



## BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

- A so far unknown disease affects children in **Xingood village, Hobyo district** in Mudug, WHO is sending an outbreak investigation team to verify cases and collect samples. Children are reported to develop swelling of the neck, the condition deteriorates fast and they die. As of now, no exact number of affected children is available. Wanlaweyne and other parts of Lower Shabelle.
- In response to rumors of AWD in parts of **Salagle district** in Lower Jubba region, WHO has send an outbreak investigation team to verify the rumors.

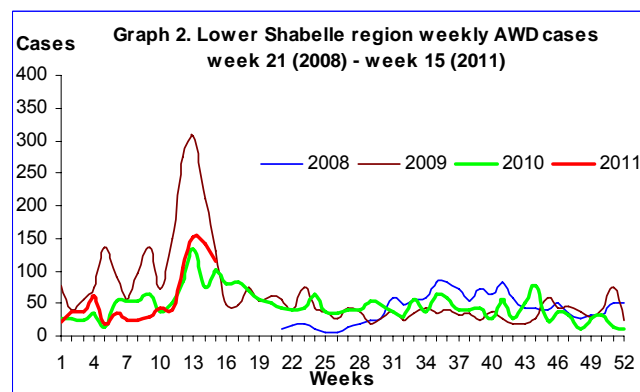
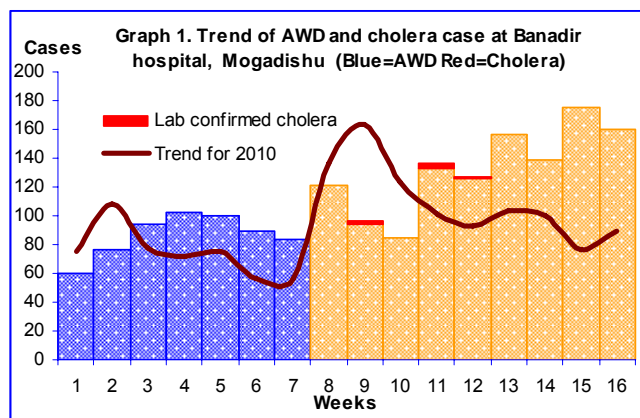
### Update on major public health concerns:

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

Since week 1<sup>1</sup>, 1795 AWD/cholera cases including 1428 (80%) cases under the age of 5 and 53 related deaths have been reported from Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** (see graph 1).

WHO and partners are closely monitoring trends of communicable diseases, especially AWD in light of the current drought that has a serious impact on people's health. The cholera transmission season is ongoing and the drought situation is worsening with more water sources drying up and subsequent reduction in water quality and quantity. Confirmed cholera outbreak is ongoing in Mogadishu, Banadir region. Samples collected from Lower Shabelle and Mudug as part of the outbreak rumour verification activities tested negative for cholera.

As a result of the ongoing drought, migrant populations in search of water and pasture or other viable economic activities to sustain themselves are passing through highly endemic geographical areas (see map on page 3 with high risk regions) for diseases such as AWD and measles. Informal settlements and population movement have been observed in urban areas, including Mogadishu, Merka and Awdhegle. The number of AWD cases tends to decline in week 16<sup>2</sup> (see graph 2).



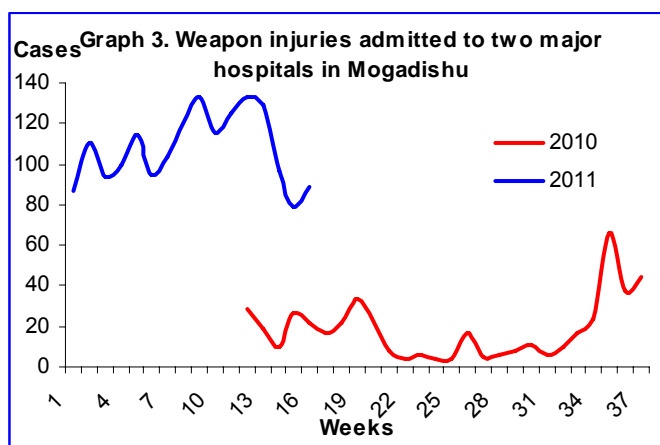
<sup>1</sup>Week 1: 3-9 January 2011

<sup>2</sup>Week 16: 18-24 April 2011

## Conflict and displacement

From 1 to 24 April 2011, of the 318 weapon-related injuries reported by two major hospitals in Mogadishu, 11 cases were children under the age of five. Three died from their injuries.

