



WHO and Intersos respond to rumours of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) in Aden Yabal district, Middle Shabelle region 28 March 2011

Background: Rumors of increase in number of AWD cases and a high mortality rate have been reported from Aden Yabal district located approximately 240 km north-east of Mogadishu and 160 km from Jowhar, the regional capital of **Middle Shabelle**. Although the reporting period and age groups affected were not specified in the rumor reports, cases have been reported as follows:

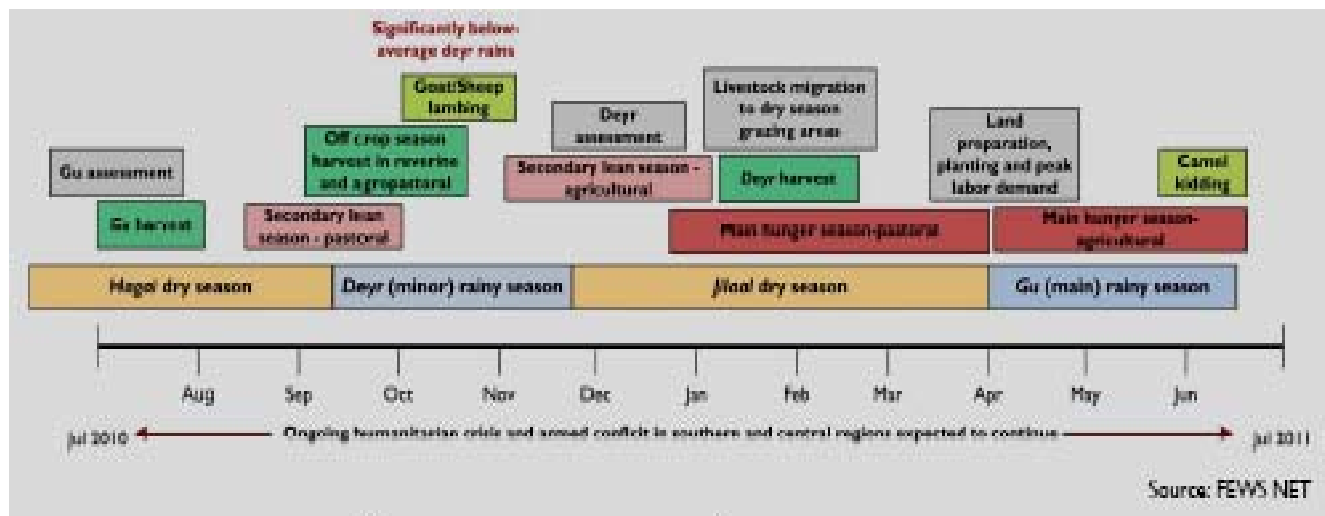
	Cases	Deaths	CFR
Aden Yabal town	130, 90 (69%) <5	25, (40%) <5	19.2
Dhabad Lebey village	150, 100 (67%) <5	30, (67%) <5	20.0
Miro village	200, 100 (50%) <5	2 >5	1
Ali Ahmed village	65, 44 (68%) <5		

