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Impact of COVID-19 Situation on the people of Sudan

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The COVID-19 Pandemic is challenging to every country. Therefore, Sudan is not exceptional, as it has recorded 13,765 confirmed cases and 873 deaths of COVID-19 within its borders as of October 26th. However, this isn't the number of actual cases, it is merely the reported ones which are only a small portion of the actual ones that have already become positive, recovered or died. Large numbers of cases are asymptomatic or present with mild symptoms so testing hadn't been performed for them. Only a fraction of COVID infected population is detected and confirmed through laboratory testing and the number of actual cases is therefore estimated to be at several multiples of the number of reported cases, also, the number of deaths tends to be under estimated as some patients are not hospitalized and tested.

The Higher Committee of Public Health Emergencies has lifted the 6:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. curfew that had been imposed in Khartoum since July 8th, but the study hasn't been resumed in schools and some universities. Meanwhile, the state of health emergency continued reminding the community about the importance of adopting health measures necessary to limit the epidemic's transmission and spread. Sudan has suffered much of various political, economical problems and natural disasters. This year, it has faced destructive flood, which killed at least 120 people and adversely affected more than 800,000 ones.

It was the worst flood in the century, where thousands houses were destroyed, shelters have been washed away in the

heavy rains, infrastructure has been destroyed, large number of farms -just before harvest- have been damaged, also, several roads became so muddy that hindered safe traffic, made it impossible to deliver emergency aid to many needy people. Hygiene and sanitary levels have fallen due to contaminated water supply, preventing people from exercising necessary COVID preventive measures such as regular hand washing. Also, some health facilities have been damaged and lost ability to treat patients. Now rains have subsided and flood waters are receding, left major challenges in environmental health. Accordingly, the Sudan health authority is of no doubt in a critical situation after appearance of hemorrhagic fever outbreaks, new reported cases of vaccine-derived polio and continuation of COVID transmission.

Despite all of this, Sudanese people will not lose hope for bright tomorrow, especially after the victory in their great revolution December 2018. Their orientation and insistence to achieve democratic governance and ensure its slogans are freedom, peace, and justice. However, after lifting the economic sanctions and removal of Sudan from the list of states sponsoring terrorism, hopes soared up to touch their revolutions' goals.

My warm greetings from Sudan to all IJCRR readers and my profound gratitude to Dr. Shakil who recommended me as guest editor to this great journal.