



BelleAmin village in Jamaame district where more than 100 houses were burnt during clashes between two warring clans
Photo by WHO/Somalia



May 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 IDP needs assessment was conducted in Jamaame, Lower Jubba in response to the recent fighting among the warring clans in the district. Shelter and medical supplies are some of the main concerns.
- Between 1-31 May 2008 (epidemiological week 18-21), a total of 7529 cases of clinically diagnosed acute watery diarrhea (AWD) including 37 related deaths (CFR 0.49%) were reported from Somalia. AWD reported from all 3 zones; 74% (5544) were less than five years. Health education and environmental hygiene activities are ongoing.
- Efforts to keep Somalia polio free since March 2007 continue with the support of all polio eradication partners and donors. The next two NIDs are planned for July 7-9 and August 11-13 2008 and all children under 5 will be vaccinated.

Situation Overview

- The security situation remained tense in the Somali capital Mogadishu as insurgent groups continued with their hit-and-run attacks against the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) forces, Ethiopian troops and African Union peacekeepers. The number of security incidents in Mogadishu has dramatically increased compared to previous weeks.(OCHA)
- The FAO Food Security Analysis Unit has released the preliminary results from a nutrition survey conducted in April in El Berde district, Bakool region. The results indicate a very critical nutrition situation with 24.1% global acute malnutrition (GAM) and 2.8% severe acute malnutrition. These results indicate deterioration from a previous survey conducted in December 2006 when the GAM was 17.7%. This is due to the deteriorating food security situation caused by poor rainfall, which has led to lack of pasture and water for livestock, and the ability of pastoralists to purchase food. These effects are further compounded by the soaring food prices overall.



Somalia Support Secretariat



Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

1. Assessment and monitoring

- WHO conducted a health needs assessment in ToroToro district, Lower Shabelle region on 28 April 2008 to assess the health status and needs of the population. Key finding revealed that there are no health facilities for close to 20,000 people living in the district hence the need to set up a health post. WHO supplied one basic health unit for the initiation of the clinic. WHO will continue to provide technical support, capacity building, drugs and supplies to the health post.
- WHO and Muslim Aid UK undertook an assessment in about seven villages in Jamaame district, Lower Jubba region and will initiate water chlorination activities and health education at every health post to control Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD). In addition, WHO and Muslim Aid also carried out an IDP needs assessment in the district of Jamaame on 17 May 2008 to respond to the recent fighting among the warring clans. Priority needs include shelter, environmental and personal hygiene and medical supplies.

2. Health Coordination

- An early warning and response system (EWARS) training was provided by WHO and the health cluster to about 49 health workers from the various health facilities in 8 districts of Lower Shabelle from 26 - 29 May 2008.
- Training on Aseptic and Hygienic Measures was also conducted in Merca hospital. About 71 health workers from health facilities participated. The recommendations made after the training include providing support to the various facilities with drugs, supplies and equipments, ensure proper working conditions and capacity building in the various health sciences.
- UNFPA and Ministry of Health (MoH) in Mogadishu plan to start a reproductive health-working group at field level.

3. Communicable diseases and Environmental health

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

- Banadir region reported 7% of AWD cases (499/7529) including 13 related deaths (CFR 2.06%). In lower and middle Jubba regions AWD cases have decreased. About 556 cases were reported with no related deaths. Forty-one (41%) (228/556) were reported from Jilib district.
- Responding to AWD situation in the regions of south and central, WHO distributed supplies of emergency health kits to the hospitals and partners to respond to emergency drug needs. Banadir hospital received 230 litres of ringer lactate from ACF and one emergency health kit and essential drugs from WHO. The hospital also received 100 cartons (1200 litres) I.V solutions of ringer lactate from the Manhal organization. Another 150 cartons (1800 litres) have been dispatched to various locations in Hiraan region to respond to emergency needs for AWD supplies.
- SRCS is conducting social mobilization on AWD prevention at the various IDP camps in Buloburte and Muqakori in Hiran region. On reports of AWD cases in Buloburte and Aborey area, SRCS supplied ORS and carried out water chlorination activities. SOPHA plans to initiate a health education campaign to improve environmental sanitation at the IDP camps.
- MSF-Spain have stockpile of essential drugs after admitting a number of AWD cases at their health facility in Balad district, Middle Shabelle region. InterSOS reported an

increase in AWD with 53 cases admitted at the InterSOS hospital in Jowhar. WHO will provide 100 liters of ringer lactate.

