

HIGHLIGHTS

- 4.2 million children across Sudan will be vaccinated against polio through a national immunization campaign.
- About 900 people fled their homes in East Jebel Marra locality and have taken refuge in Golo town.
- In anticipation of above average rains this year the Flood Task Force was reactivated in late June to put in place a four-month flood contingency plan for the country.
- WFP has begun pre-positioning 84,590 Mt of food before roads become impassable due to rains.



A child receiving a polio vaccine (WHO, 17 July 2018)

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Sudan kicks off national polio immunization campaign to vaccinate 4.2 million children

At least 4.2 million children across Sudan are scheduled to be vaccinated against polio this year, to maintain the country's polio-free status. To this end, a national immunization campaign launched on 16 July is planned in two phases: the first, from 16-18 July, will target three million children under five years in 79 localities in 10 states across the country. Some 23,500 health workers will conduct house-to-house visits to administer the vaccine to children under five years to re-enforce immunity against the wild polio virus.

Supported by a number of key international health partners, critical immediate and long-term funding is required to ensure millions of children in Sudan receive life-saving interventions, including polio and routine immunizations. The Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Children's Agency (UNICEF) appeal to the wider international community to support their efforts to undertake this and other vaccination campaigns.

The last polio case in Sudan was reported in March 2009, and in 2015 the country's polio-free status was announced by WHO. Even so, Sudan remains at risk of wild polio virus due to the large numbers of people—including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees—moving throughout the country, who are sometimes inadvertently left outside vaccination campaigns. Building a robust surveillance system for early disease detection is one of the greatest challenges in the Horn of Africa, where communities are dispersed over large swathes of difficult-to-reach territory.

"The Government of Sudan has committed itself to keep Sudan a polio-free meeting the international community's goal. This is part of ensuring overall health security," said Bahar Idris Abu Garda, the Sudan's Minister of Health. "Our deep appreciation goes to the thousands of Sudanese health volunteers, the UN and other health partners, as well as the international community, for continuing their support for immunization services in Sudan."

Keeping Sudan polio-free has been a priority for WHO, UNICEF, the Government, and the generosity of health partners such as the Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation, the Rotary International, and the Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization (GAVI), the Department for International Development (DFID)-United Kingdom, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

Health partners, launch anti-microbial resistance plan

A national action plan to prevent antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Sudan was launched on 22 July. Although no consistent data is available for the country, WHO considers that prevention is key.

FIGURES 2018

# people in need in Sudan (2018 HNO)	5.5 million
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# people in need in Darfur (2018 HNO)	3.1 million
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GAM caseload (2018 HNO)	2.3 million
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South Sudanese refugees – total	766,064
Pre-2013	352,212
Post-2013	413,852

(UNHCR 15 June 2018)

Other refugees and asylum seekers UNHCR (31 Jan 2018)	153,620
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FUNDING

294 million
US\$ received in 2018

29.2% funded
(FTS) as of 23 June 2018

FMoH, WHO, and UNICEF appeal to the wider international community to support efforts to ensure millions of children in Sudan receive life-saving interventions, including polio and routine immunizations

“If we don’t take action now, we will go back to the time when the simplest infections led to death,” said Dr Naeema Al Gasseer, WHO Representative in Sudan. “If we do not act quickly, WHO estimates that by 2050, 10 million people will die each year worldwide because of AMR, causing losses to the global economy between now and 2050 of an estimated US\$ 100 trillion of production,” she said.



A child in Darfur receiving a polio vaccine (UNICEF, archive)

Anti-microbial resistance occurs when micro-organisms (bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites) change when they are exposed to and develop resistance to anti-microbial drugs. As a result, medicines become ineffective and infections persist in the body, increasing the risk of spreading.

AMR is rising to dangerously high levels in all parts of the world, compromising the treatment of infectious diseases and undermining numerous advances in health and medicine. It represents one of the biggest threats to global health and can affect anyone, of any age, in any country. Human action—such as the inappropriate prescription and use of antimicrobials, poor hospital hygiene, and inappropriate use of antimicrobials in livestock have promoted the spread of infections that are resistant to antimicrobial medicines.

