Measles Outbreak during a Civil War Case Study

The Darfur region of Sudan has been the focus of much international attention recently. Civil war has ravaged much of the region, creating severe security and health concerns for the more than 6 million residents. An estimated 1 million people have been forced to leave their homes to live in camps. Nearly 170,000 others who fled the country moved to refugee camps in neighboring Chad. The violent conflict and widespread displacement of citizens have disrupted World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) immunization efforts in the region.

In March and April 2004, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) in Sudan began receiving reports of measles outbreaks among the residents of many of the camps. Fearing that a widespread epidemic of measles would make a desperate situation worse, the FMOH, WHO, and UNICEF determined that it was feasible to reach approximately 83% of the children in the

region and initiated efforts to resume measles immunization.

* *What causes measles?*
* *Why does a once common childhood disease pose a major threat to children in Darfur?*