



## BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

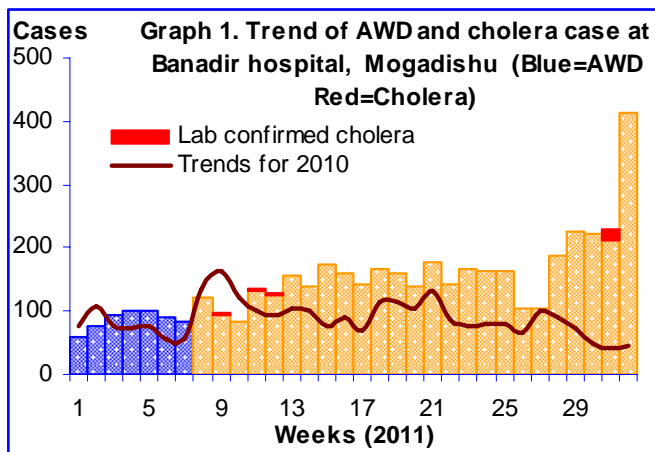
- Poor sanitation conditions, a shortage of safe water, overcrowding and high malnutrition rates are the perfect combination for infectious diseases, such as cholera, to spread and increase death rates. WHO sent one diarrheal disease kit to **Kismayo General Hospital** to complement the initial response supplies. The supplies are adequate to treat 100 severe adult cases and 400 moderate AWD cases
- **Measles** outbreak threatens Somalia. During July 2011, the number of suspected measles cases has **increased with 666%**, compared with July 2010. As response to the suspected measles outbreak, WHO, UNICEF, health partners and health authorities kicked off an emergency measles vaccination campaign in all accessible areas of South and Central Somalia. About 2.3 million children aged between 6 and 15 years in 10 regions of South and Central Somalia, including 745 000 children in Mogadishu, will be targeted during this campaign.

## 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 1<sup>1</sup>, 4686 AWD/cholera cases including 3433 (75%) cases under the age of five with 192 related deaths have been reported from Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** (see graph 1). Children under the age of two bear the greatest burden of AWD accounting for 51% of all reported cases and 49% of all reported deaths. Based on data collected, women and girls account for 47% of all AWD reported cases at the hospital.

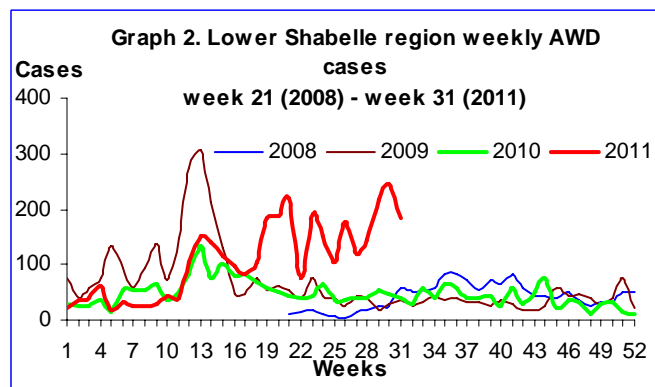


<sup>1</sup>Week 1: 3-9 January 2011

The number of AWD cases reported in **Lower Shabelle region** tends to decrease in week 31<sup>2</sup> compared with the previous week (see graph 2). WHO and partners are closely monitoring trends of communicable diseases, especially AWD and measles in light of the end of the dry season.

It has rained in some regions and people are moving back to their original homes to prepare for the planting season. On the other hand, the number of IDPs continues to increase as people move to urban areas, such as Mogadishu and Galkacyo.

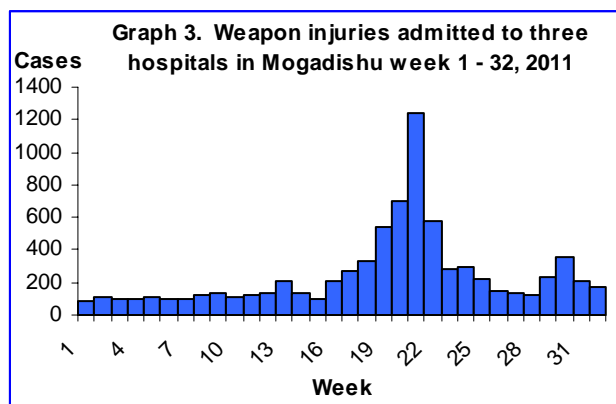
WHO's major concern is to monitor and detect new disease outbreaks in the many informal settlements set up by internally displaced people in and around Mogadishu. These informal settlements are a major challenge to the few health service providers who also have limited operational capacity. The prevailing malnutrition levels exacerbate the existing precarious public health situation in Somalia.



