



Special bulletin: WHO provides on-the-job training on emergency medical services in Mogadishu 29 March 2010

During 21-26 March 2010, WHO provided on-the-job training to 33 clinical staff, including 9 physicians, 11 nurses and 13 midwives, at Banadir Hospital in Mogadishu on trauma management and emergency obstetric care.

The training comes in response to escalating conflict in the city. Between 1- 24 March 2010, over 700 conflict-related injuries and 30 deaths were reported at the 3 main hospitals in Mogadishu. Children under the age of 5 years accounted for 10% of these reported injuries.



Hospitals in Mogadishu are currently struggling with high numbers of casualties. Photo: AVRO

Emergency health services in Mogadishu struggle with few trained health workers and insufficient supplies. Health workers often lack specialized training in trauma management and often do not get the opportunity to receive additional training on medical and surgical advances. The ongoing recent conflict is putting a further burden on the already weak health system, and with escalating levels of trauma, services are being stretched to the limit.



In response to the ongoing conflict in Mogadishu in early 2010, and as part of contingency planning, WHO trained 33 health workers in trauma management at Banadir Hospital. During the training, over 100 people directly received emergency medical services.

All photos unless otherwise indicated: WHO Somalia

Left: On-the-job training also provides an opportunity to deliver life-saving health services within the humanitarian response

Right: The x-ray machine in Banadir Hospital dates back 25 years and is in need of replacement

The training of health workers in emergency medical services (EMS) was successful, providing a significant boost to the skill levels at the hospital as well as strengthening morale amongst health workers during the current challenging time. The Director of the hospital recommended that more training sessions of longer duration be undertaken. One doctor commented that through the training she had gained new skills and experience, and was requesting further training opportunities from WHO and partners



Photo: AVRO

The approach highlights how on-the-job training within the humanitarian response, can be integrated within service delivery, thus acting as an important linkage between humanitarian and early recovery activities. As such, on-the-job training is an essential way of ensuring that the already-scarce health workforce is not unnecessarily withdrawn from their role in services to receive training.

To maximize the impact of the training of health workers during late March, additional funding, as set out in CAP 2010, will allow WHO to carry out further training and provision of essential supplies.

WHO would like to thank Banadir Hospital, health authorities and other partners, particularly involved in security arrangements, who made this training possible.

www.emro.who.int/somalia/healthcluster.htm

www.emro.who.int/somalia/CollaborativeProgrammes-eha.htm

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