

Current major event

Meningococcal Disease in Sudan

In 2014, Sudan reported only 111 suspected cases of meningococcal meningitis including 2 deaths (CFR 2%). None of the samples were tested positive for *Neisseria Meningitidis* of any sero-group especially sero-group A. The reported cases were distributed sporadically in some of the 494 sectors (sub-districts) of the 18 States in the country.

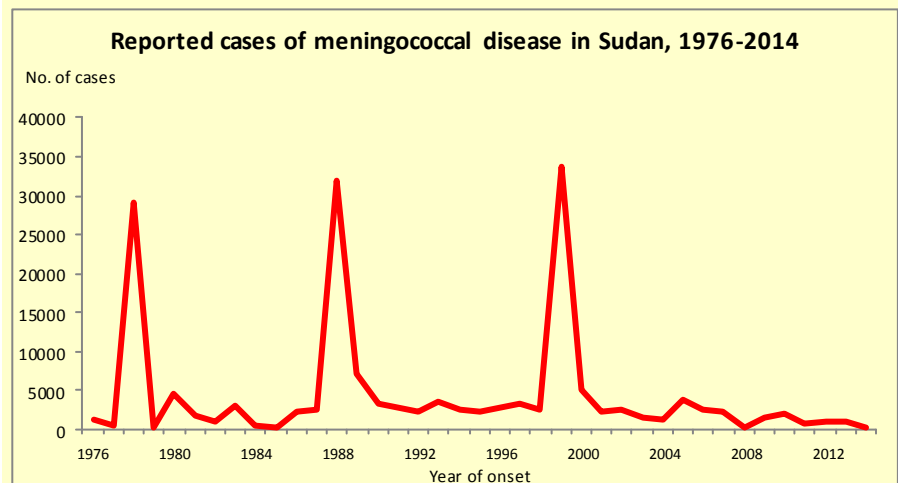
Editorial note

The number of reported cases of suspected meningococcal meningitis during 2014 showed a dramatic decline compared to all previous years. Even compared to 2013, the reported number of cases in 2014, was 10 times less. The number of deaths from the disease has also declined substantially (*please see the graph above*)

During the last four years, there have been a steady decline in the number of cases of meningitis reported nationwide from Sudan. The decrease in the number of cases during the period under review coincides with the progressive introduction of the newly developed Meningococcal A conjugate vaccine in the country since 2012.

Mass preventive Conjugate-A vaccination campaigns (MenAfriVac) were successfully implemented all over Sudan in 2013. More than 24.82 million people in Sudan within the age group 1 to 29 years old were vaccinated. This steady declining trend of reported cases of meningococcal meningitis were also observed in other countries of the African Meningitis Belt that have implemented the preventive campaigns (*please see above table*). No single case of *Neisseria Meningitidis* sero-group A was reported from these countries.

The reduction in the cases of meningococcal meningitis in Sudan is a great achievement realized within a very short time since the introduction of MenAfriVac. The vaccine is expected to stimulate long-lasting immunity as well as produce herd immunity. However, Su-



Meningitis cases and sectors (sub-districts) reached the epidemic threshold from Sudan and neighboring countries in 2014

Country	Situation in 2014			Sectors reached epidemic
	Case	Death	CFR	
Sudan	111	2	2	0
Chad	173	14	8	0
CAR*	118	31	26	0
South Sudan	64	8	13	0
Ethiopia	1063	31	3	3

* Central African Republic

dan should continue to monitor the epidemiological situation during the dry season in the country.

In the absence of *Neisseria Meningitidis* sero-group A, some sporadic cases of *Neisseria Meningitidis* sero-group C were confirmed from the countries of African Meningitis Belt and most of these cases were reported from Nigeria. As per the annual meningitis report from the belt, streptococcus pneumoniae was the most commonly found pathogen followed by *Neisseria Meningitidis* sero-group W 135.

Although the meningococcal meningitis cases has shown a declining trend in Sudan during last 4 years following introduction of MenAfriVac, the risk of occurrence of epidemics from other sero-group of *Neisseria Meningitidis* is still high owing to “vaccine pressure”. Therefore, surveillance system needs to be enhanced, specially the case-based surveillance for meningococcal meningitis during the dry season to monitor any changes in the trends of the disease.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia, Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in Egypt

Current public health events of international concern

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

Avian Influenza : 2006-2015

Egypt (A/H5N1) [318 (112), 35.2%]
Egypt (A/H9N2) [1(0), 0%]

MERS-CoV: 2012-2015

Saudi Arabia [961 (378), 39%]
Jordan [12 (6), 50%]
Oman [5 (3), 60%]
UAE [71 (9), 12.7%]
Kuwait [3 (1), 33.3%]
Tunisia [3 (1), 33.3%]
Qatar [11 (4), 36.4%]
Yemen [1 (1), 100%]
Egypt [1 (0), 0%]
Lebanon [1 (0), 0%]
Iran [5 (2), 40%]

Ebola Virus Disease: 2014-2015

Guinea [3429 (2263), 66%]
Liberia [9602 (4301), 44.8%]
Sierra Leone [11841 (3747), 31.6%]
UK [1(0), 0%]
Nigeria [20 (8), 40%]
Senegal [1(0), 0%]
Spain [1(0), 0%]
USA [4(1), 25%]
Mali [8(6), 75%]

Wild poliovirus: 2014-2015

Pakistan [326 (0), 0%]
Afghanistan [29(0), 0%]