## Mogadishu conflict and displacement

From **1-14 August 2011, 372 casualties** from weapon-related injuries were treated in the three hospitals in Mogadishu. Two related death were reported. The number of weapon-related casualties reported from these hospitals has decreased little compared to week 31 (see graph 3).

From **1 January to 31 July 2011, 7450 casualties** from weapon-related injuries were treated in the three hospitals in Mogadishu. Sixty-seven related death were reported. The deaths on site of injury remain unknown.

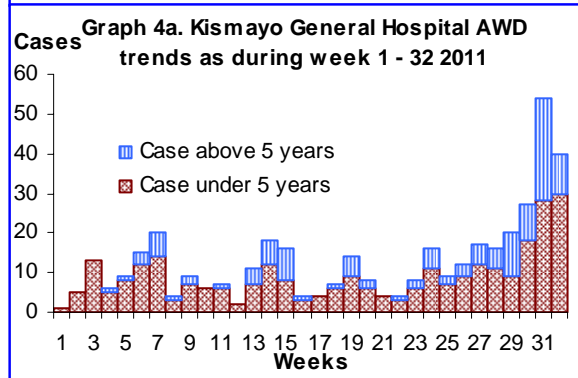
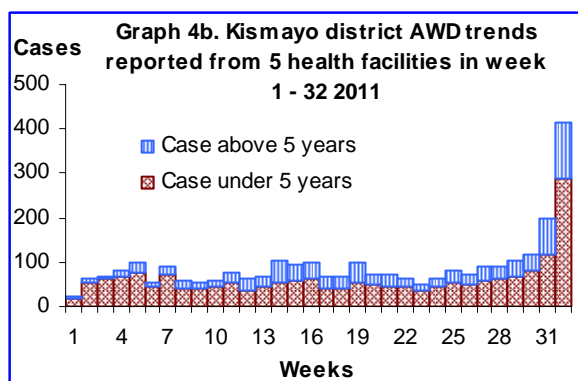


The total number of new IDPs<sup>3</sup> in Somalia for July 2011 is estimated at 63 000, of which 89 per cent moved because of drought.

## Health Events in Somalia

### Epidemiological surveillance during week 32

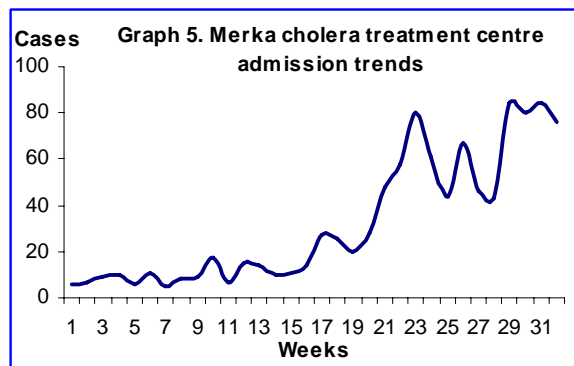
- In **Lower and Middle Juba regions**, 16 health facilities reported 1208 consultations including 736 (61%) children under the age of five. Women and girls accounted for 705 (59%) of all consultations. Influenza like illness (ILI) accounted for 297 consultations of which 206 (69%) were children under the age of five. Suspected malaria accounted for 444 cases including 229 (51%) children below the age of five. AWD accounted for 415 cases including 288 (69%) children under the age of five. Jilib and Kismayo districts accounted for 48% of all the consultations. The number of AWD cases decreased by 12% compared to week 31.



