



**Ministry of Health Iraq and the  
WHO Representative's Office Iraq**



**Weekly Situation Report on Diarrhoea and Cholera in Iraq**  
Sitrep no. 77 for international week 39 ending 28-September 2008

**Diarrhea and laboratory confirmed Cholera 22/09- 28/09/08**

**1. SUMMARY:**

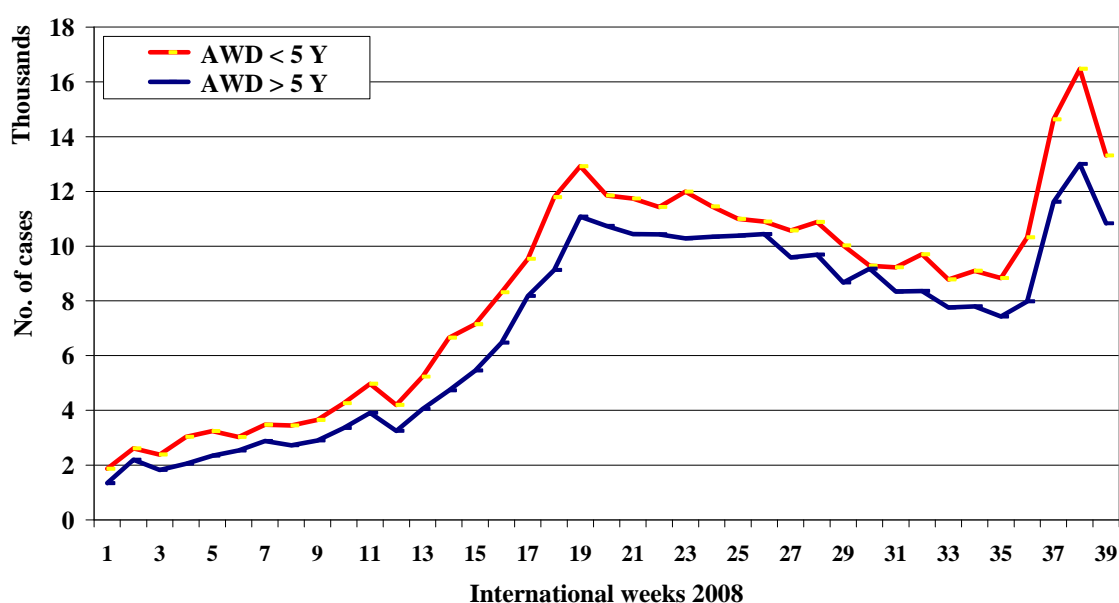
- During week 39 out of 19 DOHs 17 DoHs reported timely. 873 surveillance sites out of 985 sent the weekly AWD disease report on time i.e. 89% completeness and timeliness.
- Total Diarrhea cases reported this week were 24143 cases; out of them 17722 (73%) stool samples were cultured for V.C.
- Out of 17722 stool specimens cultured, 165 (1%) samples were positive for VC.
- 2558 water samples were tested for bacteriological contamination, 332 (13%) of them were contaminated.

**2. TABLE (1) NUMBER OF DIARRHOEA CASES REPORTED, STOOL SAMPLES TESTED AND % OF DIARRHOEA SPECIMENS CULTURED FOR CHOLERA BY INTERNATIONAL WEEK (2008)**

International Week	Total Diarrhea cases	Stool samples tested for cholera	% of Diarrhea cultured for cholera organisms
Week 1 ending 06/01	3204	2190	68%
Week 2 ending 13/01	4808	2499	52%
Week 3 ending 20/01	4208	2811	67%
Week 04 ending 27/01	5078	2822	56%
Week 05 ending 03/02	5588	2823	51%
Week 06 ending 10/02	5557	2846	51%
Week 07 ending 17/02	6353	3472	55%
Week 08 ending 24/02	6172	2914	47%
Week 09 ending 02/03	6552	2852	44%
Week 10 ending 09/03	7622	4281	56%
Week 11 ending 16/03	8879	4334	49%
Week 12 ending 23/03	7412	4103	55%
Week 13 ending 30/03	9282	4376	47%
Week 14 ending 06/04	11386	5686	50%
Week 15 ending 13/04	12604	5870	47%
Week 16 ending 20/04	14789	7557	51%
Week 17 ending 27/04	17709	8614	49%
Week 18 ending 04/05	20917	9364	45%
Week 19 ending 11/05	23998	10097	42%
Week 20 ending 18/05	22582	9589	42%
Week 21 ending 25/05	22181	9259	42%
Week 22 ending 01/06	21864	8555	39%
Week 23 ending 08/06	22278	9376	42%
Week 24 ending 15/06	21790	9202	42%
Week 25 ending 22/06	21375	9749	46%
Week 26 ending 29/06	21332	9053	42%
Week 27 ending 06/07	20165	8819	44%
Week 28 ending 13/07	20569	7652	37%

Week 29 ending 20/07	18698	6838	36%
Week 30 ending 27/07	18458	7846	42%
Week 31 ending 03/08	17563	7448	41%
Week 32 ending 10/08	18062	7768	41%
Week 33 ending 17/08	16300	7874	48%
Week 34 ending 24/08	16648	7279	44%
Week 35 ending 31/08	16263	7907	43%
Week 36 ending 07/09	18302	10033	55%
Week 37 ending 14/09	26247	18167	69%
Week 38 ending 21/09	29480	22193	75%
Week 39 ending 28/09	24143	17722	73%
Total	596418	291840	49%

