



EMPHNET Emergency Bulletin

Disease Outbreaks in Areas of Armed Conflict – Sudan and Gaza

October 3, 2024

Introduction

More than 500 days have passed since the armed conflict broke out in Sudan. These are now coupled with severe flooding and widespread food shortage. Together, these conditions further exacerbate the humanitarian crisis and significantly impact public health. Despite the urgent and increasing humanitarian needs and the wide spread of disease outbreaks, aid efforts are significantly insufficient. Recently, among the most pressing concerns is the cholera outbreak being declared across multiple states in Sudan. This cholera outbreak is further draining the already fragile health system's infrastructure.

Similarly, Gaza has been bearing the consequences of Israeli aggression for almost a year. Disease outbreaks are widely reported across the Strip including: Hepatitis, pneumonia, diarrheal diseases, scabies, and debilitating rashes. Polio has also re-emerged, although Gaza has been polio-free for 25 years.

This bulletin provides an overview of the current cholera situation in Sudan and the polio campaign in Gaza, highlighting key challenges and response efforts by health authorities and international partners.

Situational Update

Sudan

On **August 12, 2024**, Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health officially declared a cholera outbreak. This declaration was made following a new wave of cases that were reported on July 22, 2024, and onwards.



Total Cholera Cases and Deaths in Sudan:

6,968
Total infections

242
Deaths across 8 states up to September 15, 2024

Cholera Cases and Deaths by State in Sudan (July - September 2024):

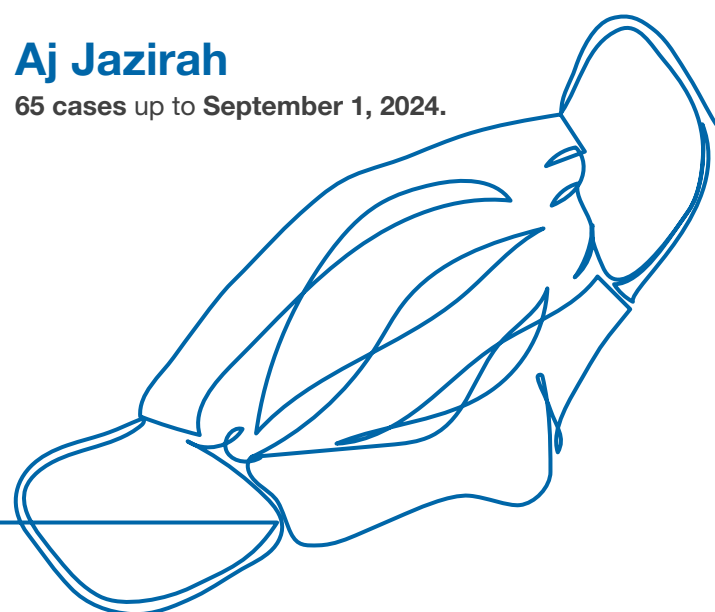
Kassala
3,256 total infections and 119 deaths upto the outbreak began in August and up to **September 13, 2024**.

Gedaref
699 cases upto **September 1, 2024**.

River Nile
1,611 total infections and 51 deaths up to **September 13, 2024** [These figures include the 161 new cases, and three new deaths reported on September 12].

Aj Jazirah
65 cases up to **September 1, 2024**.

Khartoum
20 cases up to **September 1, 2024**.



Vulnerability Factors



10 Million

are internally displaced, and some of them have poor and overcrowded living conditions with low access to services and safe water supply or sanitation



>70%

of hospitals in conflict-affected areas are not fully operational, leaving millions without access to essential healthcare.



>596,607

people have been affected across 15 out of 18 states, with at least 180,835 people displaced by the flooding, according to the Sudan Flooding Dashboard: Since June

The ongoing conflict and insecurity in Sudan have severely limited humanitarian access to many areas. This has made it extremely challenging to deliver aid, including medical supplies, clean water, and sanitation facilities. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Famine Review Committee, some communities in North Darfur State are driven into famine (IPC 5)

Gaza

Between October 7, 2023, and September 18, 2024, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza,

>41,272
Palestinians were killed

>95,551
Injured



Health Status in Gaza and Sudan

Polio Vaccination Campaign in Gaza Strip

In Gaza, a polio outbreak, caused by circulating variant poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) was detected in July and August 2024. In response, the Palestinian MoH, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), and other partners, conducted an emergency polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip from September 1st to 12th, 2024.

• **558,963 children** were successfully vaccinated in the first round of the campaign against polio.

EMPHNET played a critical role in this effort. Having been selected by WHO Gaza as an experienced agency to conduct post-campaign monitoring, EMPHNET was responsible for assessing the effectiveness of the campaign through independent monitoring activities. This included training 34 teams on assessment tools in coordination with the WHO regional office. The campaign evaluation involved screening 11,515 children under the age of 10 at fixed health sites and households, representing 2% of the total target population.

• The emergency vaccination campaign launched in September 2024 aimed to reach **640,000 children** under ten years old.

