



**Weekly Situation Report on Diarrhoea and Cholera in Iraq**  
Sitrep no. 80 for international week 01 ending 04-January 2009

**Diarrhea and laboratory confirmed Cholera 29/12/2008- 04/01/2009**

**1. SUMMARY:**

- 925 laboratory confirmed cholera cases were reported up to 17/12/08. Since then no new cholera case was reported by MoH.
- Since cholera is endemic in Iraq, sporadic cases are expected to be seen occasionally.
- No cholera case was reported in the first week of 2009. The last cholera case was reported from Babil DoH on 17/12/08. The cholera outbreak that started in week 34, continued for 17 weeks.
- During week one, 18 DOHs reported timely, Erbil DoH did not report for the first time in 2 years. 732 surveillance sites out of 837 sent the weekly DIARRHOEA disease report on time i.e. 87% completeness and timeliness.
- Total Diarrhea cases reported this week were 6911 cases; out of them 3892 (56%) stool samples were cultured for V.C.
- Out of 3892 stool specimens cultured, none (0%) samples were positive for VC.
- 1530 water samples were tested for bacteriological contamination, 144 (9.%) of them were contaminated.

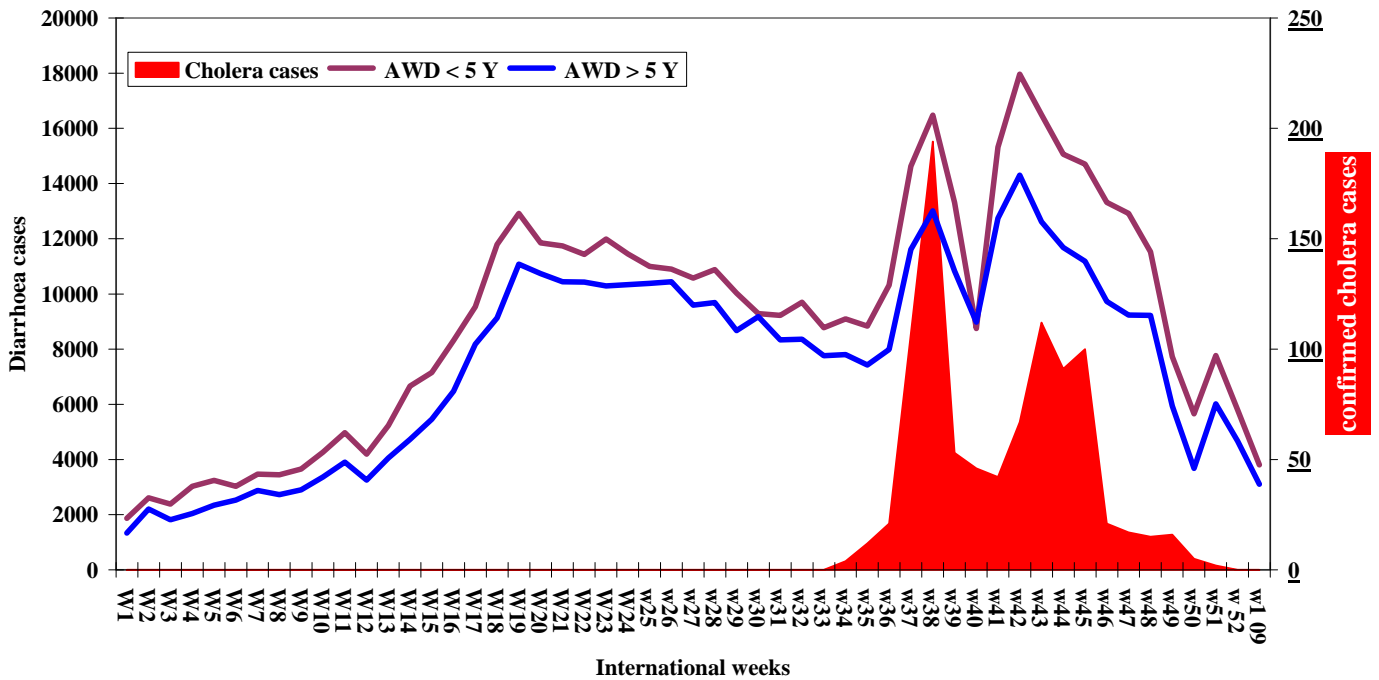
**2. TABLE (1) NUMBER OF DIARRHOEA CASES REPORTED, STOOL SAMPLES TESTED AND % OF DIARRHOEA SPECIMENS CULTURED FOR CHOLERA BY INTERNATIONAL WEEK (2008)**

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	7450	4116	55%

23/03			
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	16538	8109	48%
Week 34 ending 24/08	16894	7503	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%
week40 ending 05/10	17725	11990	68%
week 41 ending 12/10	28065	20035	71%
week 42 ending 19/10	32267	22503	66%
week 43 ending 26/10	29109	20531	71%
week 44 ending 02/11	26744	19290	72%
week 45 ending 09/11	25886	17220	67%
week 46 ending 16/11	23041	15123	63%
week 47 ending 23/11	22151	15274	61%
week 48 ending 30/11	20740	12432	60%
week 49 ending 07/12	13664	8482	62%
week 50 ending 14/12	9338	4620	44%
week 51 ending 21/12	13782	7891	54%
week 52 ending 28/12	10468	5671	54%
Total 2008	869920	473374	54%
Week one ending 04/01/2009	6911	3892	56%