CFR= Case fatality rate

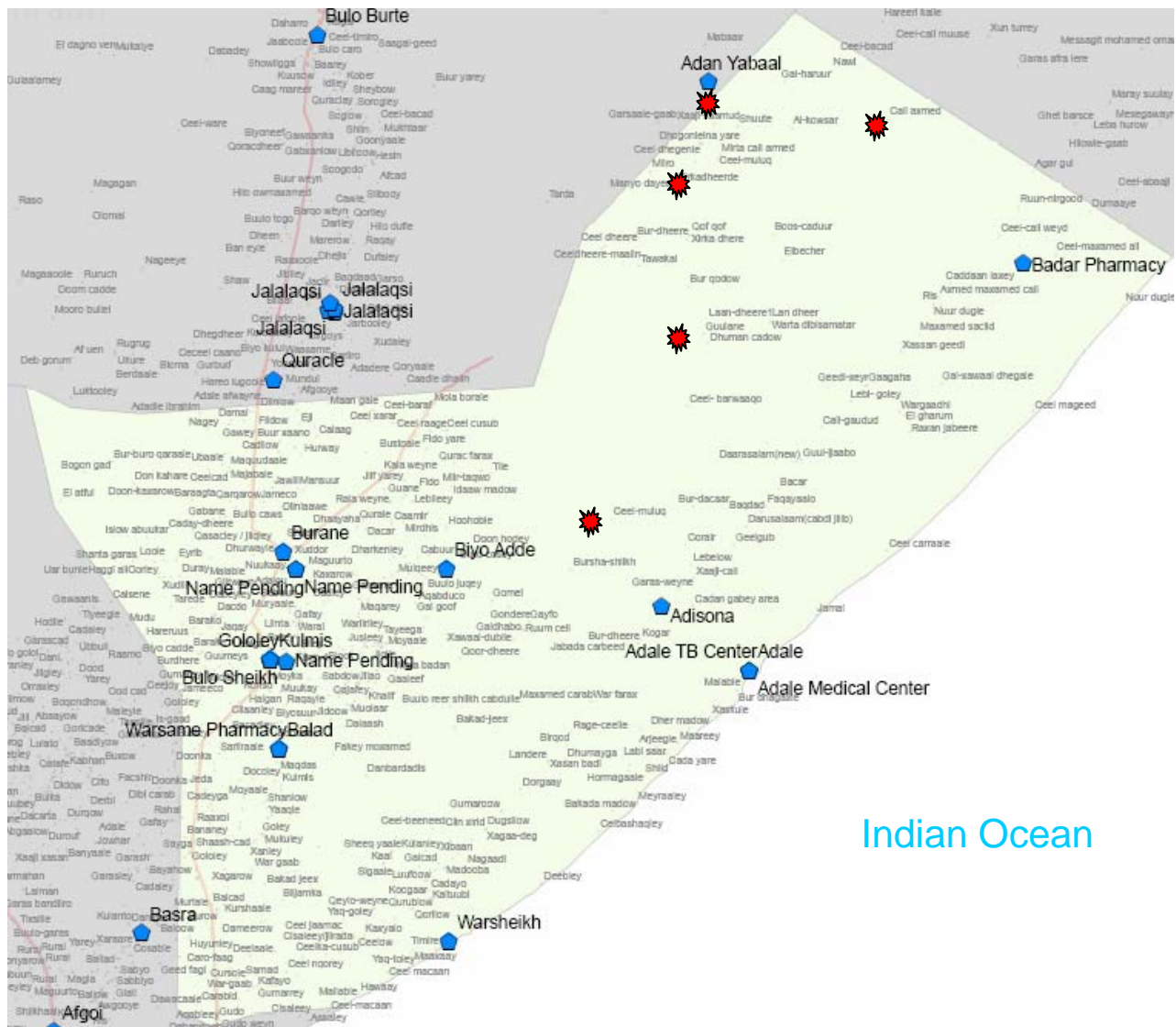
Contacts on ground have provided information contrary to this that has been given by a local non-governmental organizations operating in the area, saying they do not have any knowledge of any such a number of affected persona and deaths associated with diarrhoea in general.

In Somalia, the period towards the end of March through to the month of June has been known for the emergence of several communicable disease outbreaks especially cholera. This period marks the end of the Jilaa-dry season and the beginning of the Gu rains (see figure 1). Sometimes outbreaks go on till the month of August.

Figure 1. AWD seasonal calendar for Somalia



Map 1. Health facilities and areas () where rumors have been reported in Middle Shabelle region



Response: WHO in partnership with Intersos who provide support to the regional hospital in Jowhar are conducting mobile health activities in affected villages to verify the information. WHO provided one complete diarrhoeal disease (DD) kit adequate to treat 100 severe adult patients and one inter-agency health kit (IAEHK) adequate for 10 000 populations for three months to facilitate initial needs-based response to the situation on ground. Additionally, provided was a Cholera Smart™II (New Horizons Diagnostics Corporation, USA) rapid diagnostic test kit that contains 25 test kits to aid in diagnosis on the ground and guide response activities.