



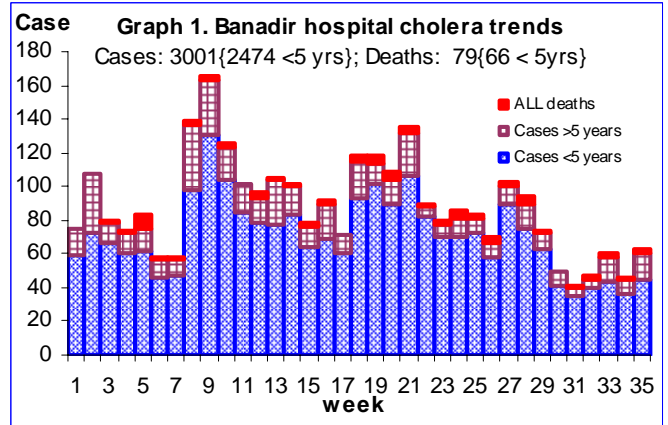
Emergency Humanitarian Action

Weekly Highlights 4-10 September 2010

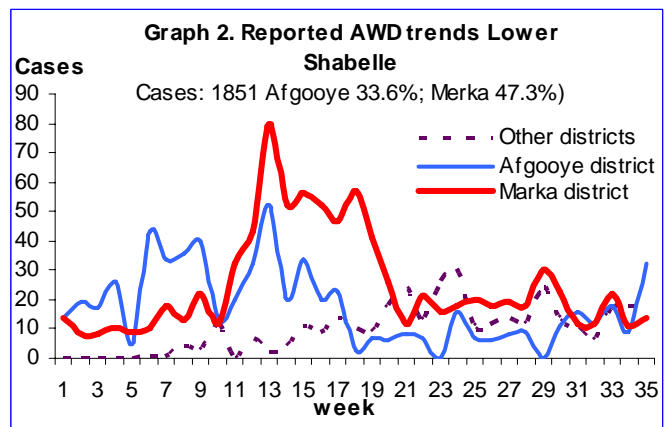
Update on major public health concern:

- Cholera/Acute watery diarrhoea**

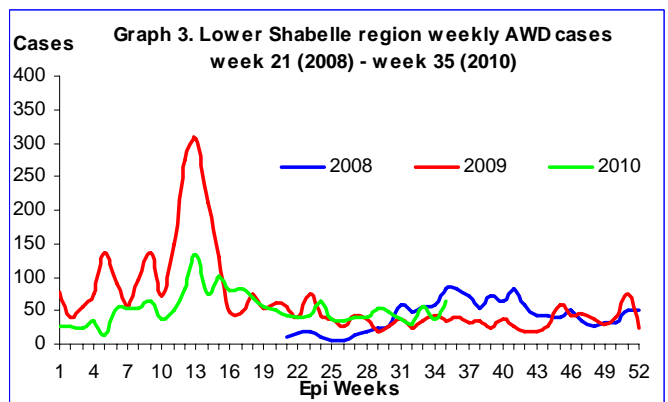
Despite the continued reporting of a high number of cases, the cholera outbreak in Banadir hospital in **Mogadishu (Banadir region)** is declared under control. Since epidemiological week 1¹, a total of 3001 cases, including 2474 under five years of age and 79 deaths, have been reported (*see Graph 1*). WHO and partners will continue to monitor trends of the ongoing cholera outbreak, carrying out preventive and case management interventions in the region.



In week 35², the number of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) cases reported from **Lower Shabelle region** was 64, including 73% (38) children under five years of age. In comparison with week 34, this is a 40% increase. **Merka** and **Afgooye** district alone accounted for over 50% of all reported cases from 33 health facilities in the region. From week 1-35, the two districts accounted for 47% and 33% respectively of all AWD cases (*see Graph 2*).



WHO continues to call on health partners to respond to the current situation, in light of seasonal outbreaks in the past years (*see Graph 3*). Partners are also advised to undertake preparedness plans for the coming seasonal outbreak period especially of AWD.

