

Somalia Health Cluster Bulletin #7



Muslim Aid UK and UNICEF initiated the 2nd round of the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) acceleration campaign in Jamame and Kismayo IDP camps.

Photo: WHO/Ahmed Omar Hussein

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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 once per month.

Highlights

- The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) due to ongoing fighting in Mogadishu during the first two weeks of January was nearly 20,000 according to UNHCR.
- Preliminary findings of the post-Deyr season assessment by the Food and Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) and partners indicate that the Deyr rains (October-December) is mixed in terms of intensity, coverage and distribution. According to FSAU, the poor Deyr rains in some parts of the country, along with the large number of displaced people from Mogadishu, is expected to further complicate the humanitarian situation in many areas.

Situation Overview

- Escalating clashes between Ethiopian/Transitional Federal Government (TFG) forces and anti-government elements continued throughout the first ten days of the year in parts of South and Central Somalia. Security operations in areas where thousands of IDPs have sought refuge resulted in the deaths of tens of civilians.
- Violence continues in Mogadishu. According to a local human rights group, fighting in the capital killed more than 6500 civilians and wounded at least 8500 in 2007. More than 250,000 people have been displaced from Mogadishu in the past two months. For those remaining in the conflict-affected areas of the city, access to hospitals remains difficult.
- External health assistance is critically needed due to limited ability and absence of resources for the Government to deliver public health.



Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

- Through the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) 2008, the health cluster has requested almost 54 million USD, the 3rd largest sector after Food security and Agriculture and livelihoods. As WHO requested almost 22 million USD, the health cluster lead agency aims to deliver health care interventions while at the same time improve existing health care services. The main activities include:
 - Delivering life-saving health services to vulnerable and host populations;
 - Reducing maternal and neonatal deaths and disabilities through the provision of quality emergency obstetric care and essential reproductive health care;
- Improving emergency coordination and preparedness;
- Establishing early surveillance and control system for outbreaks.

Sector	Requirements in USD	%
Food security	144,100,809	
Agriculture and livelihoods	56,727,096	
Health	53,215,003	
Water & Sanitation	19,632,218	
Coordination	6,520,852	
Emergency preparedness	2,770,865	
Total	406,235,651	100

1. Assessment and monitoring

- World Vision**, the Somali Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources (**MWMR**), **UNICEF** and **WHO** have undertaken a joint monitoring activity prior to the finalisation of the local standards for the Baidoa town water supply schemes.
- A survey has been conducted by Bay Women Development Network (BWDN) in various water sources in parts of Baidoa town. WHO provided technical advice on data collection. (report not yet available).
- In an effort to increase access to health care delivery services in South Central region, **WHO** team conducted a needs and vulnerability assessment from 18-31 December 2007 in Bakool (Wajid and Rabdure districts), Bay (Baidoa district), and Lower Shabelle regions (Marka, Brava, Sablaale and Kurtunwary districts). A similar exercise took place in Qoryoley and Xudur districts in Lower shabelle and Bay regions in January. Assessments will continue into the month of March in other regions of South Central. A comprehensive report will be made available soon.

2. Health Coordination

- The Outbreak Response taskforce held meetings at WHO offices in Baidoa and Mogadishu to discuss the disease outbreak situation, control, and preventive measures for Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD).
- Training was provided on proper cholera case management for staff of the Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC) in Baidoa by WHO in collaboration with **World Vision** and **Bay Regional Hospital**.
- Two Health Cluster coordination meetings were held in Marka town in January 2008 with the objective of strengthening the Health Cluster coordination mechanism. A number of agencies operating in Lower Shabelle Region attended including **COSV**, **NEWWAY**, **WHO**, **MOH**, **Marka Hospital**, and **SWISSOKALMO**.
- Based on the findings of a recently concluded needs assessment of selected district hospitals in Lower Shabelle, WHO will provide technical support in strengthening emergency surgical and obstetric care services in regional and district level hospitals in South Central Somalia. The technical support will initially be provided to the Lower Shabelle region in the form of trainings for health care workers, and provision of essential surgical equipment and supplies to selected district hospitals. Training for 35 health care workers in basic surgical techniques, basic first aid techniques and aseptic surgical care has been scheduled for next month.