The action plan was launched by the FMoH, the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and WHO—in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Newly displaced persons in Golo, Central Jebel Marra locality, Central Darfur

An estimated 900 people fled to Golo in early July in Central Darfur from East Jebel Marra locality following fighting between government forces and non-state armed actors.

The new IDPs are currently hosted in the Golo primary school, which is overcrowded and without access to sanitation facilities. Finding alternative accommodation for the IDPs is of the utmost importance, given that 1,100 students are enrolled to begin lessons in October at the school. Local authorities and IDP leaders are currently negotiating their temporary relocation to another area.

Response to the IDPs in Golo

To assist the IDPs, WFP on 3 July distributed one-month food rations, sorghum and lentils, and the IDPs also have access to health and nutrition services in Golo hospital. In nutrition, as of 11 July seven cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 20 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were referred to the treatment centre in Golo hospital. However, the hospital has reported a gap in ready-to-use-supplementary foods (RUSD) due to a disruption in the supply pipeline last month.

The United Nations – African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is trucking water to the IDPs at the school. While there is a water pump near the school, the IDPs have no jerry

The IDPs are currently hosted in the Golo primary school, which is overcrowded and without access to sanitation facilities

The IDPs have access to health and nutrition services in Golo hospital

cans to carry the water. In addition, the quantity and the quality of latrines at the school are insufficient to maintain a suitable level of hygiene, with the added need to raise

awareness on better hygiene practices. The construction of new latrines is pending the relocation of the IDPs from the school. If this is not addressed soon,

sanitation will further deteriorate, potentially increasing the likelihood of disease outbreaks given the start of the rainy season. Humanitarian partners have already distributed NFI kits and transferred 200 ready-made shelter kits.



Children at a waterpoint in Golo, Jebel Marra (IA Mission, February 2017)

Flood Task Force reactivated

At least 6,000 homes in West Kordofan and Kassala states have been affected by recent heavy rains and floods, said the government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). In a yet unconfirmed report, the rains caused seven victims and three missing persons.

In anticipation of above average rains this year in most parts of Sudan, a monthly Flood Task Force (FTF) composed of humanitarian partners—under the auspices of HAC—was reactivated in late June to put in place a four-month flood contingency plan for the country. The first meeting of the FTF focused on early warning and information management, Sector preparedness, response and coordination.

At least 99,000 people affected by floods were assisted in 2017, involving most of the humanitarian Sectors at the federal and state levels. For 2018, based on review of trends from 1994-2017, and a regional forecast, the FTF estimates that 200,000 will be potentially affected by floods. With Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)—which cover preparedness, early warning/alert and response activities—reactivated, ahead of the rainy season, preparedness measures and efforts include maintenance of the drainage system, water harvesting and updating the Floods Contingency Plan.

A presentation by the Sudan Meteorological Authority showed that Sudan is expected to receive above normal rainfall (particularly Kordofan and Darfur regions during August and Blue Nile in September) with few pockets of dry spell around the central region of the country and parts of North Darfur. The rainy season began in late June and is expected to last until early October. The Sudan Meteorological Authority provides partners with a monthly update for dry and wet spells, with technological shortcomings for more detailed state/locality level forecasting.

“There is a need to continue to work together to ensure a timely and effective response, based on the identified and prioritized needs targeting the most vulnerable,” said Yasir Mohammed Hashim, who heads the FTF within the HAC. “By maintaining preventive and mitigation measures applied every year in the various States, we can both prepare for and reduce the effects of floods, especially those related to health,” he said.

Updated in 2017, covering about 180,000 people across Sudan, the Flood Contingency Plan is not yet part of a larger national disaster plan, which could secure more timely and accurate identification of needs, coverage and gaps. The FTF discussed the need for coordinated needs assessments, with clear definitions of roles and responsibilities of various flood forums and entities, to avoid overlap and duplication, and ensure targeting.