From 1 January to 24 April 2011, 1756 weapon-related injuries, including 62 children under the age of five with 18 related deaths have been reported from these hospitals (see graph 3). The exact number of deaths on site are unknown.

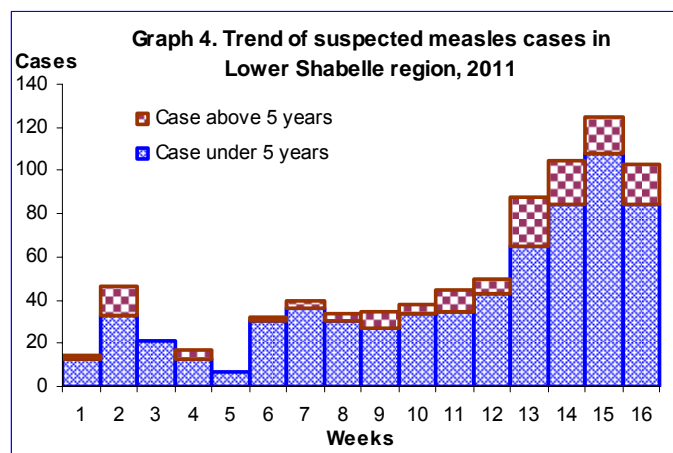


UNHCR<sup>3</sup> reports approximately 38,800 displacements have occurred countrywide since 23 February. Of these, 25,000 were due to insecurity and 10,800 were due to the drought. The majority of the displaced, 20,000 were from Mogadishu with 9,600 leaving the city and 10,400 moving to relatively safer areas of the city.

## Health Events in Somalia

### Epidemiological surveillance during week 16

- In **Lower and Middle Juba regions**, 13 health facilities reported 1255 consultations including 711 (57%) children under 5 years. Women and girls accounted for 793 (63%) of all consultations. Influenza like illness (ILI) accounted for 385 consultations of which 232 (60%) were children under the age of 5 years. Malaria accounted for 461 cases including 239 (52%) children below the age of 5 years with no related deaths. Only 3% were confirmed by either microscopy or rapid diagnostic test. AWD accounted for 359 consultations including 232 (65%) children less than 5 years with no death. Jilib and Kismayo accounted for 44% of all the consultations.
- In **Lower Shabelle region**, 51 health facilities reported 7731 consultations including 3335 (43%) children under five years with eight deaths of which six were under five years. Women and girls accounted for 4196 (54%) of the consultations. Influenza like illness (ILI) accounted for 1141 consultations including 644 (56%) children under five years. Severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) accounted for 286 consultations of which 188 (66%) were children under five years. Malaria accounted for 137 cases including 74 (57%) children under five years. Seventy-one (55%) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. AWD accounted for 98 consultations including 66 (67%) children under five years with five related deaths. Merka district accounted for 44% of all reported AWD cases. Also reported were 103 cases of suspected measles and 52 suspected whooping cough. Negotiations for permission to vaccinate children against measles in parts of Lower Shabelle failed.



<sup>3</sup>Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin -OCHA #16

- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 160 cases of AWD including 119 (74%) children under five years with five deaths including four under five years. WHO and partners continue to monitor trends and conduct preventive activities. With the technical guidance of WHO, an intra-cluster cholera taskforce has been established in Mogadishu, conducting regular coordination meetings to plan response activities.

- The Habeeb Hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 14 AWD admissions of which 10 are under five years, with no related death under five years. Of all cases 9 (64%) were women and girls.

