



April 2008



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 on a monthly basis.

### Health Highlights

- Health partners continue to monitor Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) trend in Jubba region. In addition, water chlorination activities is going on.
- The next round of National Immunization Days (NIDs) will be conducted on 7-9 July 2008 in all Somalia to boost the immunity of children below five years.

### Situation Overview

- According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partners, the total displacement from Mogadishu this year is estimated at 85,000 people.
- The humanitarian situation in Somalia is deteriorating faster than expected. Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) and Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) have revised upwards the number of people in a state of humanitarian emergency. Compared to the post-Deyr report issued January 2008, the number of people in humanitarian emergency has increased from 315,000 to 425,000 and the number of newly displaced people from 705,000 to 745,000. The most severely affected areas are Galgaduud, Mudug, Hiraan, coastal Shabelle and pockets in Sool, Nugal and Hawd areas in the north (OCHA).



Somalia Support Secretariat



## Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

### 1. Assessment and monitoring

- A health care delivery assessment is ongoing in the villages of Kamasuma, Makalangow, Mashaqo, Masagirow, Demo and Edadgeri in Jamaame district. WHO and Muslim Aid are jointly initiating selective health education and chlorination activities at household level. The preliminary results revealed that the health posts are functioning and trained community health workers (CHWs) and traditional birth attendants (TBAs) are providing the essential services. Health education is also been provided and a reporting system on disease outbreaks is in place.
- WHO and SRCS assessed the Muganbo MCH in Jamaame district in a joint effort to improve health care services.

### 2. Health Coordination

- World Malaria Day was commemorated by partners including Muslim Aid UK, World Vision, Agrosphere and the various women's groups in Jamame and Buuale district in the regions of Middle and Lower Juba Valleys. The importance of malaria prevention and early treatment particularly among the vulnerable groups of under-five children, pregnant women and elderly people was emphasized.

### 3. Communicable diseases and Environmental health

#### Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

- A total of 871 AWD cases with no related deaths were reported from Lower and Middle Jubba regions. Thirty-four (34%) (302/871) were reported from Jilib district. Health partners continue to monitor Acute Watery Diarrhea. SRCS, Mercy USA, MSF France, Muslim Aid, and World Concern are monitoring the AWD situation in the Jubba regions. SRCS started the chlorination of shallow wells in Jilib district. So far, a total 56 wells have already been chlorinated including four water catchments.
- Health facilities reported an increased in AWD cases. In epidemiological week 14-15 Bardhere MCH in Gedo region reported 166 AWD cases with 25 related deaths. In Hiraan region, 232 cases were reported from Bulu Burti MCH with 22 related deaths and Jalalaqsi MCH reported 52 cases and 9 deaths.
- Banadir Hospital received 118 cases of AWD cases with two related deaths. Chlorination activities by NGO ACF are ongoing. MSF-Spain has established a CTC centre and stockpile of essential drugs in Banadir region as an AWD outbreak preparedness measure.



**Chicken Pox**

- WHO has provided case management guidelines to health facilities in the Jilib district after reporting of a suspected outbreak of chickenpox in the town and surrounding villages. Environmental and personal hygiene promotion by WVI, Mercy USA and SRCS is ongoing to reduce the morbidity and mortality.

**Malaria**

- Malaria control measures including environmental hygiene activities to prevent breeding of mosquitoes during the rainy season are being undertaken in Afmadow district, Lower Jubba by local NGO Horn Relief. SRCS has also initiated malaria prevention activities in Jilib and Gududey villages.

**HIV**

- Local NGO Murado has initiated an AIDS and female genital mutilation (FGM) awareness campaign in the villages of Kafingo, Buulogolol and Buurfuule in Buaale.

**Vaccine Preventable Diseases**

Somalia has been polio-free for more than 1 year. The last WPV case was reported from Hobyo district, Mudug region, with date of onset 25/03/2007.

- A main priority is to provide Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance training to improve the AFP system sensitivity and awareness. The next NIDs are planned for 7-9 July 2008 and all under five children in all Somalia will be vaccinated with mOPV.

**4. Primary and Secondary Health Care**

- MSF-France is carrying on a nutritional survey in Jamaame. The INGO is also undertaking outreach activities in the town, and villages of Buulo-maamow, Baangeenyarey and Buulomuuse by providing treatment to people who cannot access the health facilities.
- Mother and Child Health centers (MCHs) run by Muslim Aid in Kismayo and Jamame districts initiated health education activities on nutrition for pregnant women, prevention of early weaning and of diarrheal disease. The main objective of this exercise is to reduce the malnutrition related diseases.
- Muslim Aid UK supported by UNICEF has started early detecting of acute malnutrition cases in order to reduce the malnutrition-related diseases and mortality.

**Relevant links**

- Somalia Support Secretariat <http://www.somalisupportsecretariat.info>

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Please send all your contributions to [cluster@nbo.emro.who.int](mailto:cluster@nbo.emro.who.int)