



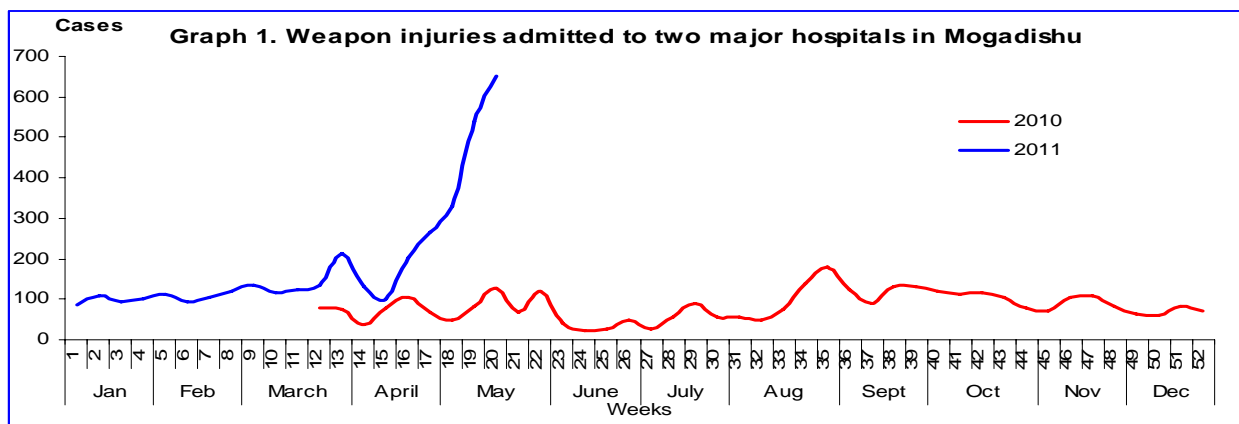
On-the-job training on Basic and Advanced trauma management in children in Mogadishu (Somalia)

May 2011

Background: The number of weapon-related casualties treated at three main hospitals in Mogadishu reached a new peak in the second week of May. The World Health Organization (WHO) is concerned about the escalation of injuries in children younger than five years. Data shows that the main causes of death among children in this age group are burns, chest injuries and internal hemorrhage caused by blast injury, shrapnel and bullets. Of the 1590 reported weapon-related injuries in May, 735 cases or 46% were children under the age of five, compared to only 3.5% in April.



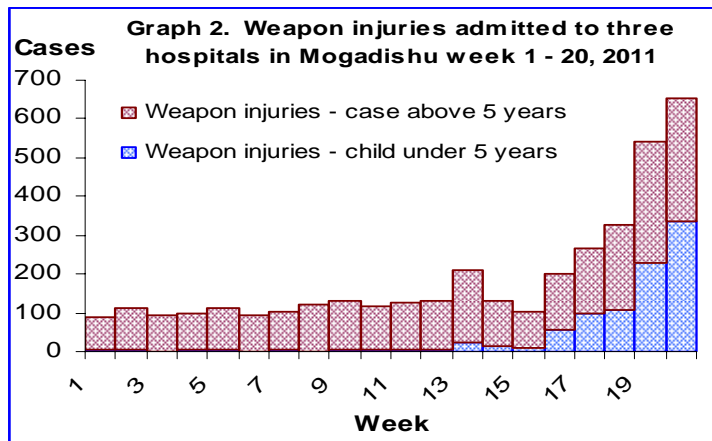
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Emergency health services in Mogadishu struggle with few trained health workers on trauma management in children and inadequate supplies. Health workers need specialized training in trauma management and often do not get the opportunity to receive additional training on medical and surgical advances. The ongoing recent conflict is putting a further burden on the already weak health system.



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Response: From 22 to 27 May 2011, WHO provided on-the-job training to 50 health workers, including 12 physicians, 38 nurses and midwives. The health workers (from ICRC and Ministry of Health) work in two main hospitals of Mogadishu, Banadir and Keysanay hospitals. The training took place in Banadir Hospital and covered topics such as trauma management and emergency obstetric care.

While using power point presentations, surgical books and handouts, the theoretical part of the training focused on the anatomical and physiological differences between children and adults, pre-operative preparation, operative techniques and post operative care. The practical component covered history taking and clinical examination, demonstrations and performing surgical operations.



WHO has provided this specialized training on trauma management in children to Somali doctors and nurses since the children's small bodies are particularly vulnerable to internal injuries and rapid heat loss that leads to death. Therefore special medical attention is required on how to treat the many war-wounded children. Throughout the training, there was a high level of supervision during the delivery of services, benefiting the patients in the hospitals who had suffered conflict-related injuries.

In addition to these capacity building efforts, WHO is supporting Banadir Hospital with one trauma kit (one kit can treat 100 severely wounded people) and two operating theatre kits (one kit includes an operating table, operative lights, surgical instruments, medical supplies, drums and sutures to fully equip one operating theatre).



The approach highlights how on-the-job training within the humanitarian response, can be integrated into service delivery, thus acting as an important linkage between humanitarian and early recovery activities. On-the-job training is an essential way to ensure that the limited number of health workers are not withdrawn from their role in services to receive training.

To maximize the impact of the training of health workers, WHO has identified the following urgent needs:

- With the current caseload, Banadir Hospital needs additional medical supplies, such as trauma kits, for its emergency medical services. One trauma kit provides treatment for 100 severely wounded patients
- The hospital is in urgent need of 100 chest drains with different sizes (8-16), to decompress the pressure in the lungs of the wounded children.
- The current x-ray machine in the hospital needs to be upgraded and supplied with photographic films, to better diagnose and manage trauma cases.
- Additional training on basic trauma life support for children is required for other hospitals staff, including paramedics and ambulance drivers.
- To save time in bringing the wounded patients to the various health facilities, fully-equipped ambulances are needed. WHO has upgraded the current fleet of ambulances in Mogadishu. However, WHO recommends the provision of six fully equipped ambulances to cover especially Afgoye corridor.
- Urgent need of a generator to have electricity 24/24 to carry out the many operations within the hospital. WHO is in the process of providing the hospital with 2 generators of 160KV each.
- To improve and secure access to safer areas and the various health facilities, especially from the areas in Mogadishu hardest hit by the conflict, to provide the much needed medical assistance to the many wounded patients.



WHO would like to thank Banadir Hospital, health authorities, OCHA, NORAD and other partners, particularly involved in security procedures, who made this training possible.