

*World Health Organization reports 300 cholera deaths in Sudan, warns dengue and meningitis rising*

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Geneva, August 16 (RHC)-- The humanitarian crisis caused by the civil war in Sudan has exacerbated infections, including cholera, which has killed more than 300 people, a World Health Organization (WHO) official says.

Margaret Harris said on Friday that 11,327 cholera cases and 316 deaths had been reported and dengue fever and meningitis infections were also on the rise. "We expect to have more than has been reported," she added.

According to the WHO, the recent outbreaks of cholera have also been more deadly with fatality rates being the highest recorded in more than a decade.

Cholera is caused by a bacteria spread in contaminated food and water, and access to clean water and sanitation are important to stop its spread. The disease can kill within hours without treatment although it can also cause mild or no symptoms. Children under five are at particular risk.

The fighting in Sudan has forced one in five people in the country to flee their homes, and the violence has resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands.

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