



## BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

- During week 12<sup>1</sup>, **104** acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases were reported (a 154% increase) from health facilities in **Lower Shabelle region**. Samples were collected for testing in order to respond to the increase in cases.
- WHO conducted a training on AWD case detection, management and control for **151** health workers from **Banadir region**.

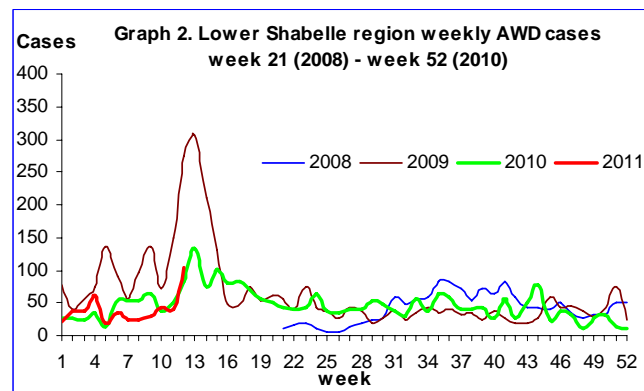
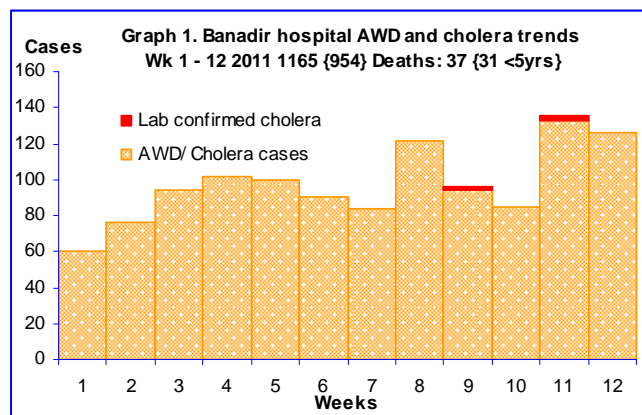
### Update on major public health concern:

#### Cholera/Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)

Since week 1<sup>2</sup>, 1165 AWD/cholera cases (including 954 cases under the age of 5) with 37 related deaths have been reported from Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** (see graph 1). From 60 samples collected and tested from admissions at the hospital in previous weeks, **six of the samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholera* serotype 'Inaba'**. The cholera transmission season has started.

In week 12, a total of 104 AWD cases, including 66% (69) children under 5 years, were reported from 51 health facilities in **Lower Shabelle region**. This is a 154% increase as compared to week 11 (see graph 2). The districts of Merka, Awdheghe and Wanlaweyne accounted for 38%, 19% and 17% of cases respectively.

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 have been observed in urban areas, including Mogadishu, Merka and Awdheghe. The number of AWD consultations is steadily rising.



<sup>1</sup>Week 12: 21 - 27 March 2011

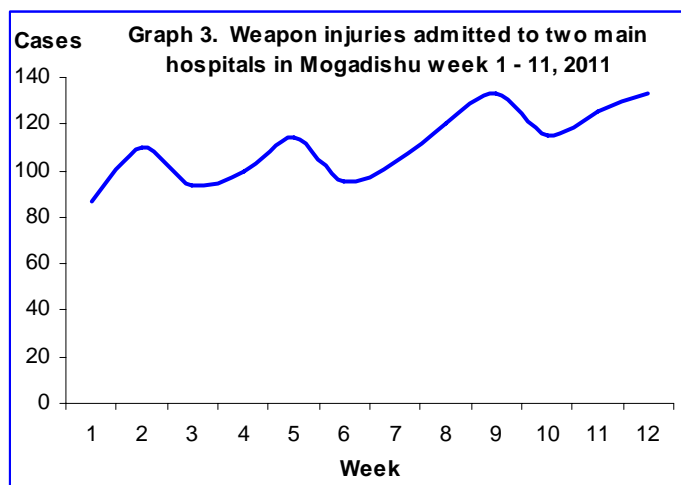
<sup>2</sup>Week 1: 3-9 January 2011

## Conflict and displacement

Since the beginning of March, **480 weapon related casualties** including 26 children under the age of five and four related deaths were reported from two major hospitals in Mogadishu.

