FIRST CASE OF WILD POLIO VIRUS IN SIX YEARS

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

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 INJURIES 13

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.
1. UNICEF, WHO and health partners remain on high alert in the event of a possible outbreak, given that the rainy season continues in Somalia.

**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%.

**Figure 1 – Disease alerts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone/ Region/ District</th>
<th>Date of notification</th>
<th>Suspected disease</th>
<th>Date of onset</th>
<th>Date of rumor verification/investigation</th>
<th>Date of response</th>
<th>Actions taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South/ Afmadow/ Xabalo-culimo, Qabaa, Jiro</td>
<td>28-Apr</td>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>29-Apr</td>
<td>29-Apr</td>
<td>Between 29 April and 1 May, 18 cases of suspected measles were reported. No additional cases have been identified thereafter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South/ Afmadow/ Dobley/ Deg-elma, Buulo barwaqo, Xaar-Xaarka</td>
<td>30-Apr</td>
<td>Watery diarrhea</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>30-Apr</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

*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.

**Figure 3**

Suspected Cholera cases by age and proportional morbidity in Somalia weeks 1-19, 2013
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.

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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