



Somali Health response update

Weekly Highlights 17 – 23 Sept 2011

DISEASE HIGHLIGHTS - MID SEPTEMBER 2011 (1-18 SEPTEMBER)

- **MEASLES**

Since the beginning of September 2011, over 957 suspected **measles** cases (including 683 under the age of five) and 13 related deaths have been reported in South and Central Somalia.

RESPONSE

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. As of now, no data available of children reached as analysis is ongoing.

- **ACUTE WATERY DIARRHEA / CHOLERA**

Since the beginning of September 2011, a total of 2797 cases of **acute watery diarrhea (AWD)** (including 1983 under the age of five) with 24 related deaths were reported for the South Central Zone. (Data for the north of Somalia are not available). The highest numbers of cases were reported in Banadir region with 1290 cases including 917 (71%) children under the age of five. Cases are concentrated in Banadir and surrounding regions of Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Bay and Lower Juba. Banadir hospital alone reported for the same period a total 604 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD)/cholera cases, including 475 (79%) cases under the age of five with 18 related deaths.

RESPONSE

WHO has provided one inter-agency health kit (IEHK) to Mudug Regional Hospital in response to the fighting reported in the first week of September. An IEHK provides treatment for 10 000 population for a period of three months. Last week, WHO distributed additional medical supplies to health facilities and partners in Banadir region including three IEHKs, a diarrheal disease kit and two trauma kits. The diarrheal kits treat up to 500 cases of AWD/cholera. Distribution of additional kits is ongoing (see response on page 5)

- **MALARIA**

Since the beginning of September 2011, a total of 1323 suspected **malaria** cases were reported in South and Central Somalia, including 739 cases under the age of five and 5 related deaths (one under the age of five).

RESPONSE

WHO and UNICEF is jointly distributing over 4000 long-lasting insecticide treated nets to several hospitals in the three zones of Somalia. The bed nets were distributed to the 40 hospitals according to hospital capacity i.e. number of beds at each hospital to benefit patients admitted. Indoor residue spraying for malaria is ongoing in 14 malaria-prone villages in the regions of Northwest zone. About 6800 households were targeted in northern Somalia.

- **ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS / PNEUMONIA**

During the first two weeks of September 2011, 3151 cases of pneumonia or acute respiratory infections (including 1783 under the age of five) have been reported in some regions of South and Central Somalia (Banadir, Lower Shabelle, Middle and Lower Juba). The exact number of deaths is unknown due to challenges in death reporting in the country. The prevailing malnutrition and environmental factors such as crowded IDP camps contribute to the high burden of pneumonia cases.

BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

- In the past two weeks, the trend for **AWD/cholera** cases has decreased tremendously, e.g. Merka Hospital cholera treatment centre in **Lower Shabelle region** reported a 72% decrease compared with the previous week.
- Indoor residue spray campaign for **malaria** kicked off this week in **North West Somalia**, with village Haraf being the first one to be sprayed. A total of 5300 households in North West Somalia are targeted, reaching out to an estimated 32 000 beneficiaries.
- Thousands of IDPs have been displaced from Baidoa to Qansadheere (Bay region). WHO and SAMA are providing health care services to the newly relocated IDPs through mobile clinics.

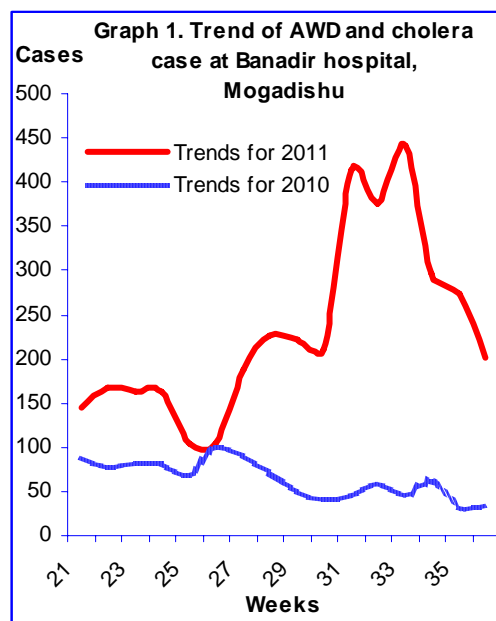
Update on major public health concerns:

• 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.

WHO and partners continue to implement various training sessions for health workers in most affected areas to improve case management. Multiple rumors are currently being investigated. Confirmed cholera outbreak is ongoing in Mogadishu (**Banadir region**). Meanwhile in the Afgooye corridor, 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.

