



Emergency Humanitarian Action

Weekly Highlights 2– 8 April 2011

BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

- A cholera outbreak was declared on 31 March in **Mogadishu**, Banadir region following weeks of sample collection and tests from AWD admissions at the Banadir Hospital.
- WHO team is collecting water samples in **Mogadishu** to establish safety levels and verify the presence of infectious materials due to contamination.
- WHO prepositions 17 diarrhea disease kits and 7 inter-agency health kits in **Mogadishu** ready for distribution to selected health partners. With these kits about **1700 severe AWD cases** can be treated and **70 000 people** can be medically assisted for the **next three months**.

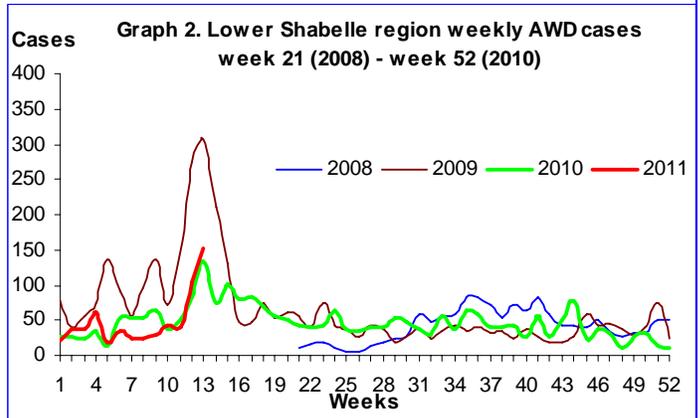
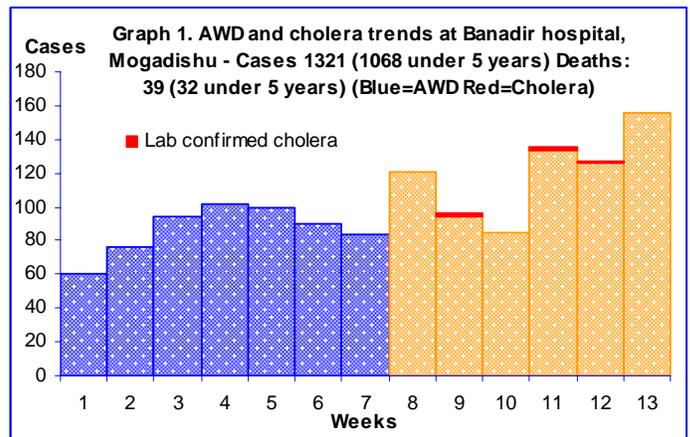
Update on major public health concern:

- **Cholera/Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)**

Since week 1¹, 1321 AWD/cholera cases (including 1068 cases under the age of 5) with 39 related deaths have been reported from Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** (see graph 1). The cholera transmission season has started. The Ministry of health has declared on 31 March an ongoing cholera outbreak in **Mogadishu**, Banadir region.

In week 13², a total of 151 AWD cases were reported from **Lower Shabelle region**. This is a 45% increase as compared to week 12 (see graph 2). The districts of Merka, Awdheghe and Wanlaweyne accounted for 38%, 25% and 36% 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. 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 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.



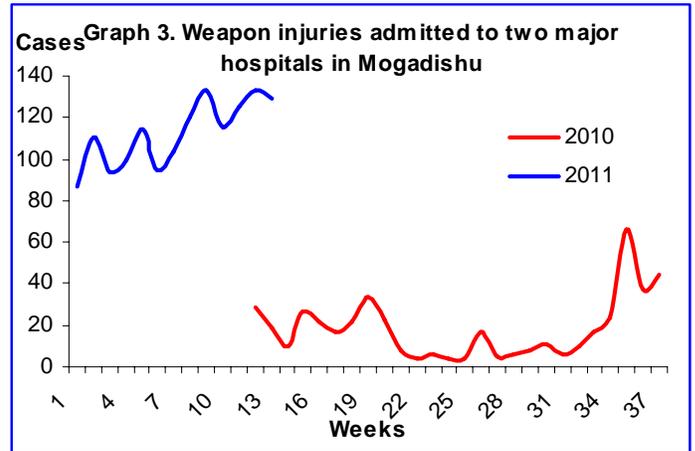
¹Week 1: 3-9 January 2011

²Week 13: 28 March - 3 April 2011

Conflict and displacement

From 1-3 April 2011, **53 weapon related casualties** including 2 children under the age of five and three related deaths were reported from two major hospitals in Mogadishu.

