



## Emergency Humanitarian Action

Weekly Highlights 21 – 27 May 2011

### BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

- Over the past three weeks, of **1586 weapons-related injuries** reported by three major hospitals in Mogadishu, **735 cases or 46% were children under the age of five** (see special feature on page 4).
- WHO has provided a **cholera kit** that treats 100 severe adult cases, a **dispensary tent** and **10 cholera beds** to **Baidoa Hospital**, Bay region, after eight samples collected tested positive for *Vibrio cholera* serotype 'Inaba'. WHO is supporting volunteers working at the cholera treatment unit.

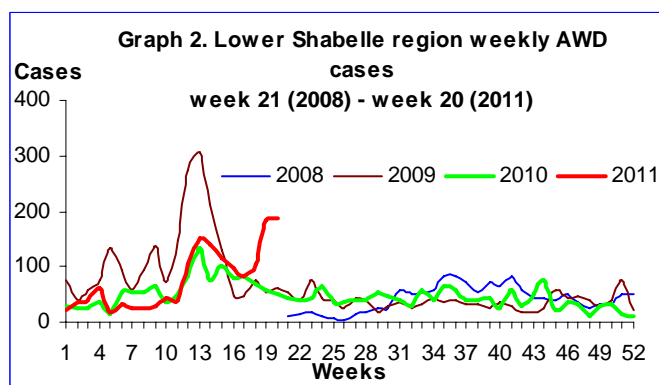
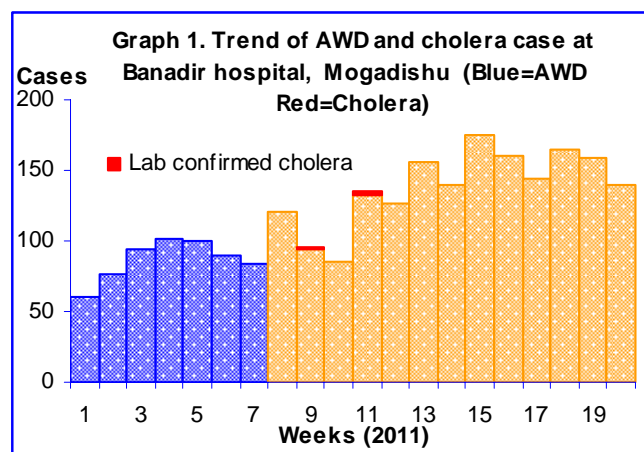
### Update on major public health concerns:

#### • Trends of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera

The cholera transmission season is ongoing. Some areas in most regions of Somalia have received sporadic rainfall. Due to water shortages, WHO observes that there is a likelihood of a risk in transmission of waterborne diseases as communities tend to utilize water from contaminated sources. Investigation of a number of rumors have confirmed the existence of AWD cases though not severe. Since week 1<sup>1</sup>, and following a confirmed cholera outbreak in Mogadishu, 2403 AWD/cholera cases including 1868 (78%) cases under the age of five with 85 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 59% of all reported cases. Based on data collected, women and girls account for 46% of all AWD reported cases at the hospital.

The number of AWD cases reported in **Lower Shabelle region** tends to increase slightly in week 20<sup>2</sup> (see graph 2).

WHO and partners are closely monitoring trends of communicable diseases, especially AWD in light of the end of the dry season. Rains have been observed in some parts of the country, alerting for risks of communicable disease outbreaks, including AWD.



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

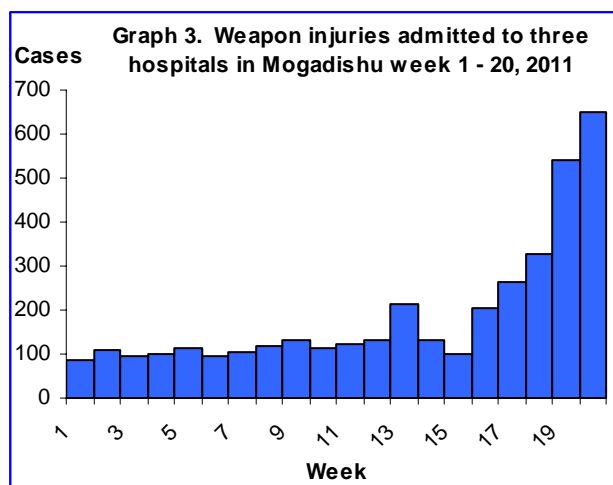
<sup>2</sup>Week 20: 22-28 May 2011

## Conflict and displacement

From 1-21 May 2011, of **1586 weapons-related injuries** reported by three major hospitals in Mogadishu, 735 cases were children under the age of five. Four died from their injuries.