Since week 1¹, 6273 AWD/cholera cases including 4449 (71%) cases under the age of five with 252 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 46% of all reported deaths. Based on data collected, women and girls account for 47% of all AWD reported cases at the hospital.



The number of AWD cases reported in **Lower Shabelle region** tends to decrease in week 37² compared to the previous week (see graph 2).

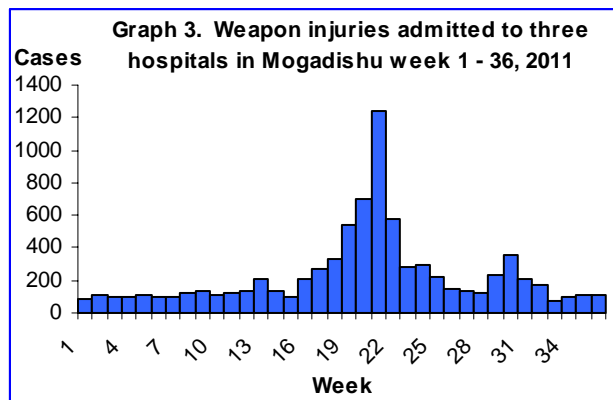
¹Week 1: 3-9 January 2011

²Week 37: 12 - 18 Sept 2011

Conflict and displacement

From **1-11 September 2011**, **181 casualties** from weapon-related injuries were treated in the three hospitals in Mogadishu. Three related death were reported. The number of weapon-related casualties reported from these hospitals has remained stable over the month (see graph 3). From **1 January to 31 August 2011**, **8020 casualties** from weapon-related injuries were treated in the three hospitals in Mogadishu. Seventy-three related death were reported. The deaths on site of injury remain unknown.

From 16 June to date³, a total of 134 400 people have been displaced nationwide, 79% due to the drought. The total number of estimate displacements from Somalia is 20 300.

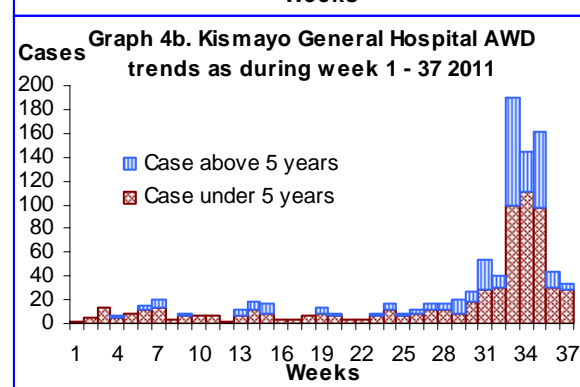
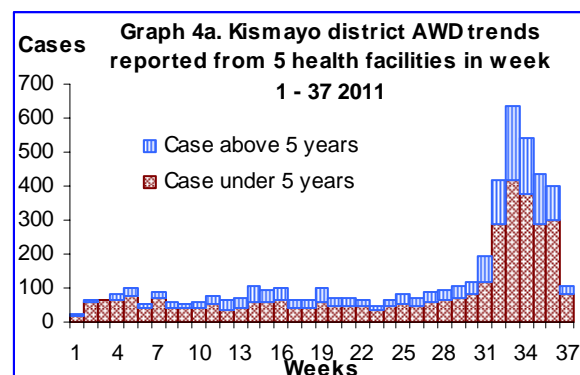


Health Events in Somalia

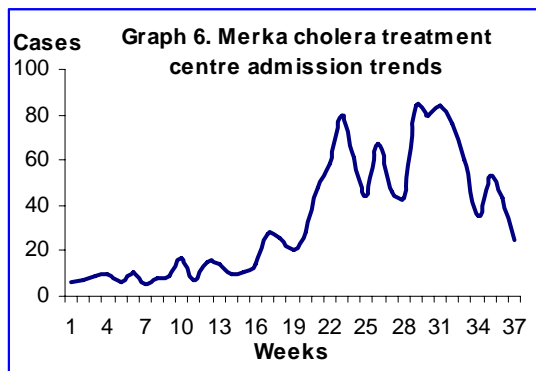
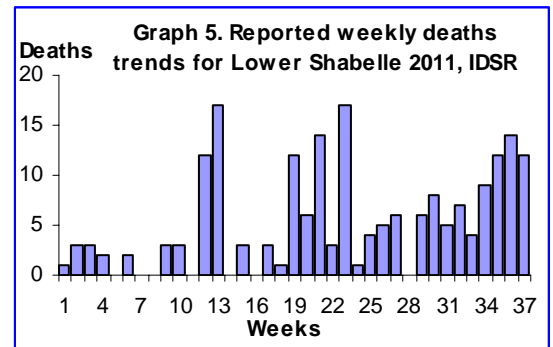
Epidemiological surveillance during week 37

