



GSJ: Volume 11, Issue 10, October 2023, Online: ISSN 2320-9186

www.globalscientificjournal.com

The impact of war on Sudan's health system 2023

Yosra Abdullatif Mahmoud Adam

Abstract

On 15 of April clashes started between Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Khartoum and Northern state, and continued to spread to involve other states. During which large number of people had killed, and large number flee from their states and the majority from Khartoum city in form of inside and out-side displacement, as the conflict continuous, Sudan's health system is at risk for collapse. More than 30 hospitals closed either because of direct attacks or shortage of staff and resources, most of stats now are suffering from run out of nutrition, water and fuel. There are outbreak of dengue fever, cholera and other diseases.

Introduction

Sudan is geographically bordered by seven countries including Libya and Egypt to the North, Chad to the West, the Central African Republic to the South-West, South Sudan to the South, Ethiopia to the South-East and Eritrea to the East located in Africa. The capital city of Sudan is Khartoum which has a population of 1,974,647⁽¹⁾

The conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces which affect the region, human being, and the country ⁽²⁾ lead to public health risks, from repeated violence against the population and health care personnel which resulted in trauma, injuries, major disruptions to health care services, and increase the risk of malnutrition, infectious diseases and mortality ⁽³⁾

-The general impact of the war:

About 4.5% of the people were displaced; nearly 19 million children were unable to access their schools because of increasing violence. ⁽⁴⁾ In the first two weeks of the armed conflict the reports showed an extreme shortage of food, water, and fuel. ⁽⁵⁾ On the 9th of June the United Nations Human Rights reported the intendance of 12 sexual abuses; most of them were young girls. Additionally, 1.2 million moved to other countries with reports of hundreds of deaths. ⁽⁶⁾

There are outbreaks of many diseases including cholera which were noticed at the start of the clashes, a report showed 1,634 suspected cases of cholera with 70 deaths from different states in

Sudan by 29 September. ⁽⁴⁾ From 28 July 2022 up to 20 March 2023 there were 7,935 reported cases of Dengue fever in twelve states with a higher percentage in Khartoum, Gadarif and North Darfur states which increased with time. And 46% of the cases were females and the situation was getting under control except for Khartoum and Gadarif ⁽⁷⁾

-The impact on healthcare personnel and health facilities:

There is an extreme risk of biological hazards from the isolates of dangerous diseases from the Central Public Health Lab which is located near the fighting area. ⁽⁸⁾ The data reported continued attacks on healthcare personnel, facilities, and patients in ambulances during transports. Moreover, there were nearly 16 nonfunctional hospitals due to attacks, and the other 16 closed because of staff shortage and fatigue. People also face difficulty in accessing healthcare services and challenges with a shortage of resources. ⁽⁹⁾

The rapid support forces directly targeted 14 hospitals and medical facilities using heavy weapons, 20 hospitals were evacuated, with attacks on 8 large hospitals inside Khartoum state and forced the staff, which disrupted the work in 57 hospitals and medical facilities. Moreover, targeted five ambulances and killed two ambulance drivers and nurses. At the same time, it confirmed that 13 medical staff were killed, and 9 medical personnel were kidnapped. In addition, stole and looted 6 military factories and pharmaceutical companies, and stole more than 43 pharmacies in Khartoum state, in various locations. ⁽¹⁰⁾

The impact on healthcare services delivery:

On the other hand, access to health services was difficult because of the attacks on healthcare workers and facilities which led to an increase in the need for urgent health support unfortunately more than two million pregnant women cannot get medical access and most probably 90 thousand of them will give birth within three months. ⁽¹¹⁾

Disruption of healthcare services delivery and support with chronic medication increases the negative effect on health quality ⁽¹²⁾

One-third of healthcare facilities were out of service there were millions of children in need for immediate humanitarian support. The reports showed that at least 9 children had killed with more than 50 injured and increased attacks, which include sexual violence and using children in fighting. With continuous of the attacks there were falling in vaccination rate which put children in danger of deadly diseases. Although Sudan has high rate of malnutrition the continuity of the war could make it worse. ⁽¹³⁾ At least 19 hospitals in Khartoum and surrounding states had been evacuated using direct force. On 22 of April data showed that six dialysis centers and 15 primary healthcare centers became out of services, and more hospitals were closed as a result of critical shortage of supplies and healthcare personnel from direct attacks and the risk of re attack at any time, because of using heavy weapons ill and injured people face challenges to reach hospitals. Therefore there is a risk of humanitarian crisis. ⁽¹⁴⁾

Nearly 8000 patients depend on hemodialysis, and approximately 4500 kidney transplants that live with immunosuppressive drugs are in danger. From the start of the conflict they were run out of resources from hospitals and because of the truth that most dialysis centers in Khartoum are

near fighting areas and the challenge to reach and to bring supplies to hospitals, the staff who were working continuously and at risk of burn out start to minimize the number of sessions to two sessions a week and because of extreme disruption most of patients shifted to other states where they start to receive one session per week and sometimes minimize the session time from four hours to two hours to meet the demand of all patients with minimal resources. Unfortunately, most of the patients were suffering and it is expected that the supplies will not be enough by October. ⁽¹⁵⁾

References:

- 1-About Embassy: Republic of Sudan Embassy, London. (n.d.). <https://sudanembassy.org.uk/about-sudan/>
- 2-Continued Military Hostilities between Warring Parties Endanger Thousands of People, Sudan's Future, Region, Briefers Tell Security Council | UN Press. (2023, May 22). <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15291.doc.htm>
- 3- Mohamed Altuf WHO Sudan emergency program. https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/sudan/WHO-Sudan-conflict-situation-report-1_14_June_2023.pdf?ua=1)
- 4-Situation Report: Sudan. (2023, October 13). <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan/>
- 5-Sudan crisis explained. (n.d.). <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/sudan-crisis-explained/>
- 6-Sudan crisis still having devastating impact on civilians: UN rights office. (2023, June 9). UN News. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137502>
- 7-Situation Report: Sudan. (2023b, October 13). <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan/>
- 8-IFRC GO. (n.d.). <https://go.ifrc.org/emergencies/6397>
- 9-Jazeera, A. (2023, April 25). WHO says 'huge biological risk' after Sudan fighters occupy lab. News / Al Jazeera. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/4/25/more-foreigners-flee-sudan-fighters-seize-labouratory>
- 10-Administrator. (n.d.). Regional Director statement on attacks on health care in Sudan. World Health Organization - Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. <http://www.emro.who.int/media/news/regional-director-statement-on-attacks-on-health-care-in-sudan.html>
- 11- Frightening statistics about the health situation in Sudan-Al-Hakim News [Internet]. 2023 [cited 2023 May 7]. <https://alhakim.net/100673>
- 12-Sudan crisis explained. (n.d.-b). <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/sudan-crisis-explained/>
- 13-Fighting in Sudan rapidly worsening an already dire humanitarian situation for children, warn UNICEF, Save the Children and World Vision. (n.d.). <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/fighting-sudan-rapidly-worsening-already-dire-humanitarian-situation-children-warn>

14-Short, K. (2023). Sudan's warring factions must end attacks on hospitals, protect civilians: joint statement. *PHR*. <https://phr.org/news/sudans-warring-factions-must-end-attacks-on-hospitals-protect-civilians-joint-statement/>

15- • Hassan HA, Hafez MH, Luyckx VA, Tuğlular S, Abu-Alfa AK. Kidney failure in Sudan: thousands of lives at risk. *Lancet*. 2023;402(10402):607. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(23)01370-3. - [DOI](#) - [PubMed](#)

© GSJ