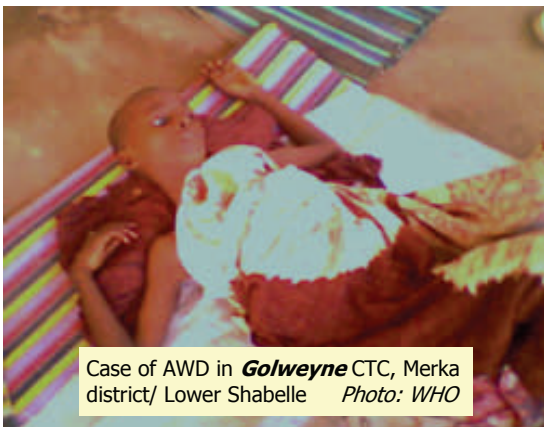


# Somali Health Cluster Bulletin #20



Case of AWD in **Golweyne** CTC, Merka district/ Lower Shabelle Photo: WHO

## February 2009

The Somali Health Cluster Bulletin aims to provide an overview of the health activities conducted by the health cluster partners active in Somalia.

The Health Cluster Bulletin is issued on a monthly basis; and available online at [www.emro.who.int/somalia/healthcluster](http://www.emro.who.int/somalia/healthcluster)

**Contributions are to be sent to [cluster@nbo.emro.who.int](mailto:cluster@nbo.emro.who.int)**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Co-funded by UNDP, COOPI and WHO, UNOPS has completed the first phase of Baidoa general hospital rehabilitation
- Multiple rumors of AWD, including Jamaame and Kismaayo in Lower Jubba; Jilib and Wanlaweyne in Middle Jubba; and Golweyne and Buulo Mareer in Lower Shabelle, are being investigated
- 13 cases of Measles were reported from IDP camps in Galkayo/ Mudug
- Fighting in Mogadishu between 24 and 25 February killed at least 48 civilians; more than 500 people moved to calmer areas along Afgooye corridor

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Fighting broke out in **Mogadishu's** Hodan district between 24 and 25 February, killing at least 48 civilians (UNHCR). More than 500 people moved to calmer areas along Afgooye corridor (reliefweb). The turn of events raises concerns for 40,000 IDPs who had returned to Mogadishu since 15 January. The majority of returnees are from Hiraan, Mudug, and Galgaduud in Lower and Middle Shabelle, which are experiencing a combination of renewed conflict and severe drought (UNHCR 27 Feb).
- On 27 February, 7 people were seriously injured in Shabeeley village/ **Hagar** district in Lower Jubba, when a dispute between 2 nomadic groups broke out over water and pasture. The injured have been referred to Kismaayo general hospital. Elders and Islamic Court Union are intervening to calm the tension.
- Drought has hit central Somalia's Galgaduud region. Most severely affected are areas of Dhabad, 130km north-west of the regional capital Dusamareb; Hanan Buuro, 30km west; and Ada Kibir, 150km north-east. (IRIN 24 Feb)

### HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

#### Health Coordination & Capacity Building

- In a meeting of WHO with the new Minister of Health in **Puntland**, Dr. Bashir Ali Bihi, on 25 February, major health emergency challenges for the region were identified as follows: Seasonal AWD outbreaks, particularly in IDP camps; and drought and related food insecurity and malnutrition. An emergency preparedness plan for Puntland is in place; however coordination among partners can be improved.

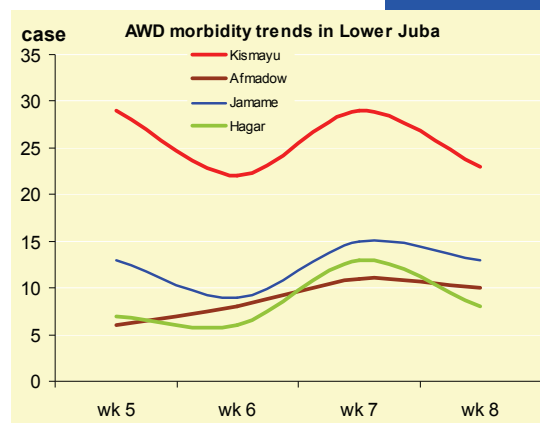
#### Communicable Diseases & Environmental Health

- **Somali Aid Foundation** distributed de-worming tablets (Mebentazole 100mg) for children under 5 years in the first week of February 2009 in **Hagar/** Lower Jubba and surrounding villages as part of their de-worming efforts in the district.

