



EHA weekly highlights

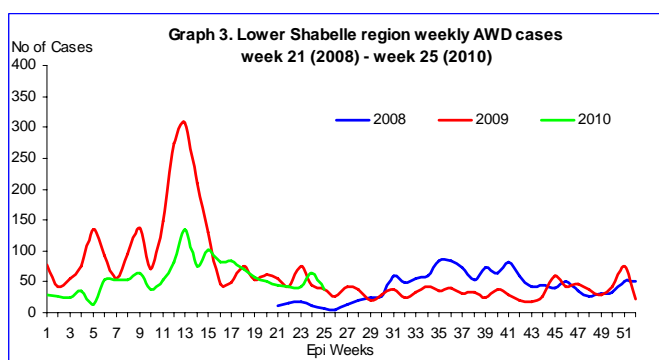
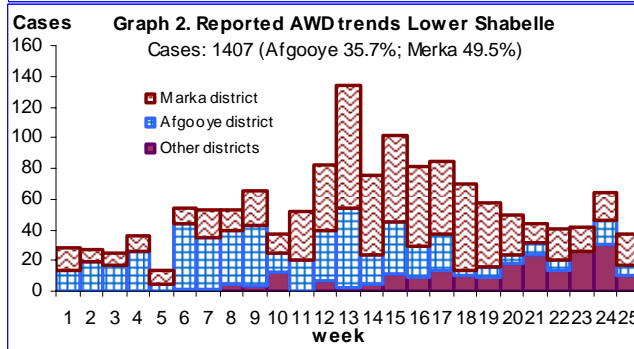
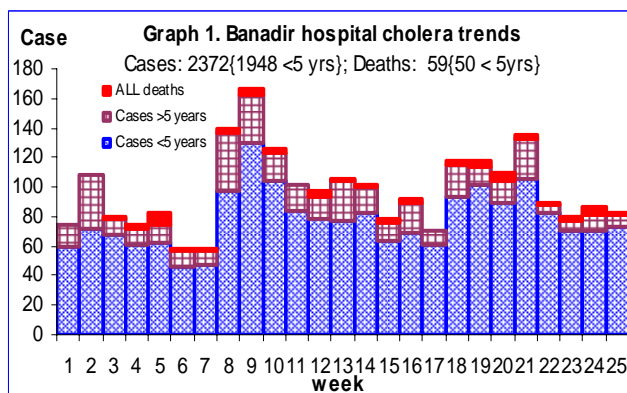
26 June - 2 July 2010

Health events in Somalia

Major public health concern - update

WHO observes that the number of cases reported at the Banadir Hospital in Mogadishu remains relatively high (Graph 1). The current cholera trends at the hospital indicate the need for partners to continue monitoring, preventive and case management interventions in the region.

In week 25¹, a 40% decrease 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 over 50% of all cases reported from 35 health facilities in the region, whereas 18% of the cases were reported from **Afgooye** district (see Graph 2).

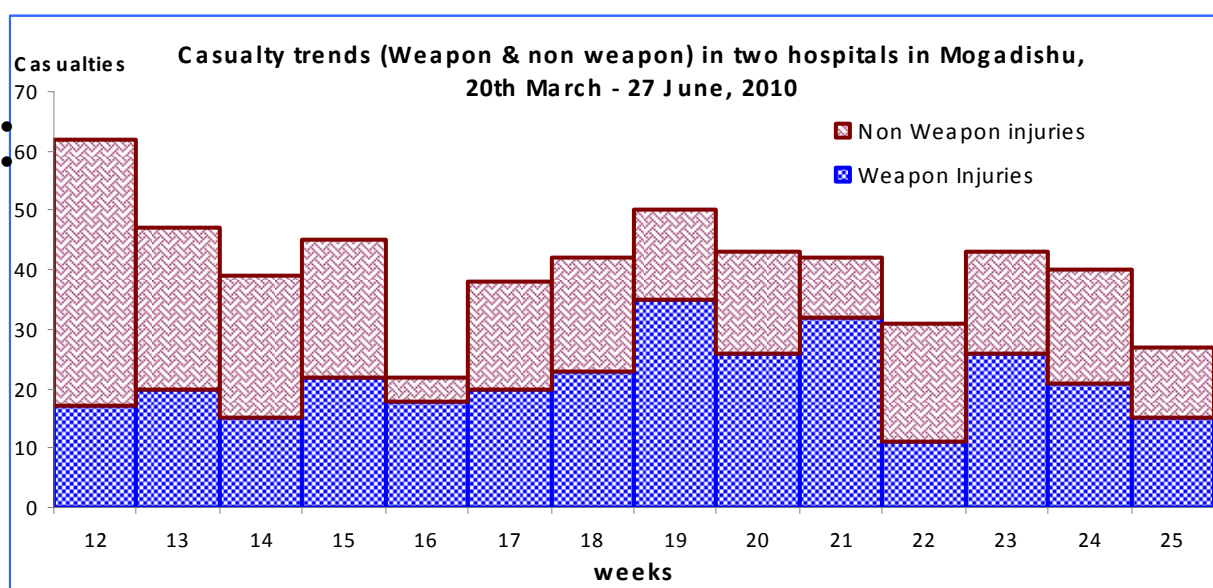


WHO continues to call on health partners to respond to the current situation, in light of seasonal outbreaks in the past years (see Graph 3).

