



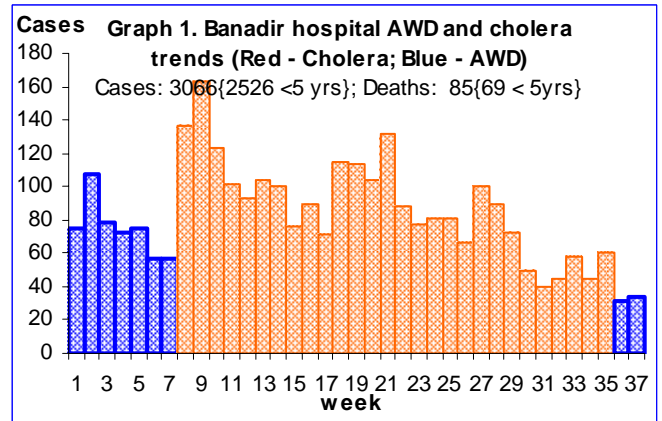
BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

- **Young Somali children** are highly affected by the ongoing conflict, accounting for almost **20% of all weapon-related casualties**. Since January 2010, two hospitals in Mogadishu reported 2894 weapon-related casualties, including **572 children** younger than five years old and 98 related deaths.
- WHO and partners continue to carry out acute watery diarrhoea monitoring, preventive and case management interventions in the regions of **Banadir** and **Lower Shabelle**.

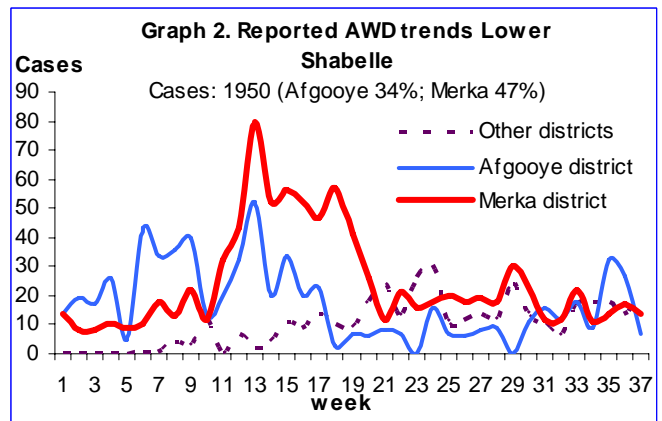
Update on major public health concern:

- **Cholera/Acute watery diarrhoea**

WHO continues to monitor acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) trends in **Banadir region**. Since week 1¹, 3066 AWD/cholera cases including 2526 under five years of age and 85 deaths have been reported at the Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** (see **Graph 1**). The cholera outbreak at the hospital was declared under control in week 35.

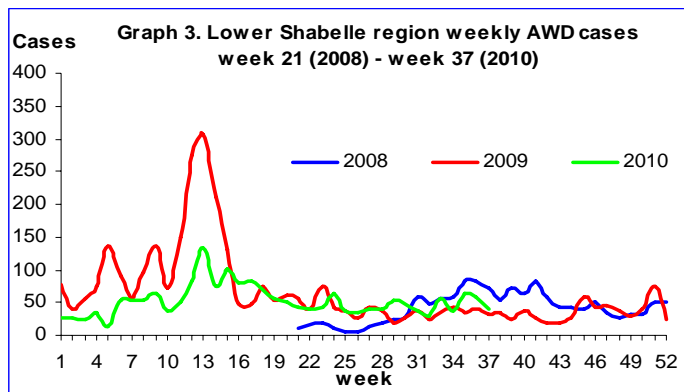


In week 37², **Lower Shabelle region** reported 41 AWD cases, including 44% (18) children under five years of age. **Merka** and **Brava** district alone accounted for over 75% of all reported cases from 33 health facilities in the region. From week 1-37, the districts of Merka and Afgooye accounted for 47% and 34% respectively of all the AWD cases (see **Graph 2**).



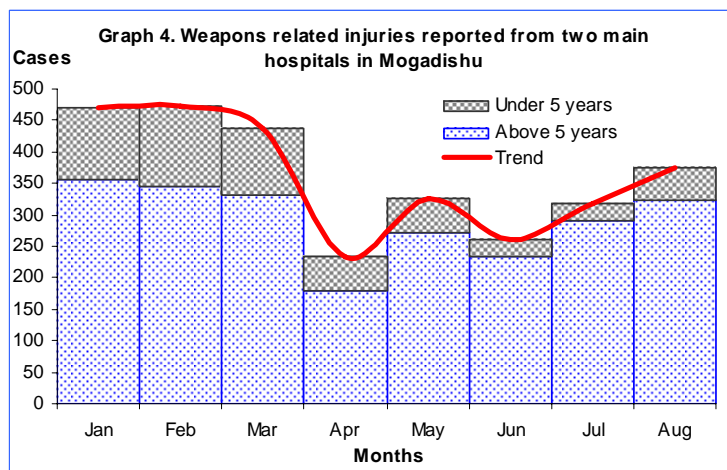
¹Week 1: 4-10 January 2010
²Week 37: 13-19 September 2010

In view of seasonal outbreaks in the past years, WHO continues to call upon health partners to respond to the current situation (see **Graph 3**). Partners are also advised to undertake preparedness plans for the coming seasonal outbreak period, especially for AWD. WHO's major concern is that access constraints coupled with withdrawals, suspension and scaling down of operations by key humanitarian agencies in south central regions, will impact negatively on disease outbreak response activities.



