



BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

- In week 7, five (four under the age of 5 years) acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) deaths were reported from Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu**.
- WHO is **pre-positioning medical supplies** in Mogadishu.

Update on major public health concern:

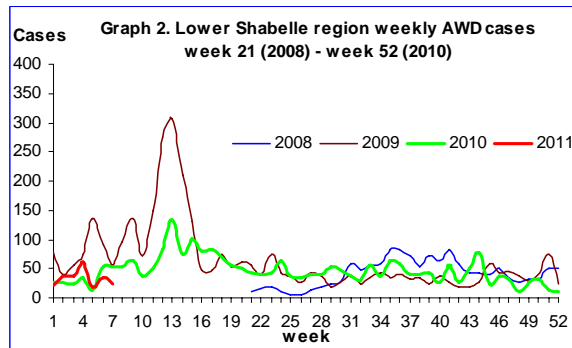
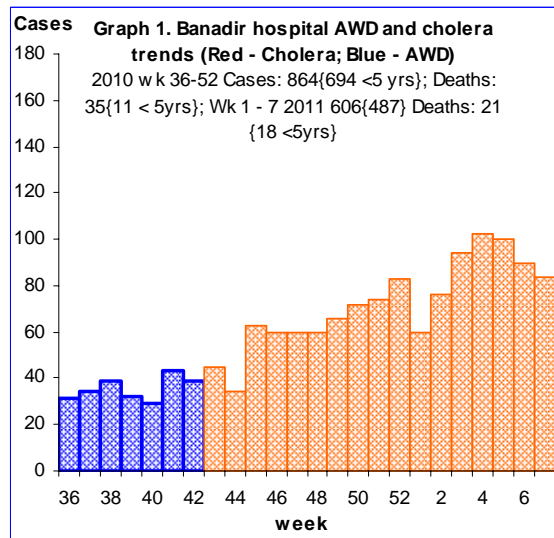
• Cholera/Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)

Since week 1¹, 606 AWD/cholera cases (487 cases under the age of 5) with 21 related deaths have been reported from Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** alone (see Graph 1).

In week 7², a total of 25 AWD cases, all cases younger than five years, were reported from 49 health facilities in **Lower Shabelle** region. This is a significant decrease compared to week 6. Merka and Afgooye accounted for most of these cases (see Graph 2).

WHO and partners are closely monitoring trends of communicable diseases especially AWD in light of the current drought that is having a serious impact on people's health. The migrant populations in search of water and pasture or other viable economic activities to sustain themselves, as a result of the ongoing drought, are passing through highly endemic geographical areas (see map page 3 on high risk regions) for diseases such as AWD and measles.

Informal settlements and a population increase has been observed in urban areas including Mogadishu and Merka among others. In Lower Shabelle, Middle and Lower Jubba the number of AWD consultations increased by over 60% although outbreaks have not been reported.



¹Week 1: 3-9 January 2011

²Week 7: 14-20 February 2011

Mogadishu conflict

- From **3 January - 20 February 2011**, **736 weapons-related casualties**, including 24 (3%) children under the age of five with five related deaths have been reported from **two major hospitals** in **Mogadishu**. The exact number of deaths on site are unknown.
- In the month of January, a **third hospital** in Mogadishu reported **161 weapons-related injuries**, including 14 (8.7%) cases under 15 years. Of all these cases, 60 (37%) were women and girls.

