



AWD advisory for Lower Shabelle and Banadir regions

22 March 2010

Current situation: Between 1 February – 7 March (week 5 to 9), health partners reported a 50% increase in the number of cases of acute watery diarrhoea reported from Lower Shabelle and Banadir regions, compared to the previous 4 weeks. In week 10, a 50% reduction was observed in the 2 regions compared to the previous week. 1 case tested positive for cholera using Cholera Smart II Rapid Diagnostic in Merka on 16 March.

While noting the reduction of cases between week 9 to 10, WHO remains concerned about the risk of a possible outbreak of AWD. These regions host large communities of internally displaced persons (IDPs) temporarily residing in makeshift conditions and have experienced seasonal increases in previous years. Significantly, Afgooye district, which hosts over 360 000 IDPs accounts for 60% of cases reported from Lower Shabelle Region during week 5 - 10.



Photo: WHO

WHO is concerned about the risk of AWD outbreaks in Lower Shabelle and Banadir regions. High levels of displacement, past seasonal increases of AWD and ensuing conflict in and displacement from Mogadishu all heighten the risk of outbreaks over the coming period

Required actions from health partners

In light of the reported trends and past experience of AWD outbreaks as well as escalating conflict and displacement in the region, WHO is requesting partners in health to prepare for timely and effective response to possible outbreaks. Specifically, they are being requested to:

- Step up of regular reporting of diarrhoeal diseases as well as proactively inform local WHO focal points to outbreak rumours
- Feed information into the AWD matrix to allow the health cluster to assess the available supplies and capacity for outbreak response.
- Liaise accordingly with the health cluster to access pre-positioned supplies in key locations across South Central Somalia
- Follow the latest guidelines on cholera case management.
- Coordinate activities and ensure information-sharing with local WASH partners

Urgent funding needs for outbreak response

WHO, as health cluster lead, is calling on donors for timely support for its activities in coordination and outbreak response as part of the CAP 2010. Pre-positioning of supplies, induction of key health workers and strengthening of outbreak response capacity must take place on an urgent basis to ensure that health partners can respond early to outbreak alerts and avoid preventable death and disability amongst vulnerable communities across Somalia. As of 22 March 2010, no new funds had been received for coordination and outbreak response activities against the CAP 2010.

For further information, please contact the health cluster at cluster@nbo.emro.who.int

To report an outbreak, please contact outbreak@nbo.emro.who.int

Visit the health cluster website for updates and technical guidelines www.emro.who.int/somalia/healthcluster.htm