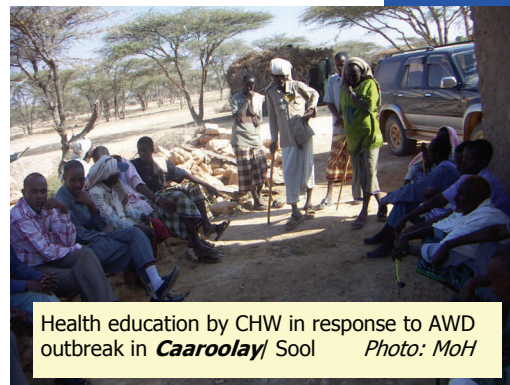


## Surveillance of AWD/Cholera

- In epidemiological weeks 5-8 (31 January - 27 February), a total of 333 AWD cases, 73% in children <5 years, and including a total of 7 related deaths, were reported from Lower and Middle Jubba regions. The 35 reporting sites in Lower Shabelle reported a total of 628 cases and 37 deaths related to AWD in the same period.
- Between 31 January and 27 February 2009 (epidemiological weeks 5-8), 50 cases of AWD, including 39 children (78%) under the age of 5 years and no related death, were reported from all health facilities in **Jamaame** district/ Lower Jubba. 10 of the total cases, including 4 children <5, were reported on 3 February 2009 from the villages of Lokone, Banbila, Mashaqo and Moofi. All AWD cases are referred to the CTC which has been established with capacity for 100 patients.
- A sudden increase in AWD cases was reported by Muslim Aid from 2 IDP camps (Farjanno and Alanley) in **Kismaayo**/ Lower Jubba on 5 February 2009. Active case investigation was initiated by **Muslim Aid, SRCS, SFREC** and **WHO**. In total, between 31 January and 27 February 2009, 103 cases of which 71% (73) in children <5 and 3 deaths (CFR 2.91%), of which 1 in the age group of 5 years and above, were reported. All patients were treated under strict supervision, and ORS were distributed to affected families in the camps.
- Response measures in both **Kismaayo** and **Jamaame** include chlorination of shallow wells by **Muslim Aid** and **SRCS**, and health education addressing food vendors. **WHO** has sent *Carry-Blairs* from their Wajid office to Bu'aale for further distribution and one cholera rapid diagnostic test kit to Jamaame; and is distributing household aqua tabs. **UNICEF** provided one cholera kit and chlorine powder to Muslim Aid for interventions in Kismaayo and Jamaame.
- Between 31 January and 27 February, 35 AWD cases were reported from **Afmadow**/ Lower Jubba, including 30 (86%) children <5 and no related death.
- In the same period, 34 cases were reported from **Hagar**/ Lower Jubba, including 24 (71%) children <5 and no related death. In Hagar town, 5 stool samples were collected (2 from children under the age of 5 years). All samples tested negative for *Vibrio Cholerae* with Cholera rapid diagnostic tests (*SMART II*). Active case finding is ongoing.
- On 23 February, 12 cases of AWD, including 1 death (7 year old boy) were reported from Kamdada village in **Jilib** district/ Middle Jubba. Active case investigation is ongoing. Overall, between 31 January and 27 February, 111 cases were reported from Jilib district, including 77 (69.2%) children <5 and 1 related death. The caseload is increasing since epidemiological week 6.
- An alarming increase in numbers of AWD has been reported from Yaq Beri Weyne, 20km West of **Wanlaweyne**/ Lower Shabelle, between 21 and 27 February: 43 cases, including 10 related deaths (CFR 23.25%); 44% of all cases, and 40% of all deaths occurred in the age group of 5 years and above. WHO is distributing ORS and aqua tabs, and conducted a training for the community on how to use them. A support team for outbreak investigation and data verification is scheduled to visit the area.
- Between 28 January and 9 February, a total of 74 AWD cases, including 9 related deaths (CFR 12.16%) were reported from **Golweyne** CTC/ Merka district in Lower Shabelle. 42.9% (31) of the cases and 44.4% (4) of all deaths were children <5 years.
- A total of 65 cases of AWD, including 6 related deaths (CFR 9.23%) were reported from **Buulo Mareer**/ Kurtuunwaarey district in Lower Shabelle between 26 January and 9 February 2009. While 60% (39) of the cases were children under the age of 5 years, 83.3% (5) of the deaths occurred in the age group of 5 years and above.



- In response to the suspected cholera outbreaks in Lower Shabelle, **COSV** had opened a CTC in both **Golweyne** and **Buulo Mareer**. A total of 500,000 aqua tabs (250,000 per location, each to purify 1 liter of water) were distributed. Social mobilization and health education were conducted in the communities, including information about prevention and treatment of AWD, sanitation and clean water. Cholera rapid diagnostic tests and *Carry-Blairs* were provided by **WHO**. Since 19 February, no new cases have been reported and the CTCs have been closed.
- 122 cases of AWD, including 6 (all children <5) related deaths (CFR 4.91%) were reported in epidemiological weeks 7 and 8 from Carroolay/ **Sool**, 70km North of Garoowe. A team of **MoH** with support by **Merlin**, and medical supplies (i.e. 1 box of ringer lactate and 200 ORS sachets, and containers for specimen collection and transport) by **WHO**, has initiated active case investigation and response, including community awareness activities. 3 stool samples were collected and all tested negative for *Vibrio Cholerae* with SMART rapid diagnostic test. The visit was also used to treat all children with vitamine A and mebendazole.
- Rumours of increasing numbers of AWD cases were reported from **Buurhakaba/** Bay, with 45 cases, including 13 related deaths (CFR 28.88%) between 29 January and 24 February 2009. The situation is being monitored closely by WHO to verify the data.



