



EHA weekly highlights

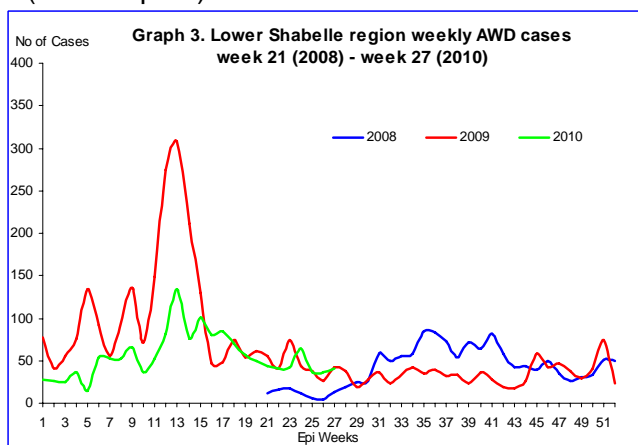
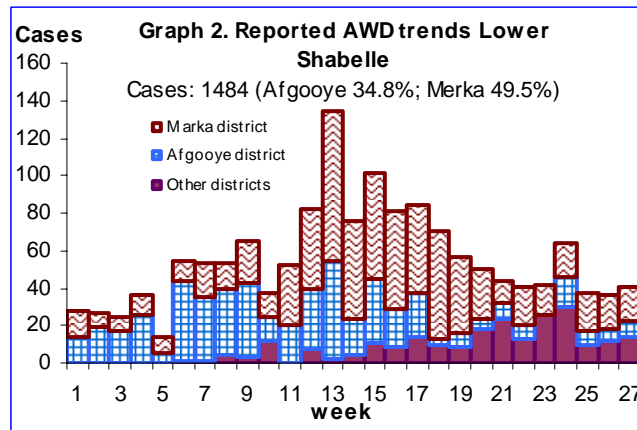
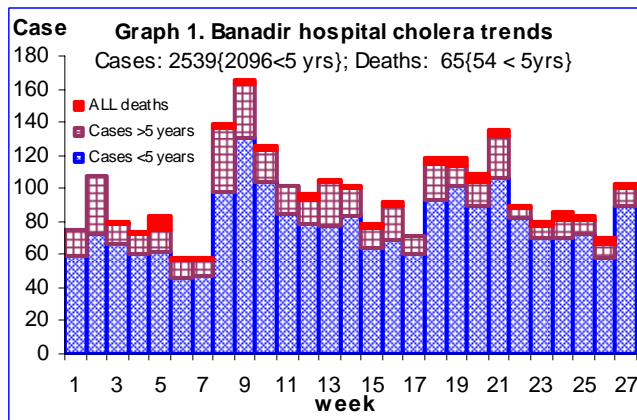
10 - 16 July 2010

Health events in Somalia

Major public health concern - update

The current **cholera** trends at the Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** indicate a 50% increase in cases reported as compared to week 26. This also follows a steady decline in number of reported cases in the preceding four weeks (Graph 1). WHO plans to conduct an AWD management induction training in the coming week for health workers in Banadir region in response to the AWD cases that continue to be reported in Mogadishu. WHO and partners continue to monitor and carry out preventive and case management interventions in **Banadir region**.

In week 27¹, the number of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases reported from **Lower Shabelle region** (where **cholera** was confirmed at Merka cholera treatment centre), remained stable compared to week 26. However, the risk of increase in cases remains high. **Merka** district alone accounted for over 50% of all cases reported from 35 health facilities in the region, whereas 35% of the cases were reported from **Afgooye** district (see Graph 2).

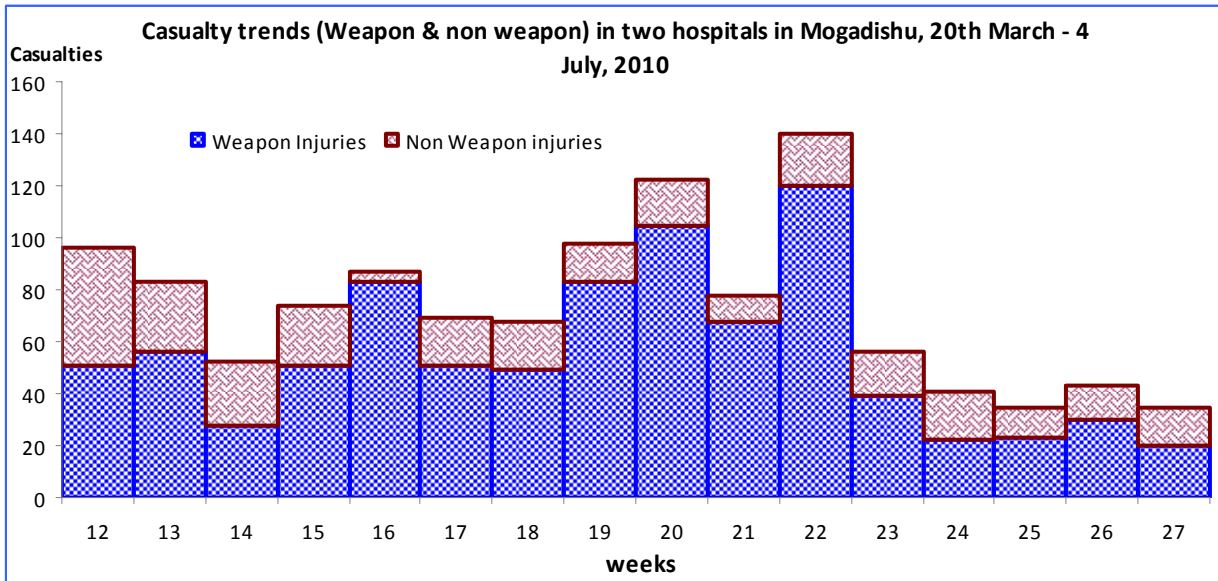


WHO continues to call on health partners to respond to the current situation, in light of seasonal outbreaks in the past years (see Graph 3). The current outbreaks periods have been stretched.

