

# Somali Health Cluster Bulletin #17



Flooded Jubba river in Bardheere district/ Gedo  
photo: WHO Baidoa

November 2008

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/](http://www.emro.who.int/somalia/)

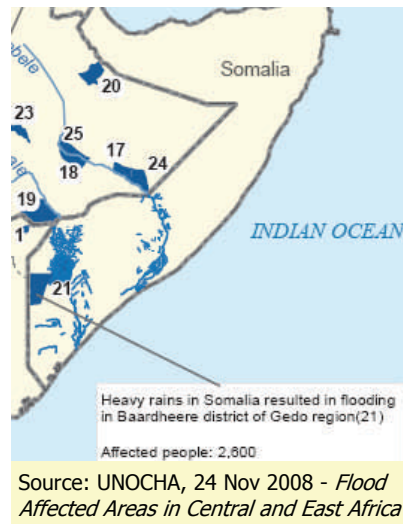
Contributions are to be sent to [cluster@nbo.emro.who.int](mailto:cluster@nbo.emro.who.int)

## HIGHLIGHTS

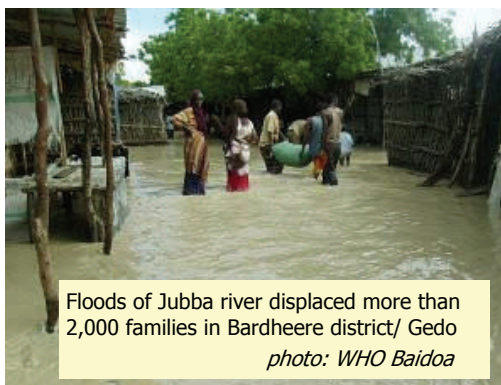
- Cholera outbreaks in Merka and Bossasso are under control
- MOHL Somaliland reports 9 laboratory confirmed Measles cases in Togdheer
- Persisting floods of Jubba and Shabelle Rivers in Southern Somalia displace more than 2,000 families

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- According to **OCHA** (24 Nov 08), heavy rains resulting in flooding displaced approximately 2,600 families (more than 10,000 people) and destroyed at least 500 hectares of farmland in Bardheere district/ **Gedo** since end of October. Further downstream, Jubba river flooded farm land between Saakow and Buale districts/ **Middle Jubba**. **World Vision** and **Society Development Initiative Organization (SDIO)** are responding with water treatment and preventive measures for malaria control.
- More than 400 IDP families, mostly originating from Mogadishu, were stranded between Afmadow and Doble town in the second week of November on their way to Kenya.



## HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



Floods of Jubba river displaced more than 2,000 families in Bardheere district/ Gedo  
photo: WHO Baidoa

### 1. Assessment and Monitoring

- In mid November, **SRCS** conducted an assessment of health care facilities in Badaade, Jilib and Kismaayo districts/ **Lower and Middle Jubba**. Preliminary findings indicate gaps in cold chain management and in standard drug management and treatment protocols, in particular the use of antibiotics.



## 2. Health Coordination & Capacity Building

### Training activities

- **AFREC** conducted a workshop from 30 October to 3 November for 35 health workers selected by various community groups in Afmadow district/ **Lower Jubba** with the major goal to increase sustainable community health care.
- In the first week of November, **World Vision International** conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Buale district for 21 nurses from various districts in **Middle Jubba**. Major objective of the training was to improve drug supplies management and distribution.

## 3. Communicable Diseases and Environmental Health

- In the third week of November, **Muslim Aid** distributed 15,000 mosquito nets (2 nets per benefiting household) in 43 villages in Jamaame district/ **Lower Jubba**. This program for malaria prevention, supported by **UNICEF**, will continue to reach all families in the area.

### Surveillance of AWD/Cholera<sup>1</sup>

- The cholera outbreak in Merka/ **Lower Shabelle** is under control with an average admission of 3 cases per day to the CTC. 94 new cases of AWD and no deaths were reported in November, bringing the total cases since onset (13 August - 30 November 2008) to 626. 64% of the admitted cases since onset were children under the age of 5 years. The overall Case Fatality Rate has decreased further to 1.3%.
- A total of 327 cases of AWD with 1 related death (CFR: 0.3%) were reported between 1 and 29 November 2008 (epidemiological weeks 45-47) from Jilib (110), Kismayo (96), Sakow (43), Hagar (36), Buale (23) and Salagle (19) districts in **Lower** and **Middle Jubba**.
- Between 1 and 30 November 2008, a total of 55 cases of AWD, including 4 deaths, were reported from Bossasso/ **Bari** region. The overall CFR for the period since onset of the outbreak (6 September - 30 November) is 3.3%. The situation is under control with an average of 1 admission per day to the CTC since end of November.
- Information and numbers concerning the outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) in Abudwaaq/ **Galgadud** region, reported by IRIN and other media in November 2008, could not be confirmed with the data of WHO surveillance system, rumor verification by partners on the ground, Somali Red Crescent Society (**SRCS**) supported by **ICRC**. According to the data received from the 8 reporting health facilities in Galgadud region, between 1 January and 7 November, a total of 2,105 cases of AWD including 26 deaths (CFR: 1.24%) were reported from Galgadud region. 14% (302) of the cases and 96% (25) of the related deaths (CFR: 8.28%) were reported from Abudwaaq MCH. 77% (238) were less than 5 years old.

