



BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

- Due to the intensified **recent fighting** in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, WHO is highly concerned about the **increased number** of civilian **casualties**. WHO estimates that the caused civilian casualty toll might have tripled over the last few days.
- Increasing number of weapons-related casualties has **overstretched** the **existing hospital** capacity to treat the wounded in and outside **Mogadishu**.
- WHO is **setting up a health post in Waambati, Bay region**, to provide access to essential services for drought affected populations gathered in the area in search of water and pasture.
- WHO will collect **stool samples from AWD patients** for laboratory confirmation following an **increased number of reported cases** from **Mogadishu, Banadir region**.

Update on major public health concern:

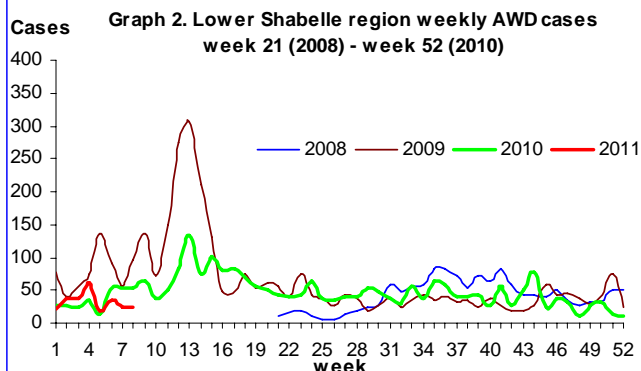
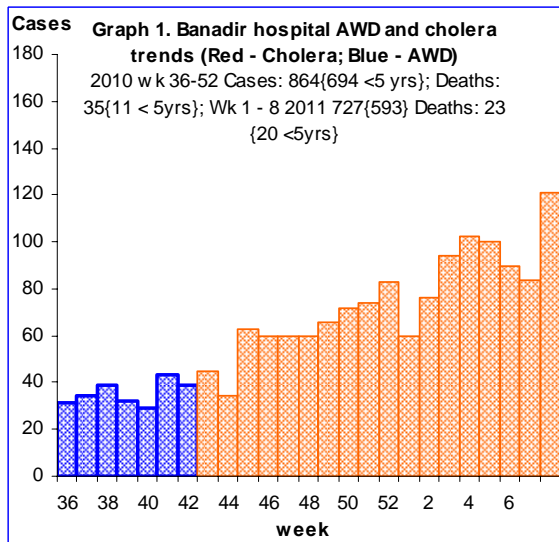
• Cholera/Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)

Since week 1¹, 727 AWD/cholera cases (593 cases under the age of 5) with 23 related deaths have been reported from Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** alone (see Graph 1).

In week 8², a total of 25 AWD cases, including 80% (20) children under 5 years, were reported from 49 health facilities in **Lower Shabelle** region. Cases remained stable compared to week 7 (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.

Graph 1. Banadir hospital AWD and cholera trends (Red - Cholera; Blue - AWD)
2010 w k 36-52 Cases: 864{694 <5 yrs}; Deaths: 35{11 <5yrs}; Wk 1 - 8 2011 727{593} Deaths: 23 {20 <5yrs}



¹Week 1: 3-9 January 2011

²Week 8: 21-27 February 2011

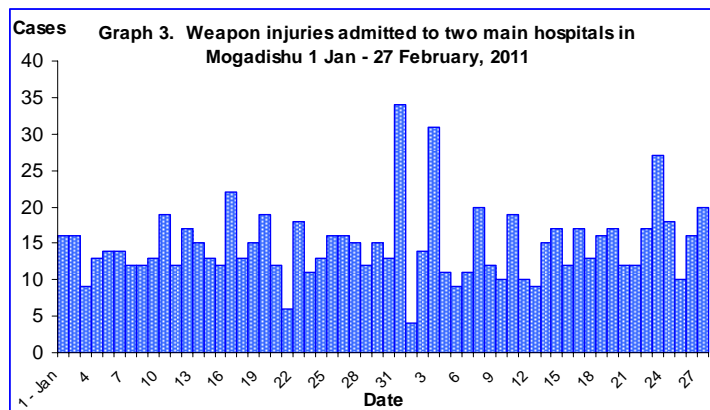
Informal settlements and a population increase have been observed in urban areas including Mogadishu and Merka among others. The number of AWD consultations increased by over 60% in Lower Shabelle, Middle and Lower Jubba, although outbreaks have not been reported.

Conflict and Displacement

- From **3 January - 27 February 2011**, **856 weapons-related casualties**, including 25 children under the age of five with nine related deaths have been reported from **two major hospitals in Mogadishu** (see caseload graph 3). 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 cases under 15 years. Of all these cases, 60 (37%) were women and girls.

This brings the **total number of weapons-related casualties to more than 1000** for the past two months.

- As of 25 February, UNHCR³ reported that 52 130 people have been displaced from various locations since 1 December 2010 due to drought.

