

# Somali Health Cluster Bulletin #23

AFREC health worker assisting AWD case in Afmadow district (Lower Jubba)  
Photo: WHO



## May 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)*

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Fighting in Mogadishu since 8 May killed at least 250, injured up to 800 and has displaced 67,000 persons.
- UNICEF compound in Jowhar is under control of insurgent groups. Looting of warehouses, including the loss of medical supplies, is jeopardizing planned health interventions and provision of supplies to health facilities in the region.
- Heavy rains in Mogadishu claimed the lives of 20 people and forced hundreds of families from their homes.

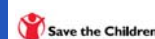
### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Torrential rains hitting **Mogadishu** in mid-May claimed the lives of at least seven people as houses were destroyed and the city's run-down roads were rendered impassable. At least 15 more were injured with hundreds of families forced from their homes. On 21 May, heavy rains caused the deaths of another 11 people. Residents of Tiihda camp had to leave, and some settlements on Afgooye corridor were affected as well.
- Following a period of relative stability in **Mogadishu** when some 70,000 of previously displaced people had started returning to their homes between January and April 2009, renewed fighting since mid-May resulted in more destruction of homes and properties, killed at least 250 and injured up to 800 people.
- UNHCR estimates the number of people displaced from **Mogadishu** between 8 and 29 May at 70,000. Of those, 27,000 have moved within Mogadishu or to IDP settlements along the outskirts of the city; 23,000 to Afgooye IDP settlements; 9,400 to Daynile/ KM10-13/ Garas Baaley.
- Heavy fighting in the night of 19 May 2009 was reported from Northern **Mogadishu**, including attacks on two AMISOM bases. On 23 May, Villa Somalia was heavily targeted; and a suicide car bomb attack hit a police academy in Mogadishu, killing 10 people. Tension in the city remains high, and renewed fighting and related displacement are anticipated.
- The UNICEF compound in **Jowhar** is under control of insurgent groups, and equipment was looted from its warehouses, with a substantial loss of NFIs, medicines and nutrition materials. UNICEF is particularly concerned about the spoilage of medicines and vaccinations which has resulted from the looting of its generators and the consequent break-down of the cold chain. While UNICEF is yet to determine the impact, there is serious concern about the implications for its immunization programme for hundreds of thousands of children and women; and partners have been alerted to anticipate delays in UNICEF delivery of supplies and issuance of payments. UNICEF further expects serious disruption of their supply delivery capacity in **Hiraan** region, due to the security situation in Belet Weyne.
- Clashes have been reported from **Galgadud** region and are predicted to spread to other areas. After a failed assassination attempt, the governor of Belet Weyne resigned on 21 May. The entire corridor between Mogadishu and Belet Weyne is reportedly insecure, in anticipation of major fighting in the days/weeks ahead, as insurgent groups are already advancing to the town.

<sup>1</sup> Information concerning the situation and developments in Mogadishu is provided in daily updates by the Mogadishu Emergency Operations Room (MEOR)



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## HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

### Assessments & Monitoring

- Hospitals in central **Mogadishu** are reported to be overwhelmed by the large number of casualties in need of urgent medical attention (UNHCR). Mogadishu has 5 functioning hospitals (in 2 in Medina, Daynile, Karan, and Heliwa); 22 MCHs and/or OPDs (in Hodan, Daynile, Dharkenley, Boondheere, Medina, Cabdulasiis, Heliwa, Xamar Jab-Jab, Yaaqshid, Hawl-Wadag, Karan, Wardhigley, Shibis, and Xamar Weyne); several private clinics; 2 TB centers (Ayaan and Buulo Hubey), and a TB and X-ray clinic in Xamar Jab-Jab.
- In **Jowhar** town, 2 hospitals (Regional and Maternity) are operational; and 7 functional MCH/OPDs are situated in Jowhar district (namely in Gololey, Bulo Sheikh, Kulmis, Biyo Cade, Buurane, and Mahaday).
- **Afgooye corridor** is covered with primary care services within 1.5km from any IDP settlement over 10,000 population. Health services are provided in 2 hospitals (District Hospital in Afgooye and private hospital in Hawa Abdi); 6 MCH/OPDs (in km-13, Afgooye, Celasha Biya, Hawa Abdi and Laphole); 6 OPDs (in Laphole, Garasbaley, Dharkeynley, Celasha, Daqa Qaranka, and Agric); 1 HP in Bulalow/Labadonka; and mobile clinics in 28 camps (22 camps in Celasha area and 6 in Daaga Qaranka, Jamacaada Beraaha, Dugsiga Sare/Beraaha, Jamacaada Lafoole, Caash Gorod and Carbiska/Jawaahir).

