

Somalia Health Cluster Bulletin # 4

Photo: WHO Kismayo/Ahmed Omar Hussein



Newly opened Supplementary Feeding Centre at the Muslim Aid-UK Mother and Child Health Care centre (MCH) Fanole Village in Kismayo.

28 September 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.

Peer review of all **HEALTH** project proposals for the Consolidated Appeals Process 2008 (**CAP**) during the next Health Cluster Meeting **Wednesday 3 September 2007, 10 am**

Highlights

- As insecurity and violence persists in Mogadishu, about 11,000 people left Somalia's capital since the beginning of September, according to UNHCR's Population Movement Tracking (PMT).
- Health cluster partners are preparing project proposals for the Consolidated Appeals Process 2008.
- Preparedness measures are being taken to enable health partners to rapidly respond to health threats. Cholera Kits have been prepositioned in Baidoa, Wajid and Mogadishu.

Situation Overview

- A moderate flood warning was issued by the Somali Water and Land Information Management agency of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO/SWALIM) for Jowhar and Beletweyne due to high levels of the Shabelle River. The population in Lower and Middle Shabelle regions are already threatened by an acute food security and nutrition crisis with malnutrition rates between 17%-19%.
- A WHO polio officer was killed in Abudwak district (Galgadud region) on 11 September 2007, during the latest round of Polio National Immunization Days. Although the killing was not a targeted action against the humanitarian community, it confirms the continuous danger of working conditions.
- Further reports of casualties due to fighting were received from Buurgaabo (Badade district), 350 southwest of Kismayo, over the control of a small seaport, Merka (Lower Shabelle) and Bardera district (Gedo).
- The general security situation in other parts of the region is calm.
- While the number of displaced people on the road from Mogadishu to Afgoye remains approximately 90,000 people (15,000 households) due to ongoing conflict in Somalia's capital, displacement occurred in Diif village (344 km west of Kismayo) after a borehole broke down.

Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

1. Assessment and monitoring

- Health facility assessments as part of the Regional Health Profiling are ongoing: in Burao the General Hospital, TB Hospital and Mental Hospital were assessed; in Merka, the Merka Regional Hospital and the 7 Mother and Child Health Care centres (MCH) run by the Coordinating Committee of the Organization for Voluntary Service (**COSV**), and 2 Outpatient Departments (OPD) including one TB clinic run by the swiss NGOs **Swisso** and **New Way**; and in Ayub village a health post run by the Italian NGO **Water for Life**. Results of the exercise are shared with partners for feedback.

2. Health coordination

- The first health cluster coordination meeting was held at the International Medical Corps (**IMC**) offices in Huddur for Bakool region. The meetings was chaired by WHO, the lead agency for the health cluster in the region.
- Essential drugs assessment was conducted by **WHO**, revealing the absence of treatment guidelines, rational use of drugs and a national essential drugs list.

3. Communicable diseases and Environmental health

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

- Lower and Middle Juba reported 300 AWD cases and 1 related death from 6 different districts between 7 and 21 September 2007. The majority of cases was reported from Jilib district (169 cases). It is thought these cases represent the endemic situation of AWD in the country. As a preparedness measure, **WHO** prepositioned 3 cholera kits in Baidoa, Wajid and Mogadishu.
- Rumour investigation was conducted into 34 suspected AWD cases and one related death reported from Jana Abdullah village (60 km from Afmadow). The NGO Economic Independent Research Group (**EIRG**) with support from **WHO** visited the area and distributed ORS and other drugs.



Muslim Aid-UK has been distributing soap bars to IDPs in Kismayo, an essential element in the prevention of AWD and other diseases

Water and sanitation

- A joint water and sanitation assessment was conducted in Bulafulai and Dandool villages and Jowhar by **MWMMR** and **UNICEF**. Results show that most water sources are unprotected shallow wells without hand pumps and a lack of sanitation facilities.
- **Concern World Wide** identified 21 water catchments to be repaired in Bullabarka, Goofgadud, Shebellow and Tagad Malayoma villages. Already 9 projects have started.
- Community Care Center (**CCC**) conducted water and sanitation assessments in Toosweyne, Deba and Haaruum villages (Bay), where no safe water sources exist.
- **World Vision** will be constructing 25 hand-dug wells in Tieglow, all with hand pumps. The international NGO also plans to start WASH activities in Burhakaba.
- **Intersos** distributed plastic latrine slabs to 100 IDPs in Baidoa.
- All IDP camps in Baidoa will be provided with safe drinking water during the month of Ramadan through water trucking organized by the International Somalia Rehabilitation Association (**ISRA**) a local NGO funded by **Muslim Aid-UK**.
- Preliminary works for the Baidoa water supply scheme have been completed. **UNICEF** will soon call for a tender for drilling of additional boreholes.
- **UNICEF** supported the NGO **Juba Shine** with jerry cans, plastic sheets and utensils for 42 villages near Jamame, and **Muslim Aid-UK** with sanitation tools (wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels) and soap bars for 32 IDP camps in Kismayo.
- The UN Refugee Agency (**UNHCR**) distributed plastic sheeting, blankets and jerry cans for 24,000 people in Afgoye.

