17 October 2017 - WHO has delivered lifesaving blood supplies and trauma care medicines as part of its emergency response to the bombings in Mogadishu, Somalia on 14 October, in which more than 275 people were killed and more than 300 people severely injured.

Three tonnes of emergency medicines, medical and surgical supplies and 500 blood group testing kits were rapidly deployed to overwhelmed hospitals faced with increasing numbers of casualties in critical condition.

The lifesaving supplies also included IV fluids, injectable antibiotics, electrolytes, anesthetics, analgesics, catheters, surgical masks and other supplies.

Additionally, three trauma kits, sufficient for 300 surgical interventions, are being dispatched from WHO’s regional operations hub in Dubai to support the provision of surgical care to injured patients.

Decades of conflict, aggravated by environmental threats, have weakened the health system in Somalia, leading to significant shortages of health supplies in under-resourced health facilities.

“Our main priority is to save the lives of the innocent civilians who were caught up in this senseless and horrific act of violence,” said Dr Ghulam Popal, WHO Representative in Somalia. “We are working closely with the Federal Ministry of Health to fill critical shortages in medicines and health supplies and increase the chances of survival for hundreds of men, women and children. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims and the people of Somalia.”

WHO has also provided the Ministry of Health and Human Services with an Interagency Emergency Health Kit to provide basic health services for 10,000 people for a duration of three months. WHO is also providing a consignment of 25 hospital beds, pediatric oxygen masks, and other medical supplies to Banadir Hospital.
On 18 October, the Somali Minister of Health and the WHO Representative in Somalia will visit hospitals and trauma management sites to express sympathy with the victims and patients’ families, and to further identify gaps and needs.

According to health authorities, the numbers of casualties are likely to increase as more people are rescued from the rubble in one of the capital’s busiest areas.

A WHO emergency taskforce continues to work closely with health authorities to monitor the situation, coordinate urgent life-saving response actions and support the Ministry of Health with urgently needed medicines and medical and surgical supplies. Additional WHO supplies and resources will be deployed as the situation develops and needs are further identified.

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Monday 8th of April 2019 05:02:39 PM