### Training activities

- In the first week of May, **Muslim Aid UK** trained 6 auxiliary nurses from **Jamaame** and **Kismaayo** TB centers (Lower Jubba) to improve treatment standards and reduce the risk of multi-drug resistance.
- In the last week of May, **WHO** conducted a training on AWD prevention and case management in SRCS-run Muganbo health center which covers 22 surrounding villages in **Jamaame district** (Lower Jubba).

### Communicable Diseases & Environmental Health

- **AFREC** continues efforts to dispose carcasses of livestock in **Jilib** and **Afmadow** districts (Middle and Lower Jubba) in order to mitigate the public health risk.

### Surveillance of AWD/Cholera

- In epidemiological weeks 17-20 (25 April - 22 May 2009), a total of 713 cases was reported from Jamaame (121), Afmadow (86), Hagar (47), Kismaayo (117), and Badhaadhe (58) in **Lower Jubba**, and Jilib (149), Bu'aale (45), Sakoow (50), and Salalge (40) in **Middle Jubba**. 78% (557) of all cases, and the three related deaths reported from Kismaayo, occurred in children under 5.
- Between 2-29 May, **InterSOS** reported 398 cases of AWD and 8 related deaths (CFR 2%) from **Jowhar** hospital (Lower Jubba). 70% (281) of cases and 37% (3) of deaths are children under 5.
- **AFREC** reported an increase of AWD in **Dhobley** (Lower Jubba), with 10 cases admitted on 30 April. Three children under 5 died between 26 and 30 April. **WHO** provided IV infusions and ORS; **UNICEF** has supplies pre-positioned in Jamaame/ Afmadow to be dispatched as necessary.
- **AFREC** reported an increase of AWD in **Afmadow district** (Lower Jubba) in epidemiological week 19 with a total of 60 cases from Godaya (9); Tarri (21); Fanqal (10); Jamar (14); and Magar (6). 2 deaths were reported from Tarri (CFR 3.33%). 45% (27) of all cases were children under the age of 5 years. AFREC with support of WHO has started active case investigation. ORS was distributed as necessary; 3 severe cases received Ringer Lactate and were later referred to the makeshift CTC in Afmadow town.
- Between 23-26 May, a total of 100 cases of AWD and 1 related death (in Buulo-Guduud) were reported from Buulo-Guduud (34); Gobweyn (18); Yoontooy (31); Buulo-Obliko (7); and Qaam-Qaam (10) near **Kismaayo** (Lower Jubba). 52% of all cases were children under 5. **Muslim Aid** initiated active case investigation and distributed ORS; all samples tested with **SMART II** cholera kit were negative. **WHO** will do residual chlorine tests of surrounding shallow water wells.
- In epidemiological weeks 17-20 (25 April - 22 May 2009), EWARS in **Lower Shabelle** reported a total of 19,460 consultations. Leading causes of morbidity were Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) with 4,096 cases and Diarrhoeal Diseases (DD) with 2,273 cases. Of the DD, 239 cases were Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), including 6 deaths (CFR 2.51%).

