

## Current major events

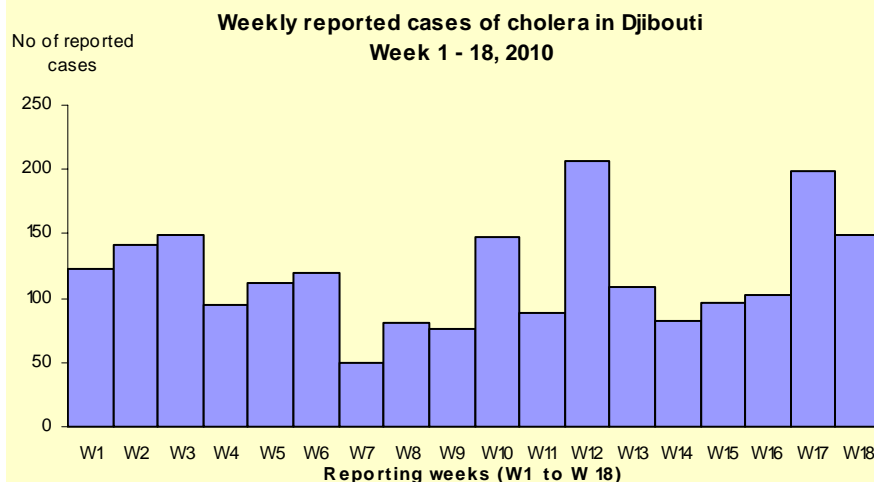
### Cholera in Djibouti

As of epidemiological week 18 of 2010, the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Djibouti reported 2,047 cases of cholera from five of six regions in the Country. There were 19 related deaths reported during the same period. The cases are reported from multiple foci in the affected regions. The highest number of cases (1,371) were reported from the capital, Djibouti City. The MOH, WHO Country Office and UNICEF are responding to contain this outbreak and have appealed for assistance. Most of the cases are reported to be among people coming across the border from Ethiopia.

### Editorial note

On 10 May 2010, the WHO/EMRO was alerted by the WHO Country Office in Djibouti that the Ministry of Health had identified a total of 25 cases of cholera since April 2010. On 20 May, a second report indicated that the Djibouti health authorities have been observing cholera cases from multiple foci in the country since the beginning of the year. A total of 2,047 suspected cases including 19 deaths were reported during this period. Five regions of the Country have been affected by the cholera. Most of the cases are reported among people who came across the border with Ethiopia and the members of the household who have accommodated them. The cases are concentrated in the poorer areas of Djibouti City where sanitation is compromised. The weekly trend of case counts (*Please see the epi curve*) does not depict a typical outbreak. The cases seem to represent an ongoing endemic cholera activity in the Country.

This is not the first time Djibouti is faced with cholera outbreak that is blamed on travelers who come across the porous border from Ethiopia. In 2007, Djibouti experienced a similar outbreak of cholera that was largely blamed on people who came across the border from Ethiopia. Movement of communities across the common border is frequent and uncontrolled. During the 2007 outbreak, efforts were made by the



Reported cholera cases and deaths by regions			
Region	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
Djibouti	1371	12	0.8
Dikhil	73	2	2.74
Tadjoura	140	2	1.43
Obock	263	1	0.38
Ali-sabieh	200	2	1
Arta	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2047</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.93</b>

WHO Regional Office (EMRO) and WHO Headquarters to liaise with WHO/AFRO to establish a cross border coordination between the two neighboring countries for the control of cholera in the sub-region. The response from WHO/AFRO was not forthcoming and the attempt never succeeded. Information on cholera activity in Ethiopia was not available and efforts to establish communication channels with the Country went un-answered.

The immediate concern at now should be directed towards the control and containment of the spread of cholera in Djibouti. But as long as it is not known what is happening across the borders of Djibouti with their neighbors, no solution to this recurrent problem can be forthcoming. Djibouti must be assisted to reach some agreement with its neighbors on cross border cooperation and coordination for disease outbreaks control. This could be done through the Horn of Africa Initiatives, to which both Ethiopia and Djibouti are currently members.

## Update on outbreaks

*in the Eastern Mediterranean Region*

**Suspected VHF** in Iraq; **Suspected Anthrax** in southern Sudan; **Cholera** in Djibouti; **Whooping cough** in Somalia

### Current public health events of international concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

#### Avian influenza

Egypt	[109 (34), <b>31.1%</b> ]
Indonesia	[165 (136), <b>82.4 %</b> ]
Cambodia	[10 (8), <b>80%</b> ]
<b>Global total</b>	<b>[498(294), 59%]</b>

#### Dengue fever

Sudan	[1599 (12), <b>0.7%</b> ]
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#### Rift Valley Fever

Saudi Arabia	[ 1 (0), <b>0%</b> ]
South Africa	[ 186 (18), <b>9.6%</b> ]

#### Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

AFRO	No of deaths: 168
AMRO	No of deaths: At least 8396
EMRO	No of deaths: 1019
EURO	No of deaths: At least 4874
SEARO	No of deaths: 1808
WPRO	No of deaths: 1832
<b>GLOBAL Total</b>	<b>No of deaths: 18,097</b>

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate