



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

The Emergency Preparedness and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Newsletter provides a summarized overview of the current humanitarian health situation in Somalia and activities that WHO is carrying out in response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

The newsletter is issued on a monthly basis and is available online at www.emro.who.int/somalia/CollaborativeProgrammes-eha.htm

Health events & situation overview

- Several rumours of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreaks have been reported in **South Central Somalia** including in Banadir Region, Middle Shabelle, Bay and Bakool regions, Butinle district in Puntland, and Togheer and Sanaag regions of Somaliland. In general, these areas have a high number of IDPs where the risk of outbreaks of communicable diseases is high owing to the makeshift living conditions, and lack of adequate drinking water and sanitation.

Banadir Region

- Between 26 September and 16 October, 208 cases of AWD and 3 related deaths (case fatality rate 1.44%) were reported from **Banadir Hospital (Mogadishu)**. 80% of all cases (166) and one third of deaths were amongst children under the age of 5 years. WHO conducted rumour verification and case investigation, and collected 10 stool samples (all from children under the age of 3 years) on 6 October. Two of the samples tested positive for *Vibrio Cholerae* serotype '*Inaba*'. Locations of origin of confirmed cases were Madina and Hamarweyne in Mogadishu. The number of AWD cases reported by the hospital remained stable the last week of October with 60 cases (67% in children under 5 years) and no related deaths.



WHO response and activities

Banadir Region

- WHO teams visited **Banadir Hospital (Mogadishu)** for rumour verification and collection of samples. WHO pre-positioned essential medicines and equipment for the response to and case management of AWD/cholera cases, as well as pool testers for

Lower and Middle Jubba Regions

- Localized cases of whooping cough have been reported in Afmadow, Bu'aale, and Hagar districts in **Lower** and **Middle Jubba** at the end of October.
- Between 26 September and 23 October, 468 cases of AWD were reported from Afmadow (60), Hagar (86), Kismayo (161) and Badhaadhe (44) in **Lower Jubba**, and Bu'aale (34), Sakoow (43), and Salalge (40) in **Middle Jubba**. This is an increase of 8% compared to last month. The data was not available from Jamaame (Lower Jubba) and Jilib (Middle Jubba) in the reporting period due to security reasons. Of all cases, 81% (380) were children under 5 years.
- Between 6-7 October, hostilities broke out in the **Afmadow** and **Hagar districts (Lower Jubba)** with a reported 19 deaths and 23 casualties. Mararey Field Hospital (operated by MSF Holland), Diinsoor District Hospital of Bay Region (operated by MSF Spain) and Kismayo Hospital are receiving casualties. An estimated 4,200 people have been displaced in Afmadow and 3,000 people in Hagar according to local reports.
- Ongoing hostilities in **Kismayo (Lower Jubba)** continued to result in deaths and casualties. From a range of sources, WHO estimates that over 410 casualties and 80 deaths have occurred as a result of the conflict in the month of October. According to local partners, IDPs from Kismayo were returning in the third week of October after a break in hostilities had been announced by both parties, specifically those in Buulo-Gudud and the Kamasuma village of Jamame.

Seasonal floods

- From 14-20 October, rainy season began in most parts of South Central Somalia with heavy rains in Jubba and Shabelle according to SWALIM. As of end of October, no health incidents related to flooding were reported and flood warning levels remained minimal. However, the situation of communicable disease continues to be monitored, particularly in areas of high displacement. Flash floods were reported by local partners in Elwak District of Gedo Region.

Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions

- In the same period, the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) in **Lower Sha-**

WASH's implementing partners who initiated increased chlorination of water sources in the locations of confirmed cases.



Lower and Middle Jubba Regions

- In response to suspected cases of whooping cough in **Lower** and **Middle Jubba**, WHO supported active case investigation through distribution of guidelines to all partners.
- WHO has supported Muslim Aid with technical assistance for conducting water treatment in **Lower Jubba** as part of overall efforts to monitor the health of IDPs in the region.
- In response to the situation in **Lower Jubba**, WHO has coordinated with partners on the ground to fill existing gaps. WHO continued monitoring the situation in **Kismayo** and provided 2 basic trauma kits, one each to **Hagar** and **Afmadow** districts.

Seasonal floods

On top of existing emergency response plans, WHO and partners developed a flood contingency plan, in conjunction with WASH partners, to be able to respond to potential flooding in South Central Somalia. The plan sets out specific needs for supplies, training of health workers on disease control and operational support in the case of flooding. This initiative is incorporated in general AWD preparedness activities. Contingency planning is even more important this year, in light of the high level of displacement in flood-prone areas, including Hiraan, Lower and Middle Shabelle.

Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions

- Through support received from the CERF, WHO and Muslim Aid have established 1 new OPD at km18 in the **Afgooye Corridor** and two in **Balad Corridor** (at El-Irfid and Alyalo) in support of the already existing 5 OPDs in Afgooye corridor serving IDP communities.

belle reported a total of 18,774 consultations. Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) accounted for 19% (3,631), Diarrhoeal Diseases (DD) for 8% (1,518 cases of which 108 were AWD and 326 bloody diarrhoea). Other common causes of morbidity were injuries (597); severe malnutrition (338); malaria (299 cases of which 31 confirmed by either laboratory or RDT); mumps (49) and measles (84). 95% (44) of the measles cases were reported from Merka district and 3 from Afgooye district.