Carcasses in Lower Jubba. An estimated 50% of cows in the region have died due to prolonged drought  
Photo: WHO



- Between 3 Jan (onset) and 27 May 2009, a total of 208 cases of AWD, including 5 deaths (CFR 2.4%) were reported from **Merka** Hospital CTC (Lower Shabelle). Four out of five stool samples collected between 23 April and 4 May tested positive for *Vibrio Cholerae* with Cholera Smart II kit. Three of the positive cases came from Horseed, one from Wadajir; all are children, two of them below the age of 5 years. **COSV** is doing the case management; 2 Cholera kits are pre-positioned by **WHO**; and **MDM** also has supplies.
- Between 6 March (onset) and 27 May 2009, a total of 475 cases of AWD, including 14 deaths (CFR 2.95%) were reported from **Wanlaweyne** CTC (Lower Shabelle). 41% (193) of all cases and 57% (8) of all deaths were children under the age of 5 years. After Cholera was laboratory confirmed in March, the trend of cases went down from 14 April; the situation has stabilized.
- Banadir Hospital in **Mogadishu** reported 783 cases of AWD and 10 related deaths (CFR 1.27%) between 25 April and 22 May (epidemiological weeks 17-20). 86% (672) of all cases and 80% (8) of all deaths were children under the age of 5 years.
- **World Vision** is reporting that AWD in **Buurhakaba** (Bay region) is under control. After no new cases were admitted in May, the CTCs have been closed.

### Water & Sanitation

- Water chlorination, health education and hygiene promotion activities in Middle and Lower Jubba are ongoing with **Juba Shine** in **Jamaame**, **World Vision** in **Bu'aale**, **SRCS** in **Badaade**, **Mercy USA** in **Jilib**, **AFREC** in **Afmadow** and **Dhobley**, and **Muslim Aid** in **Kismaayo**.
- With support of community initiative cooperatives, 5 new shallow wells were dug in the first week of May in **Hagar** district (Lower Jubba) to mitigate water scarcity.

### Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD)

- The Child Health Days (CHDs) by **WHO** and **UNICEF** for **Puntland** were scheduled to start 10 May, however had to be postponed to June.
- Two rounds of National Immunization Days (NIDs) are planned to be implemented by **WHO** and partners in June and July throughout Somalia. Regions that have not yet completed CHDs will be delayed accordingly.
- A total of 45 cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) have been reported in 2009 (as of 30 April 2009). 36 of the cases have been discarded and 9 are pending for laboratory results.
- Between epidemiological weeks 1 and 18 (3 Jan - 8 May 2009), a total of 834 suspected Measles cases were reported from Somalia; of those, 380 (46%) from **Bari region** in Puntland.
- Between 12 April and 26 May 2009, 99 cases of suspected Measles have been reported from and treated in **Guriel** hospital in Belet Weyne district (Hiraan). 50% of the patients were above 5 years of age (up to 25 years). 97% have come from Guriel district (within 10km distance from Guriel town), and few cases from Abudwaq and Mataban. Outbreak response measures included the set up of an isolation unit in Guriel hospital; vaccination of all children between 6 months and 15 years in the OPD and IPD; case management; health promotion in schools and mosques; and promotion of health seeking behaviour.

### Primary and Secondary Health Care

- According to MEOR reports (26 May), the Italian Government dispatched an emergency humanitarian flight into **Mogadishu** carrying part of a 23 tonne consignment of health care supplies for distribution to the five main Mogadishu hospitals (Keysaney, Banadir, Madine, Al Hayat, and Dayniile) and other health facilities in Mogadishu.
- Medical outreach teams of **InterSOS** continue their services in 4 camps in **Jowhar district** (Lower Jubba); while outreach services to 44 camps on **Afgooye corridor** have temporarily been suspended due to road security between Jowhar and Afgooye. According to InterSOS, Water and Sanitation activities and NFI distributions in Afgooye corridor are organized from Afgooye and ongoing.
- **AFREC** continues to assist IDP families in **Dhobley**, **Afmadow** and **Kismaayo** (Lower Jubba).

Suspected Malaria patient in Afmadow district (Lower Jubba) being attended by AFREC clinical officer *Photo: AFREC*

