



World Health
Organization



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WHO outbreak investigation team denied access to the drought-affected population in Waambati village, Dinsor district in Bay region 15 - 21 February 2011

Background: In response to rumors of an outbreak of severe respiratory tract infection (SARI) in Waambati village in Dinsor district, WHO team moved to conduct verification of the cases. More than 90 deaths were reported between the months of January and February although a number of reports received from the area contradicted this information.

On **16 February 2011**, the team arrived in Dinsor district and requested permission to that was granted by the local authorities carry out investigations. Later the district commissioner denied the team access as security could not be guaranteed for them if they were not transporting large quantities of medical supplies to the area.

The objectives of the mission included carrying out retrospective verbal autopsies among the population regarding the deaths and symptoms manifested in the patients prior to their death and, the establishment of a temporary health post to make available services to the drought-affected population residing at the village. As there is no health facility in the area, the health post would serve to generate first hand information of the health status of the estimated 2000 people living in makeshift shelters.

Additionally, WHO investigation team was to collect samples from suspected cases for referral to Nairobi for laboratory confirmatory.

During the visit it was established that an estimated 290 families of whom 120 were hunters from Geelway and 70 farmers from Oflaw live in makeshift shelters in the south and east of Dinsor town respectively.

Currently there are nine functioning health facilities in Dinsor district; a hospital supported by MSF; one mother and child health centres (MCH) and seven health posts are supported by GTZ in collaboration with UNICEF.

Response: While monitoring the situation through contacts, WHO is re-negotiating access to the area and intend to immediately establish a health post at the village.