



Emergency Humanitarian Action

Weekly Highlights 28 May-3 June 2011

BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

- The latest violence in **Mogadishu** continues to cause a high toll of wounded children under the age of five. Since January, more than **5000 weapons-related injuries** were reported by three major hospitals in Mogadishu. Of the total 1421 weapons-related injuries reported in children under the age of five during this period, **over 80% were reported in the month of May alone**.
- WHO **mobile teams** continue to provide access to health services in **Huddur**, Bakool region in response to an unclassified disease reported in previous weeks. Additional blood samples are being collected.

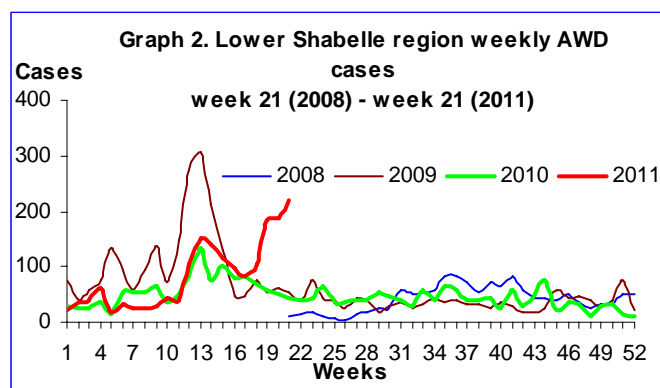
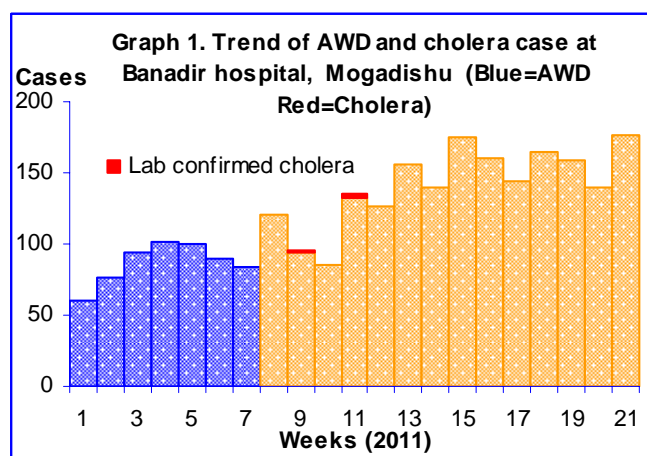
Update on major public health concerns:

• 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 1¹, and following a confirmed cholera outbreak in Mogadishu, 2579 AWD/cholera cases including 2007 (78%) cases under the age of five with 90 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 58% of all reported cases. Based on data collected, women and girls account for 47% of all AWD reported cases at the hospital.

The number of AWD cases reported in **Lower Shabelle region** tends to increase in week 21² (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.



¹Week 1: 3-9 January 2011

²Week 21: 23 - 29 May 2011

Conflict and displacement

From **3 January - 29 May 2011**, **5088 weapons-related injuries** including 1421 children under the age of five with 52 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).

Of the weapons-related injuries reported in children under the age of five since January, **over 80% were reported in the month of May alone**.



Despite the overall increase in the reported injuries during week 21, children under the age of five account for 42%. WHO continues to monitor the situation on the ground.

UNHCR³ reports that since 23 February, at least 58 300 displacements have occurred countrywide mainly due to insecurity, drought and lack of livelihoods. Nearly 29 000 displacements were from or within Mogadishu, of whom 13 800 fled the capital and another 16 000 moved to calmer parts of Mogadishu.



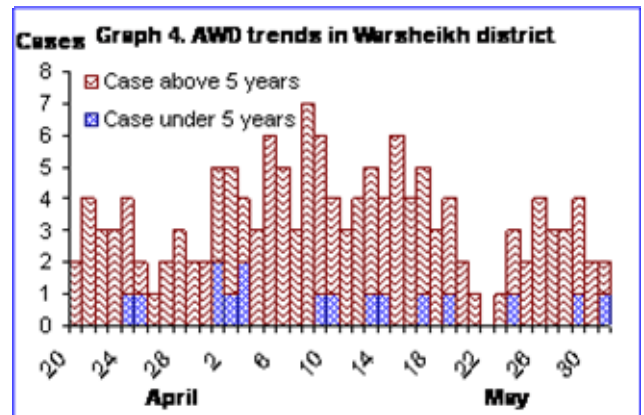
Health Events in Somalia

Epidemiological surveillance during week 21

- In **Lower and Middle Juba regions**, 18 health facilities reported 1770 consultations including 831 (47%) children under the age of five. Women and girls accounted for 1082 (61%) of all consultations. Influenza like illness (ILI) accounted for 373 consultations of which 270 (34%) were children under the age of five. Malaria accounted for 1010 cases including 348 (39%) children below the age of five – a 34% increase in the number reported cases compared to previous week. This upward trend in cases is seen to be as a result of onset of the rainy season. AWD accounted for 373 cases including 270 (72%) 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 7569 consultations of whom 3474 (46%) are children younger than five with 14 deaths (eight under the age of five). Women and girls accounted for 4082 (54%) of the consultations. About 1154 consultations were reported for influenza-like illness (ILI), 633 (55%) children under five years. Severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) accounted for 236 consultations of which 168 (71%) were children under five years. Malaria accounted for 249 cases including 126 (51%) children under five years. Around 143 (51%) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. AWD accounted for 219 consultations including 136 (62%) children under five years. Merka district accounted for 37% of all reported AWD cases. A 33% increase in number of reported consultations was observed including a 44% increase in children under the age of five. This compares to week 20. During the same period, 143 suspected measles cases were reported from the region. Around 65 suspected whooping cough cases were reported. The lack of access to conduct vaccination activities in the region continues to impact negatively on the health of children.

³ Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin # 21

- The Warsheikh MCH in **Middle Shabelle region** reported 20 AWD cases including two children under the age of five (see graph 4 on AWD trend). WHO is awaiting permission from the local authorities to access Warsheikh district.



- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 176 cases of AWD including 139 (79%) children under 5 years, with five related deaths under the age of five. Of these cases 50% 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 19 AWD admissions of which 11 are under the age of five. Of these cases, 13 (68%) were women and girls. This is a 34% increase compared to week 20.
- The SOS Hospital in Huruwaa district, **Mogadishu**, reported 104 AWD cases including 98 (94%) children under the age of five. This is a 27% increase in reported cases compared to week 20. Due to recent increase in fighting and onset of rains experienced in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia it is observed that AWD cases reported would increase.
- Baidoa Hospital in **Bay region** reported 163 AWD cases including 72 (44%) children under the age of five with three related deaths - two under five years. Women and girls accounted for 42% of reported cases.
- The Haradere District Hospital, **Mudug region** supported by CISP reported 109 AWD cases including 64 (59%) children under the age five with three related deaths (one under five years). This is a 51% increase compared to week 20. Samples are being collected and sent to Nairobi for laboratory confirmation

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 continues to support response teams visiting a number of villages in Baidoa district, **Bay region**, including Biyoguud, Guunzi, Korar and Gofgaduud that have reported AWD cases. In collaboration with SAMA, a local NGO, health promotion activities are being carried out in the affected district and surrounding areas.
- WHO mobile teams continue to provide access to basic health services in Huddur district, **Bakool region** in response to a unclassified disease reported in previous weeks. Six serum samples have been collected and results are still pending. A second batch of blood samples will be collected and sent for laboratory diagnosis in Nairobi. Following rumors of a similar unclassified disease in Tiye glow district, WHO will send an investigation team to collect samples.