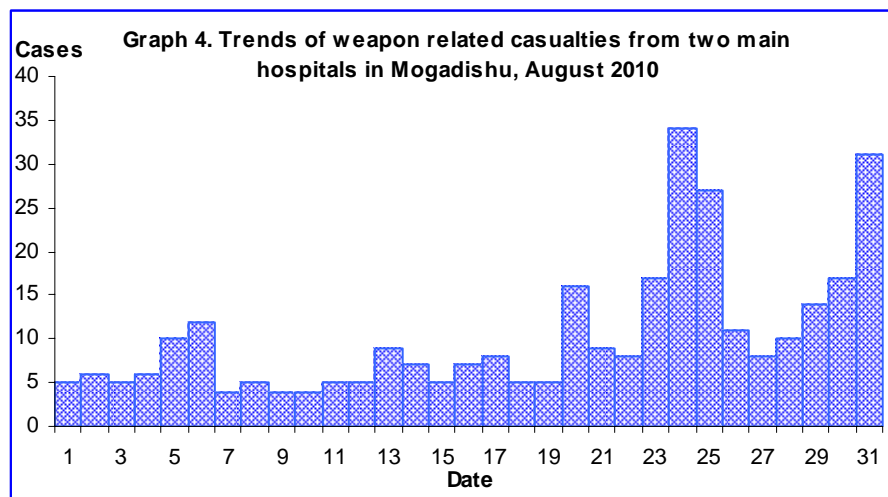


¹Week 1: 4-10 January 2010

²Week 35: 30 August-5 September 2010

- **Conflict and displacement**

Between **1–31 August 2010**, two main hospitals in Mogadishu reported 319 weapon-related casualties, including **15%** (48) children under five years of age and four related deaths (*see caseload graph below*). Due to escalations of the conflict, the number of reported trauma cases increased significantly between the period of 23-31 August, with scores of people injured and an unspecified number of deaths among civilians, including humanitarian aid workers. Since **January 2010**, 2840 weapon-related casualties, including **560** under five years of age and 98 related deaths, have been reported from these two hospitals. The deaths on site of injury are still unknown. It remains a challenge to classify victims as combatants or non-combatants.



From **January-July 2010**, a third hospital in Mogadishu reported 2037 weapon-related injuries; of these 163 cases under the age of 15 years. Female casualties accounted for **34%** (686) of the injured cases.



WHO is concerned by the high number of children being affected by the ongoing conflict in Mogadishu (*Photo by AVRO*)

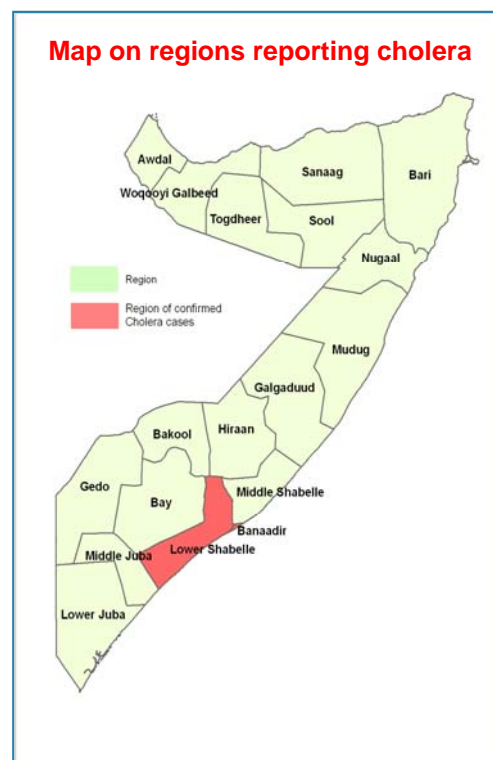
According to UNHCR³, an estimated 28 000 people were displaced in Mogadishu in August due to fighting and insecurity. Of these displacements, more than 10 000 moved to relatively safer districts within the city while over 17 000 others fled to the Afgooye Corridor and other regions namely Gedo and Mudug.

³Somalia Humanitarian Overview #8

Health Events in Somalia

Epidemiological surveillance during week 35

- 14 health facilities in seven districts in **Lower and Middle Jubba regions** reported a total of 878 consultations, including 50% (446) children under five years of age. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 381 consultations, including 40% (152) children under five years with no death. Acute watery diarrhoea accounted for 153 consultations, including 78% (119) children under five years. Another 249 consultations were registered for influenza-like illness (ILI), including 60% (149) were children under five years. Of all the consultations, **Jilib** and **Kismayo** districts accounted for the highest number with 261 and 206 respectively.
- 33 health facilities in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 4095 consultations, including 42% (1730) children under five years of age. Acute respiratory infection (ARI) accounted for 816 consultations of which 55% (448) were children under five years. Malaria accounted for 79 cases including 31% (25) children under five years and no related death. Only 59% (47) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 64 consultations including 59% (38) children under five years and one related death; case fatality rate 1.5. Merka and Afgooye districts reported the highest number of cases. In the Merka hospital cholera treatment centre, 12 admissions were reported, including 75% (9) children under five years and one related death of a patient above five years; case fatality rate 8.3. Despite a significant increase in reported cases compared to week 34, the cholera outbreak in Merka is declared under control.
- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 61 cases of cholera including 73% (45) children under five years of age and two related deaths with one below five years; case fatality rate 3.2. The 15 and seven samples collected from Habeeb and Banadir hospitals respectively tested negative for vibrio cholera.
- Habeeb hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 27 admissions, including 55% (15) children under five years and no related deaths.
- Jowhar hospital in **Middle Shabelle region** reported 21 admissions including 66% (14) children under five years of age with no related death.



WHO response

- From **4-7 September 2010**, WHO conducted a training on outbreak investigations for 48 health workers, including 24 qualified nurses in Merka (**Lower Shabelle region**). This is one among a series of planned trainings in Somalia that will enable to create district-based outbreak investigation and initial response teams. Members of the local health authorities also received induction in order to improve their capacity to detect and report on disease outbreaks and coordinate response activities.
- WHO is pre-positioning new kits and medical supplies in selected strategic warehouses in readiness for distribution and response to AWD outbreaks.