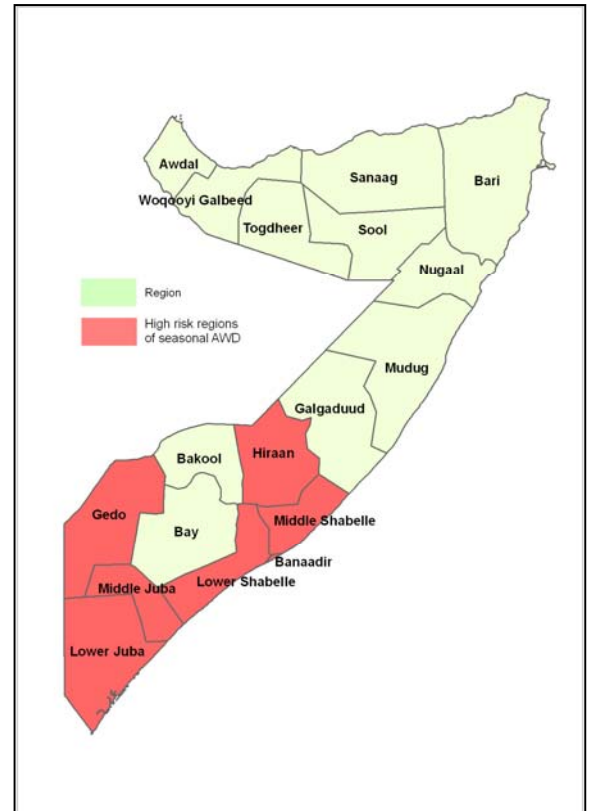
- The SOS Hospital in Huruwaa district, **Mogadishu** reported 54 AWD cases including 47 (87%) cases under five years, with no related deaths. Women and girls accounted for 46% of all AWD cases. This signifies a slight increase in reported cases compared to week 15.

- The Merka Hospital cholera treatment centre in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 14 cases, of which 10 are younger than five years, with no associated death. Of all cases 64% were women and girls.

- All 14 stool samples collected from **Wanlaweyne** district tested negative for cholera. However, due to large number of AWD cases reported in the previous weeks, response activities are ongoing.

- The Ministry of Health of Puntland has reported an increased number of AWD cases during the ongoing vaccination for measles in Garowe and Bossaso. Between 19 and 25 April, the Ministry of Health and partners vaccinated over 2,900 children for measles in Garowe.

**Map of high risk regions of seasonal AWD**



## 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:

- Following rumors of a strange disease affecting children in **Xingood village, Hobyo district** in Mudug, WHO is sending an outbreak investigation team to verify cases and collect samples. Children are reported to develop swelling of the neck, the condition deteriorates fast and they die. As of now, no exact number of affected children is available.
- WHO is sending 1 diarrhea disease kit to **Merka** to facilitate ongoing response to AWD in Wanlaweyne and other parts of Lower Shabelle.
- In response to rumors of AWD in **Warsheikh** in **Middle Shabelle region**, WHO negotiated for access to the district which has been denied by the local authority. However, WHO monitors the situation through contacts and partners on the ground with intent to send supplies as soon as the need arises.
- In response to rumors of AWD in parts of **Salagle** district in **Lower Jubba region**, WHO has send an outbreak investigation team to verify the rumors.
- On-the-job training and direct service delivery is conducted daily in **Afgooye corridor** and **Gaalkacyo** done by the WHO gynecologist and obstetrician to train health workers on comprehensive emergency obstetric care.

## *In Focus*

### Vaccination week activities across Somalia

This year, for the first time, the Vaccination Week brings together about 180 countries and territories across five WHO regions — Africa, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe and the Western Pacific. Started on 23 April, various events and activities took place to boost awareness of immunization and improve community demand for vaccines and delivery of services.



During the launch ceremony of the vaccination week, the President of Puntland gives two polio drops to a child, while the Director-General of Health, Puntland holds the baby.



Somalia participated for the second time. A wide range of activities were organized across all parts of the country, including Mogadishu, Garoowe, Bossaso and Hargeisa. A variety of activities took place, from dissemination of information; training sessions and workshops for health workers; exhibitions; round table discussions with political decision makers, medical professionals, parents, and caregivers. During the vaccination week, the second round of National Immunization Days was conducted, targeting more than 1.8 million Somali children.

With the recent outbreaks of measles in Mogadishu, increased awareness is needed as well as the need to remain vigilant against vaccine-preventable diseases.

A set of posters produced in Somali language to increase awareness on the importance of vaccination.