

Acute crises

General Background

The major concerns in the region are **political instabilities** in Guinea and Niger as well as the floods in Benin. In addition there are **several foci of outbreaks** of diseases especially cholera.



BÉNIN: Two third of the country is **under water**. 51 out of 77 municipalities are affected. Several missions are ongoing, including UNDAC, in order to assess the needs. A *CERF Rapid Response* request is being developed. 39 new cases of **cholera** were reported in Cotonou and Calavi for a total of 751 cases for the whole country and 7 deaths. With the floods, an upsurge of the epidemic is possible.

BURUNDI: Week 40. Increase in suspected cases of **cholera** with 20 cases and one death in Cibitoke and Bubanza. Week 40: 212 suspected cases of **measles** were reported in several provinces. Delays in the response of health partners to address epidemics may trigger larger outbreaks.

CAMEROON: Four out of six suspected cases of **cholera** in Douala were laboratory confirmed. Surveillance activities are being strengthened, one cholera kit has been prepositioned and additional preventive and control measures are being implemented. 7,992 cases and 524 deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak in May.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Renewed concerns over **population displacement** resulting from attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in CAR and neighboring countries. The LRA's campaign of terror against civilians has intensified since September with more than 240 deadly attacks. At least 344 people have been killed. The UN Mission in the CAR and Chad (MINURCAT) suspended their military activities 15 October and a complete withdrawal is planned for 31 December.

CHAD: **Flooding** has hit 19 of Chad's 22 regions, with **cholera** outbreaks in six regions. Week 40: 629 new **cholera** cases and 15 deaths were reported (CFR = 2.38%). Week 25 to 40: Total of 3338 cases of **cholera** and 128 deaths (CFR 3.83%) in 13 districts. A *CERF rapid response* for \$ 2,475,576 of which U.S. \$ 1,238,009 U.S. for the WHO and NGOs in the health sector was developed. The **global acute nutritional** situation varies from 15 to 24.9% in all areas of the Sahelian zone of Chad. Approx. 10,000 people are at risk of **forced eviction** in Ambatta, N'Djamena, around mid-October. No alternative housing has been offered.

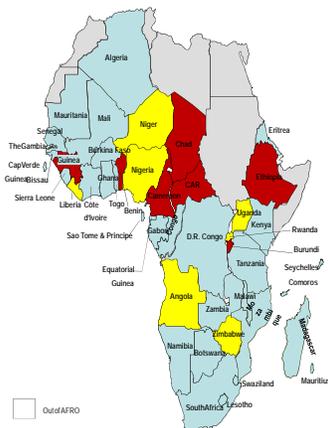
ETHIOPIA: Week 41: 88 cases of **cholera** in Oromia and 56 cases in SSPNR. No death. Week 40: 18 cases of **cholera** in Oromia and 3 cases in SNNPR. No death reported. WHO provided on the job training on AWD prevention, case management and control to health staff in SNNPR and donated emergency drugs in Oromia. Week 41: 572 cases of **measles** in Oromia and 522 cases in SNNPR. No death. Week 40: 803 cases of **measles** with 11 deaths in SNNPR. WHO is supporting the measles activities in SNNP and Amhara regions. **Malaria** cases build up starting week 38 in Amhara Region.

GUINEA, 19 October: **Volatile political situation** due to delay of the presidential election. There is also a raising the spectre street violence with reported deaths and injuries.

Countries Under Surveillance

General Background

17 countries in Africa are **experiencing protracted food insecurity**. The 9 countries facing the worst levels of hunger are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Eritrea, Chad, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Comoros, Madagascar and the Central African Republic.



ANGOLA: In Luanda-Norte Province, an **acute neurological syndrome** has been reported. Samples have been sent to a laboratory in South Africa. WHO Country Office has been contacted for more information.

LIBERIA: One case of **wild polio virus** in Grand Bassa County reported.
One case of **yellow fever** in Grand Gedeh County reported.
Field investigations for the polio and yellow fever epidemics are on-going with support of WHO.

NIGER: As we approach the constitutional referendum on Oct. 31, the **political situation is deteriorating**. The presence of the army in the capital has intensified.

NIGERIA: The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta **warns of new bomb attack** in Abuja, two weeks after claiming responsibility for car bombings which killed at least 10 people.
Ongoing **cholera** epidemic in several states with reported estimated cases of 38,173 and 1,555 deaths (CFR, 4.1%)

UGANDA: Resettlement of the **population displaced** by the landslide in Kyriandongo raises concerns that the IDPS may be forced to stay in tents for quite a while. WHO provided delivery sets and other essential items.
In Lango, increasing rainfall may lead to more **malaria** cases starting week 43. It is recommended to intensify the surveillance and implementation of preventive measures.

ZIMBABWE: Unconfirmed outbreak of **A H1N1** influenza in Tsholotsho District in Matebeleland North Province. The district EPR plan has since been activated, and the District Rapid Response Team (RRT) is assessing the situation. Thousands of people in all the provinces have been affected by an **acute respiratory syndrome** suspected to be a combination of H1N1 and H3N2. WHO Country Office has been contacted for more information.
Approx 8,000 people face **deportation** from UK after the country estimated that their lives are not in danger.