



Somalia Emergency Health Update

HIGHLIGHTS

Reporting 29 April-12 May 2013 - Epidemiological weeks 18 to 19

POLIO	FIRST CASE OF WILD POLIO VIRUS CONFIRMED IN SOMALIA AFTER SIX YEARS
MASS VACCINATION	OVER 1.1 MILLION CHILDREN VACCINATED AGAINST POLIO IN APRIL
CASUALTIES	GRENADE ATTACK IN BAIDOA LEAVES 13 INJURED

In this issue:

Disease alerts	p. 2
Epidemiological surveillance	
Timely reporting	p. 2
Suspected Cholera	p. 2
Suspected Measles	p. 3
Confirmed Malaria	p. 3
Other Health Events	p. 3
Conflict-related injuries	p. 4

FIRST CASE OF WILD POLIO VIRUS IN SIX YEARS



32 month- old child affected by wild polio virus in Mogadishu

On 9 May 2013, a case of wild poliovirus was confirmed in a 32-month-old girl from Hamar Jabjab district, Banadir region. This is the first case of wild poliovirus in Somalia in more than six years (last case on 25 March 2007). The virus was isolated from specimens collected on 21 April from a girl, who suffered onset of acute paralysis on 18 April, and from specimens collected from three close contacts. Due to the large number of unvaccinated children in the country, there is a considerable risk that this could result in a large outbreak.

To protect Somali children and prevent further spread, up to nine large scale polio vaccination campaigns are planned

targeting highest risk areas and populations. 450,000 children in Banadir region and in adjoining Afgoye district are targeted in the first emergency response vaccination campaign between 14 and 18 May 2013.

OVER 1.1 MILLION YOUNG CHILDREN VACCINATED AGAINST POLIO IN APRIL



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More than 1 150 000 children under the age of five were vaccinated across Somalia in April 2013. Polio immunization campaigns were conducted in several districts in the four zones of Somalia, in the regions of Bay, Gedo and Bakool (South Somalia), Banadir, Galgadud and Hiran (Central Somalia), Awdal, Marodijex, Sahil, Sanag, Sool and Togdher (Somaliland), Bari, Karkar, Nugal and Mudug (and Puntland). Despite these improvements, half a million children in South-Central Somalia have not received polio vaccine for the past three years.

BAIDOA HAND GRENADE ATTACK INJURES 13



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On 8 May 2013, a hand grenade incident occurred in Baidoa, Bay region. The incident left 13 people injured, including a father and a daughter who suffered multiple injuries and minor injuries respectively. The cases were transferred to Baidoa hospital and others to Nairobi for treatment. Their situation has stabilized. [Read more on casualties on page 4](#)

Figure 1 – Disease alerts

Zone/ Region/ District	Date of notification	Suspected disease	Date of onset	Date of rumor verification /investigation	Date of response	Actions taken
South/ Afmadow/ Xabaalo-culimo, Qabaa, Jiro	28-Apr	Measles	?	29-Apr	29-Apr	Between 29 April and 1 May, 18 cases of suspected measles were reported. No additional cases have been identified thereafter.
South/ Afmadow/ Doble/ Deg-elma, Buulo barwaaqo, Xaar-Xaarka	30-Apr	Watery diarrhea	?	30-Apr	Ongoing	73 mild cases of watery diarrhea were treated by partners in the three villages. Monitoring of the situation continues. All stool samples were found negative for any infection.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

(EPI weeks 18 to 19, 29 April – 12 May 2013)

Between weeks 18 and 19, a total of 76 699 health facility visits were reported by sentinel sites from four zones. Central Somalia accounted for 47.7% of the reported visits, Puntland 18.5%, Southern Somalia accounted for 21.3% and Somaliland 12.5%.

Sentinel sites in Somalia

ZONE	N.	% Reporting timely
Puntland	45	100%
Somaliland	54	99.1%
Central	60	98.3%
Southern	36	88.9%
TOTAL	195	97.2%

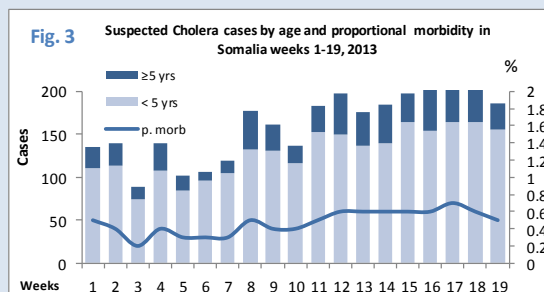
Figure 2- Weekly aggregated data from sentinel sites in 3 zones of Somalia

Health event	Week 16 15 - 21 Apr 2013		Week 17 22 - 28 Apr 2013		Week 18 29 Apr – 5 May 2013		Week 19 6 – 12 May 2013	
	Total cases	*Proportional morbidity	Total cases	*Proportional morbidity	Total cases	*Proportional morbidity	Total cases	*Proportional morbidity
Suspected Cholera	206	0.6	218	0.7	215	0.6	186	0.5
Suspected Shigellosis	9	0.03	6	0.02	13	0.03	8	0.02
Suspected Measles	35	0.1	37	0.1	52	0.1	64	0.2
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	1	0.003	0	0	1	0.003	1	0.003
Suspected Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suspected Whooping Cough	25	0.1	28	0.1	26	0.06	20	0.1
Confirmed Malaria	694	2.1	727	2	774	2	677	1.8
Suspected Neonatal Tetanus	2	0.006	6	0.02	2	0.005	2	0.01
All other consultations	31201		30665		37461		37197	
Total consultations	32173		31687		38544		38155	