- Between 3-9 October, **Merka Hospital (Lower Shabelle)** reported 17 cases of AWD, 60% of them affecting children under 5, and no deaths.

Vaccine-preventable diseases

- In 2009, WHO and UNICEF conducted Child Health Days (CHDs) throughout Somalia. Two rounds were completed in Somaliland; one in Puntland, in all districts of South Somalia except for Kismayo and Lower Shabelle, and in Central Somalia (Middle Shabelle, Hiraan, Galgaduud). The second round in Puntland, South and Central Zones is planned in November/ December.
- Emergency outbreak response to measles was conducted in the last week of October by WHO and UNICEF in several districts of **Mogadishu** and parts of **Afgooye Corridor**, combined with other child survival interventions. The campaign was a complimentary activity to the Child Health Days.

Bay and Bakool Regions

- Between August and October 2009, 208 cases of diarrhoeal disease and 6 related deaths (case CFR 2.88%) were reported in **Ufrurow district (Bay)**. All cases affected children under 5 years. WHO concluded that

WHO provided 5 basic units of the interagency emergency health kit to the 8 OPDs operated by Muslim Aid in the second week of October. The clinics are extending essential health services to IDP populations in Afgooye Corridor.

- WHO, in conjunction with Medair, trained 12 health workers in **Cadale (Middle Shabelle)**, and together with World Vision, 18 health workers in **Wajid (Bakool)** on case definitions for AWD, early detection, diagnosis and reporting, case management and prevention of AWD. As part of the preparedness activities, WHO is continuing to train key health partners, working in areas with high numbers of IDPs in **Mogadishu, Afgooye Corridor** and **Bakool** where the risk of outbreaks of communicable disease is high.
- WHO continued monitoring the situation of AWD in **Lower Shabelle**, with AWD case management supplies already prepositioned in **Merka**.



Bay and Bakool Regions

- WHO has completed outbreak investigation in **Bay Region** and based on the recommendations will be training key health staff in AWD case detection and management and coordinating with partners to ensure the provision of

SPECIAL EVENTS

- In collaboration with Habeb Public Mental hospital, WHO commemorated this year's **"World Mental Health Day"** with focus on mental health in emergencies, on **10 October** at the Institute of Health Sciences in Mogadishu. Mental health workers from Bay, Middle Shabelle and Lower Jubba regions, medical students and families of those with mental disorders came together to raise awareness of the need to dramatically improve treatment and pastoral care. More information at www.emro.who.int/somalia/CollaborativeProgrammes-mnh.htm.
- **14 October** was the **"International Day for Disaster Reduction"**, dedicated to raising awareness to the importance of making "Hospitals Safe from Disasters." The day coincides with the culmination of the two-year World Disaster Reduction campaign based on the same theme and organized by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, WHO and the World Bank.
- **1,000 cities - 1,000 lives"** is a campaign under the overall activities related to **World Health Day 2010** which will focus on urbanization and health. The goal of the campaign is for 1,000 cities to close off portions of streets to traffic for activities promoting better health and to collect 1,000 stories of urban health champions who have taken action to improve health in their cities. Garowe, Merka and Hargeisa have already registered.

For WHO Somalia updated information, reports, and guidelines see www.emro.who.int/somalia/CollaborativeProgrammes-eha.htm. For more information about WHO's coordination role and health cluster documents see www.emro.who.int/somalia/healthcluster.

the reported cases did not constitute an outbreak owing to cases not meeting standard case definitions for AWD.



Photo: WHO Somalia

WHO conducted key informant interviews as part of AWD outbreak investigation in Rabdhure

- In conclusion to outbreak investigation, a total of 90 cases of AWD (99% affecting children under 5) with 4 related deaths (CFR 4.44%) were reported from Rabdhure, Washago and Bodan in **Rabdhure district (Bakool)** between 19 August and 9 October 2009.

FUNDING & PLANNING

In October, WHO has implemented activities under the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) and Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). HRF covered two projects totalling an amount of USD \$437,670. Projects funded were “Emergency health services for women and children in Bay and Lower Shabelle” and “Rapid response to outbreaks of infectious diseases and emergency health care to populations affected by drought and food insecurity”. With a total of USD \$2,786,678 CERF supported the two projects “Provision of emergency life-saving health care services to the displaced and host population in areas affected by conflict and natural disaster” and “Emergency response to measles outbreaks among children in Mogadishu particularly in internally displaced communities”.

WHO as the health cluster lead agency has facilitated the completion of inclusion and prioritization of health projects for the CAP 2010. Of the 36 submitted projects which total an amount of USD \$46,444,971 for the health cluster, WHO is planning activities through 7 projects with a total budget of USD \$16,588,313. The projects are addressing mother and child care including emergency obstetric care; primary health care; child survival interventions; emergency surgical care; blood safety for emergency services in conflict-affected areas; outbreak response and control of communicable diseases; and health cluster coordination.