From **3 January - 21 May 2011, 3889 weapons-related injuries** including 930 children under the age of five with 51 related deaths, four of whom are under the age of five have been reported from these hospitals. The exact number of deaths on site are unknown (see graph 3).

UNHCR<sup>3</sup> reports that since 23 February, at least 27 100 people were displaced from or within Mogadishu of whom 12 600 fled the capital and another 14 500 moved to calmer parts of Mogadishu.



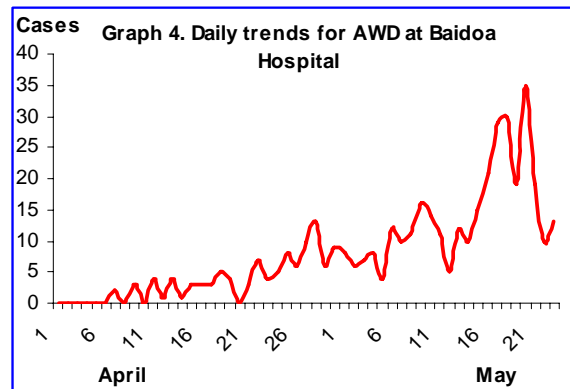
## Health Events in Somalia

### Epidemiological surveillance during week 20

- In **Lower and Middle Juba regions**, 18 health facilities reported 1687 consultations including 868 (51%) children under the age of five. Women and girls accounted for 980 (58%) of all consultations. Influenza like illness (ILI) accounted for 351 consultations of which 263 (75%) were children under the age of five. Malaria accounted for 755 cases including 292 (39%) children below the age of five – a 19% increase in the number reported cases. In the previous week there was a 52% increase reported. This upward trend in cases is seen to be as a result of onset of the rainy season. AWD accounted for 357 cases including 268 (75%) children less than five years. Jilib and Kismayo accounting for 44% of all the consultations.
- In **Lower Shabelle region**, 51 health facilities reported a total of 6684 consultations (a 10% reduction compared to week 19), of whom 3141(47%) are children younger than five with 10 deaths under the age of five. Women and girls accounted for 3617 (54%) of the consultations. About 866 consultations were reported for influenza-like illness (ILI), 440 (51%) children under five years. This is a 23% reduction in cases. Severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) accounted for 166 consultations of which 121 (73%) were children under five years. Malaria accounted for 119 cases including 52 (44%) children under five years. Ninety-two (77%) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. AWD accounted for 187 consultations including 123 (66%) children under five years. Merka district accounted for 51% of all reported AWD cases. During the same period, 71 suspected measles cases were reported from the region. Around 31 suspected whooping cough cases were reported. The **Merka hospital cholera treatment centre (CTC)**, reported 28 AWD admissions including 13 children under the age of five and one death under the age of five. Women and girls accounted for 61% of the cases. This compares to week 19.
- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 140 cases of AWD including 91 (65%) children under 5 years, with eight related deaths (two under the age of five). Of these cases 44% were women and girls. WHO and partners continue to monitor the trends and undertaking AWD preventive activities.
- The Habeeb hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 29 AWD admissions of which 17 are under the age of five. Of these cases, 14 (48%) were women and girls. This compares to week 19.
- The SOS Hospital in Huruwaa district, **Mogadishu**, reported 82 AWD cases including 96 (79%) children under the age of five with two related death under five years. This is a 21% increase in reported cases compared to week 19. Due to recent increase in fighting and onset of rains in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia it is observed that AWD cases reported would increase.

<sup>3</sup> Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin # 20

- Baidoa Hospital in **Bay region** reported 202 AWD cases including 128 (63%) children under the age of five with two related deaths above five years (see graph 4 on daily trends). WHO supported teams to visit a number of villages namely; Guunzi where 52 cases were reported including 13% children under the age five and one death above 5 years; Korar reported 22 cases including 9% children under the age of five and one death above 5 years. From Berdale town, SRCS reported nine cases including two children under the age of five and two deaths under the age of five.



- The Haradere District Hospital (**Mudug region**) supported by CISP reported 72 AWD cases including 33 (46%) children under the age five with five related deaths (two under five years). This is a slight decrease in cases as compared to week 19.
- In Huddur, **Bakool region** there are reports of an unclassified disease that has now affected over 134 people with 53 deaths. Signs and symptoms of the cases include fever for 1 to 2 months, a high pulse rate, occasionally sore throat, progressive swelling of joints and limbs including pains. It is observed that patients either recover slowly or die. Retrospective data collected indicates that the case fatality rate is a major concern.