¹ Week 27: 5 – 11 July 2010

Conflict and displacement

- Between **20 March – 4 July**, two of the main hospitals in Mogadishu reported 1602 casualties (weapon and non weapon-related); **25%** (399) children under 5 years and, 48 registered deaths (see weekly caseload graph below). The deaths on site of injury are still unknown. The current concern is that of children under 5 years who account for 19% (165) of the **weapon-related injuries**. From **January-June 2010**, a third hospital reported 1673 weapon-related injuries; of these 132 cases under 15 years. **32%** (543) of the injured cases were female casualties.



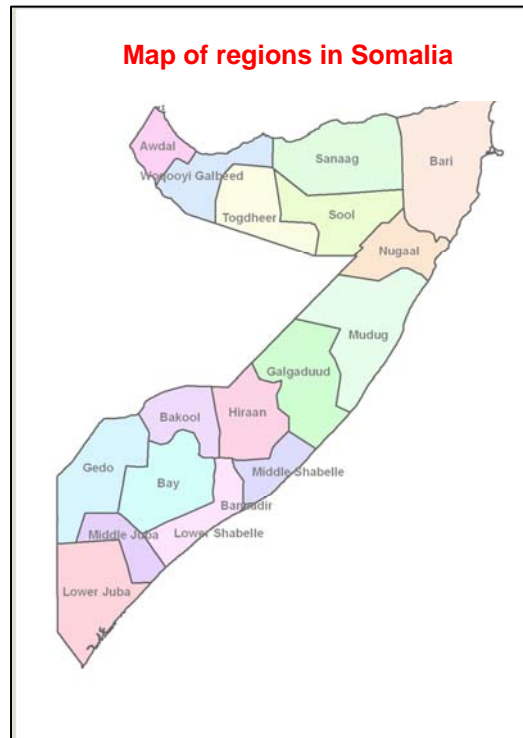
- According to UNHCR² since 1 July, 9600 people were displaced from Mogadishu including 5100 who moved out of the city while 4600 moved to relatively calmer districts within the city.

Epidemiological surveillance

- During week 27, 14 health facilities in seven districts in **Lower and Middle Jubba regions** reported a total of 1471 consultations including 52% (767) children under 5 years. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 578 of these consultations including 33% (191) children under 5 years with no death. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 138 consultations including 83% (115) children under 5 years. 536 consultations for influenza-like illness (ILI) including 68% (358) were children under 5 years. Of all the consultations, the districts of Sakow and Bu'aale accounted for a high number of consultations with 344 and 325 beneficiaries respectively visiting the health facilities.

² OCHA Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin #26

- In week 27, 34 health facilities in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 5010 consultations including 41.4% (2076) children under 5 years. Acute respiratory infection (ARI) accounted for 920 of these consultations of which 55% (508) were children under 5 years and one related death in a patient above 5 years. Malaria accounted for 126 cases including 36.5% (46) children under 5 years. Only 31% (39) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 41 consultations including 61% (22) children under 5 years. Merka and Afgooye districts reported the highest number of cases.
- In week 27, Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 100 cases of **cholera** including 90% (90) children under 5 years and 3 deaths below 5 years. This signifies a 50% increase compared to week 26.
- In week 27, Merka Hospital cholera treatment centre in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 19 admissions including 84% (16) children under 5 years and one related death.
- In week 27, Habeeb Hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, Mogadishu reported 48 admissions including 60% (29) children and 3 related deaths with one case above 5 years. This compares to week 26 that reported 42 admissions.
- In week 27, Shaw village in Jalalaqsi district, **Hiraan region** reported 26 AWD cases including 73% (19) children under 5 years.
- In week 27, rumors of suspected AWD outbreak were reported from the flood-affected villages of Kaytoy-Biyomaa, Buulo Abdirahman, Fanoole, Farah and Jija in **Lower Jubba region**. After visiting the villages, the WHO team confirmed that there is no outbreak. During the visit health education sessions was conducted and aquatabs distributed aquatabs to residents in the area.
- WHO team is investigating rumors of suspected whooping cough outbreak in Rabdhuure, **Bakool region** along the Ethiopian border.



WHO's response

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

- WHO carried out outbreak investigation, following rumors of an increase in numbers of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) cases and deaths in some villages in **Lower Jubba region**. The 9 rectal swabs collected from AWD cases **tested negative** for cholera using Cholera Smart II[®]. WHO and partners are monitoring the situation.
- Following earlier reports on flooding in parts of **Middle Jubba region**, WHO undertook post flood response activities in five affected villages in Jilib district.



Assessment of water point sources at villages in Jilib district that had been contaminated due to the flooding following heavy rains in the region



WHO staff distributes Aqua tabs to communities living in affected villages in Jilib district (Middle Jubba region)

Photos: WHO Somalia