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Sudan Declares Interruption of Transmission of River Blindness in Al-Galabat focus in Gedaref State. Another stunning success after eliminating Abu Hamad focus of River Nile State.

The First Globally successful Interruption of River Blindness Transmission in a Cross-Bordering Area

River Blindness (onchocerciasis) is a parasitic disease that affects the eye and skin in human beings. It is caused by the filarial worms known as *Onchocerca volvulus*, a parasite that can live up to 14 years in the human body. The disease is transmitted by the black (*Simulium*) fly, which is known locally in River Nile State as 'Kunteeb". The fly breeds in fast flowing waters such as cataracts, waterfalls and fast streams. Over 99% of the disease is transmitted in sub-Sahara Africa. The disease is also known in Central and South America where efforts have been largely successful. In Asia, it is only found in Yemen. Globally, it is estimated that about 17 million people were already affected by this disease, and about 120 million at risk of contracting this infection. At least, 270, 000 people worldwide are estimated to be blind due to River blindness, and about half a million persons visually impaired. This definitely has a direct effect on the economic situation of the affected countries.