- Conflict and displacement**

Between **1-17 September 2010**, two main hospitals in Mogadishu reported 142 weapon-related casualties including **26%** (38) children under five years of age with no registered deaths. Since **January 2010**, 2894 weapon-related casualties, including **572** under five years of age and 98 related deaths, have been reported from these two hospitals (see **monthly caseload graph**). The deaths on site of injury are still unknown. It remains a challenge to classify victims as combatants or non-combatants.



From week 1-37 (**4 January - 19 September 2010**), a third hospital in Mogadishu reported 2420 weapon-related injuries.

According to UNHCR³, an estimated 32 600 people have been displaced in Mogadishu since 23 August due to the ongoing fighting and insecurity. Of these displacements, more than 20 100 have left the city with over 12 500 having fled to safer areas within Mogadishu. This year alone, over 200 000 civilians are estimated to have fled their homes in Mogadishu.



Evacuation of a trauma casualty in Mogadishu. (Photo by SOYDA)

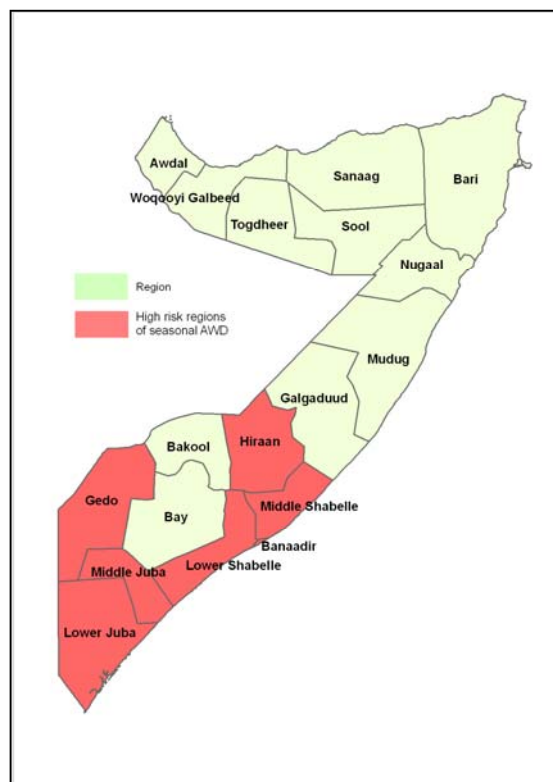
³Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin #36

Health Events in Somalia

Epidemiological surveillance during week 37

- 14 health facilities in seven districts in **Lower and Middle Juba regions** reported a total of 746 consultations, including 50% (378) children under five years of age. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 264 consultations, including 39% (103) children under five years with no deaths. Acute watery diarrhoea accounted for 115 consultations, including 81% (93) children under five years. Another 250 consultations were registered for influenza-like illness (ILI), including 54% (136) children under five years. Of all the consultations, **Kismayo** and **Jilib** districts accounted for the highest number with 217 and 236 respectively.
- 33 health facilities in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 4037 consultations, including 45% (1815) children under the age of five. Acute respiratory infection (ARI) accounted for 812 consultations of which 56% (454) were children under five years. Malaria accounted for 144 cases, including 23% (34) children under five years and no related death. Only 48% (69) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. Acute watery diarrhoea accounted for 41 consultations including 44% (18) children under five years and one related death; case fatality rate 2.4. **Merka** and **Brava** districts reported the highest number of cases. In the Merka hospital cholera treatment centre, 13 AWD admissions were reported, including 57% (8) children under five years and one related death of a patient above five years.
- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 34 cases of AWD including 79% (27) children under five years of age and two related deaths.
- The Habeeb hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 20 AWD admissions, including 65% (13) children under five years but no related deaths.

Map of high risk regions of seasonal AWD



WHO response

WHO and partners continue to monitor health events and respond to the ongoing situation in South Central Somalia, through the following activities:

- Following rumor investigations by WHO and partners of an AWD outbreak in Kismayo district, **Lower Juba region**, four suspected measles cases in children were reported and two deaths. Immunization and outreach activities have not been implemented in the area since 1998, awaiting clearance from the local authorities.
- WHO is investigating rumors of whooping cough reported from **Lower Shabelle region**. A few suspected cases in children have been identified. The implementation of catch-up vaccination and outreach activities is limited due to movement restrictions with partners awaiting clearance from local health authorities to carry out these critical life-saving interventions.

In Focus

Making Pregnancy Safer:

Students of Kulmiye hospital receive WHO training on emergency obstetric care.



Medical consultation at Kulmiye Hospital, Afgooye corridor.

WHO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, continues to provide the much needed support for the Kulmiye hospital⁴. Several capacity building initiatives have been initiated to scale up safe delivery for women.

Between **15-22 September 2010**, about 320 people visited the out-patients unit at the Kulmiye Hospital. Most of them were treated from infertility problems and sexually transmitted diseases. Four emergency obstetric operations were successfully carried out. During those operations, one junior doctor and two medical students received on-the-job training. Transmitting knowledge and providing practical training to future Somali medical doctors, is crucial in reducing the high rates of maternal mortality.

All hands-on trainings, including practical demonstrations at the hospital, are provided by WHO in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health.



Medical students getting WHO training on emergency obstetric care at Kulmiye Hospital, Afgooye corridor.

⁴ See special feature '*Kulmiye Hospital welcomes 42 newborns*' in Weekly Highlights of 11-17 September 2010.