



Emergency Humanitarian Action

Weekly Highlights 9– 15 April 2011

BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

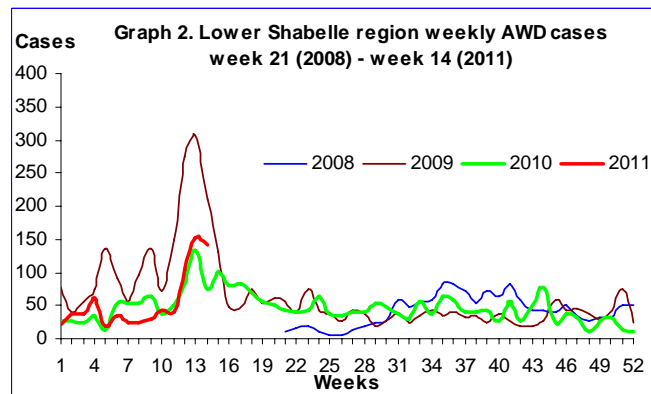
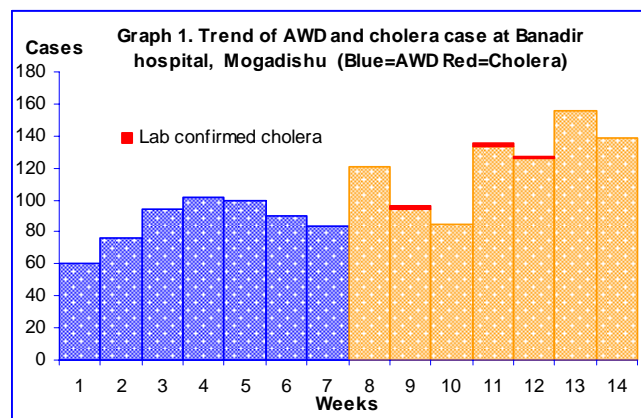
- Regular reports of suspected Measles cases are received from all zones of Somalia. WHO and partners plan to carry out accelerated measles vaccination activities in the **Lower Shabelle region**. Since January 2011, 572 suspected measles cases including 471 (82%) children under five have been reported in the Lower Shabelle region.
- With the technical guidance of WHO, an intra-cluster cholera taskforce has been established in **Mogadishu** after a cholera outbreak was declared on 31 March 2011.

Update on major public health concerns:

- Trends of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera**

Since week 1¹, 1460 AWD/cholera cases including 1178 (81%) cases under the age of 5 with 43 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 (see graph 2). 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 Awdheghe. The number of AWD cases tends to decline in week 14².



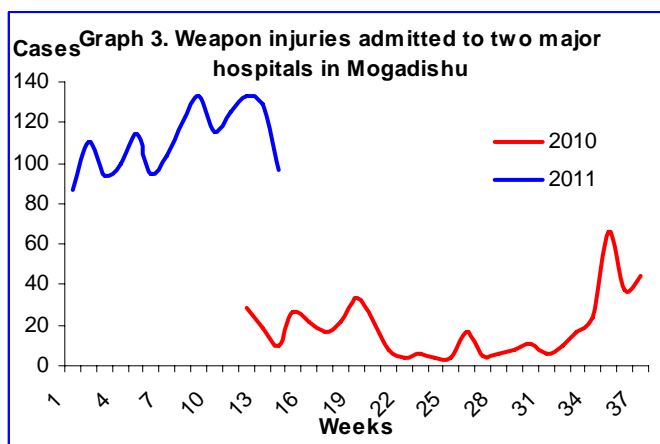
¹Week 1: 3-9 January 2011

²Week 14: 4-10 April 2011

Conflict and displacement

In the period of 1-10 April 2011, of the **150 weapon related injuries** reported by two major hospitals in Mogadishu, 6 cases were children under the age of five. Three died from their injuries.

From **3 January-10 April 2011, 1488 weapons-related injuries** including 58 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.



UNHCR³ estimates that since 23 February, at least 17 700 people have been displaced from Mogadishu, 8300 have fled the city and another 9400 moved to calmer districts of Mogadishu. Countrywide a total of 32 800 displacements have occurred with 7770 being drought-affected.

