

Cholera Task Force-IRAQ

Update on Current Cholera Outbreak in Iraq.

SITREP – Situation Report – N° 6

19.09.2015 (Epi Week 38)

OVERVIEW:

Summary:

1. As of 18th September, 470 suspected acute diarrhea cases were admitted in Abu Ghraib Hospital (n=181) and from Diwaniya PHHC (n=289). The cases were treated accordingly and n deaths occurred in the hospital
2. Five deaths have occurred in the community (all females from Al Nasir and Al Ziad locations of Abu Ghraib Baghdad).
3. The cumulative number for the laboratory confirmed cases are thirty eight (n=38) out of one hundred and six (n=106) suspected samples which were sent to Central Public Health laboratory (CPHL) Baghdad and results are as follow:
 - Ten (n=10) cases from Najaf governorate (including the case diagnosed in Ghammas (Diwaniya governorate) as the patient residence is Najaf.
 - Twenty five (n=25) cases from Baghdad governorate (24 from Abu Ghraib, one case from Karrada)
 - Three (n=3) new cases from Babylon.

Joint Field Mission to Abu Ghraib District, Baghdad.

Abu Ghraib is the Western district of Baghdad at the border with Anbar; it represents the second largest district of Baghdad in terms of area (569 sqkm). Administratively the district is divided into four sub districts (Abu Ghraib center; Khan Dhari; Akarkoof and Al-Naser & Al-Salam)

Abu Ghraib district has a 250,000 population; most of the heads of families are working as laborers with daily wages in urban areas or farmers and livestock herders in rural areas. The district had a massive flood in April 2014 provoked by a deliberate closure of the Fallujah Dam regulator by Armed Opposition Groups. The water resources are in poor condition and water networks are damaged with a risk of mixing of contaminated water at different levels as the waterbed is high.

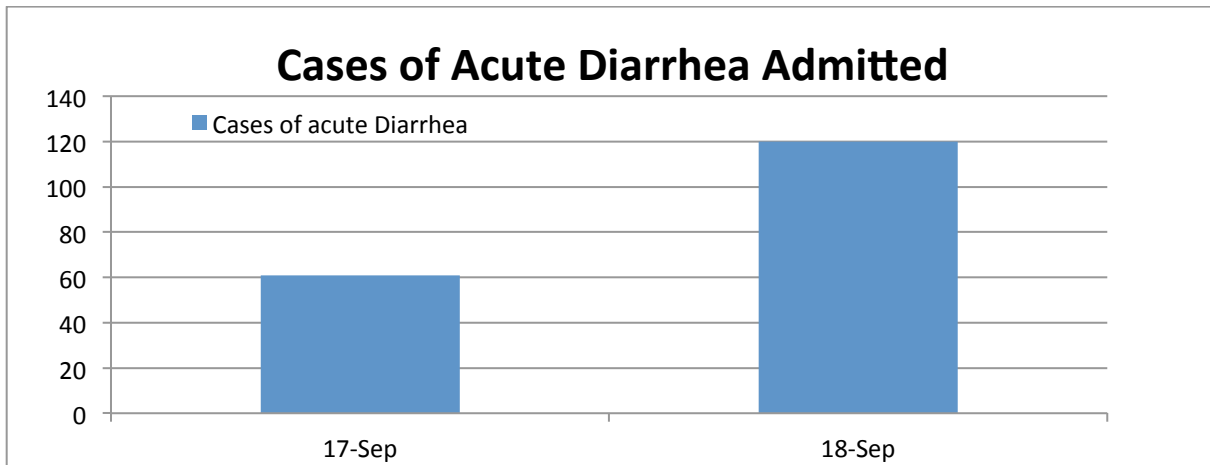
The main water reservoir of Abu Ghraib is Al-Karkh water treatment plant in Al-Tarmiyah, however, this was covering only 35% of needs. In response to this water supply shortage, the residents in underserved zones have drilled shallow boreholes; and with no sewage systems in Abu Ghraib district; contamination of water with waste water is very likely to happen in many areas.

