



Somali Health response update

Weekly Highlights 10 – 16 Sept 2011

BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

- As part of the malaria preparedness response in Somalia, WHO and UNICEF are providing over **4000 insecticide treated bed nets** to major hospitals in the three zones.
- As part of the ongoing **emergency measles campaign** in regions of South and Central Somalia, WHO and UNICEF carried out from 7-10 September 2011 vaccination activities in two accessible districts in Bakool region and another two districts in Gedo region, targeting about 110 000 children under the age of 15.
- WHO has distributed additional **medical supplies** to health facilities and partners in **Banadir region** including a diarrheal disease kit (treatment for 500 cases), two trauma kits and inter-agency health kits (treatment for 30 000 people for one month).
- With the current increase of new health facilities in **Mogadishu**, there is the need for increased coordination among health partners.

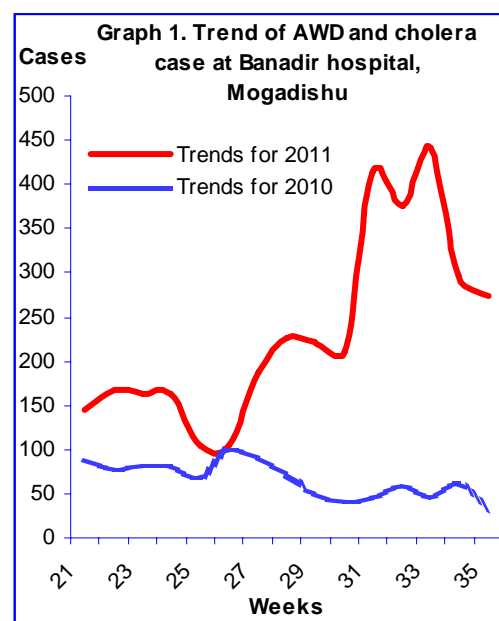
Update on major public health concerns:

• Trends of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera

Poor sanitation conditions, a shortage of safe water, overcrowding and high malnutrition rates are the perfect combination for infectious diseases, such as cholera, to spread and increase death rates. The cholera transmission season is ongoing. Some areas have received sporadic rains, posing a high risk for transmission of waterborne diseases, such as AWD. Communities tend to use contaminated water for domestic use, hence the high risk for sporadic outbreaks.

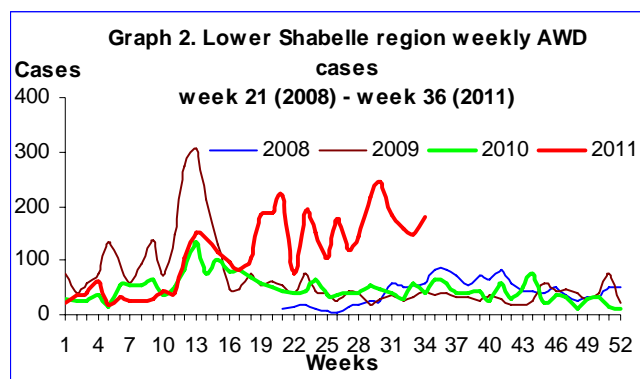
Multiple rumors are currently being investigated. Confirmed cholera outbreaks are ongoing in Mogadishu (**Banadir region**), the Afgooye corridor, meanwhile Baidoa (**Bay region**), Xarardere, Bursalah, Goddogob, and Hobyo district (**Mudug region**), Awdhegle and Wanlaweyne district (**Lower Shabelle region**) are under control. Confirmed measles and dengue fever cases have been identified in Mogadishu (**Banadir region**). Dengue fever is confirmed in **Galbeed region** of Somaliland. The cholera outbreak in Baidoa is considered under control.

Since week 1¹, 6072 AWD/cholera cases including 4320 (72%) cases under the age of five with 249 related deaths have been reported from Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** (see graph 1 on trends). Children under the age of two bear the greatest burden of AWD accounting for 49% of all reported cases and 45% of all reported deaths. Based on data collected, women and girls account for 47% of all AWD reported cases at the hospital.



¹Week 1: 3-9 January 2011

The number of AWD cases reported in **Lower Shabelle region** tends to increase relatively in week 36² compared with the previous week (see graph 2).