¹ Week 25: 21 – 27 June 2010

Conflict and displacement

- Between 20 March – 27 June, 1464 casualties including **23.7%** (346) children under 5 years and 46 registered deaths were reported from two of the main hospitals in **Mogadishu** (see weekly caseload graph below). The deaths on site are still unknown. Children under 5 years account for 19% (165) of the **weapon-related injuries**, which remains a key concern. From **January-May 2010**, a third hospital reported 1382 weapon-related injuries including 99 cases under 15 years. **32%** (438) of all cases reported from the hospital were female casualties. WHO has since conducted training on emergency surgical procedures and comprehensive obstetric care for 80 students and graduates from Banadir University in **Mogadishu**. Further trainings will be conducted in other priority areas in strengthening care for the injured.



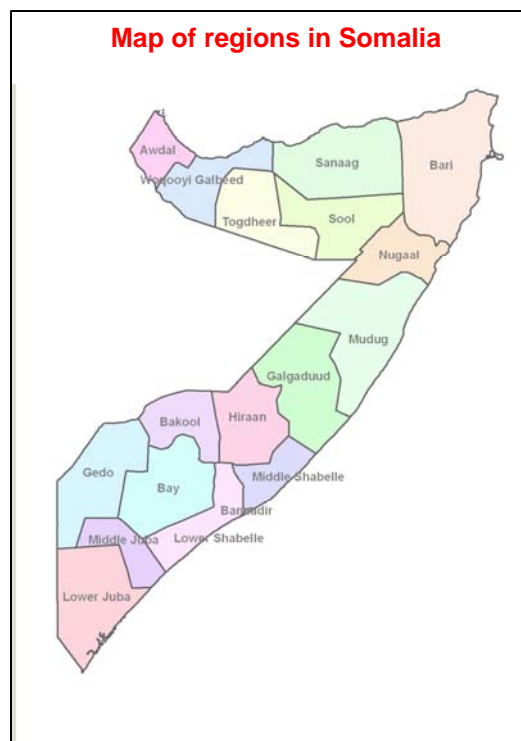
- The number of displaced continues to rise. UNHCR² estimates that 43 700 have been displaced from Mogadishu since 1 April. Of these, 24 600 have left the city while 19 100 people have moved to relatively calmer parts of the city.

Epidemiological surveillance

- During week 25, 14 health facilities in seven districts in **Lower and Middle Jubba regions** reported a total of 1135 consultations including 51% (583) children under 5 years. Suspected malaria cases accounted for 584 of these consultations including 42% (246) children under 5 years with no death. AWD cases accounted for 170 of the total consultations including 77% (131) children under 5 years, 257 consultations for influenza-like illness (ILI) including 54% (139) children under 5 years. Of all the consultations, the districts of Afmadow and Kismayo accounted for 210 and 235 consultations respectively.

² OCHA Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin #24

- In week 25, 35 health facilities in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 5486 consultations including 40% (2219) children under 5 years. Acute respiratory infection (ARI) accounted for 1073 of these consultations of which 57% (610) were children under 5 years. Malaria accounted for 126 cases including 39% (49) children under 5 years and 1 related death; only 36% (46) were confirmed by rapid diagnostic test or microscopy. AWD cases accounted for 37 consultations including 76% (28) children under 5 years and one related death. The number of reported AWD cases has decreased by over 40% compared to week 24. Merka and Afgooye districts reported the highest number out of the total consultations.
- In week 25, Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 81 cases of cholera including 90% (73) children under 5 years and two related deaths under 5 years.
- In week 25, Merka Hospital cholera treatment centre in **Lower Shabelle region** reported 20 admissions including 65% (13) children under 5 years and one related death.
- In week 25, **Jowhar** Hospital in **Middle Shabelle region** reported 10 AWD admissions including 80% (8) children under 5 years and no related deaths. The situation is now stable.
- In week 25, Habeeb Hospital cholera treatment centre in Heliwa district, **Mogadishu** reported 57 admissions including 57.9% (33) children and 1 related death above 5 years.
- In week 25, Shaw village in Jalalaqsi district, **Hiraan region** reported 45 AWD cases including 68.9% (31) children under 5 years and two-related deaths. Access to timely treatment remains a challenge for the locals as the nearest health facility is situated 30km from the village.
- In week 25, over 100 health facilities in 10 regions of **south and central zone** reported 1878 AWD cases including 58.7% (1071) children under 5 years and no related deaths. Five regions namely **Banadir, Lower and Middle Shabelle** and **Lower and Middle Jubba** accounted for 79.7% (1455) of the caseload.
- In week 25, following reports on increase in AWD cases, WHO team visited Huddur and Tiyeglow districts in **Bakool region**. During the visit, AWD was not identified as a major problem however, the team identified 140 cases of suspected leishmaniasis in some villages mainly in Tiyeglow district. Six of the cases were subjected to rapid diagnostic testing with 3 (50%) cases testing positive.



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 set up a treatment centre for AWD patients in order to deal with the high case fatality rate at Shaw village in Jalalaqsi district, **Hiraan region**. AWD case management medical supplies that have been provided include 400 litres of ringer lactate, doxycilline and erythromycine tables for pregnant women and syrup for children. On-the-job training was also carried out for health workers in the area.
- WHO team collected blood samples from suspected cases of leishmaniasis reported from Huddur and Tiyeglow districts of **Bakool region** for confirmatory diagnosis in Nairobi. Results are pending.



Chlorination activities at contaminated water points are being undertaken by WHO and partners