3. Communicable diseases and Environmental health

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

- Lower and Middle Juba reported 614 cases from seven different districts in epidemiological week 1- 4 of 2008. Fifty four percent (334/614) of the cases were reported from Jilib district. No deaths were reported. All stool samples were tested negative of *V. Cholerae*. In Mogadishu, Benadir hospital received 120 cases of AWD with 3 related deaths (CFR 2.50%) in the same period.
- As a follow up of the AWD response, **UNICEF** supplied Benadir hospital with one drum of chlorine, 2 sets of sanitation tools and 10 cartons of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS). **WHO** collected water samples from 12 different wells.
- **MSF** has completed inventory of stock for the cholera response and will make essential supplies in preparedness of an outbreak available to the Forlanini Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC).
- **UNFPA** has proposed to distribute hygiene kits to the maternity and diarrhea wards at the Benadir hospital.

Water and sanitation

- A sustainable water safety program for AWD is being organised by the rapid response team (RRT) in Baidoa and its environs. The team is to activate hygiene promotion and water quality monitoring.
- As part of the cholera preparedness plan, the main water supply schemes in Baidoa have been chlorinated and monitored by Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources (**MWMR**) and **UNICEF**.
- **UNICEF** is providing cholera kits for those in need. In addition, renovation of wells in Baidoa and surrounding areas has been initiated.
- **SOPHPA** distributed Aqua tabs to all the functioning health facilities in Benadir region. The NGO completed the mapping of water wells in Yaqshid and Shibis and the storage centres in the secure districts. Chlorination and social mobilisation activities are underway.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

- AFP surveillance refresher training for surveillance staff from all regions of Somalia was successfully completed from 15-23 January 2008. The pre-campaign for the first round of Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) is finalized and the implementation of the first round of the National Immunization Days (NIDs) that is been conducted in a phased manner, began on 28 January targeting about 1.8 million children under 5 years. During this round, deworming tablets will be administered to children between 24-59 months in the remaining regions.
- An outbreak of measles was reported in Gududey village, 18 km West of Jilib (Juba). Four isolated cases were detected after active case investigations were carried out by teams from **WHO** and **SRCS**.

Deworming drug provided during Polio vaccination campaign

Successful piloting of house-to-house deworming tablet distribution has been continued during the last polio sub National Immunisation Days (SNID) in three regions in November 2007.

Neonatal Tetanus

- Eight cases of Neonatal Tetanus with 2 related deaths were reported from hospitals Afgoye, Banadir and Yaqshid in Mogadishu in January. Investigation is ongoing.

4. Primary and Secondary Health Care

- **Muslim Aid** and **UNICEF** initiated the 2nd round of the Expanded Programme of Immunization (**EPI**) acceleration campaign in Jamame and Kismayo IDP camps from 24-28 December, 2007.
- **UNICEF** and **SRCS** distributed over 120,000 sachets of ORS and soap bars to vaccinated children during the EPI campaign along the Mogadishu/Afgoye road to reduce the number of AWD cases among children and promote hygiene among IDP families.

	Jamame	Kismayo IDP camps
OPV0	139	036
DPT1	330	251
DPT2	815	318
DPT3	742	124
Measles	352	168
BCG	272	192
TT1	127	68
TT2	409	189
TT3	088	102
TT4	045	010
TT5	036	22

Rehabilitation and support of health facilities



- The rehabilitation of a Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC) in Bay Regional hospital in Baidoa was finalized, while latrine construction is ongoing. **World Vision** provided beds to the health facility. The hospital administration is to maintain the CTC in a preparatory condition to handle any emergency outbreak. Drug supply for CTC will be managed by the hospital and monitored by **WHO**.
- **WHO** is currently strengthening the surveillance system for early detection and confirmation of any suspected outbreaks (EWARS). This system will be piloted in Lower Shabelle Region in February 2008. All health workers will be targeted in the EWARS training, which will include case definitions, early case detection and response, specimen referral system, pre-positioning of necessary supplies, as well as regular case surveillance and reporting.
- **MANHAL** opened an MCH/OPD in the Garasbaley area in Banadir region, while **UNICEF** and **Muslim Aid UK** are planning to open 3 MCHs in KM13, Elasha and Lafole in Lower Shabelle.
- WHO Trauma Surgeon is providing all the necessary technical support needed in strengthening the emergency surgical and obstetric care systems in the selected districts and regional hospitals in South Central zone.
- **MDM** will be supporting the Emergency Obstetric care services in two health facilities (Horseed and Wadajir) in Marka town. Activities will include; provisions of obstetric care equipments, drugs and supplies, training of Health workers in emergency obstetric care services, and technical support supervision to other facilities.

Relevant links

- Somalia Support Secretariat <http://www.somalisupportsecretariat.info>
- Population Movement Tracking (PMT) <http://www.internal-displacement.org>

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