

# Somalia Health Cluster Bulletin # 2

17 August 2007

The Somalia Health Cluster Bulletin aims to provide an overview of the health activities conducted by the health cluster partners active in Central and South Somalia. It compiles health information received from the different organizations working in Somalia, but does not include Somaliland and Puntland.

The Health Cluster Bulletin is issued every two weeks.



Somali Red Crescent Society (SRSC) or **Ururka Bisha Cas'** Mother and Child Health Care Centre Isha supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Baidoa, Bay region

## Highlights

- Continuing displacement of large number of people from Mogadishu due to increase in violence, mainly targeting journalists and civilians.
- The humanitarian community is looking into a rapid and adequate response to the urgent needs in drinking water, food, and health care for the IDPs in affected areas, focusing on Afgoye, Hiiran and Galkayo.
- First health cluster meeting in Baidoa attended by 17 health partners; 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting planned for 2 September.

### Health statistics<sup>1</sup>

Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 live births	1013
Life expectancy at birth <sup>2</sup>	48.84
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births	95.5
Population with access to:	
-improved water	29.3%
-improved sanitation	37.3%

## Situation Overview

- Recent nutrition surveys report acute malnutrition rates in Lower and Middle Shabelle above emergency threshold levels (GAM > 15%), with alarmingly high rates of severe acute malnutrition (SAM > 4.0%). The Food Security Analysis Unit for Somalia (FAO/FSAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS Net) estimate that 490,000 people are in an "acute food and livelihood crisis", caused by low cereal crop production, inflation (40% to 60% increases in last three months), and the large number of IDPs due to continuing and escalating civil insecurity.
- **OCHA** assessment reports 22 new settlements with approximately 40,000 IDPs on the road from Mogadishu to Afgoye and within Afgoye. The majority of the IDPs arrived between February and June 2007, because of ongoing conflict.
- The National Reconciliation Conference in Mogadishu has been ongoing since 19 July. A total of 1600 delegates and elders from Somali clans are participating.
- In spite of security incidents in Dhobley and Jilib district (120 km from Kismayo) and fresh conflicts in Buurgaabo in Badade district (350 km from Kismayo), the number of roadblocks between Kismayo and Jamame reduced to seven compared to 15 in previous months.
- Rival clans in Berhani (west of Kismayo) signed mutual agreements, which improved the security situation dramatically.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Somali Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006; Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women

<sup>2</sup> Source: World Health Statistics 2007, [http://www.who.int/whosis/database/core/core\\_select.cfm](http://www.who.int/whosis/database/core/core_select.cfm)

## Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

### 1. Assessment and monitoring

- Regional Health Profiling has so far assessed 15 health facilities in Huddur and Wajid (Bakool), Baidoa (Bay), Wadaaq, Bundowein, Koshin and Beletweyne (Hiiran), and Mahady, Kulmis, Bulshek and Jowhar (Middle Shabelle). The data gathered will be updated in the health facilities database and shared with cluster partners.
- WHO installed the Logistics Support System (**LSS**) in its warehouses in Wajid and Baidoa. LSS is a UN based software, which enhances accountability and transparency of supply management.

### 2. Health coordination

- The first health cluster meeting took place in Baidoa on 2 August in the presence of 17 delegates from the **Ministry of Health, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and CARITAS, World Vision, Community Care Centre (CCC), Merlin** and the Italian NGO **IMG**. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting is planned for 2 September. A Who-is-doing-What-Where matrix will be compiled for all health activities.

Health cluster focal agencies per district	
<b>Galgadud</b>	CISP
<b>Hiiran</b>	IMC
<b>Middle Shabelle</b>	Intersos (with UNICEF)
<b>Banadir</b>	WHO
<b>Lower Shabelle</b>	COSV
<b>Middle Juba</b>	World Vision
<b>Lower Juba</b>	Muslim Aid-UK
<b>Bakool</b>	WHO
<b>Bay</b>	WHO
<b>Gedo</b>	GHC

### 3. Communicable diseases and Environmental health

- External review by health cluster partners of the Early Warning and Response System (**EWARS**) for disease surveillance has been finalized. Pilot implementation and training of health workers in EWARS is planned for next month.
- WHO** distributed 27.900 tablets of Praziquantel, the drug of choice for treatment of Schistosomiasis to its field offices in Baidoa, Wajid and Mogadishu.

#### Whooping cough outbreak in Wajid district

- A mission supervising the Polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) in Bakool region reported a high number of whooping cough (Pertussis) cases from Dhurey and Rose Garasle villages in Wajid. WHO investigated the rumour and clinically confirmed 15 whooping cough cases, including one related death. All cases had clinical signs and symptoms of runny nose, sneezing, mild cough, low-grade fever, nausea, and vomiting. The Ministry of Health with WHO and UNICEF are planning EPI acceleration campaigns in these areas at the end of August. [www.who.int/topics/pertussis/](http://www.who.int/topics/pertussis/)



Traditional methods to treat whooping cough are special haircut and wooden necklaces

#### Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

- Between 1 and 15 August, 85 AWD cases were reported from Mogadishu including one related death, and 149 cases from Lower and Middle Juba, the majority of them from Jilib district. No cases were reported from other districts.