Coordination

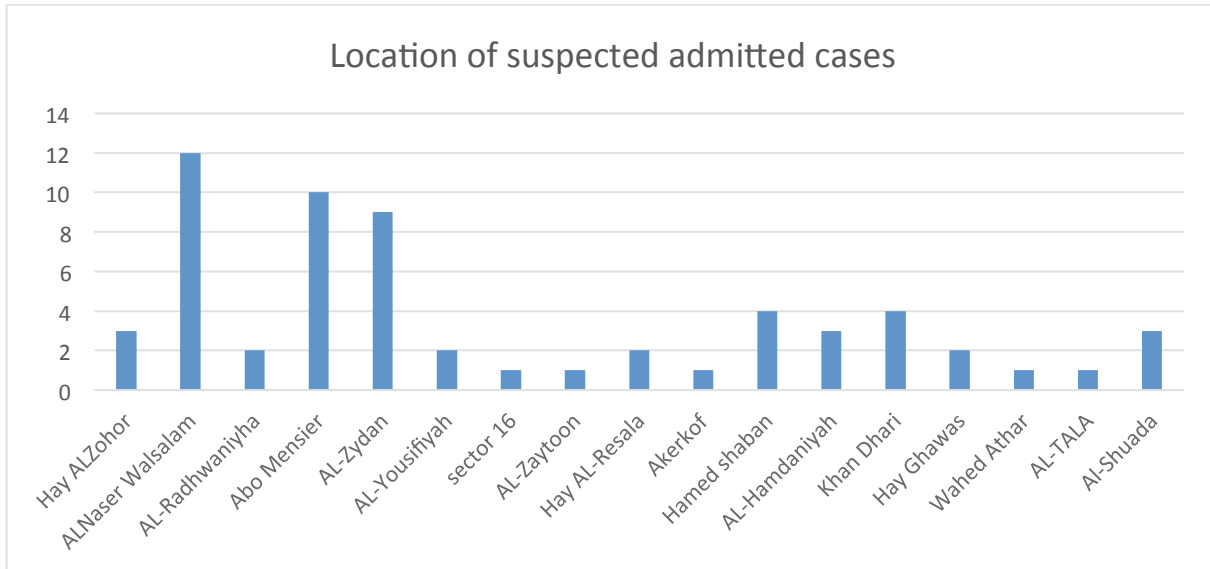
Joint Cholera Taskforce meeting was held in Abu Ghraib Hospital chaired by the governor of Baghdad on 18th September and was attended by all Abu Ghraib Health centers managers. Emergency coordination cell has been established Abu Ghraib headed by the Mayor.

Line listing from Abu Ghraib Hospital:

According to the hospital data, sixty one (n=61) suspected acute diarrhea cases were admitted at Abu Ghraib Hospital on 17th September while 120 cases of acute diarrhea were admitted on 18th September.



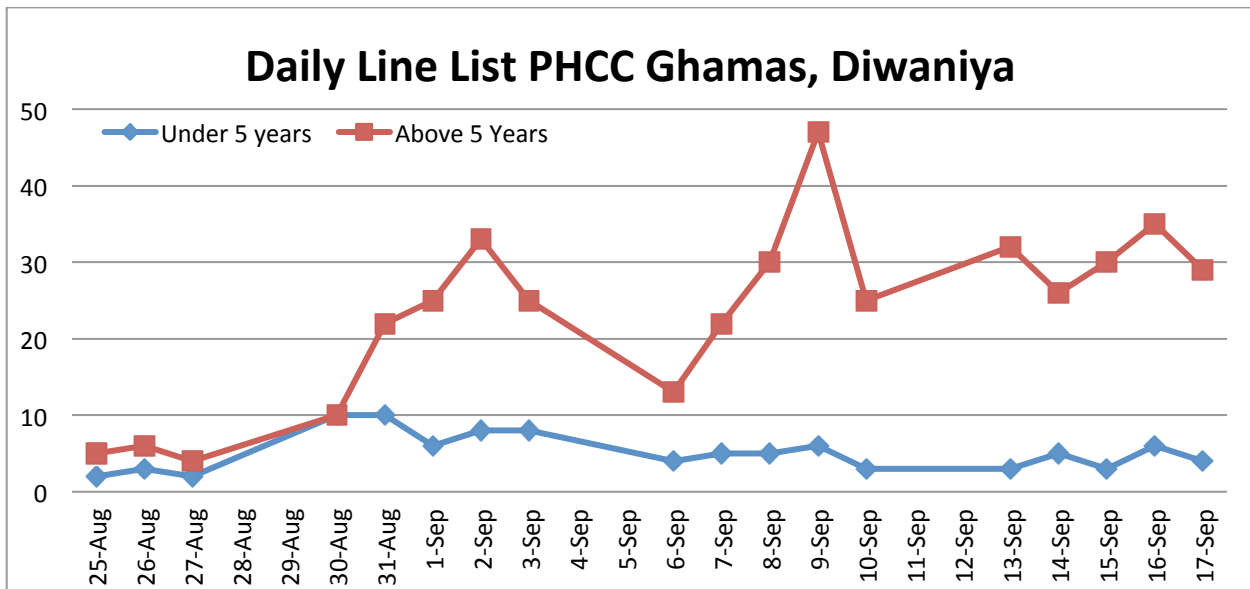
Graph I: indicates the cases of acute diarrhea admitted in Abu Ghraib Hospital



