cholera outbreaks every 4 to 6 years. The last outbreak was reported in 2009. The transmissions often continue for few years and then stopped. This outbreak could be an early indication of that cyclical pattern.



Joint monitoring program of water supply and sanitation updated 2014 (WHO and UNICEF), on estimation of use of water sources and sanitation facilities showed that Sudan is not on the track to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2015 on drinking water and availing access to improve sanitation facilities. The estimated coverage population who has access to improve water is less than 70% and those who have access to improved sanitation facilities are less than 50% from the total population. These are major risk factors in spreading cholera specially in the rural areas of the country.

Early preparedness, to detect early any suspected cases and prevent the spread of the disease within the country is of highly needed. Strengthening the surveillance system, specially in the border areas, build the capacity of the treatment cadres on case management, availing stock for treatment, improving the availability of safe water, raise the awareness of the community for cholera prevention, reactivate the coordination mechanism between the relevant stakeholders, and sharing the information with South Sudan authorities will reduce the negative impact of the disease in Sudan country.

Long strategic planning towards containment and elimination of cholera at the endemic and at risk of epidemic countries in the region including Sudan, has to be endorsed to mitigate the burden of the disease in the region.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Jordan

| Current public health events of international concern [cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %] | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Avian Influenza A (H5N1): 2003-2014 | |
| Egypt | [175 (63), 36%] |
| MERS-CoV: 2012-2014 | |
| Saudi Arabia | [691 (284), 41%] |
| Jordan | [11 (4), 36.4%] |
| Oman | [2 (2), 100%] |
| UAE | [66 (8), 12.1%] |
| Kuwait | [3 (1), 33.3%] |
| Tunisia | [3 (1), 33.3%] |
| Qatar | [7 (4), 57.1%] |
| Yemen | [1 (1), 100%] |
| Egypt | [1 (0), 0%] |
| Lebanon | [1 (0), 0%] |
| Algeria* | [2 (0), 0%] |
| Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever: 2014 | |
| Guinea | [328 (208), 63.4%] |
| Sierra Leone | [79 (6), 7.6%] |
| Wild poliovirus: 2012-2014 | |
| Pakistan | [143 (0), 0%] |

| Pakistan | [143 (0), 0%] |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| EMRO | [505 (0), 0%] |
| Cholera 2014 | |
| South Sudan | [1209 (29), 2.4%] |

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate; # Suspected cases *Algeria reported on 31 May the first 2 MERS-CoV cases in AFRO

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