From **3 January - 27 March 2011**, **1262 weapons-related casualties**, including 49 children under the age of five with 13 related deaths have been reported from these hospitals (see caseload graph 3). The exact number of deaths on site are unknown.

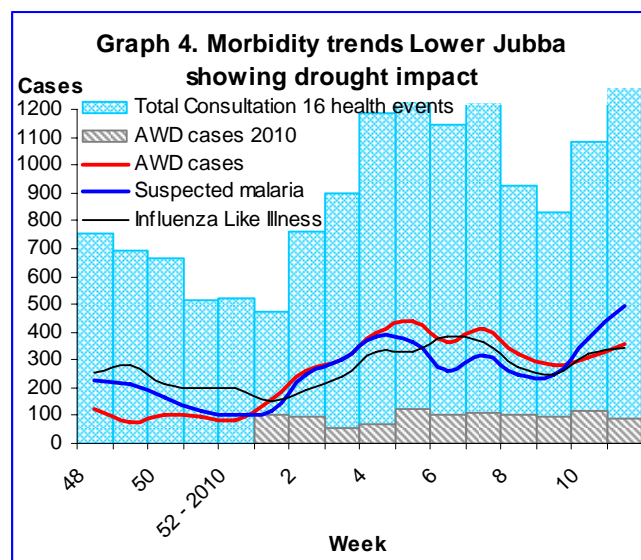
UNHCR<sup>3</sup> estimates that since 23 February, at least 15 300 people have been displaced from Mogadishu, 6700 have fled the city and another 8600 moved to calmer districts of Mogadishu.



## Health Events in Somalia

### Epidemiological surveillance during week 12

- In **Lower and Middle Juba regions**, 13 health facilities reported a total of 1018 consultations, including 59% (600) children under the age of 5 years, meanwhile women and girls accounted for 61% (616) of all consultations. 245 consultations for influenza-like illness (ILI) were reported, with 66% (161) children under 5 years. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 424 consultations, including 53% (224) children under 5 years - 18% (75) were confirmed by either microscopy or rapid diagnostic test. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 275 consultations, including 65% (178) children under 5 years. **Jilib** and **Kismayo** districts accounted for 59% of all the consultations. The number of consultations significantly decreased compared to week 11( see graph 4).



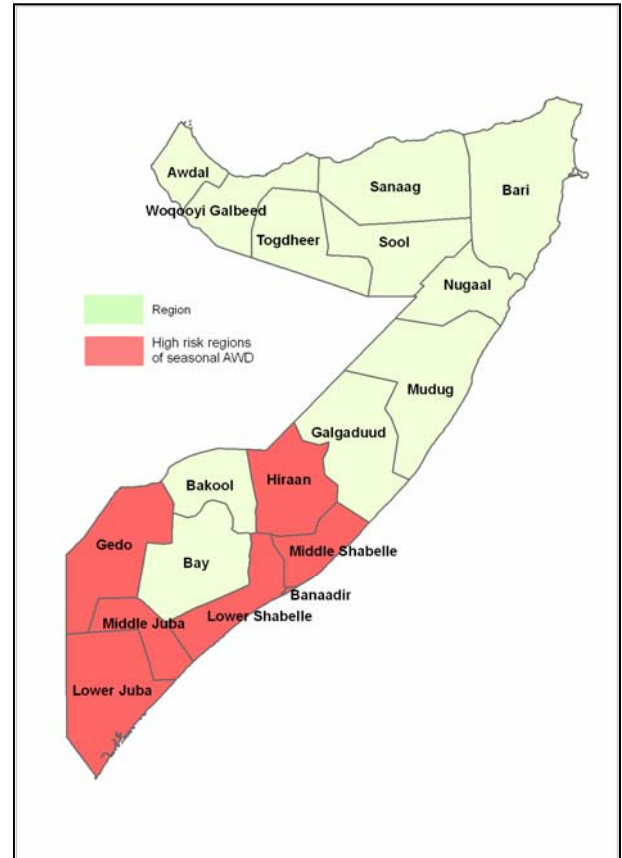
<sup>3</sup>Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin -OCHA #12