Graph II: Locations of acute diarrhea cases admitted in Abu Ghraib Hospital (17th Sept, 2015 onward)

Line Listing of Acute Diarrhea Cases at PHCC Ghamas; Diwaniya:

There has been an increase in the acute diarrhea cases since 6th Sept, 2015 with a sharp increase on 9th Sept, the stool samples were collected on the same day and dispatched to CPHL Baghdad.



Graph III: Trend of consultatios for acute diarrheal cases at Diwaniya PHCC

Need:

- There is a shortage of water in the area. Abu Ghraib water project rehabilitation is required which will be able to provide 10,000 m3/hr of water to the community, however, this is a long term solution as it will take at least 45 days to be completed.

- On emergency basis, the Governor of Abu Ghraib instructed the water department to provide clean twenty-five water trucks to start supplying safe drinking water to the community.
- Need for health promotion
- On emergency basis, governor instructed head of water administration that the water must be provided to Abu Ghraib from Al-Karkh WTP/Northern reservoir located in Al-Rahmaniyah and to increase the concentration of chlorine as well.
- DG of water highlighted the financial shortage to cover logistics cost and indicated that the department has sufficient chlorine till end of September, while new stocks will arrive from Iran next month but there is a shortage of chlorine at Bezebz bridge crossing at the border between Ameriyat Fallujah (Anbar) and Abu-Ghraib Anbar.
- Urgent need of safe drinking water, ORS and aqua tablets at household level especially focusing on the high risk communities.

Health and WASH Response Plan:

Health Response Plan:

- Appropriate use of case definition in context to this current outbreak with strengthening existing and active surveillance at all levels
- Decentralization of the Case management Centers and Units. Establishing CTC or CTU in the center of affected areas, mobilize the human and logistical support to the affected areas within Abu-Ghraib and Al-Manathera to reduce the mortality rate among the infected patients.
- Use of Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP medical staff for field investigation and environmental sampling.
- Strengthening the coordination mechanism within the two hospitals (Abu-Ghraib and Al-Manathera) to receive the daily patients line listing.
- Replenishing of Cholera Kits to DoH Baghdad and Najaf

WASH Response Plan:

- Installation of community water tanks and start water trucking (with chlorination) in the most vulnerable areas as shown in the graph above (AL-Naser W al-Salam; Hay AL-Resala; Wahed Huzairan; Hay Ghawas; Hay Karghool; Albo Amer; AL-Shuada'a)
- Health/Hygiene awareness in coordination with MoH and health cluster
- Activation of water quality monitoring in coordination with MoH health inspection, GDW & water quality control department
- Disinfecting sewage septic tanks in the epidemic area

- Delivering life saving supplies (bottled water, basic water family kits, water tanks and hygiene kits to the high risk areas, starting from AL-Naser so far 8000 out of 50000 sets of bottled water were delivered to AL-Naser health center to distributed tomorrow
- 4000 water family kits, 20 tanks of 5000 litres will be delivered tomorrow and will be installed in the above mentioned

Najaf & Dewaniya:

- 2500 hygiene kits and 2500 water family kits will be delivered tomorrow to Najaf
- ICRC is in the process of purchasing of household water tanks to be delivered and located around the Ghammas area