4. Primary and Secondary Health Care

- The ongoing civil conflict in Mogadishu is negatively affecting access to health care: the **Hayat Hospital Group** estimates a 50% service reduction at the 100-bed Hayat hospital in the capital due to damage to infrastructure and equipment and absence of doctors and other health personnel. The **Hayat Group** also runs the **Hayat Health Training Institute** in Mogadishu, which is one of the few nursing schools in the country, and another hospital in Bulo village (Lower Shabelle).
- The first batch of 20 medical students is expected to graduate from the **Faculty of Medicine at Benadir University** in Mogadishu at the end of 2008. The faculty opened an OPD, and plans to open several rural health centres.

Rehabilitation and support of health facilities

- **COSV** completed the construction of 2 new Mother and Child Health centres (MCH) in Janale and Buul-Mareer to replace the centres that were heavily damaged by flooding. **COSV** also rehabilitated 7 MCH in Kurtunwarey, Sablaale, Shalambod, Golweyn, Awdhegle, Howlwadaag and Wadajir, as well as the waste drainage of Merka hospital, also damaged by rains. All rehabilitation and constructions activities were supported by **WHO**. **COSV** has been active in Lower Shabelle since 1993. The Italian NGO runs the regional Merka hospital, 2 district hospitals in Brava and Qoryoley and 12 MCH (of which 6 in Merka district) and 9 health posts. **COSV** is planning to open an additional 8 health posts in the region.
- **World Concern** provided a portable ultrasound for abdomen, an incubator and delivery kits to the Kismayo General Hospital.



The new Janale MCH constructed by COSV with support from WHO

Primary health care and reproductive health

- Two 5-day training courses on the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) were organized with support from **WHO** and **UNICEF** in Jamame and Mogadishu. A total of 51 health workers Muslim Aid-UK, World Vision, Somalia Red Crescent Society (SRCS), the Somali Aid Foundation (SAF), EIRG, World Concern, Mercy USA and other health centres in Central South Zone were trained on routine immunization, adverse effects from vaccines (AEFI), injection safety, waste management, cold chain and social mobilization, among others.
- Currently there are 65 MCH/EPI facilities in Central Zone including the 3 recently opened MCH run by Mercy USA for Aid and Development (**Mercy USA**) in Hiiran and Middle Shabelle. In the rehabilitated Ministry of Health building in Jilib town, **Mercy USA** runs a TB centre and an MCH, including EPI and a cold chain, also covering 4 IDP camps in Jilib district.
- **UNFPA** distributed 150 hygiene kits to pregnant women in Bay Regional Hospital in Baidoa. An additional 115 had already been distributed earlier. Another 23 health facilities were supplied with reproductive health kits, distributed over 6 regions. **UNFPA** supported **Muslim Aid-UK** in the training of 177 midwives, nurses, auxiliary nurses and traditional birth attendants (TBA), in the distribution of clean delivery kits and hygiene kits in 3 IDP camps in Mogadishu, and with 2 outreach teams providing reproductive health care to 25 IDP camps from Km 13 to Lafoole area.
- Two new Supplementary Feeding Programmes (SFP) were opened by **Muslim Aid-UK** in Mofa village (15 km from Jamame) and the Fanole MCH in Kismayo town, both supported by **UNICEF**. The 12 health workers from the SFPs were trained during a 2-day nutrition course in Jamame.
- The local NGO **CCC** opened a new MCH in Haaruum village (Bay region).



How to properly dispose of used syringes... part of the 5-day training on the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in Jamame and Mogadishu.

The Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) goal aims that every country attains **90% of children fully immunized** with at least **80% DPT3 coverage** in every district by 2010.

HIV/AIDS

- As HIV/AIDS is an intra-cluster theme, involving the health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, protection, and shelter clusters, **UNAIDS, UNICEF** and **OCHA** organized a one-day stakeholders workshop in Nairobi. The workshop brought together NGO and UN partners working in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes to streamline HIV-related projects for the Consolidated Appeals Process (**CAP**) 2008.
- The South Central AIDS Commission (**SCAC**) is coordinating Integrated HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support (**IPTCS**) activities in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO and other partners. **SCAC** runs 5 Voluntary HIV/AIDS Counselling and Testing centres (**VCT**) in South Central and works together with 157 partners on HIV awareness.
- **Mercy USA** will start HIV testing in its TB centre in Jilib very soon, with support from **UNICEF**.

Please send all your contributions to cluster@nbo.emro.who.int