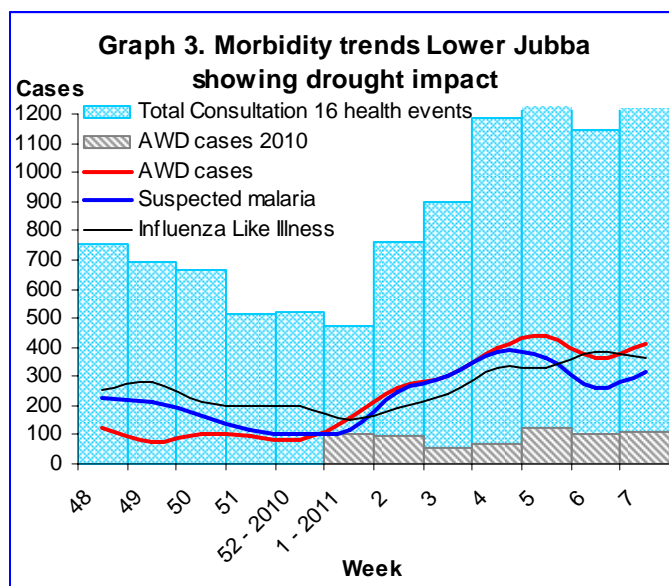


An injured woman is taken to Banadir Hospital in Mogadishu for medical attention

Health Events in Somalia

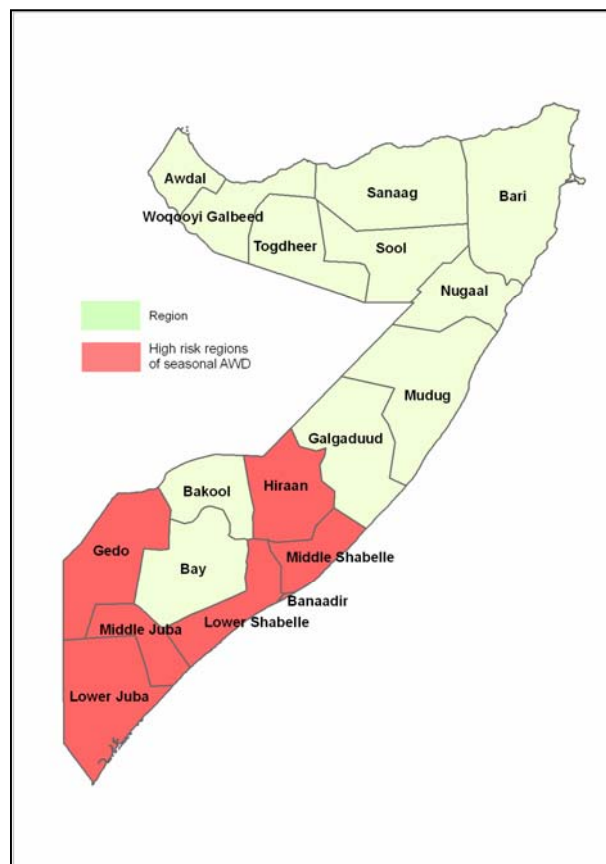
Epidemiological surveillance during week 7

- 13 health facilities in **Lower and Middle Juba regions** reported a total of 1219 consultations, including 68% (831) children under the age of 5 years; and 364 consultations for influenza-like illness (ILI), 65% (235) children under 5 years. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 313 consultations, including 71% (223) children under 5 years. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 409 consultations, including 76% (312) children under 5 years. **Jilib** and **Afmadow** districts accounted for 52% of all the consultations.



- 49 health facilities in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 6083 consultations, including 45% (2738) children under 5 years. Women and girls accounted for 58% of the consultations. Another 918 consultations were reported for influenza-like illness (ILI), 53% (491) children under 5 years. Severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) accounted for 366 consultations of which 63% (232) were children under 5 years. Malaria accounted for 217 cases including 41% (90) children under 5 years and no related death. 63% (136) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 25 consultations, all were children under 5 years. Merka and Afgooye districts alone accounted for 40% and 36% of all reported cases respectively. During the same period, 40 suspected measles cases were reported from the region. 22 suspected whooping cough cases were also reported in the same week.
- The Merka hospital cholera treatment centre in **Lower Shabelle region**, reported five AWD admissions, including three children under 5 with no related deaths.
- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 84 cases of AWD including 77% (65) children under 5 years, with five deaths (4 under five years). As a result of the impact of the drought and migration of the population, WHO and partners continue to monitor the AWD trends in the region (see graph on page 1).

Map of high risk regions of seasonal AWD



- The Habeeb hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 12 AWD admissions (7 children under five years) with one related death above five years.
- Rumors of AWD cases have been reported in Dhaso village situated 40 Km from Elwak town in **Gedo region**. Onset of the cases was on 21 February 2011. Active case detection activities have been initiated on the ground.

WHO's response

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

- Following WHO investigation of rumors of AWD reported from the villages of Korombod, Koban and Yaa-Qoore in Qansadheere district, **Bay region**, no more cases have been reported and WHO continues to monitor the health situation of the population in these areas.
- WHO team is re-negotiating for access from local authorities to reach the drought-affected population gathered in Waambati village Dinsor district, Bay region to investigate rumors of reported deaths from acute respiratory tract infections in the previous week. WHO was sending a rumor investigation team to collect samples from suspected cases for lab confirmatory diagnosis in Nairobi. WHO also plans to establish basic health services in the area and provide life-saving interventions.
- WHO is pre-positioning additional medical supplies in Mogadishu.