<sup>2</sup>Week 31: 1-7 August 2011

<sup>3</sup>Population Movement Tracking Monthly update, July 2011, UNHCR

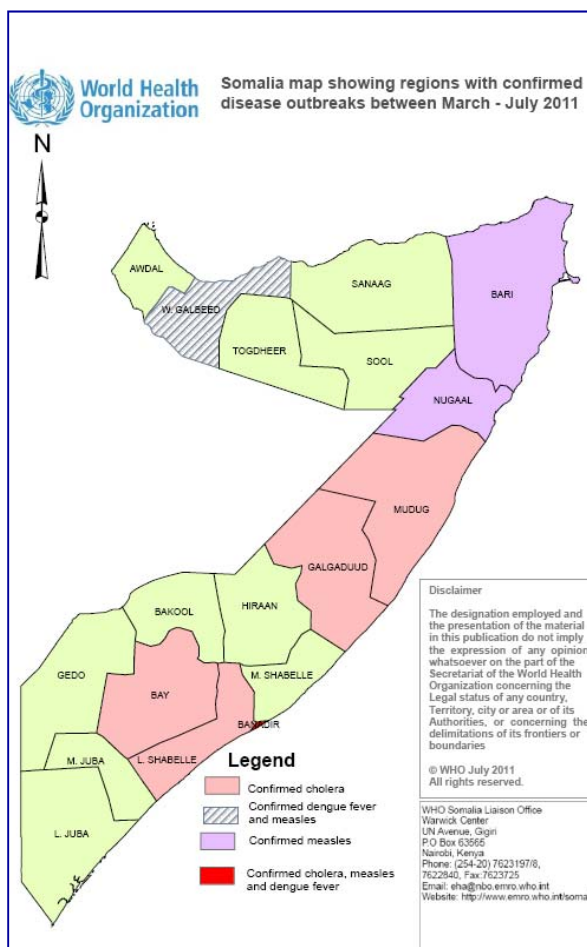
- The **Merka Hospital** cholera treatment centre in the region reported 76 AWD cases including 54 (71%) children under the age of five. Of all the cases 40% were women and girls. WHO and partners are monitoring the situation and facilitating preventive activities. Adequate case management supplies are been distributed to partners on the ground. Mobile clinics supported by WHO and implemented by partners in Lower Shabelle provide access to basic services targeting over 5000 people per month. WHO has sent a cholera kit to Merka hospital to facilitate continued response to AWD.



- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 414 cases of AWD including 208 (50%) children under five years, with 11 related deaths (7 under the age of five). Of these cases 47% are women and girls. The number of reported cases has doubled compared to the previous week. 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 Habeeb hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 11 AWD admissions of which seven are under the age of five with no death. Of these cases, 6 were women and girls. The situation remains stable but cases are expected to increase and WHO and partners continue to monitor trends closely.

- The SOS Hospital in Huruwaa district, **Mogadishu**, reported 27 AWD cases of children under the age of five with one death. Of these cases 40% are girls. Compared to week 30, the number of reported cases remained stable. With the recent intense fighting and onset of 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.



- Baidoa Hospital in **Bay region** reported 4 AWD cases including 2 children under the age of five with no death. Women and girls accounted for 75% of reported cases. Although the cholera outbreak in Baidoa has been declared under control, WHO is urging partners in Bay and Bakool regions to step up WASH and surveillance activities for waterborne diseases. There has been an influx displaced persons in Baidoa and Mogadishu creating the possibility of a new outbreak.

## WHO's response

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

- WHO sent one diarrheal disease kit to **Kismayo General Hospital** to complement the initial response supplies that were sent earlier last week. The supplies are adequate to treat 100 severe adult cases and 400 moderate AWD cases.
- Additional medical supplies, including 2 diarrheal disease kits, are being prepositioned in **Bu'aale**. Once permission is obtained from the local authorities, they will move to Kismayo. A WHO investigation team, together with the local authorities and the Kismayo hospital team, is still present in Kismayo to monitor the AWD trends. Stool samples have been collected and are being referred to Nairobi for confirmatory diagnosis.
- As response to the suspected measles outbreak, WHO, UNICEF, health partners and health authorities kicked off an emergency measles vaccination campaign in **all accessible areas of South and Central Somalia**. About 2.3 million children aged between 6 and 15 years in 10 regions of South and Central Somalia, including 745 000 children in Mogadishu, will be targeted during this campaign.



About 2.3 million children aged between 6 and 15 years in 10 regions of South and Central Somalia are targeted with the emergency vaccination campaign