**Fig (1) Diarrhoea and laboratory confirmed cholera by international week, 2008, and week one 2009, Iraq**

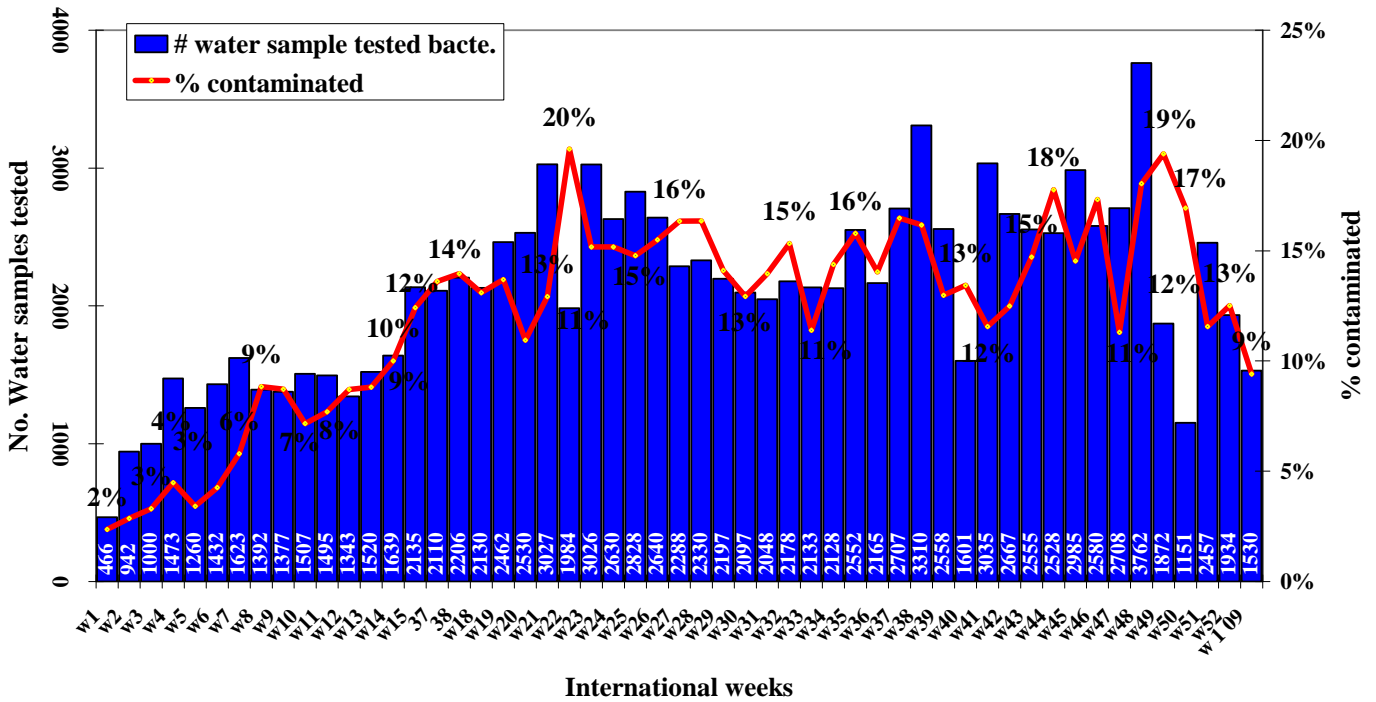


3. **DIARRHOEA BY AGE GROUP AND CONFIRMED CHOLERA:** Fig 1 Shows, Diarrhea seems to have peaked in week 20 then started a very slow and gradual down trend up to week 32,(the reason for this slow down trend is not clear may be shortage in the information provided), however, coinciding with the reporting of the first suspect cholera case in Missan, the number of reported DIARRHOEA started shooting up. This sudden increase in DIARRHEA that came in 2 waves peaking in weeks 38 and 42 coincided perfectly with the cholera epidemic curve. In week 44 a steep drop in the number of reported diarrhea and cholera were noted which may be happened due to drop in atmospheric temperature and improvement of power and water supply. Cholera cases started in week 33 and increased to reach the first peak of 96 cases in week 38 this was followed by slight drop in week 39, another wave of cases mainly from Diwanyia resulted in another peak (161 cases) in week 42. The last cholera cases were reported in week 51. During week 01 of 2009 no cholera case was reported in the presence of good surveillance.

**4. CUMULATIVE SITUATION FOR THE YEAR 2008:**

- 18 Directorates of Health reported 6911 cases of Diarrhoea during the first week of this year. No cholera case was isolated from 3892 stool samples tested.
- 1530 water samples have been tested for the presence of faecal contaminants, 144 water samples (9%) were found to be contaminated with coliform bacteria.
- **Fig 2.** The percentage of contaminated water samples increased on a weekly basis until week 23 when it reached 20% then it came out to settle between 13-15%.

**Fig. 2 Number of water samples tested for fecal coliforms, % that failed the test, Iraq, 2008 and first week of 2009**



**5. WATER CONTAMINATION**

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

**Fig (3) % water samples contaminated by coliform bacteria, Iraq, by province, week one, 2009**

