

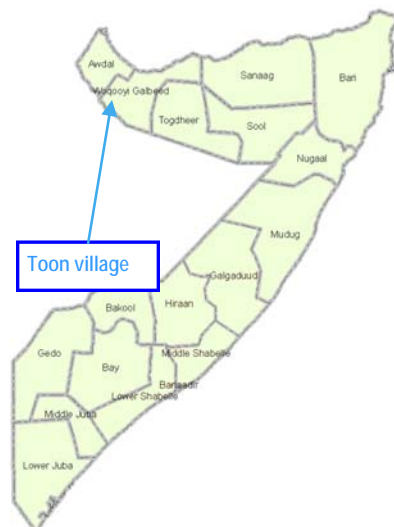


Outbreak investigation and response: Toon village, W. Galbeed region, Northwest Somalia 22 March 2010

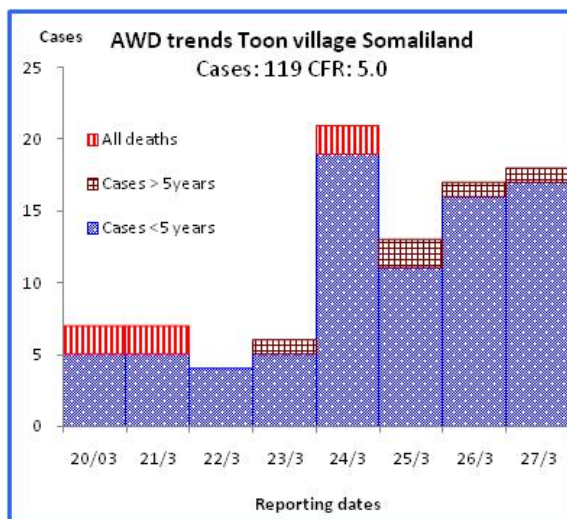
Background: Toon village is located approximately 20 km south of Hargeisa town in W.Galbeed region, northwest of Somalia. It is home to an estimated 6000 population.

Outbreak investigation: An increase in the number of acute water diarrhea (AWD) cases was reported from the Toon village on 20 March. Within 24 hours of reporting the outbreak, the regional medical officer and partners dispatched a response team to the village.

Findings: The joint response found a retrospective count of those reportedly affected by AWD between 20-27 March as 119 cases including 96% (114) children under 5 years, and 6 deaths also U5. A case fatality rate (CFR) 5.0 was reported. A temporary treatment center for severe cases was set up at a nearby school pending the establishment of a proper cholera treatment center (CTC). The ministry of health and labour (MoHL) provided adequate supplies for case management. MoHL, WHO and partners SRCS have pre positioned essential supplies for case management in Hargeisa town for further need-based response.



Location of Toon village, in W. Galbeed region in Northwest Somalia



Conclusions and follow-up: MoHL has put an alert on a possible outbreak in other areas in northwest of Somalia including Awdal, north of Hargeisa town and the border town Togwajale. MoHL, WHO and partners have strengthened water and sanitation and hygiene activities in the area including providing household chlorination kits - Aqua tabs. Health education campaigns have been initiated in the town and surrounding areas. WHO is calling on health partners to closely monitor AWD trends in all parts of Somalia and prepare to respond to possible outbreaks, in light of seasonal outbreaks observed in the past years.