Health education by CHW in response to AWD outbreak in **Caaroolay/** Sool Photo: MoH

### **Water & Sanitation**

- Water chlorination activities, with support of **UNICEF**, in **Lower Jubba** have been carried out this month by **SRCS** and **Muslim Aid** in Kismaayo town and IDP camps; by **AFREC** in Afmadow and surrounding villages; by **Somali Aid Foundation** in Hagar; and by the local NGO **Juba Shine** in Jamaame, who also repaired a local borehole.

### **Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD)**

- In the last week of February, 2 clinically diagnosed cases of Measles were reported from Gududey in **Jilib** district/ Middle Jubba. **SRCS** and **WHO** initiated active case investigation in which one suspected case was found. Even though the girl had full immunization coverage, Measles could not be ruled out and the patient is being monitored.
- 12 laboratory confirmed cases of Measles, of which 6 in children under the age of 5 years, have been reported from Tawakal IDP camp and 1 case from Bula Ba'ley IDP camp in **Galkayo/** Mudug between 27 February and 3 March 2009. The local NGO **PMWDO** (Puntland Minority Women Development Organization) has started mass vaccination to all children and social mobilization in 11 IDP camps in Galkayo in the last week of February.
- Rumors of Measles in **Bossasso/** Bari, **Burao/** Togdheer and **Awdal** are being investigated.

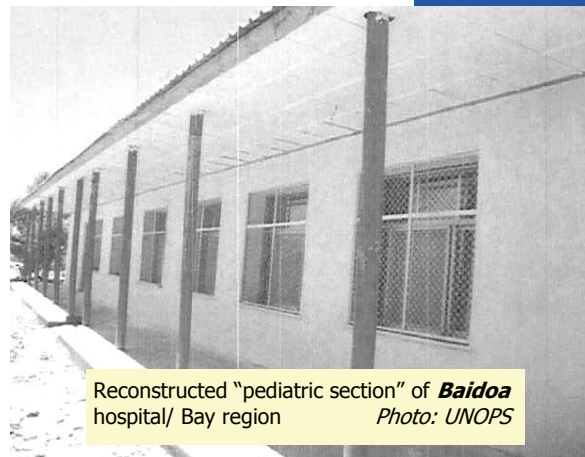
### **Primary and Secondary Health Care**

- More than 40 people, mainly women and children, were injured in a traffic accident in the third week of February in **Jilib** district/ Middle Jubba, when 2 lorries carrying IDPs towards the Kenyan border collided on the road between Mogadishu and Kismaayo. **Mercy USA** provided first aid to the wounded. The patients were admitted to Kismaayo general hospital, and 2 serious cases were transferred to Mararey field hospital.
- In the last week of February, more than 20 patients, predominantly women and children, were admitted to **Kismaayo** hospital/ Lower Jubba. The majority of cases was related to respiratory infections.
- Concerning numbers of septicemia cases continue to be reported from Kismaayo general hospital/ Lower Jubba.

- **AFREC** is assisting IDPs on their way to Kenya in **Dobely** town/ Lower Jubba with basic primary health care services, while **Somali Aid Foundation** is covering the area of **Hagar/** Lower Jubba.

#### Rehabilitation of & support to health facilities

- Co-funded by UNDP, COOPI and WHO, **UNOPS** has been rehabilitating **Baidoa** hospital/ Bay between September 2008 and February 2009. Components of the rehabilitation included: construction of male and female medical wards; demolition and reconstruction of pediatrics ward; rehabilitation of services building; construction of new mortuary; construction of new generator room and incinerator. As of 26 February, 90% of the construction work has been completed.
- UNOPS is now completing the 1st phase by issuing the bidding for the operations theatre, and preparing the 2nd phase consisting of rehabilitation of maternity section, before moving on to the 3rd phase including construction of infectious diseases section, new emergency response unit, X-ray, pharmacy, medical staff stations, storage, laboratory and administrative offices.



Reconstructed "pediatric section" of **Baidoa** hospital/ Bay region  
Photo: UNOPS

#### Health Education & Public Awareness

- Health education activities addressing the prevention of AWD, personal and environmental hygiene, in **Lower** and **Middle Jubba** have been carried out by **AFREC** in Afmadow district and Kismaayo; by **Muslim Aid** in Jamaame and surrounding villages (Maanamoofoa, Baarka, Sanguuni, and Maleyey) and Kismaayo town; and by **World Concern** in Jilib district.
- **AFREC** activities also include the prevention of Schistosomiasis; while **Muslim Aid** are addressing also the prevention of Malaria and Bilharzia.
- Throughout February, **World Vision** continued their health education for mothers and members of different community groups in Salalge, Sakow and Bu'aale districts in **Middle Jubba**, addressing topics such as transmission of AWD and its prevention; water purification; and personal hygiene related to food preparation. Other topics addressed included malaria prevention and breast feeding promotion.