*Proportional Morbidity is the number of cases for individual health event as a proportion of all consultations for the reporting week

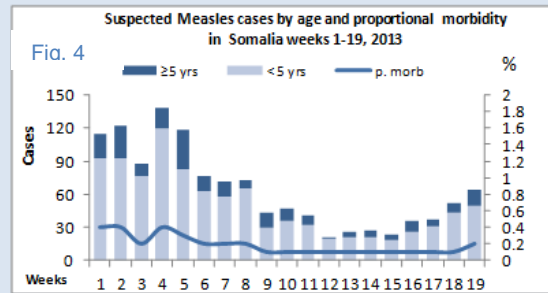
SUSPECTED CHOLERA

Suspected cholera cases have slightly decreased in weeks 18 and 19 compared with previous weeks. This follows the seasonal pattern observed in previous years. A total of 401 cases of suspected cholera were reported from Central Somalia alone. 95% (381) of these cases were reported from Banadir region. The remaining cases were reported from Lower Shabelle region. Despite the decrease, UNICEF, WHO and health partners remain on high alert in the event of a possible outbreak, given that the rainy season continues in Somalia.



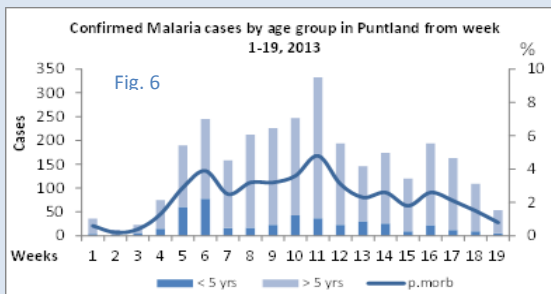
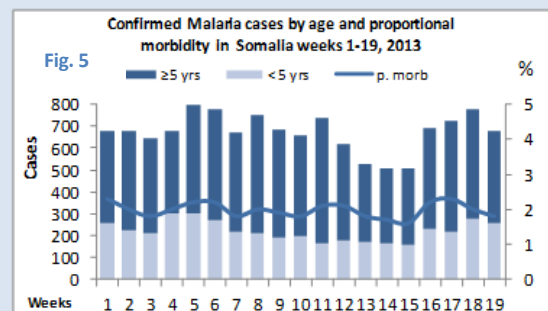
SUSPECTED MEASLES

Between week 18 and 19, a total of 116 suspected measles cases were reported in the four zones. Central Somalia accounted for 40.5% (47) of the cases, Somaliland for 37.1% (43), Southern zone for 19% (22) and Puntland for 3.4% (4) of the cases. However, this increase in the number suspected measles cases is due to the fact that Somaliland, which had not reported from weeks 12 to date, submitted data for this reporting period.



CONFIRMED MALARIA

Confirmed malaria remained the leading cause of morbidity during this reporting period. A total of 1451 cases, including 36.7% (532) children under the age of 5 were reported from the four zones. Central and Southern zones accounted for 44.3% (643) and 44.0% (637) of the cases respectively.



Puntland accounted for 11.2% (163) of the cases, while Somaliland accounted for 0.5% (8) of the reported cases. A 50% reduction in malaria reported cases was observed in Puntland in week 19 (see Fig.5): 54 cases were reported in week 19, as compared to 109 cases in week 18.

OTHER HEALTH EVENTS

The number of reported cases of **suspected Shigellosis** continues to reduce, with improved adherence to the recommended case definition by health workers. A few of the reported cases that were traced indicate that none had visible blood in the stool sample. Tracing of reported cases will continue as well monitoring of adherence to case definition during routine visits to health facilities.

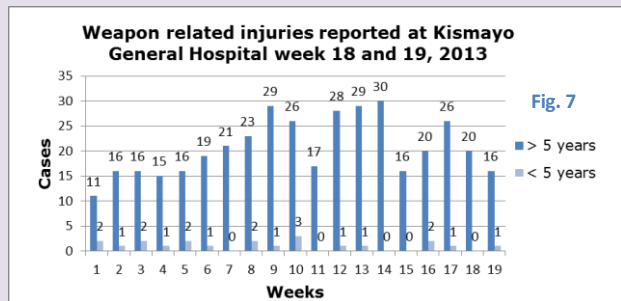
CONFLICT-RELATED INJURIES

MOGADISHU

In week 19, a 26% decrease in weapon-related injuries was reported in Mogadishu as compared to week 18. From **29 April to 12 May 2013**, 176 weapon-related injuries were treated in four hospitals in Mogadishu, including two children under the age of 5. Four deaths were also reported, including one child below five years.

KISMAYO

In week 19, a 20% decrease in weapon-related injuries was observed in Kismayo, as compared to week 18 (Fig. 6). Kismayo remains a volatile area, with observed increase in incidences of fighting among warring factions. From **29 April to 12 May 2013**, 37 weapon-related injuries were treated in Kismayo General Hospital, Lower Jubba region, including a child under the age of 5. One death was also reported.



MUDUG

The situation in Mudug remains stable. From **29 April- 12 May 2013**, 11 weapon-related injuries were treated at Mudug regional hospital. No cases were reported under the age of five.

BAIDOA

From 29 April to 12 May 2013, 13 casualties (9 male and 4 female) from weapon-related injuries were treated in Baidoa hospital. One female patient was referred to Mogadishu for further treatment

For further information please contact:
 CSR Team Leader, ajangaa@nbo.emro.who.int, Tel: +254 736 100 177

Previous issues can be found on the following link:
<http://www.emro.who.int/som/somalia-infocus/somalia-health-update.html>

Health partners’ activity data can be found on the Health Cluster website on:
<http://healthsomalia.org/documents.php>