



March 2008

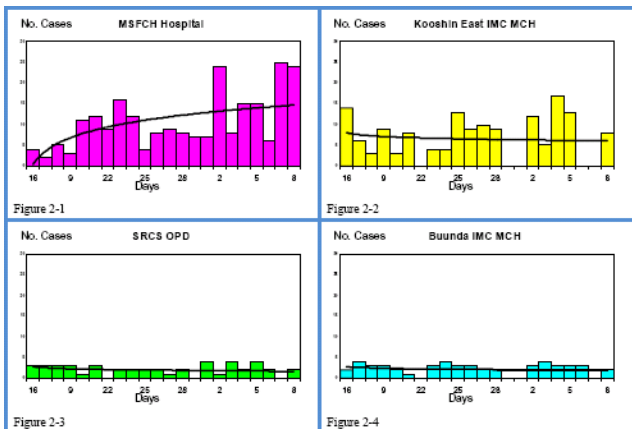


Figure 2: Distribution of AWD cases by reporting health facility, Hiraan region, South and Central Somalia, 16 February-8 March 2008

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.

Highlights

- An increased number of Acute Watery Diarrhea cases were reported in Belet Weyne in the month of March.
- Health and WASH cluster have intensified health education and chlorination activities. In Hiraan region, medical services are being provided by a number of international and national NGOs including; IMC, MSF-CH, Save the Children UK, CARE, SRCS, HAPO-CHILD, SAWDA, HICDO, and ISRAAC.
- A nutritional education programme for pregnant and lactating mother has been started in Jamaame town.
- During the March Polio National Immunisation Day (NIDs), Vitamin A supplementation was administered targeting about 1.6 Million children 6-59 months of age.

Situation Overview

- According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), at least 68000 people have been displaced since 1 January 2008.
- MSF-France has resumed its humanitarian activities in Jamaame district and surrounding villages while the SOS hospital is now functional.



Somalia Support Secretariat



Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

1. Assessment and monitoring

- **Muslim Aid UK** and **WHO** carried out an assessment from 4-8 March 2008, on the provision of health care services at five selected villages in the district of Jamaame. Some of the recommendations made included the need to improve health education on the prevention of diseases like cholera, respiratory infections and hygiene promotion. Refresher training courses for traditional birth attendants (TBAs) were also proposed. A similar assessment was performed in the villages of Moofi, Buulomamow, Malayley and Janaale-Jaay near Jamaame town.
- **WHO** assessed eight health facilities in the Lower Shabelle region; three health facilities in Awdeegle district and five in Merca district. Assessments will continue in Kurtunwary district and three health facilities in Merka town.
- **PSFCI** conducted an assessment in Merca town on drug supply management, storage capacities of health facilities and training needs of health workers. PSFCI plans to open a warehouse, jointly with **WHO**, to strengthen the drug supply management during emergencies.

2. Health Coordination

- **IOM**, with the support from **UNAIDS** and **GFATM partners**, has concluded a qualitative research (Hot-spot mapping 2008) that reported high-risk behaviors among transactional sex workers and their clients and people living with HIV.
- The federal authorities (TFG), local and international NGOs took part in activities to commemorate World TB Day on 24 March 2008 at a TB clinic in Bualle district.

3. Communicable diseases and Environmental health

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

- Lower and Middle Jubba reported 549 cases from eight different districts in epidemiological week 10-12 of March 2008. Approximately 44 percent (243/549) of the cases were reported from Jilib district. There were no deaths reported.
- **MSF-France** stockpiled essential medicines in Jamaame and provided staff support as an emergency preparedness measure. **WHO** has pre-positioned emergency drugs and is monitoring the health status of communities residing in the Jubba Valley.
- Between 16 February and 9 March 2008, 477 AWD cases were reported from the MSF-CH hospital, IMC MCHs and SRCS MCH/OPD in Belet Weyne including 4 related-deaths (CFR 0.84%). Ninety-four percent (15/16) of the samples tested by rapid diagnostic test (CHOLERA SMART II, New Horizons Diagnostics, USA) were positive for *V. cholerae*. Samples were collected and transported to Nairobi to AMREF laboratories for testing and reporting. On 11 March, laboratory confirmation was received and 89% (8/9) of the samples tested positive for Serotype Inaba. The greatest AWD caseload was reported from four main areas: Kooshin, Xawa Tako, H/Wadag and Buunda Weyne. Other affected areas include; Hiraan, Siigalow, Boco, Gambarlawe, Damarow, Xudur, Bardheere, Afar Irdood, Sagarow and Bulla Burde.
- Preparedness and rapid response to AWD/cholera outbreak are ongoing. As part of case management, MSF-CH hospital is providing in-patient care for all suspected cholera cases. However, current response to the outbreak is visibly inadequate, and

there is an urgent need to open a Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) and move all suspected cholera cases from the hospital.