Fig. 1) Acute Diarrhoea by age group, Iraq, up to International Week 39, 2008

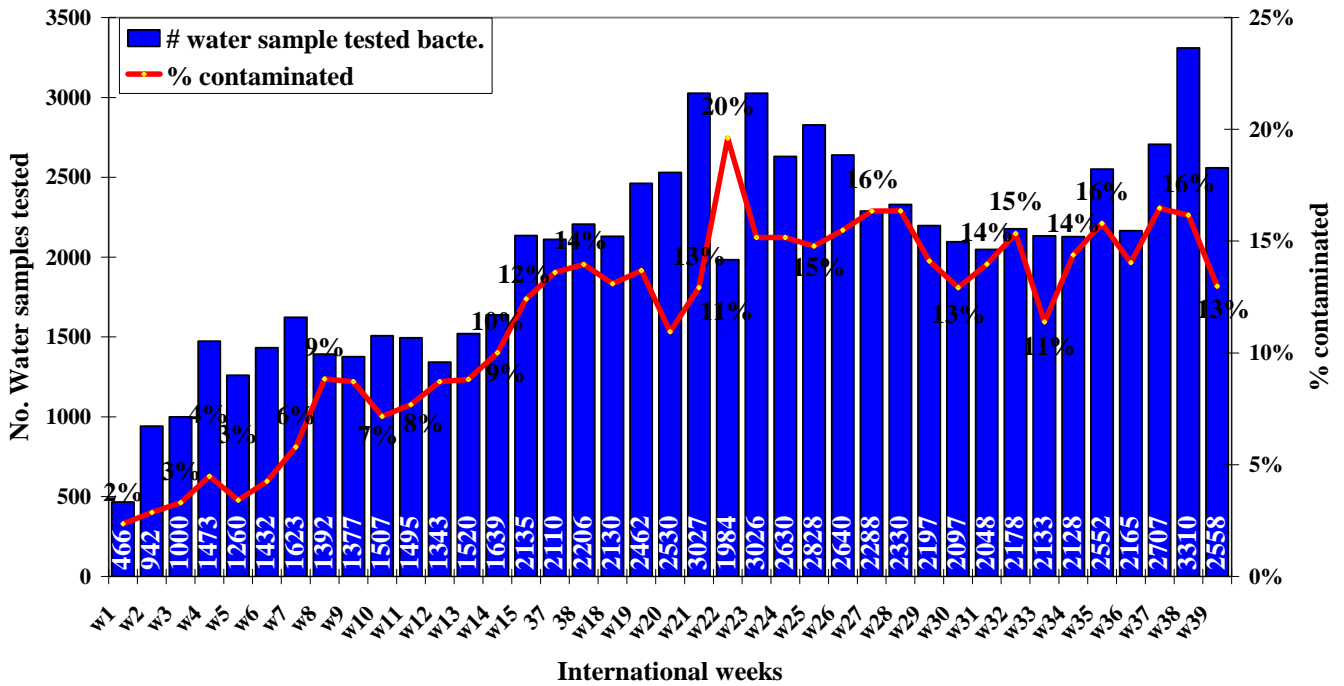


3. **DIARRHOEA BY AGE GROUP: FIG 1 SHOWS**, Diarrhea seems to have peaked in week 20 and then started a very slow and gradual down trend up to week 35, the reason for this slow down trend is not clear (may be reporting fatigue). However; coinciding with the reporting of the first suspect cholera case in Missan, the number of reported AWD started shooting up. Whether this sudden increase in AWD is real or apparent due to better reporting needs to be studied. Again in week 39 a steep drop in the number of reported diarrhea is noted which may be due to the failure of Both Diala and Anbar provinces to report and Eid Holidays effect.

#### 4. CUMULATIVE SITUATION FOR THE FIRST 39 WEEKS OF 2008:

- 19 Directorates of Health reported 596418 cases of Diarrhoea in total this year. Only 388 out of the 291840 stool samples cultured were positive for V. cholerae.
- 78868 water samples have been tested for the presence of faecal contaminants, 9959 water samples (13%) were found to be contaminated with faecal material.
- **Fig 2.** The percentage of contaminated water samples increased on a weekly basis until week 9 when it settled at around 9% which lasted up to week 14. This was followed by a plateau of around 13% starting week 15 to week 21; however, week 22 witnessed a sudden and difficult to explain jump of the % of contaminated water to 20% which came down to settle around 15-16 % in week 23 until week 38..Week 39 witnessed slight drop in the % of water contamination which may be due to the effort exerted to improve water contamination in response to the cholera out break.

**Fig. 2 Number of water samples tested for fecal coliforms, % that failed the test, first 39 weeks, 2008**



### 5. WATER CONTAMINATION

Fig (3) shows the percentage of water samples contaminated by coliform bacteria during the first 39 weeks of 2008. It is clear that the contamination is above average in the provinces of Kirkuk, Diwaniya, Al-Anbar, Erbil and wasit

**Fig (3) % water samples contaminated by coliform bacteria, Iraq, by province up to international week 39 of 2008**