#### Malaria

- Health staff from **Muslim Aid-UK** and the **Ministry of Health** in Jamame, with support from WHO, initiated a study to assess the therapeutic effect of the combination artemether/lumefantrine on uncomplicated plasmodium falciparum malaria. Similar studies are ongoing in Janale and Jowhar.

### Water and sanitation<sup>3</sup>

- As recommended by **WHO**, chlorination is still ongoing in most of the areas previously affected by the AWD outbreak. **SRSC** and **ICRC** are providing clean drinking water through chlorination and water trucks to over 135,000 people in Beletweyne (Hiiran), Jowhar (Middle Shabelle) and Bardera (Gedo). **ICRC** installed an additional water treatment unit (45m<sup>3</sup>) in Bardera to increase accessibility to safe water on the left bank of the river. Two similar water treatment units were rehabilitated on the right bank early 2006.
- **ICRC** cleaned 35 hand dug wells in Marere, Jilib district (Middle Juba) for 67,000 beneficiaries, another 23 hand dug wells are in the pipeline, targeting 37,200 people.
- **UNICEF** supported **SRCS** in the construction of 100 latrines for IDPs between Mogadishu and Afgoye.
- More than 500 community workers from Bardera, Bualle, Sakow and Salagl (Middle Juba) and from Benadir (Mogadishu) were trained in hygiene awareness promotion by the Bahr-el-Ghazal Women Development Center (**BWDC**), the Society Development Initiative Organization (**SDIO**), the Jubaland Charity Centre (**JCC**), the Strengthening of Public Health Associations (**SOPHA**), **World Vision**, and **UNICEF**. The community workers are conducting hygiene awareness promotion and chlorination of water sources. **JCC** is using Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CHAST) to address personal hygiene, safe disposal of excreta, safe water, and food hygiene.
- 160 health workers were trained as trainers in hygiene education by **Horn Relief** in Afmadow; chlorination of 70 sources provides safe water for 6200 households.
- **Concern Worldwide** distributed emergency kits (including sanitation, soap, and portable water containers) to almost 1000 displaced families in Jowhar and Kurtunwaray in Middle and Lower Shabelle. The NGO is also providing water purification and clean water trucking to IDP sites with no access to water sources, including to 8 remote villages in Balaad.
- The Samawada Rehabilitation and Development Organization (**SAREDO**) is conducting chlorination for 16 villages in Merka (Lower Shabelle) including Qoyooley. **UNICEF** provided 3 drums of chlorine powder and 549 latrines.
- The African Rescue Committee (**AFREC**) is chlorinating wells for 65 villages in Kismayo (Middle Juba). **ACF** continue chlorination of over 325 wells in Mogadishu. **Intersos** is chlorinating drinking water for a total of 17,600 people in Jowhar.
- The Somali Development and Rehabilitation Organization (**SDRO**) rehabilitated the Jimwo Canal in Bulo-Marer (Kuntwarey district) in Lower Shabelle region with funds from the Central Emergency Response (**CERF**). Bula marer with a population of 8200 people along the Shabelle River is frequently affected by floods. The canal was de-silted and canal banks strengthened to prevent future flooding.

## 4. Primary and Secondary Health Care

### Rehabilitation and support of health facilities

- **WHO** Mogadishu provided 2 basic health kits and other supplies for treatment of diarrhoeal diseases and TB to Hawa Abdi hospital in Afgoye.

*Outpatient department of Bay regional hospital in Baidoa:  
before, during and after rehabilitation by UNOPS with support from WHO*



<sup>3</sup> Source: Updated WASH cluster plan 2007

### Treatment of war-injured

- In spite of increased violence, the **ICRC** supported Madina and Keysaney hospitals reported a decrease in the number of war wounded from 94 between 28 July and 10 August, to 133 patients between 14 to 27 July.
- Injured of fighting in Jilib and Badade (Kismayo) were treated by **Mercy USA** and **SRCS**, or referred to Kismayo General Hospital. **WHO** Jamame supplied medical supplies and drugs for victims of ongoing fighting.