## In Focus

### Measles outbreak threatens Somalia

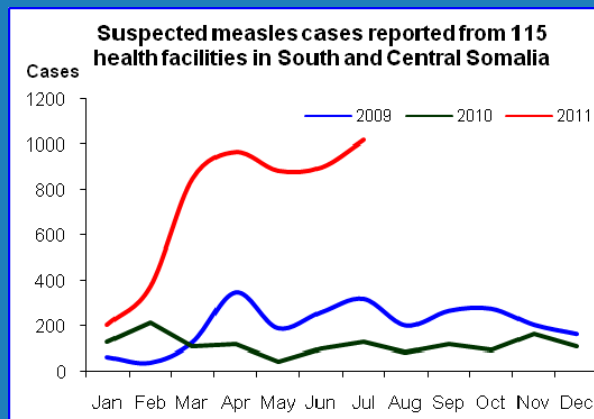
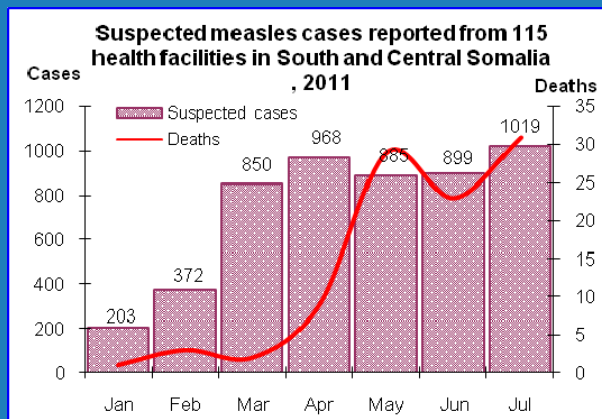
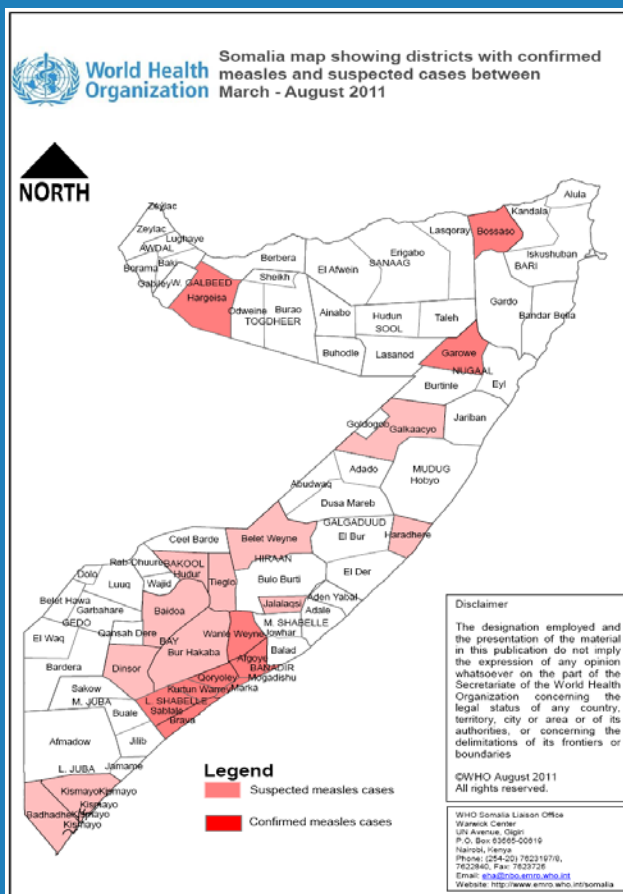
In July 2011 alone, 1019 suspected measles cases and 31 related deaths have been reported in South and Central Somalia, representing almost 20% of all reported cases for this year. Compared with the same period in 2010, the number of suspected measles cases has increased with 666%<sup>4</sup> (see graphs). Since January 2011, 5176 suspected measles cases were reported in South and Central Somalia alone.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease, which affects mostly children. It is transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons. Initial symptoms, which usually appear 10–12 days after infection, include high fever, runny nose, blood-shot eyes, and tiny white spots on the inside of the mouth. Several days later, a rash develops, starting on the face and upper neck and gradually spreading downwards.

There is no specific treatment for measles and most people recover within 2–3 weeks. However, particularly in malnourished children and people with reduced immunity, measles can cause serious complications, including blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhoea, ear infection and pneumonia.

The major factors for a measles outbreak in Somalia are low coverage, malnutrition, population movements, and over-crowded internally displaced (IDP) camps. WHO fears that the measles outbreak could lead to serious illness and a high number of deaths, especially among the vulnerable IDPs whose overall health is already fragile.

Measles can be prevented by vaccination. The routine immunization against measles in Somalia is 29%. As response to the suspected measles outbreak, WHO, UNICEF, health partners and health authorities kicked off an emergency measles vaccination campaign in all accessible areas of South and Central Somalia. About 2.3 million children aged between 6 and 15 years in 10 regions of South and Central Somalia, including 745 000 children in Mogadishu, will be targeted during this campaign.



<sup>4</sup>July 2010: 133 cases; July 2011: 1019 cases