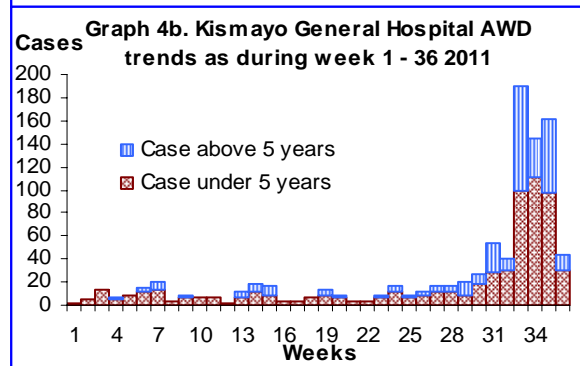
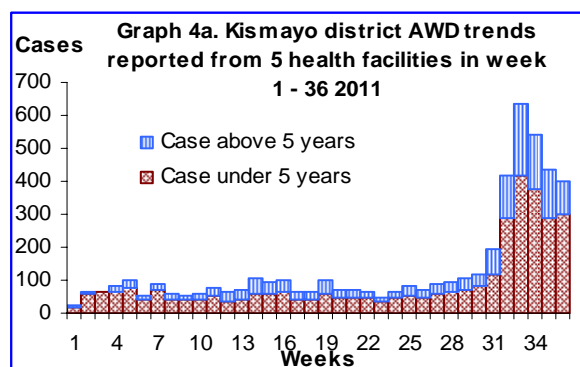


Health Events in Somalia

Epidemiological surveillance during week 36

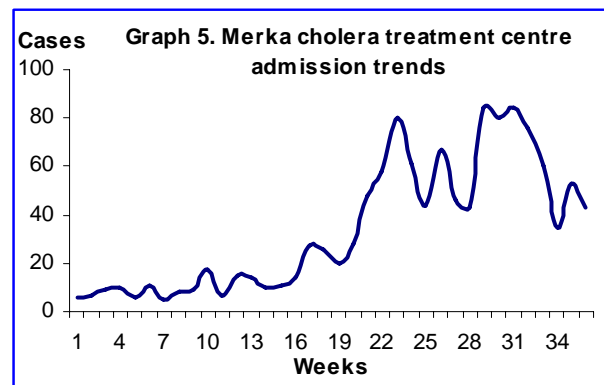
- In **Lower and Middle Juba regions**, 16 health facilities reported 1914 consultations including 933 (49%) children under the age of five. Women and girls accounted for 1027 (54%) of all consultations. Influenza like illness (ILI) accounted for 388 consultations of which 288 (74%) were children under the age of five. Suspected malaria accounted for 1039 cases including 377 (36%) children below the age of five. AWD accounted for 399 cases including 288 (72%) children under the age of five (see graph 4a). Kismayo districts accounted for 11% of all the consultations compared to over 30% reported in the previous week.

The number of AWD cases admissions at the **Kismayo Hospital** remained stable (see graph 4b). About 47 cases including 31 (66%) children under the age of five, were treated at the hospital's management unit - a 51% reduction in number of reported cases as compared to previous week. There are adequate case management supplies on ground and WHO is working in collaboration with local authorities to respond to the current situation in the district.



Internally displaced people at the Kismayo camp receive medical treatment from local health teams. The initiative was supported by Towfiq Group

- In **Lower Shabelle region**, 56 health facilities reported a total of 10 118 consultations of whom 4570 (45%) are children younger than five and 14 related deaths (12 under the age of five). Women and girls accounted for 5704 (56%) of all consultations. Acute respiratory infections (ARI) accounted for 1169 consultations of which 604 (52%) were children under five years. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 190 cases including 75 (39%) children under five years. Around 147 (77%) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. AWD accounted for 181 consultations including 125 (69%) children under five years. During the same period, 190 suspected measles cases were reported from the region. Around 68 suspected whooping cough cases were reported. The number of measles cases continues to increase. The lack of access to conduct vaccination activities in the region continues to impact negatively on the health of children.
- At the **Merka Hospital** cholera treatment centre in the region reported 43 AWD cases including 27 (63%) children under the age of five - a 19% decrease in cases compared to previous week (see graph 5). Of all the cases 19 (44%) were women and girls. A 44% increase in admissions was observed as compared to previous week. WHO and partners are monitoring the situation and facilitating preventive activities. Adequate case management supplies are been distributed to partners on the ground. Mobile clinics supported by WHO and implemented by partners in **Lower Shabelle region** provide access to basic services targeting over 5000 people per month.



- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 274 cases of AWD including 196 (72%) children under five years, with 8 related deaths (4 under the age of five). Of these cases 34% are women and girls. The number of reported cases continues to reduce steadily in the past two weeks. WHO and partners continue to monitor the trends and undertaking AWD preventive activities. Case management supplies have been pre-positioned in Mogadishu, ready for dispatch. The increased influx of internal displaced people and the precarious living conditions are high risk for outbreaks and the number of AWD cases is expected to rise significantly between now and October.
- The SOS Hospital in Huruwaa district, **Mogadishu**, reported 50 AWD cases under the age of five. Of these cases 23 (46%) were girls. With the sporadic fighting and the rains in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia resulting in continued influx of internally displaced persons and the current malnutrition rates, AWD cases are expected to increase.
- The Habeeb Hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported five AWD admissions including two children under the age of 5. Of all the cases 2 were girls. The situation remains stable but AWD cases are expected to increase. Population access to the hospital remains a challenge.

Health response

WHO and partners continue to monitor health events and to respond to the ongoing situation in South Central Somalia, through the following activities:

Table I: Distribution of bed nets in Somalia

Zones	Hospitals	Bed nets
Northeast	6	510
Northwest	10	1778
Central Somalia	18	1627
Southern Somalia	6	371

- **WHO** and **UNICEF** is jointly distributing long-lasting insecticide treated nets to several hospitals in the three zones of Somalia as part of key response activities to control malaria in Somalia (see table 1). In the reporting week, indoor residue spraying for malaria was conducted in 15 malaria-prone villages in the regions of **Northeast zone**. About 6800 households are targeted in northern Somalia.

- As part of the ongoing emergency measles campaign in regions of South and Central Somalia, **WHO** and **UNICEF** carried out from 7-10 September 2011 vaccination activities in two accessible districts in **Bakool region** and another two districts in **Gedo regions**. The campaign targeted about 110 000 children under the age of 15.

- **WHO** distributed medical supplies in **Banadir region**. One diarrheal disease kits (treatment for 500 cases, including 100 severe adult cases) was provided to *Hormud clinic in Mogadishu*. *Banadir hospital* received a trauma kit. Health partners Zam Zam Foundation was supported with an inter-agency health kit (providing treatment for 10 000 affected people for a period of 3 months) and a trauma kit. As part of ongoing AWD response in the district of Kismayo in **Lower Jubba region**, WHO supported the rehabilitation of latrines at Kismayo Hospital to improve sanitation facilities.



A section of the rehabilitated latrines



- **From 28 August - 10 September**, Macaani Hospital in **Mogadishu** registered 37 deliveries including three deaths. A total of three surgeries were undertaken. The out-patient department at the hospital reported 400 consultations.

- Health partner **Mulrany Intern**, is operating a primary health care clinic and trauma clinic in Wardhiigleey district in **Banadir region**. In the reporting week, about 260 consultations were reported at the Wardhiigleey clinic, including 103 children under the age of five. Currently assessments are being carried out at four additional districts with the plan to open a

PHC and nutritional centre, to respond to the famine situation affecting parts of the region.

- From **1-8 September**, health partner **ACF** treated in Hodan district, Mogadishu, about 290 children under the age of five from various illnesses. Through the extended immunization programme vaccinated 499 persons, including 296 children and 203 women were reached. Additionally, the medical team treated 19 AWD cases, 4 whooping cough cases and 4 measles cases, all under the age of five. About 170 women received antenatal and postnatal care.
- Health partner **International Rescue Committee (IRC)** received one inter-agency health kit (treatment for 30 000 people for one month) to support three health facilities nearby Mogadishu airport.