- Health cluster partners MSF France, Mercy USA, World Concern, Muslim Aid UK, World Vision and SRCS are monitoring areas in Lower and Middle Jubba that continue to report AWD cases.
- Partners COOPI, World Vision, Muslim Aid are undertaking environmental hygiene activities including health education in the districts of Jamaame, Afmadow, Buale and Kismaayo to improve water quality in order to reduce water borne related diseases like AWD.
- Local NGO AFREC and Unicef conducted health education session for about 100 women in Afmadow district MCH on how to prepare oral rehydration therapy (ORT) to control AWD.

Water and Sanitation

- Community-based organization-CED, Somali Development Relief Organization (SDRO) and Unicef have implemented an emergency water supply system enhancement plan by increasing borehole yield capacities located in Lafoole, Daqa Qaranka & Xawa Cabdi with water extension kiosks.
- Community Education Development (CED) has completed the piping system on the Afgoye corridor. About 53 IDP camps in different settlements along Afgoye corridor are using water pipe delivery system.
- Chlorination of water sources in Jilib district and surrounding villages of Faragurow and Gududey is ongoing. In Afmadow district, Horn Relief is supporting chlorination of shallow wells. 58 water points have already been chlorinated. In Hagar district the agency has chlorinated 38 water points. AFREC has carried out water chlorination of more than 35 water points at targeted villages in Jilib district.



Vaccine Preventable Diseases

- A refresher AFP surveillance training to all District Polio Officers to improve the AFP system sensitivity and awareness is going on in different regions and will be completed before end of June.
- In the second half of 2008, two NIDs - in July and August - to boost the immunity of children below 5 years is planned and preparations are ongoing with all partners. Vit A supplementation will be included with July NIDs and de-worming using Albendazole tablets will be included in August NIDs.

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.

4. Primary and Secondary Health Care

- World vision conducted a workshop on nutritional education in Buuale district and surrounding villages from 7-10 May 2008. A total 60 people from the village health committee (VHC) and volunteers participated.
- The outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) run by Muslim Aid received 416 severe cases of malnourished children as referral cases from JUMBO organization for further feeding. About 1425 children were admitted at the OTPs during the month of May.
- AFREC began distribution of ferro folic acid for pregnant women in Tobaney village in Afmadow district, Lower Jubba.
- Muslim Aid UK initiated food demonstration for pregnant women and lactating mothers attending MCH to prevent malnutrition for children of 6 months-5 years (weaning period) in Kismayo, Lower Jubba. A similar health education activity is been undertaken in Jamaame town.
- Manhal organization and WHO implemented two eye camps for cataract surgeries in Lower and Middle Shabelle regions in an effort to prevent and treat blindness in Somalia.

Support to health facilities

- UNFPA provided 12 comprehensive EmOC kits to Keysaney and Madina hospitals in Mogadishu. In addition, 30 Reproductive Health kits (CDK and STI) have been dispatched to a number of MCHs in Mogadishu to respond to the reproductive health needs. The agency also dispatched supplies to Galkacyo and health kits to Baidoa Hospital.
- World Vision has installed new cold chain in health facilities in Saakow district to support the routine vaccination activities.
- MURDO established one MCH in Marerey village in the Afgoye area. Plans are underway to establish a mobile team to IDPs in Kah- Shiqal area. Unicef will support 3 clinics (Tiida, ex-dayniile and Orphanage center) run by SRCS.



Relevant links

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

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