From **3 January - 3 April 2011, 1391 weapons-related casualties**, including 54 children under the age of five with 18 related deaths have been reported from these hospitals (see caseload graph 3). The exact number of deaths on site are unknown.

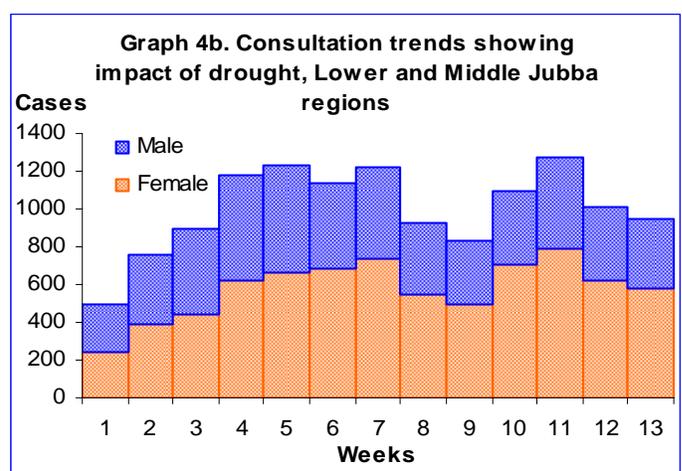
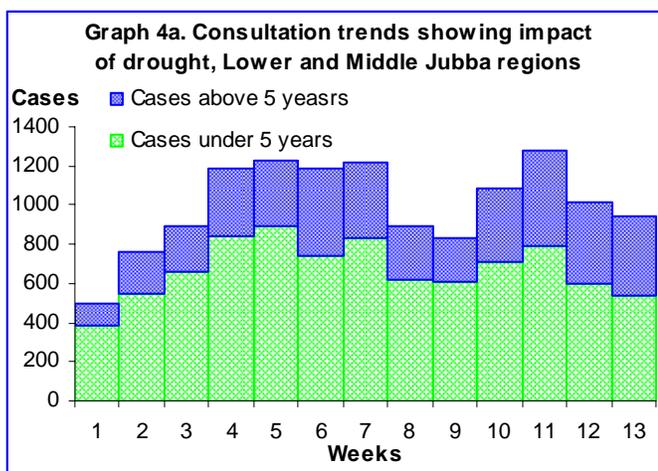


UNHCR³ estimates that since 23 February, at least 17 000 people have been displaced from Mogadishu, 8000 have fled the city and another 9000 moved to calmer districts of Mogadishu. Countrywide 30 700 people are displaced with 7130 drought-affected.

Health Events in Somalia

Epidemiological surveillance during week 13

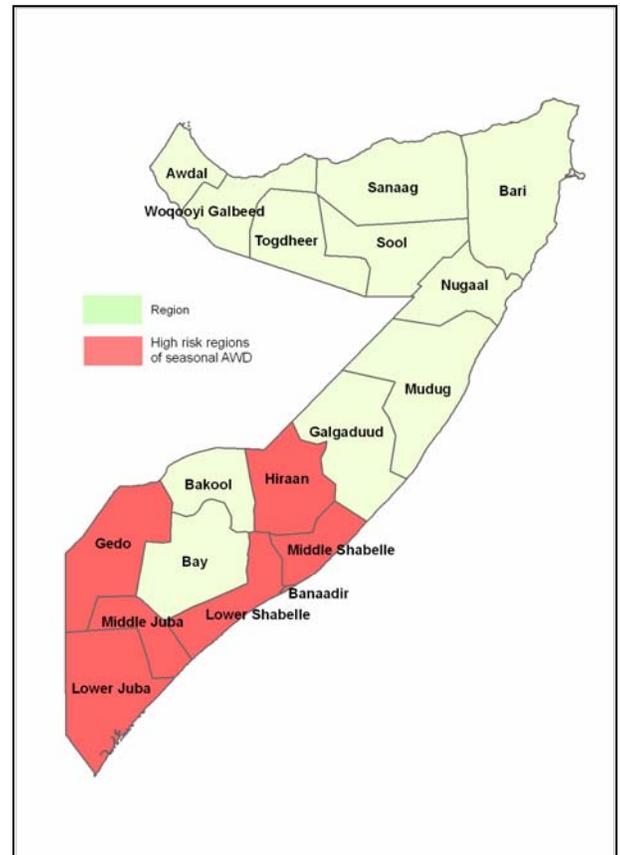
- In **Lower and Middle Juba regions**, 13 health facilities reported a total of 948 consultations for 16 health events, including 57% (537) children under the age of 5 years, meanwhile women and girls accounted for 61% (579) of all consultations. 251 consultations for influenza-like illness (ILI) were reported, with 62% (155) children under 5 years. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 384 consultations, including 53% (203) children under 5 years. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 271 consultations, including 61% (167) children under 5 years. **Jilib** and **Kismayo** districts accounted for 53% of all the consultations. The number of consultations significantly decreased compared to week 12 (see graphs below).



³Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin -OCHA #13

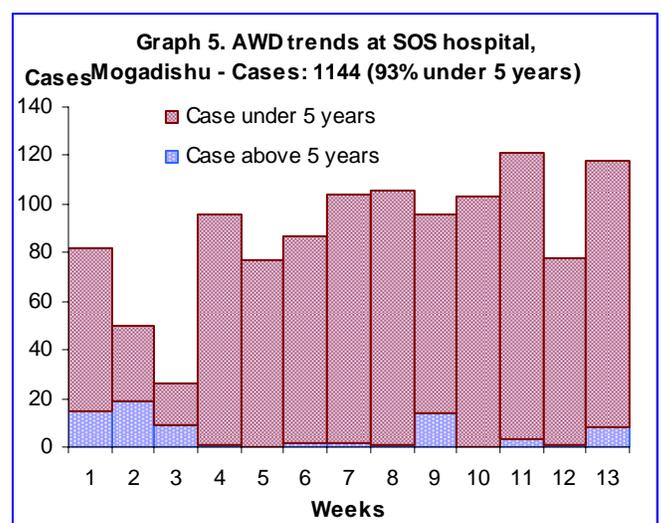
Map of high risk regions of seasonal AWD

- In **Lower Shabelle region**, 51 health facilities reported 7808 consultations, including 42% (3261) children under 5 years and 17 deaths, 16 of which were AWD cases. Of the total deaths reported, 12 were children under five. Women and girls accounted for 56% of the consultations. 995 consultations were reported for influenza-like illness (ILI), 54% (540) children under 5 years. Severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) accounted for 329 consultations of which 63% (206) were children under 5 years. Malaria accounted for 146 cases including 40% (58) children under 5 years. 67% (98) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 151 consultations including 53% (81) children under 5 years with 16 related deaths. 50% of the deaths were from Wanlaweyne district. All stool samples collected from AWD cases in Awdhegle district and Sigaale village in Merka district during week 12 tested negative for cholera. During the same period, 88 suspected measles cases were reported from the region. This is more than 50% increase in cases. About 34 suspected whooping cough cases have been reported.



- The Merka hospital cholera treatment centre (CTC), reported 14 AWD admissions, including six children under 5 with no related deaths.
- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 156 cases of AWD including 73% (114) 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 (14 children under five years) with three related deaths above five years.

- 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'. A significant increase in reported cases was observed during week 13 compared to week 12 (see Graph 5). About 118 cases including 93% (110) with no associated deaths were reported WHO and health partners continue to monitor the situation closely. WHO has pre-positioned a cholera kit in Mogadishu for the hospital.



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:

- WHO investigation team visited Baraag Ciise village in **Galmudug state** to investigate AWD outbreak rumors. The one case of AWD identified tested negative for cholera using Cholera Smart II rapid diagnostic test.



Table 1. Samples collected in Somalia in March in 2011

Specimen	Location (District)	Quantity	Positive	Remarks
Throat swabs for severe respiratory tract infection (SARI)	Wanbati village (Dinsor)	10	0	No confirmed cases
Stool for AWD	Banadir Hospital (Madina and Wadajir, Mogadishu)	20	2	Cases: 8 years (M) 12 months (F)
	Banadir Hospital (Waberi and Hodan, Mogadishu)	20	3	Cases: 1 year (M) 6 months (M) 3 months (M)
	SOS Hospital (Heliwaa, Mogadishu)	7	1	Cases: 4 years (M)
	Banadir Hospital (Wadajir, Mogadishu)	20	1	Cases: 5 months (M)
	Sigaale village (Merka)	9	0	No confirmed cases
	Merka CTC (Merka)	3	0	No confirmed cases
	Awdhegle (Awdhegle)	6	Pending	

(M)= male, (F)= female

- WHO is pre-positioning diarrhea disease kits and inter-agency health kits to **Mogadishu** ready for distribution to selected health partners. Having these kits in place, about 1700 severe AWD cases can be treated with the diarrhea disease kits, meanwhile with the inter-agency health kits about 70 000 people can be medically assisted for the next three months.
- As part of the water quality monitoring activities, WHO team is collecting water samples in **Mogadishu** area to establish safety levels and verify the presence of infectious materials due to contamination. This will guide the water, sanitation and hygiene interventions.