## 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 in collaboration with SAMA, a local NGO, is conducting health promotion activities in Baidoa, **Bay region** and surrounding areas. In previous weeks, eight out of 10 stool samples collected confirmation tested positive for *Vibrio cholera* serotype 'Inaba' after laboratory confirmation in Nairobi. WHO has provided one cholera kit to **Baidoa Hospital** and is additionally supporting volunteers working at the cholera treatment unit. WHO also sent one dispensary tent and 10 cholera beds.
- A WHO mobile team is visiting the affected villages in Huddur district in **Bakool region** to investigate and respond to reports of an unclassified disease affecting the villagers (see table). From **20-25 May**, around 100 cases were examined including eight (8%) children under the age of five; 81% are female. Patients were then treated with antibiotics and vitamins. The team that is currently in Hoogor has collected samples from patients that have been sent for virology tests. This response activity is expected to continue. WHO is also investigating similar rumors of this unknown disease reported from Tiye glow district.
- WHO is pre-positioning one diarrhoeal disease (DD) kit and an inter-agency health kit (IAHK) in Bu'aale, **Lower Jubba region** and in Galkacyo, **Mudug region** in order to facilitate outbreak response activities during the rainy season without delays. The same is also expected to be undertaken in Wajid, **Bakool region**.

Villages	Cases < five	Cases > five	Deaths > five
Hawal Hirabay	-	5	
Baano	-	15	
Gersiiley	1	12	
Abal	2	18	
Busley	4	24	2 (female)
Dinni	1	20	1 (female)



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## In Focus

### Children highly affected by increased fighting in the capital Mogadishu

Recent fierce fighting between Somali government forces and armed groups in and around the capital city, Mogadishu, have had a profound impact on its civilians, especially children. With many wounded children in the hospitals, the war in Somalia is taking a great toll on the country's children.



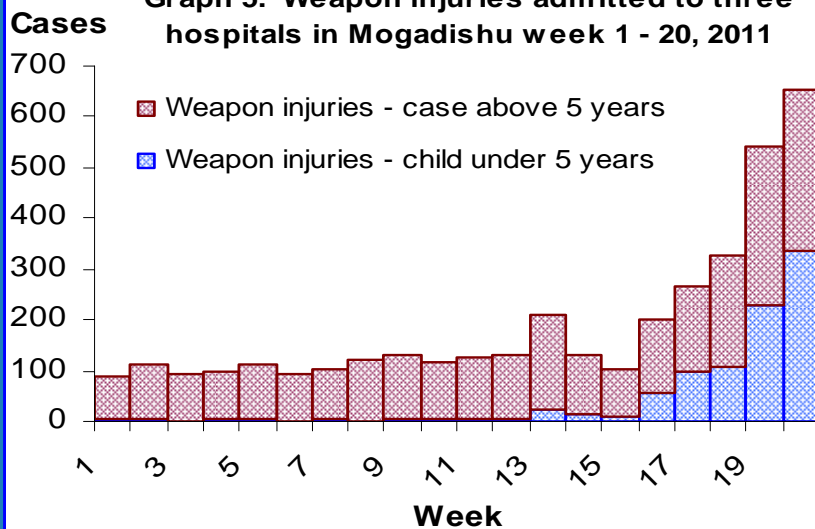
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Over the past three weeks, of 1586 weapons-related injuries reported by three major hospitals in Mogadishu, 735 cases or 46% were children under the age of five. Compared to April, the number of children casualties reported was only 3,5% (see graph).



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**Graph 5. Weapon injuries admitted to three hospitals in Mogadishu week 1 - 20, 2011**



Children are perhaps the most frequent victims of the conflict. Many have died, many more have lost limbs or try to recover from their gun shot wounds. An estimated 630 000 children have been orphaned by the conflict<sup>4</sup>.

WHO is extremely concerned about this increased high number of casualties under the age of five. As response, WHO organized this week in Banadir Hospital, Mogadishu, a special training on basic and advanced emergency surgical trauma management for children. A total of 40 doctors and nurses participated in both practical and theoretical sessions.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/fricas\\_Orphaned\\_and\\_Vulnerable\\_Generations\\_Children\\_Affected\\_by\\_AIDS.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/fricas_Orphaned_and_Vulnerable_Generations_Children_Affected_by_AIDS.pdf)