- In **Lower and Middle Juba regions**, 16 health facilities reported 1070 consultations including 594 (56%) children under the age of five. Women and girls accounted for 552 (52%) of all consultations. Influenza like illness (ILI) accounted for 196 consultations of which 144 (73%) were children under the age of five. Suspected malaria accounted for 298 cases including 120 (40%) children below the age of five. AWD accounted for 333 cases including 234 (70%) children under the age of five and no death. Kismayo accounted for 32% of all reported AWD cases compared to over 11% during week 36. The overall number of AWD cases reported from Lower and Middle Juba has drastically reduced (see graph 4a and 4b).

The number of AWD cases reported by Kismayo hospital reduced compared with the previous week. About 34 cases including 28 (82%) children under the age of five were treated in the acute watery diarrhea management unit during week 37 which signifies a 28% reduction in number of reported cases compared to week 36.



- In **Lower Shabelle region**, 56 health facilities reported a total of 9402 consultations of whom 4686 (50%) are children younger than five and 12 related deaths (8 under the age of five). Women and girls accounted for 5278 (56%) of all consultations. Acute respiratory infections (ARI) accounted for 1257 consultations of which 639 (51%) were children under five years. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 200 cases including 86 (43%) children under five years. Around 159 (80%) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. AWD accounted for 145 consultations including 105 (72%) children under five years. During the same period, 223 suspected measles cases were reported from the region. Around 37 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 especially measles cases. The number of deaths reported through the integrated disease surveillance and reporting system (IDSR) is stabilizing (see graph 5).



- At the **Merka Hospital** cholera treatment centre in the region reported 25 AWD cases including 16 (64%) children under the age of five - a 72% decrease in cases compared to previous week (see graph 6). Of all the cases 9 (36%) 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 region** provide access to basic services targeting over 5000 people per month.

- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 201 cases of AWD including 129 (64%) children under five years, with 3 related deaths under the age of five. Of these cases 41% are women and girls. The number of reported cases continues to reduce steadily in the past 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 35 AWD cases under the age of five. Of these cases 18 (51%) were girls— this signifies a 30% reduction of reported cases.
- The Habeeb Hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 2 AWD admissions including one child under the age of 5. Of all the cases 2 were girls. The situation remains stable but AWD cases are expected to increase. WHO and partners continue to monitor trends closely. 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:

- **Relief International (RI)** is responding to the primary health care needs of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in **Mudug region**. RI has established a health post in villages in the district of Jareeban and at an IDP camp in Galkaayo town. The health interventions are targeting more than 50 000 people. As of the month of August 2011, more than 42 000 have been reached - over 70% of the targeted population. Of these, 25 317 (60 %) are children under the age of five and 12 657 (30%) are women of child bearing age. Since the start of the project in September 2010, about 400 births have been attended to by skilled birth attendants, 1147 pregnant women received antenatal care and 1828 children under the age of five have been fully immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases. In collaboration with the ministry of health in Puntland, RI runs two maternal health clinics, one health post and three outreach health sites.
- With the support of WHO and OCHA, health partners **SOYDA**, is running two health centers and in collaboration with **Intersos** have two mobile teams in **Lower Shabelle region**. In **Banadir region**, they are operating a health centre and have two mobile teams. In the reporting week about 1700 beneficiaries in the districts in Lower Shabelle and over 800 in districts in Banadir were attended to by the medical teams. There were more than 1000 children under the age of five reported consultations.
- **WHO** is currently distributing medical supplies to at health facilities and health partners. A total of 7 interagency emergency health kits (IEHK), 2 diarrheal disease kits and a trauma kit are been supplied to partners SOYDA, SORDO, WARDI and IRC.
- Thousands of IDPs have been relocated from Baidoa to Qansadheere (Bay region). WHO, in collaboration with **SAMA**, are providing health services to the newly relocated IDPs through mobile clinics.
- **WHO** kicked off this week the malaria indoor spaying activity in North West Somalia to cover a total of 14 villages. The first village to get sprayed was *Haraf*. A total of 200 households will be sprayed, reaching out to about 1200 beneficiaries.



RI medical teams provide health services to the vulnerable population



A staff provides instructions to IDPs during a mobile clinic by SOYDA



About 10 sprayers were trained this week to start with malaria indoor spraying activities in Haraf, Somaliland.