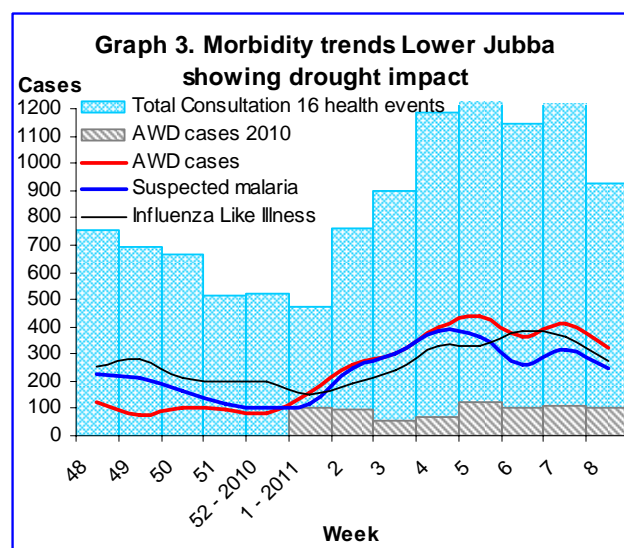


Internally displaced women and children from camps in the Mogadishu wait to receive emergency medical care.

Health Events in Somalia

Epidemiological surveillance during week 8

- 13 health facilities in **Lower and Middle Juba regions** reported a total of 923 consultations, including 71% (654) children under the age of 5 years, meanwhile women and girls accounted for 59% (544) of all consultations. 275 consultations for influenza-like illness (ILI) were reported, with 71% (195) children under 5 years. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 244 consultations, including 69% (169) children under 5 years. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 321 consultations, including 76% (243) children under 5 years. **Jilib** and **Kismayo** districts accounted for 56% of all the consultations.

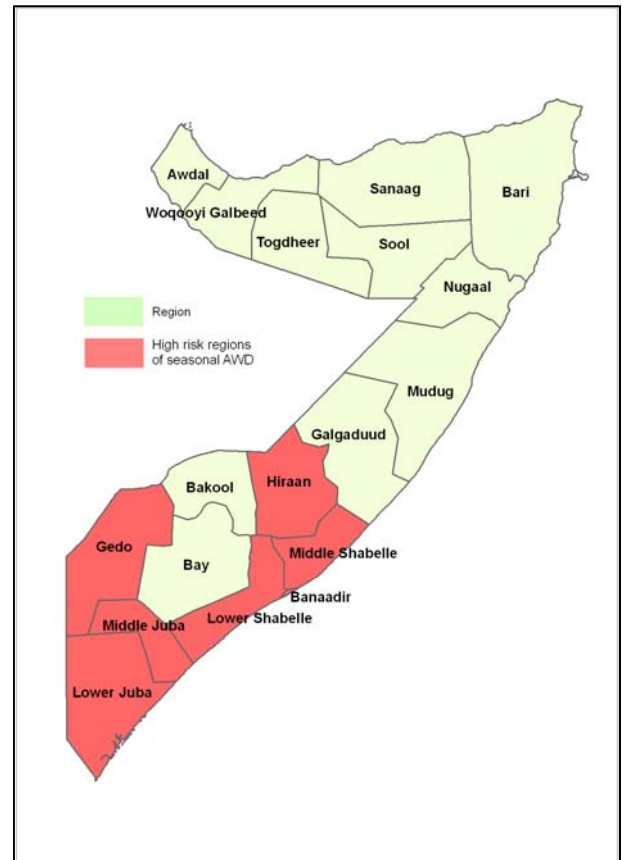


³ OCHA Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin # 8

- 51 health facilities in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 8559 consultations, including 47% (4060) children under 5 years. Women and girls accounted for 54% of the consultations. 897 consultations were reported for influenza-like illness (ILI), 55% (500) children under 5 years. Severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) accounted for 366 consultations of which 67% (241) were children under 5 years. Malaria accounted for 212 cases including 31% (65) children under 5 years and five related deaths all under 5 years. 67% (143) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 25 consultations including 80% (20) children under 5 years. Merka and Afgooye districts alone accounted for 52% and 32% of all reported cases respectively. During the same period, 34 suspected measles cases were reported from the region. 27 suspected whooping cough cases were also reported in the same week.

- The Merka hospital cholera treatment centre in **Lower Shabelle region**, reported eight AWD admissions, including seven children under 5 with no related deaths.
- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 121 cases of AWD including 88% (106) children under 5 years, with two deaths (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).
- The Habeeb hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 12 AWD admissions (nine children under five years) with no related deaths.

Map of high risk regions of seasonal AWD



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:

- WHO will collect stool samples from AWD patients for laboratory confirmation following an increase reported cases from Mogadishu in **Banadir region**.
- WHO investigation team is now able to access the drought-affected population gathered in Waambati village Dinsor district, **Bay region** to investigate rumors of reported deaths from acute respiratory tract infections. This follows re-negotiating with local authorities. WHO has dispatched medical supplies to set up a health post and to conduct retrospective surveys to verify reported cases and deaths.
- WHO distributed trauma equipments sufficient to treat 200 serious cases, and one operating theatre kit to the Ministry of Health in Mogadishu as a response to the increased number of weapons-related casualties.