



EHA weekly highlights

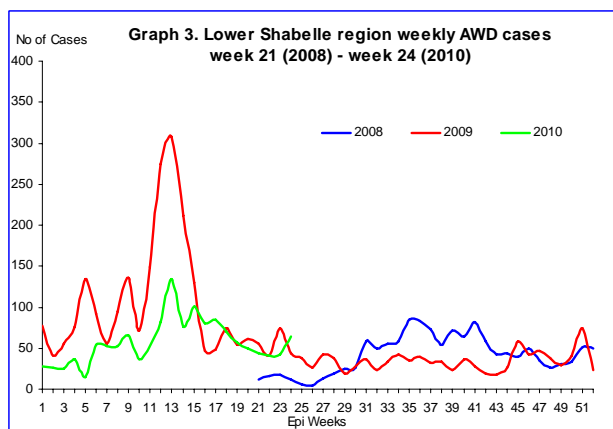
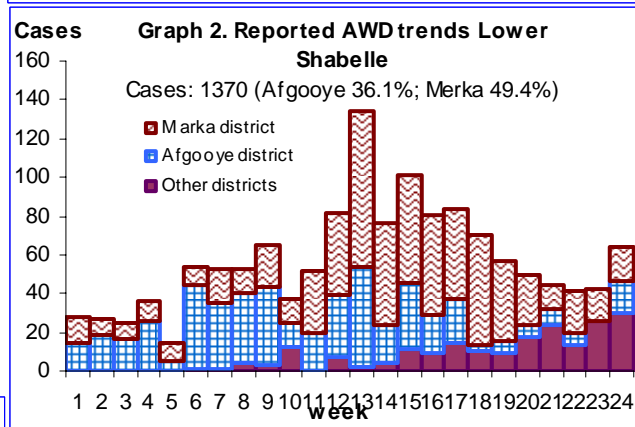
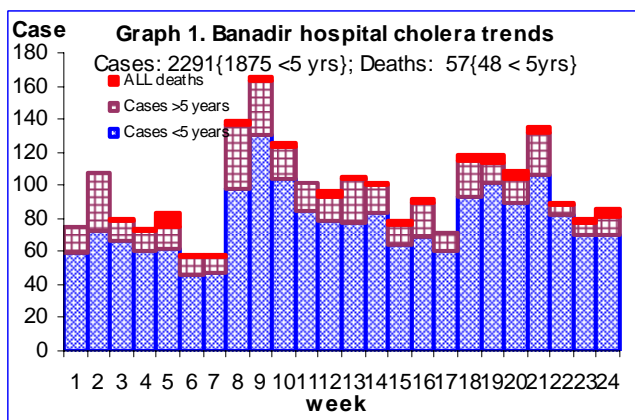
19- 25 June 2010

Health events in Somalia

Major public health concern - update

The current cholera trends at the Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** indicate the need for partners to intensify monitoring, preventive and case management intervention activities in the region. WHO reports that the number of cases reported at the hospital is relatively high (Graph 1).

In week 24¹, a 52% increase was observed in the number of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases reported from **Lower Shabelle region**. With the recent confirmation of cholera at the Merka cholera treatment centre, the risk of increase in cases remains high. Merka district alone accounted for approximately 49% of all cases reported from the region, whereas 36% of the cases were reported from **Afgooye** district (see Graph 2).

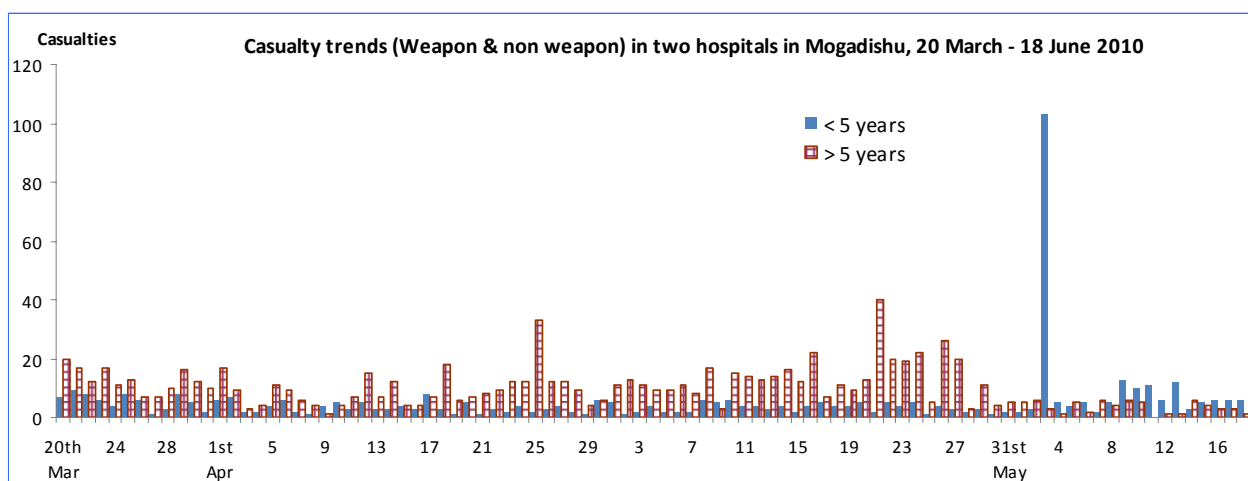


WHO continues to call on health partners to respond to the current situation, in light of seasonal outbreaks in the past years (see Graph 3).

