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CHOLERA, DIARRHEA AND DYSENTERY UPDATE 2010 (04): AFRICA

A ProMED-mail post

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[1] Cholera - Zimbabwe

Date: Mon 15 Feb 2010

Source: The Zimbabwean [edited]

<<http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/2010021528784/health/cholera-resurfaces.html>>

The World Health Organization says cholera has resurfaced in Zimbabwe after a month-long lull in an outbreak that has so far killed 5 people and infected nearly 150 others. The WHO said 7 new cholera cases were reported Harare, Mwenezi, Mount Darwin, and Shamva districts since the outbreak resurfaced on 4 Feb 2010.

One of the confirmed cases was from Kuwadzana Phase 3 in Harare while 3 others were Mwenezi in Masvingo province. One of the confirmed Mwenezi cases was treated in Beitbridge. Shamva recorded 2 cholera cases between 4 and 7 Feb 2010 while an unconfirmed case was reported in Mount Darwin, also in Mashonaland Central province.

The case treated in Beitbridge was linked to a funeral at one of the farms in Mwenezi district while another case was attributed to having eaten unwashed mangoes in Beitbridge.

Zimbabwe's cholera outbreak had subsided since the 1st week of January 2010 when figures stood at 149 cumulative cases and 5 deaths. The resurgent outbreak, which is concentrated in rural areas where 82 percent of the cases have so far been reported, raises fears of more deaths particularly as the mango season is upon the country. Mangoes and other fruits are regarded as dangerous transmitters of the cholera bacteria since some people often ignore health precautions and eat the fruits without washing them.

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[In 2008, a cholera epidemic began in Zimbabwe, which eventually took 4228 lives from more than 98 000 cases over 10 months and spread to a number of bordering nations.

The area mentioned in the posting can be found on a map of the country at <<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/zimbabwe.pdf>>. The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Zimbabwe is available at <<http://healthmap.org/r/017p>>. - Mod.LL]

[2] Cholera - Kenya (Rift Valley)

Date: Sun 14 Feb 2010

Source: Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) [edited]

<<http://www.kbc.co.ke/story.asp?ID=62312>>

A total of 16 people have been hospitalized following a cholera outbreak in Chemyakow Village in Kositot sub-location of Pokot Central district. Former Sighor [headquarters Pokot Central district] MP Phillip Rotino is appealing to the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, humanitarian organizations and other well-wishers to assist residents of the remote village with clean water and medical supplies.

Speaking to KBC on phone, Rotino expressed concern that the contagious disease was likely to spread rapidly if urgent intervention measures are not put in place. He urged residents to observe high hygiene and sanitation standards by particularly by boiling drinking water and washing their hands. Rotino noted that the only health facility in the region, Oppollo Dispensary was already overwhelmed with cholera patients.

[Byline: Emmanuel Kola]

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[The area mentioned is located in the Rift Valley province of Kenya, which can be found on a map at <<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/kenya.pdf>>. The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Kenya can be accessed at <<http://healthmap.org/r/017j>>. - Mod.LL]

[3] Cholera - Zambia

Date: Sat 13 Feb 2010

Source: Lusaka Times, ZANIS [Zambia News & Information Services] report [edited]

<<http://www.lusakatimes.com/?p=23979>>

The Ministry of Health has so far recorded 18 suspected cholera cases in Lusaka [the capital].

Ministry of Health spokesperson Kamoto Mbewe who disclosed this to ZANIS in Lusaka today [13 Feb 2010] said however that his ministry was still waiting for the cases to be confirmed. Dr Mbewe explained that 4 of the suspected cholera cases are from Kanyama clinic, 9 from Chipata clinic, 2 from Chawama, 1 from George clinic, and 2 from Matero reference clinic, which are all yet to be confirmed. He said 264 cholera cases have been recorded in the country since 1 Oct 2009.

Dr Mbewe revealed that 10 cholera cases have been recorded in Kitwe while 1 suspected cholera case was being investigated in Sinazongwe district of Southern province.

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[The areas mentioned in the posting can be found on a map of Zambia at <<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/zambia.pdf>>. The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Zambia can be seen at <<http://healthmap.org/r/017q>>. - Mod.LL]

[4] Cholera - Mozambique (Cabo Delgado)
Date: Wed 10 Feb 2010
Source: AllAfrica, Agencia de Informacao de Mocambique (Maputo) report [edited]
<<http://allafrica.com/stories/201002100856.html>>

The director of health in the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado, Mussa Ibrahim Agy, has expressed fears that cholera might now be endemic in that part of the country. Cited in Wednesday's [10 Feb 2010] issue of the Maputo daily "Noticias", Agy noted that for the past 3 years cholera has been constantly present in Cabo Delgado, at any time of year, and that only the 3 districts on the Mueda plateau (Mueda, Nangade, and most of Muidumbe) have been free of the disease.