Puntland

- WHO outbreak investigation in **Butinle district (Nugaal)** concluded 167 cases of AWD

supplies to **Ufrurow**. WHO continues to coordinate with WASH partners as part of outbreak prevention measures.

- All 6 stool samples that were collected on 9 October in **Rabdhure district (Bakool)** for laboratory confirmation, as part of the overall WHO rumour verification and outbreak investigation, tested negative for *Vibrio Cholerae*. The response also included a 2-day practical workshop on 27-28 October.

Preparedness & Supplies

- WHO has been supporting partners in the management of **Baidoa Hospital (Bay)** in form of staff training, facility assessment, equipment, on-the-job training of 2 doctors and nurses on emergency surgical procedures.
- Ahead of the expected AWD outbreak season in October/November, WHO is assessing current stocks of supplies pre-positioned by health partners. Information on the current stocks of AWD supplies for the cluster can be found on www.emro.who.int/somalia/healthcluster.htm
- With support of CERF funding, WHO has pre-positioned 20 cholera treatment tents and 240 cholera beds in key locations across Somalia at risk of outbreaks of AWD (including Bua’ale, Merka, Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Wajid). In coordination with UNICEF, WHO is also prepositioning essential medicines and supplies which will be distributed to partners providing services to population in humanitarian need, including inter-agency emergency health kits, trauma kits, diarrhoeal disease kits, etc.
- This month, WHO distributed 7,200 litres of diesel fuel for hospital generators and 90kg oil supplies equally to Baidoa, Banadir and Merka hospitals for a 3 months period to alleviate the challenges of the hospitals in ensuring uninterrupted delivery of essential health services particularly to conflict-affected communities in the regions.

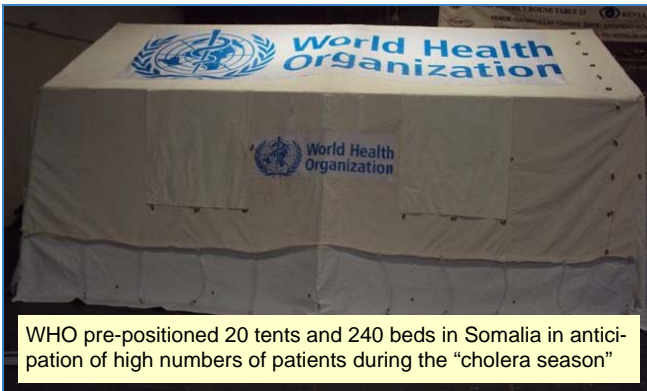
Puntland

- WHO and partners conducted outbreak investigation in **Butinle district (Nugaal)**. Five samples were taken and 1 tested positive for *Vibrio Cholerae* serotype ‘Inaba’. In response, WHO and partners have provided training on case management, with Merlin and MOH pro-

continued: health events & situation overview

and 10 deaths (CFR 5.98%), with 62% cases affecting children under the age of 5 years (between 5-17 September). Of the deaths, 50% were amongst children under 5 years.

- In the first two weeks of October, a total of 338 cases of AWD were reported through the Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) in **Puntland**. 67% (228) of the cases were children under 5 years. Of all cases, 36% (121) were reported from three health facilities in Bossasso.
- Between 26 September and 16 October, WHO AFP surveillance and EPI sites reported 134 suspected cases of measles from throughout Somalia. 78% (104) were reported from Puntland and 18% (24) from Central Somalia. Of all cases, 66% (88) were children under the age of 5 years.



WHO pre-positioned 20 tents and 240 beds in Somalia in anticipation of high numbers of patients during the "cholera season"

continued: WHO response and activities

viding supplies, and MOH conducting social mobilization activities.

- WHO is pre-positioning essential supplies for case management of AWD, e.g. more than 1,000 litres of ringer lactate in **Garowe (Nugaal)**.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY WHO

- 20 cholera treatment tents and 240 cholera beds in Hargeisa (W' Galbeed) for country-wide distribution
- 2,160 litres of ringer lactate sent to Wajid (Bakool)
- more than 1,000 litres of ringer lactate and other essential case management supplies pre-positioned in Garowe (Nugaal)
- 5 basic units of the inter-agency emergency health kit to OPDs on Afgooye and Balad corridors (Lower Shabelle) operated by Muslim Aid
- 2 basic trauma kits, one each to Hagar and Afmadow districts (Lower Jubba)
- 5,000 ORS sachets; 30,000 aquatabs; 1,000 Doxycycline; 2,000 Erythromycin; 2,000 Ciprofloxacin pre-positioned in Buu'ale (Middle Jubba)
- 5,000 ORS sachets; 1,000 Doxycycline; 2,000 Erythromycin pre-positioned in Merka
- 2,000 Erythromycin; 2,000 Ciprofloxacin pre-positioned in Mogadishu (Banadir)
- New Investigation Kit pre-positioned in Hargeisa (W'Galbeed)
- 7,200 litres of diesel fuel for hospital generators and 90kg oil supplies equally distributed to Baidoa, Banadir and Merka hospitals
- 2 chlorine testing kits to SOPHPA and 3 kits to Muslim Aid in Mogadishu