- In **Lower Shabelle region**, 51 health facilities reported 7507 consultations, including 42% (3155) children under 5 years, and 12 deaths, nine of which were AWD cases. Of the total deaths reported 11 were children under five. Women and girls accounted for 57% of the consultations. 788 consultations were reported for influenza-like illness (ILI), 53% (415) children under 5 years. Severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) accounted for 290 consultations of which 63% (182) were children under 5 years. Malaria accounted for 110 cases including 42% (46) children under 5 years. 73% (80) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 104 consultations including 66% (69) children under 5 years. Due to an increase in the number of AWD cases reported from Awdheghe district and Sigaale village in Merka district, stool samples were collected and referred for culture. During the same period, 50 suspected measles cases were reported from the region.

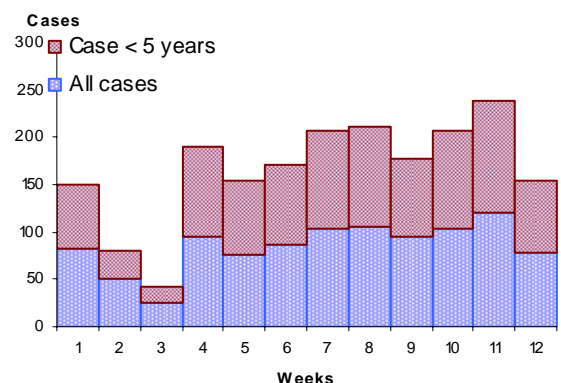
- The Merka hospital cholera treatment centre (CTC), reported 15 AWD admissions, including 13 children under 5 with no related deaths. This signifies a 100% increase in admissions. Three stool samples collected during week 12, tested negative for cholera.
- From weeks 1-12, Jowhar hospital (supported by Intersos) in **Middle Shabelle region** reported 258 cases of AWD including 81% (210) children under 5 years with no related deaths. The number of AWD cases at the hospital has remained stable.
- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 126 cases of AWD including 80% (101) children under 5 years, with two deaths - one under 5 years (see graph on page 1). Six of the 60 samples collected since week 9 tested positive.
- The Habeeb hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 24 AWD admissions (17 children under five years) with no related deaths. This signifies a 50% increase in number of admissions.

- Following an increase in the number of AWD cases reported during week 11, from SOS Hospital in Huruwaa district, **Mogadishu**, a WHO investigation team collected stool samples from seven cases. One tested positive for *Vibrio cholera* serotype 'inaba'. Although the number of reported cases reduced drastically during week 12 (see Graph 5), WHO and health partners continue to monitor the situation closely. WHO has pre-positioned a cholera kit in Mogadishu for the hospital.

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



**Graph 5. SOS hospital Mogadishu AWD trends 2011 (1026 cases; 93% < 5 years)**



## 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:

- In response to rumors of AWD cases in Aden Yabaal district of **Middle Shabelle region**, WHO and Intersos conducted outreach activities to verify the reports. Initial reports of the many cases and high case fatality rates were found to be false. Mobile teams are still in the field. WHO sent one diarrhoeal disease kit (treats 100 severe cases) and one inter-agency health kit (treats 10 000 people for 3 months).
- WHO team conducted AWD rumor investigation in Awdheghele district in **Lower Shabelle region** where six samples were collected for lab confirmation. Results are still pending. In Sigaale village, Merka district, all nine samples collected during week 12 tested negative for cholera. WHO continues to closely monitor the situation in the village.
- From 26-29 March, WHO in collaboration with **Banadir University** conducted two back-to-back training courses on AWD case detection, management and control at the university, for 151 health workers from Banadir and middle Shabelle regions and the Afgooye corridor. Similar training courses are planned in the coming months.



WHO organized back-to-back training courses at Banadir University.