¹ Week 24: 14 – 20 June 2010

Conflict and displacement

- Between 20 March–18 June, 1384 casualties including **23.7%** (328) children under 5 years and 46 registered deaths were reported from two of the main hospitals in Mogadishu (see graph below). The deaths on site are still unknown. Children under 5 years account for 19% (160) of the **weapons-related injuries**, which remains a key concern. From **January-May 2010**, a third hospital reported 1382 weapons-related injuries including 99 cases under 15 years. **32%** (438) of these cases were female casualties.



- According to UNHCR² since 1 April, over 42 000 have been displaced from Mogadishu. Of these, 24 200 have left the city while 17 800 people have moved to relatively calmer parts of the city.

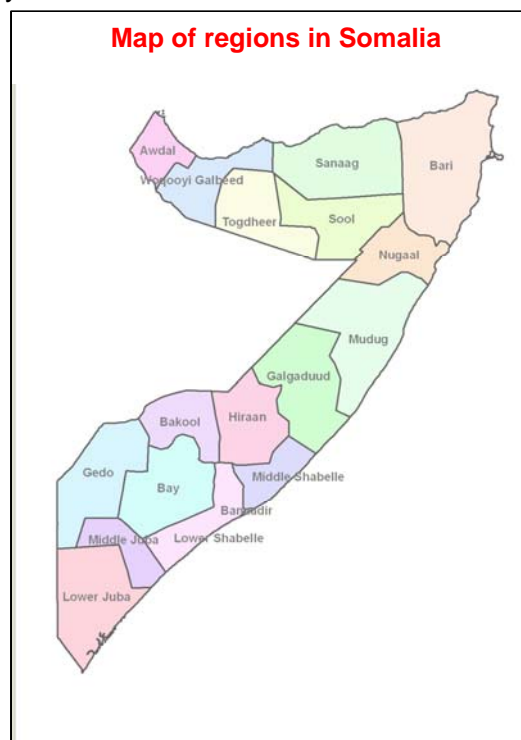
Epidemiological surveillance

- During week 24, 14 health facilities in seven districts in **Lower and Middle Jubba regions** reported a total of 1183 consultations including 52% (621) children under 5 years. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 508 of these consultations including 52% (263) children under 5 years with no death. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 140 consultations including 66% (93) children under 5 years. 346 consultations for influenza-like illness (ILI) including 51% (176) were children under 5 years. Of all the consultations, the districts of Afmadow and Kismayo accounted for 216 and 309 consultations respectively.
- During week 24, 35 health facilities in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 5475 consultations including 40% (2217) children under 5 years. Acute respiratory infection (ARI) accounted for 1200 of these consultations of which 49% (588) were children under 5 years. Malaria accounted for 102 cases including 41% (42) children under 5 years and no related death; only 30% (31) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. Acute watery diarrhea accounted for 64 consultations including 75% (48) children under 5 years and one related death (CFR1.5). The number of reported acute watery diarrhea cases has

² OCHA Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin #23

increase by 50% compared to week 23. Merka and Afgooye districts reported the highest number out of the total consultations.

- In week 24, Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 81 cases of cholera including 77% (70) children under 5 years and no related death.
- In week 24, Merka Hospital cholera treatment centre in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 17 admissions including 59% (10) children under 5 years and one related death.
- In week 24, **Jowhar** Hospital in **Middle Shabelle region** reported 12 AWD admissions including 75% (9) children under 5 years and no related deaths. During the period between 8 May – 20 June, 178 cases have been reported including 70% (125) children under 5 years and 2 related-deaths, one under 5 years (CFR 1.12).
- In week 24, Habeeb Hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 44 admissions including 54.5% (24) children and one related deaths of patients above 5 years (CFR 2.2).
- In week 24, Shaw village in Jalalaqsi district, **Hiraan region** reported 78 AWD cases including 71.8% (51) children under 5 years and 8 related deaths of which four were under 5 years (CFR 10.2). This high CFR is due patients not seeking treatment in time and inaccessibility to health facilities especially following the heavy rains that have destroyed the road networks. The nearest supported health facility is situated 30km from the village.



From **January – May 2010**, a total of 25 013 acute watery diarrhea cases were reported including 51 deaths (case fatality rate 0.2) in all Somalia. Children under five years accounted for 72% (18 642) of the cases and 94% (48) related-deaths. Cases reported from 204 sentinel sites (health facilities) in the country. Regions in South Central Somalia accounted for more than 80% of cases reported in the country.

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 is sending a team to Shaw village to facilitate the set up of a treatment centre for AWD patients in order to deal with the high case fatality rates in the area. Additionally, medical supplies including IV fluids and accessories, and antibiotics will be provided. The team will also train health workers on AWD case investigation, case management and prevention. Samples will be collected for confirmatory diagnosis.
- From 18-20 June, WHO conducted on-the-job training for 30 students and 50 graduates from Banadir University in **Mogadishu**, on basic and advanced emergency surgical trauma management, and comprehensive emergency obstetric surgery.



WHO's latest surgical training is part of an ongoing effort by the organization to improve the skills of Somali healthcare workers so they can save lives amid the current crisis.