



الهيئة النقابية للأطباء السودانيين

بالمملكة المتحدة

SUDAN DOCTORS' UNION

U.K. BRANCH

UK,07/10/2018

Sudan Doctors' Union (SDU), UK branch continues to express its growing concern over the outbreak of febrile illness in Kassala State in Sudan, a disease attributed to *Chikungunya, dengue* fever and possible malaria.

We continue to support local campaigns on the ground working to provide drugs and vector control. However, due to the scale of the outbreak, a successful campaign can only be achieved by a full commitment and responsive engagement of MoH in Sudan.

SDU (UK) has completed an online survey among Kassala residents to obtain an estimation of the usage and coverage of ground insecticide spray in the affected region. Unfortunately, around 80% of the respondents reported zero intervention regarding the aforementioned procedure in their neighbourhood within the last 2 weeks.

It is important to note that care workers' health is in jeopardy, and many are reported to have contracted the illness. This unfortunate development would greatly risk the possibility of providing an effective medical care for the patients who are in need of support. It is equally important to note that the cost of treatment and medication (IV fluids/paracetamol/investigations), deemed too high by the affected groups, is putting off patients from approaching hospitals or PHC. Poor access to treatment will translate into higher mortality and morbidity rates.

The recent WHO Sudan report, September 25th, has created widespread anger among people in Sudan and Sudanese diaspora. Our expectation was WHO Sudan will mobilise resources to help control the vector and declare the actual statistical figures (100000 cases and 119 deaths). WHO Sudan should also promote a more transparent and trustworthy surveillance system

SDU (UK)' recommendations:

- 1) We urge health officials and national NGO to apply urgent measures to control vector.
- 2) Health cadre in #Kassala is to be supported and enhanced with necessary resources.
- 3) We recommend application of article (46) of the Interim National Constitution of the Sudan, 2005, which postulates that medical emergency care is free of charge for all citizens.
- 4) State media to participate actively in increasing public awareness.
- 5) Activating surveillance system and data collection.