Agy said that since 13 Jan 2010, cases of diarrhea have been reported in the districts of Chire, Mecufi, and in Pemba city, and they were later confirmed as cholera. Reporters learned that by 9 Feb 2010, the disease, of which 966 cases have so far been diagnosed, had caused at least 11 deaths.

Statistics from the health units show a daily increase in the number of cholera patients seeking assistance, at a time when the authorities admit that the financial resources allocated for those services are insufficient.

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[Cabo Delgado province in northeastern Mozambique can be found on a map at <<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/mozambiq.pdf>>. The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Mozambique can be seen at <<http://healthmap.org/r/00V3>>. - Mod.LL]

[5] Cholera - Uganda (Manafwa)
Date: Wed 10 Feb 2010
Source: The New Vision (Uganda) [edited]
<<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/13/709687>>

A 56-year-old woman has died of cholera in Lwakhakha Town Council, pushing the death toll to 4 since the epidemic broke out in Manafwa district in January 2010. David Makanya, the district health inspector, on Tuesday [9 Feb 2010] said the woman died on her way to the treatment centre at Magale Health Centre IV.

"When we got to know of the circumstances surrounding the death, we visited her home and took tests before she was buried," Makanya said, adding that 5 people are admitted at Magale.

Makanya noted that whereas the outbreak had been contained in the sub-counties of Bumbo and the newly created Bukhoko, it had spread to Bumoni sub-county and Lwakhakha town council at the Uganda-Kenya border, where 6 new cases had been registered. He attributed the spread of the disease to the use of contaminated water from River Lwakhakha, which runs along the border between the 2 countries.

A total of 42 cases have been registered since the disease broke out. Makanya said district authorities had closed Kaboole Primary School in Taaso village, to prevent the spread of the disease.

[Byline: Daniel Edyegu]

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[Manafwa District is a district in the Eastern Region of Uganda. The district was created in 1999 and was part of Mbale district, together with Sironko district, before 1999. In 2006, the northern part of Manafwa District was carved off to form Bududa district. The districts can be seen on the map at http://www.coetzee-uganda.com/index_files/District_Map_of_Uganda.htm>. The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Uganda is available at <http://healthmap.org/r/016Z>>. - Mod.LL]

[6] Cholera - Somalia (Middle Jubba): WHO
Date: December 2009
Source: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO),
Country Office in Somalia [edited]
<<http://www.emro.who.int/somalia/pdf/Somali%20Health%20Cluster%20Bulletin%20December%202009.pdf>>

Somalia health cluster bulletin no. 30 - December 2009 [page 3]

In epidemiological weeks 48-51 (28 Nov - 25 Dec 2009), 425 cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) were reported from Afmadow (54), Hagar (66), Kismayo (128), and Badhaadhe (48) in Lower Jubba, and Bu'aale (48), Sakoow (38), and Salalge (43) in Middle Jubba. The number of reported cases remained stable compared to November 2009. The data was not available from Jamaame (Lower Jubba) and Jilib (Middle Jubba) in the reporting period due to security reasons. Children under 5 years accounted for 76 percent (321) of all consultations.

In follow-up to confirmation of cholera in mid-October 2009, WHO conducted a field visit to Banadir Hospital (Mogadishu) on 26 and 27 Dec 2009. The number of AWD cases reported at Banadir Hospital is of particular concern considering the large internally displaced populations in the surrounding areas and the high-risk of transmission of communicable diseases including water-borne diseases. Between weeks 42 and 51, a total of 696 cases were reported including 86 percent (594) children under the age of 5 years of which 84 percent (499) were aged under 2 years. 17 deaths were reported of which 82 percent (14) were children under 2 years (case fatality rate of 2.44 percent). 7 stool samples were collected during the visit, 6 of them from children under 1 year of age. 1 out of the 7 samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* with SMART II rapid diagnostic testing.

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[Middle Jubba (referred to as Juba Dhexe on the map) and Mogadishu can be found on a map of Somalia at <<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/somalia.pdf>>. The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of the country is available at <<http://healthmap.org/r/017t>>. - Mod.LL]

See Also

Cholera, diarrhea & dysentery update 2010 (03): Asia, Oceania [20100212.0499](#)
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2009

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