### Primary health care and reproductive health

- A total of 1500 pregnant women were provided with pre-natal and antenatal care or were referred to secondary health care by the **Muslim Aid-UK** mobile clinics, as part of the **UNFPA** outreach programme targeting IDPs in Mogadishu and Afgoye.
- Training for health facilities on Gender Based Violence (GBV) focusing on the clinical and psychosocial management of GBV victims was conducted in Baidoa by **UNFPA** and the Nairobi Women's Hospital. **UNFPA** provided emergency medical supplies for the prevention of Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS and emergency contraception
- As part of an emergency outreach programme, the International Medical Corps (**IMC**) trained 24 health workers from Beletweyne, Jalalaqsi and Buloburto districts, (Hiiran) on the management of common illnesses, hygiene promotion, growth monitoring, and EPI, as well as on the management of epidemic prone disease such as measles and cholera. Through four mobile teams, **IMC** vaccinated a total of 992 children against measles and provided health education to the population.
- **ACF** reports a 15% increase in admissions in its two therapeutic feeding centers (TFC) in Mogadishu (Abdul Aziz and Hodan districts) in the previous month, the majority of new admissions were from Hodan in Mogadishu south. A total of 267 admissions were registered during the month of July, of whom 20 severely malnourished cases from the Afgoye IDP camps. Compared with the same period last year, there has been an increase of 25% of beneficiaries. Total admissions represented 64% of residents and 36% IDPs.
- Other TFCs are run by **SOS Kinderdorf** hospital in Mogadishu, and **Intersos** in Jowhar town. **Intersos** also runs a Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) in Jowhar and provides 20 mobile Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programs (OTP) in riverine areas. The Red Crescent of the United Arab Emirates (**UAE-RC**) started in Mogadishu in first week of August.
- Four **World Vision** mobile teams carried out health education campaigns on prevention of malaria and diarrhoea in 11 villages in Baidoa District
- **Global world breastfeeding week** (1-7 August) was celebrated in Lower and Middle Juba and Bakool regions, organized by **Muslim Aid-UK**, Wamo Relief Rehabilitation Services (**WRRS**) and **World Vision** with support from **UNICEF** and **WHO**. In Wajid, **World Vision** and 17 other participating organizations trained breastfeeding women on exclusive breastfeeding of newborns for the first two years of their lives. Breastfeeding promotion aims to reduce vulnerability by improving the health and nutritional status of Somalis. The key strategy is Primary Health Care (PHC), which avails at least one MCH/OPD (Health Centre) per district to serve as a first referral point for a series of Health Posts in the villages.



The chairman of the District Health Board in Wajid addressing the audience in celebration of world breastfeeding week.

Source: World Vision

## Relevant links

- Ururka Bisha Cas (Somalia Red Cross Society) <http://www.bishacas.org/>
- Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) managed and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization <http://www.fsasomali.org/>
- Somalia Support Secretariat <http://www.somalisupportsecretariat.info>
- Global cluster website **health** <http://www.humanitarianreform.org/>
- OCHA Somalia <http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia/>
- World Breastfeeding Week <http://worldbreastfeedingweek.org/>
- PHAST step-by-step guide: A participatory approach for the control of diarrhoeal diseases  
[http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/hygiene/envsan/phastep/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/hygiene/envsan/phastep/)
- Free download Logistics Support System (LSS) software  
<http://www.lssweb.net/>



## Acronyms

<b>ACF</b>	Action Contre la Faim	<b>AJS</b>	Acute Jaundice Syndrome
<b>AFREC</b>	African Rescue Committee	<b>ADRA</b>	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
<b>ARI</b>	Acute Respiratory Infection	<b>BWDC</b>	Bahr-el-Ghazal Women Development Centre
<b>ART</b>	Anti-retroviral Treatment	<b>CHAST</b>	Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Training
<b>AWD</b>	Acute Watery Diarrhoea	<b>COSV</b>	Coordinating Committee of Organization for Voluntary Service
<b>CCC</b>	Community Care Centre	<b>CISP</b>	Committee for the Development of Peoples
<b>CERF</b>	Central Emergency Response	<b>ECHO</b>	European Commission Humanitarian Office
<b>COOPI</b>	Cooperazione Internazionale	<b>EWARS</b>	Early Warning and Response System
<b>EC</b>	European Commission	<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>GHC</b>	Gedo Health Consortium	<b>MCH</b>	Mother and Child Health Care Centres
<b>IMC</b>	International Medical Corps	<b>OTP</b>	Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Program
<b>JCC</b>	Jubaland Charity Centre	<b>PHAST</b>	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
<b>MDM</b>	Médecins du Monde	<b>SAREDO</b>	Samawada Rehabilitation and Development Organization
<b>OPD</b>	Outpatient Department	<b>SDRO</b>	Somali Development and Rehabilitation Organization
<b>ORS</b>	Oral Rehydration Salts	<b>SDIO</b>	Society Development Initiative Organization
<b>ORT</b>	Oral Rehydration Treatment	<b>SOPHA</b>	Strengthening of Public Health Associations
<b>SRCS</b>	Somalia Red Crescent Society	<b>UAE-RC</b>	Red Crescent of the United Arab Emirates
<b>TFC</b>	Therapeutic Feeding Centres	<b>WRRS</b>	Wamo Relief Rehabilitation Services
<b>UNOPS</b>	UN Office for Project Services	<b>SFP</b>	Supplementary Feeding Program

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