2006: Global Overview

248 surveys have been entered in CE-DAT in 2006 that cover 19 complex emergencies occurring in the world.

**Crude mortality rate (CMR)**

- CMR in 29 locations is above alert level, 4 locations above emergency level (DRC, Malawi (2) and Sudan).
- All alert situations are in Africa: the highest recorded in the DRC, Katanga region, in 3 IDP camps next to the city of Dubie (4.3 deaths/10,000/day, March 2006).
- Karnali region in Nepal records the highest CMR among non-African countries (0.67 deaths/10,000/day).

CMR above alert level 2006

![Map showing CMR above alert level in 2006](image)

Notes: 1 Definitions can be found on page 2.

From the Director’s desk

As the third year of the Complex Emergencies Database (CE-DAT) comes to an end, it is time to sum up our achievements and set our goals for the approaching year based on the lessons learned during our past activities. This year has been rewarding for our team. We saw the establishment of the CE-DAT Expert Group, the creation of the new web site (www.cedat.be) and the collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) for an international conference in early June.

The first CE-DAT Expert Group meeting, held in early May, gave way to an interesting discussion about two technical issues: the definition of a complex emergency for the scope of CE-DAT and the elaboration of a completeness checklist for survey reports. The expert advice of Colombo A., Garfield R., Pedersen J., Spiegel P., and Van Herp M. aided the CE-DAT team regarding these two points. The meeting was fruitful and the results will be used for improving CE-DAT’s quality and clarity in the future.

Our new web site is home to the “CE-DAT Forum”, which acts as a platform to facilitate dialogue within the CE-DAT network. Organizations and individuals active in the field of humanitarian aid are encouraged to subscribe and participate in the e-discussions hosted in the forum. We hope it will become popular and thus prove useful as a communication tool for the humanitarian community.

Keeping with a main objective of CE-DAT to improve survey and sampling design skills in the humanitarian community, CRED is co-organizing the “Surveying Health in Complex Situations” conference with LSHTM. The conference seeks to identify and discuss practical and theoretical problems with health surveys performed in challenging contexts.

As always, we welcome your feedback. Please let us know whether the information we provide is helpful, and do not hesitate to make requests for analysis if there are areas being overlooked.

Thanks for your continued support!

Debby Sapir, Director
Global Overview (Cont’d)

Under 5 mortality rate (U5MR)

- U5MR are above the alert level in 38 locations, 3 locations above emergency level (DRC, Kenya, Ethiopia).
- All alert situations are in Africa: the highest registered in the IDP camps next to Dubie (12.7 deaths/10,000/day, March 2006).
- No other camp presents U5MR above the emergency level, but 5 are above alert level (Sudan– Darfur: Hay Abassy, Kalma, Otash, Gereica– DRC– Katanga: Mitwaba). The first refugee camp in the ranking is Yarenja (U5MR 1.2 death/10,000/day).

Crude mortality rate above alert level 2006

Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)

- 121 locations recorded populations with critical malnutrition, 27 with wasting present for 1 in 4 children.
- Sinkat zone in Sudan recorded the highest GAM; wasting occurring in 30.8% of children between 6-59 months. Residents were worse off than those in IDP or refugee camps.
- Highest GAM among camps were from 4 camps in South Darfur (25.9%).
- A record from the Government of Liberia which reported 58.8% GAM for Sino e district was excluded, since it has a peculiar result compared to neighbouring regions and could not be confirmed.

Upcoming Events

LSHTM/CRED  International Conference “Surveying Health in Complex Situations”, 4-5-June, Brussels

CRED/UCL  Summer Course:“Assessing Public Health in Emergency Situations” 16-27 July, Brussels

4th Technical Advisory Group Meeting - October 2007

Some definitions

When considering Crude Mortality Rate, Under Five Mortality Rate and Global Acute Malnutrition, we can get a brief overview of the global humanitarian situation. The definitions are:

- **Crude Mortality Rate (CMR)**: the number of deaths in a certain population during a specific period of time. 1 death/10,000/day is the threshold for alert, 2 deaths/10,000/day is the threshold for emergency.

- **Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR)**: the mortality among children between 0-59 months; alert threshold is 2 deaths/10,000/day, emergency is 4 deaths/10,000/day.

- **Wasting**: the main characteristic of acute malnutrition, occurring with a recent rapid loss of weight; defined as weight-for-height ratios less than 2 standard deviations below the mean (Z score of less than -2).

- **Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)**: the term used to include all malnourished children, both with moderate and severe wasting and oedema. GAM is the term used to include all malnourished children, both with moderate wasting, severe wasting and oedema. According to the WHO classification of severity of malnutrition, a population with GAM above 15% is experiencing critical malnutrition.