In anticipation of above average rains this year the Flood Task Force was reactivated in late June to put in place a four-month flood contingency plan for the country

WFP has begun pre-positioning a total 84,590 Mt of food before roads and become impassable due to rains

Participants in the task force were also encouraged to share information on bilateral in-cash and in-kind assistance.

While no timelines were set during the meeting, partners reiterated the need to identify a rapid response team. In the meantime, the Ministry of water resources bulletin will be shared with partners daily, in addition to a Flood watch update every three days.

Food Assistance Pre-positioning for the Rainy Season

In anticipation of the start of the rainy season, WFP has begun pre-positioning 84,590 Mt of food to ensure the continuation of food distribution and nutrition programmes around the country, before road conditions deteriorate and become impassable. By 12 July, WFP dispatched 57,919 Mt of food to its warehouses across Sudan, including cereal, pulses, salt, oil and nutritional supplements, 68 per cent of the planned tonnage. As of the second week of July, 27,219 Mt had already been received, and the remaining 26,671 Mt are expected to be dispatched and delivered by the first week of August.

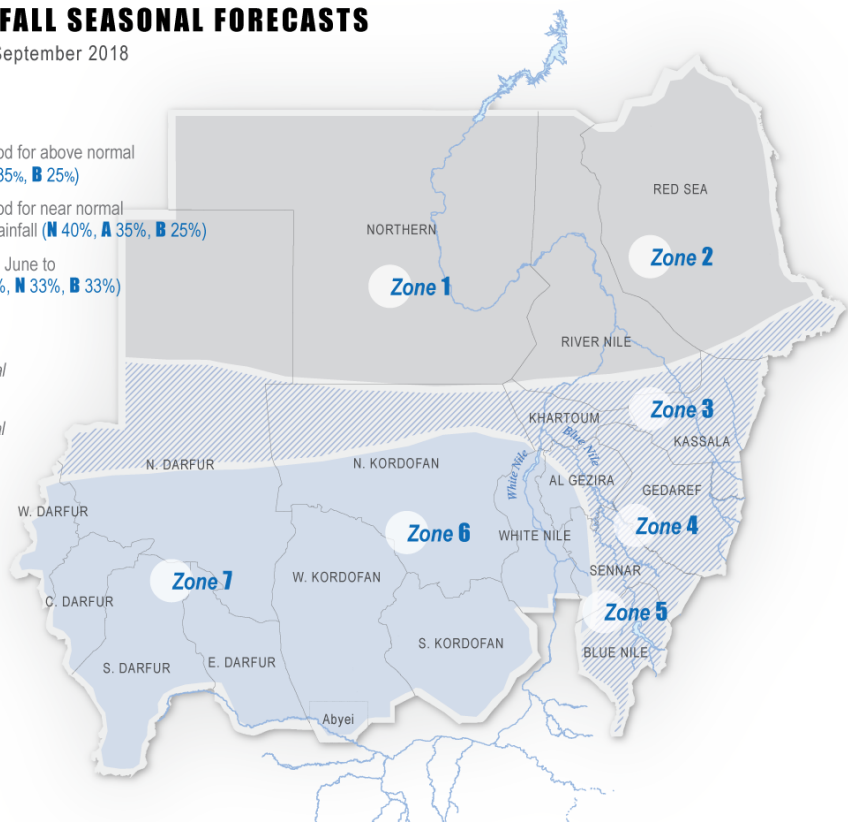


RAINFALL SEASONAL FORECASTS

June - September 2018

LEGEND*

- Increased likelihood for above normal rainfall (**A** 40%, **N** 35%, **B** 25%)
- ▨ Increased likelihood for near normal to above normal rainfall (**N** 40%, **A** 35%, **B** 25%)
- Usually dry during June to September (**A** 33%, **N** 33%, **B** 33%)
- River Nile
- A** — % Above normal
- N** — % Normal
- B** — % Below normal



*The numbers and the corresponding letters represent the probability of rainfall

Source: ICPAC 49 Rainfall Outlook for Jun-Sep 2018 Season