Health Events in Somalia

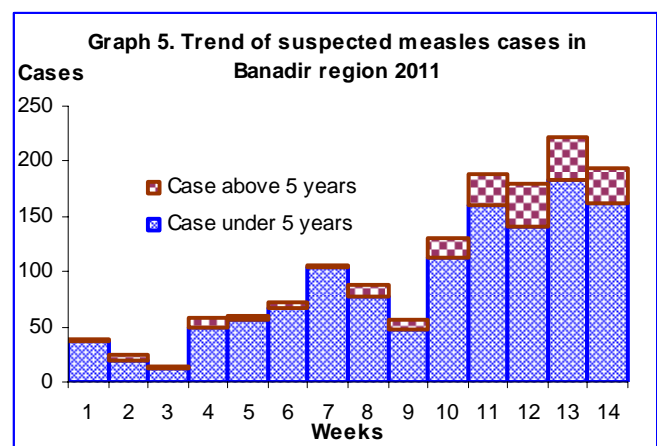
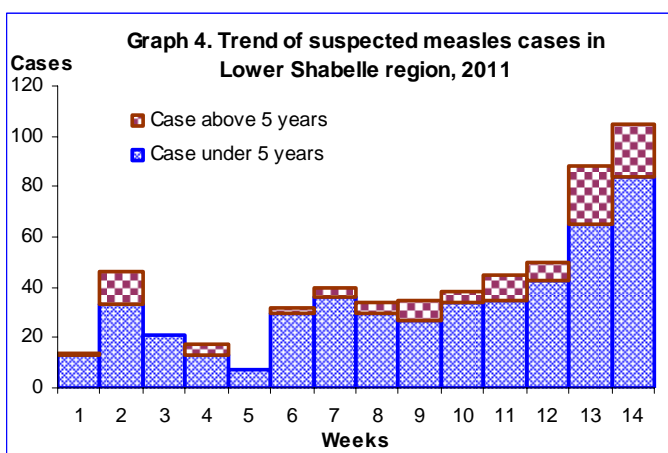
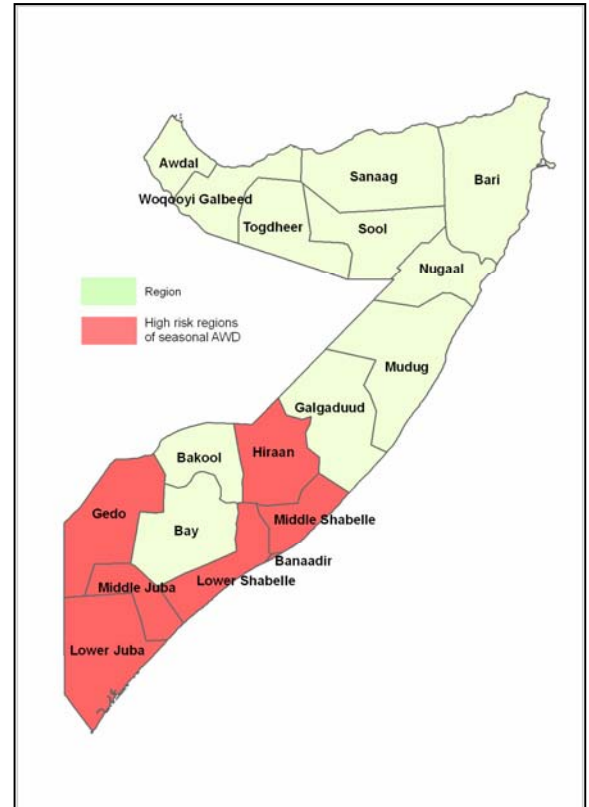
Epidemiological surveillance during week 14

- In **Lower Juba region**, out of the 50 AWD cases 40 (80%) children under five years were reported from Doble town in Afmadow district. The cases were mainly returnees who had escaped the armed conflict reported in the area in the beginning of March. Partners on the ground monitor the situation closely and conduct case investigations. WHO has adequate supplies to undertake response activities in the area.
- In **Lower Shabelle region**, 51 health facilities reported a total of 7461 consultations, of whom 3275 (44%) are children under five years with no deaths. Women and girls accounted for 4177 (56%) of the consultations. About 1078 consultations were reported for influenza-like illness (ILI), 605 (56%) children under five years. Severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) accounted for 283 consultations of which 182 (64%) were children under five years. Malaria accounted for 125 cases including 59 (47%) children under five years. Sixty-six (53%) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. AWD accounted for 141 consultations including 71 (50%) children under five years with no related deaths. During the same period, 105 suspected measles cases were reported from the region, a 19% increase compared to week 13. A total of 141 AWD cases were reported from **Lower Shabelle region**. This was relatively stable as compared to week 13 (see graph 2). The districts of Merka and Awdheghe accounted for 45% and 22% of the cases respectively.
- The **Merka** hospital cholera treatment centre (CTC), reported 10 AWD admissions including six children under five with no related deaths.

³Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin -OCHA #14

Map of high risk regions of seasonal AWD

- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 139 cases of AWD including 110 (89%) children under 5 years, with four deaths under five years (see graph on page 1). This signifies an 11% decrease in reported cases compared to week 13. WHO and partners continue to monitor the trends and conduct preventive activities. With the technical guidance of WHO, an intra-cluster cholera taskforce has been established in Mogadishu.
- The Habeeb hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 25 AWD admissions of which 14 are under five years, with one related death under five years.
- The SOS Hospital in Huruwaa district, **Mogadishu**, reported 40 AWD cases (all under five) with two related deaths. A significant decrease (66%) in reported cases was observed as compared to previous week. The reduction is a result of the acceleration of AWD prevention activities in the Mogadishu area especially in the districts of Huruwaa, Madina, Wadajir and Waberi.
- Suspected measles cases, particularly affecting children under five continue to increase in parts of Somalia (see graphs 4 and 5). Since January 2011, 572 suspected measles cases including 471 (82%) children under five have been reported in the **Lower Shabelle region**. In **Banadir region** around 1430 measles cases have been reported since January 2011, of which 1229 (86%) are under the age of five. Outbreak response campaigns were conducted with partners in Mogadishu in the last week of March, and more than 75 000 children were vaccinated against measles.



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 followed up on reported suspected measles cases from all zones of Somalia. WHO collected samples for confirmation. As a response to the increased cases, WHO and partners plan to carry out accelerated measles vaccination activities in **Lower Shabelle region** particularly in Wanlaweyne district where majority of the cases were reported. Some parts of the region have been inaccessible for some time to humanitarian actors to undertake life-saving health interventions.



A severely malnourished child undergoing treated for diarrhoea at the SOS Hospital in Mogadishu



A suspected measles case undergoes treatment at the SOS Hospital in Mogadishu, Banadir region

- A WHO team collected water samples from 23 water sources in **Mogadishu** last week; results are still awaited for. Monitoring of water quality is a key activity managed by WHO. The results will guide the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene cluster for undertaking appropriate interventions.
- WHO in collaboration with Intersos continue to have functioning mobile clinics in **Middle Shabelle region** as part of the drought response, in order to facilitate access to emergency health services for displaced populations in areas where there are no operational health facilities.