The trend in Abudwaaq showed a sharp increase in reported cases and related deaths starting from epidemiological week 40, reaching the peak in epidemiological week 42. ICRC responded to the AWD outbreak by sending medical supplies and ORS for case management as well as chlorine. As a result of the interventions, a considerable decrease of the trend was observed in week 44. No new cases were reported in week 44 (1-7 November) and since. Galgadud region in general, and Abudwaaq in particular, are currently not accessible for international UN and INGO staff due to the prevailing security situation.



## Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD)

- In response to increasing Measles cases reported from Burao/ **Togdheer** since September, **MOHL** of Somaliland conducted an investigation mission from 6 to 11 November visiting 8 MCHs in Burao to review numbers of Measles cases of the past 3 months: Central MCH (16), October and Aden MCHs (0), Yarowe MCH (4), Dr Alag MCH (9), Koosar MCH (2), Kenya MCH (10), Faarax Omar (4). Furthermore 110 houses were visited for active case search, detecting another 60 cases.

In summary, between 1 September and 11 November 2008, a total of 105 cases<sup>1</sup> of Measles, of them 79 in children less than 5 years old, were reported from Burao. A total of 16 samples was collected from MCHs and households; 9 of them (56%) tested positive; 5 (56%) out of those 9 laboratory confirmed cases were less than 5 years old. According to the findings of MOHL, one of the major reason for this Measles outbreak is the low EPI coverage of less than 35% in Togdheer.

- **Medair** in collaboration with **SCRS** and with support by **UNICEF** are responding to the Measles outbreak with vaccination, social mobilization, supervision and coordination activities targeting IDPs in Burao/ **Togdheer**.
- End of November, **Muslim Aid** carried out a 6-day EPI outreach (including BCG, OPV, DPT, Measles, TT, and vitamin A) in Jamaame district/ **Lower Jubba**. 88% of the target population in 12 villages were covered: Moofi, Masangarow, Manamoofa, B'Rahma, Koban, Arare, Sanguuni, Baarka, Maleyley, Bandar-Jadiid, Bangeni, and Nattaquur.

## 4. Primary and Secondary Health Care

- **Schistosomiasis Control Initiative (SCI)** in collaboration with **Muslim Aid UK** and with support by **WHO** is conducting outreach campaigns for schistosomiasis treatment in various villages in Jamaame district. Between 22 and 28 November, the following villages were visited: Mugunbo; Moofi; Maanamoofa; Naftakhour; Maleyley; Fikirow; Buulo-Jiibiyow; Buulo-Farxaan; Koban; Sanguuni; and Baarka. 539 patients have been treated; 90% of those for *Schistosoma - Haematobium* which is endemic in **Middle** and **Lower Jubba** regions.



### Supplies & Support to Health Facilities

- In November, **WHO** has pre-positioned laboratory supplies in WHO Hargeisa/ **W'Galbeed** for distribution throughout Somalia. Supplies include more than 20,000 HIV tests; over 900 blood group anti tests; 15,500 hepatitis B tests; 14,100 syphilis tests; and other laboratory reagents.

### Health Education & Public Awareness

- **AFREC** is focusing their ongoing health education in Afmadow district/ **Lower Jubba** on environmental hygiene and waste disposal for the prevention of communicable diseases.
- Throughout November, **SRCS** has been conducting awareness activities for HIV/AIDS and genital mutilation in various community groups in Jilib district/ **Middle Jubba**.
- After 3 school boys were killed and more than 4 other children wounded by a land mine near Hagar/ **Lower Jubba** end of October, **Diaspora Action Group** has taken up land mine awareness activities in the region.

<sup>1</sup> Deaths have not been reported during the outbreak; this is due to no death registration/ certificates or any other death records. Hence it can not be excluded that Measles-related deaths occurred during the outbreak. (source: MOHL Somaliland, National EPI Unit; *BARCO Measles Outbreak Investigation Report*; 14 Nov 2008)