- **Hiraan Water Supply** undertook chlorination activities at 27 wells in Belet Weyne and chlorine tablets were distributed. **CARE** and local partner **HICDO** continued with health education on diarrhea prevention and environmental sanitation including surveillance activities in about 30 villages in the district. **Save the Children (UK)** through local NGO **HAPOCHILD** has also undertaken a number of health education and social mobilization activities including chlorination and there are plans to construct latrines and sub tanks for residents in the area. Local NGO **ISRAAC** is part of the social mobilization initiatives in Belet Weyne town.
- In Mogadishu, Benadir hospital received 253 AWD cases with four related deaths in the month of March. Thirteen cases of bloody diarrhea were also received by the hospital.
- **SRCS** in collaboration with local NGO **HERDO** has conducted AWD preparedness training in Bardera district. **SRCS** has also carried out a health education training on AWD prevention for displaced persons at Afgoye and Balcad.

Chicken Pox

- An outbreak of chickenpox was reported from Kismayo and Hagar districts in Lower and Middle Jubba regions with Hagar reporting 75 cases. WHO has provided case management guidelines to the health facilities in both district.

Measles

- On 8 March 2008, a solitary case of measles was reported from Gududey Village of Jilib district in Middle Jubba. Teams from **WHO** and **SRCS** have conducted active case investigations.

Schistosomiasis Control Initiative

- A total number of 1198 of clinically diagnosed urinary schistosomiasis were treated in 10 villages of Merka and Balcad districts during the month of March.

Water and sanitation

- The **Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Mineral Resources** together with **UNICEF** marked World Water Day on 20 March 2008 in Mogadishu.



the chlorine tablets. IMC has finalized the construction of family latrines and community mobilization at village level is ongoing.

- **UNICEF** has distributed supplies to the various partners and health posts for hygiene and chlorination including routine immunization (EPI) activities. The UN agency and **SOPHPA** have constructed 300 latrines in IDP camps between KM13 and Elasha. **SOPHPA** is distributing soaps and jargons to the 30000 IDP families.

- **IMC** WASH project has rehabilitated and chlorinated wells in 16 villages that were affected by floods in 2007. Household chlorination was introduced in about 16 villages and each household received the initial supply of 20-litre-Aquatabs for treatment of household water on 25 February 2008. The WASH project team intends to re-supply

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

- The second round of National Immunization Days (NIDs) conducted in March using tOPV was successfully completed; more than 1.8 million under five children were targeted during this round. Reported administrative coverage for March NIDs is 98% and evaluation coverage is 94%. Vitamin A supplementation targeting about 1.6 Million children 6-59 months of age was also successfully completed with coverage of 93%. **WHO, UNICEF, MOH** and other partners were involved in the monitoring of these NIDs.
- During the polio NIDS, **WHO** conducted a workshop on the identification of early Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) on 7 March 2008 in the districts of Middle and Lower Jubba regions
- **UNICEF** conducted the third round of the EPI acceleration campaign along the Afgoye IDP corridor. During the vaccination drive, ORS, VITAMIN-A, Mebandizole tabs, soap bars and Fansidar tabs were distributed.

No wild polio virus (WPV) case was reported from Somalia for the last 1 year; the last WPV case was reported from Hobyo district, Mudug region, with date of onset 25/03/2007.

4. Primary and Secondary Health Care

- **Muslim Aid UK** has initiated a nutritional education programme for pregnant and lactating mothers in Jamaame town and surrounding villages.

Rehabilitation and support of health facilities

- **UNFPA** is supporting the maternity ward at Florinini Hospital run by the **IIDA women group**. About 80 hygiene kits and 2 delivery kits were supplied by the agency for safer delivery. Waberi and Hanano mother and child health centres (MCHs) and Banadir hospital have also received 300 hygiene kits from UNFPA to support the reproductive health services. There are plans to support Keysaney and Madina hospitals with reproductive health supplies.
- SOS hospital has become operational as of 15 March 2008. **WHO** provided blood screening and other required reagents to the hospital.
- **UNICEF** and **local NGO AFRIC** is supporting the Afmadow MCH in early detecting of malnutrition cases and better management of acute upper and lower respiratory infection.

Relevant links

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

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