Renewed Efforts to Curb Disease Outbreaks

Polio immunisation campaigns continue as 11 new wild poliovirus cases reported in the region

Eleven new wild poliovirus (WPV) cases have been reported in the past week (ten from Somalia and one from Kenya), bringing the total number of cases in the region to 25 since the outbreak in May. Although newly-reported cases are increasing, none of these cases represent breakthrough transmission since outbreak response activities began, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. In response to the outbreak, vaccination campaigns are underway. The first vaccination campaign began on 14 May in Somalia. The third round of outbreak response campaigns is currently being conducted this week targeting all age groups.

In Kenya, the second round of the vaccination campaign was launched at a ceremony in the Dadaab refugee compound on 15 June with the participation of refugee leaders, Kenyan Government representatives, and agency staff. This week-long vaccination round will involve the whole population, both children and adults. A third and a fourth round are planned to take place in July and August, including the host population and humanitarian agency staff. The vaccination campaign is being coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Ministry of Health. According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, anecdotal feedback from the field indicates overall good coverage is being achieved, with strong community participation. Meanwhile, in Mombasa, the dengue fever outbreak has now been contained with no new cases reported in the last three weeks.
Immunization campaigns are planned and being conducted in other areas of the Horn of Africa, notably Ethiopia and Yemen, to urgently boost population immunity levels and minimize the risk of spread of the outbreak. The risk to neighbouring countries is still deemed very high by WHO due to large-scale population movements across the Horn of Africa and immunity gaps in some areas.

In 2005, polio spread east across the African continent, into the Horn of Africa and Yemen, resulting in over 700 cases. Since then, international outbreak responses have been adopted and new oral polio vaccines have been developed, which can significantly reduce the severity and length of polio outbreaks.

Through frequent door-to-door polio immunization campaigns, South Sudan has vaccinated more than 94 per cent of children under age 5 against the disease, according to the Ministry of Health. Polio vaccination has been declared as one of the new country's early priorities, in line with an international effort to completely eradicate the disease.

Emergency mass vaccination campaign launched to curb yellow fever

Ethiopia’s Ministry of Health has launched an emergency mass-vaccination campaign against yellow fever in response to six cases confirmed in the South Omo zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s Region (SNNPR). The International Coordinating Group on Yellow Fever Vaccine Provision will provide over 585,800 doses of yellow fever vaccine for the mass vaccination campaign run by the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia, with support from the GAVI Alliance and other partners. WHO is closely supporting the outbreak investigation, capacity building for case management, resource mobilisation for outbreak management, and monitoring preventive and control activities in the field.

Measles immunizations continue

In Ethiopia, more than 340,000 children have been immunized against measles in West Arssi Zone of Oromia State, the zonal health office has declared. The department planned to immunize over 315,000 children, surpassing the target by 25,000. Over 700 health experts from governmental and non-governmental offices took part in providing awareness raising education to the public.

Rwanda continues to experience a significant drop in cases of measles. However, the number of cases of rubella, or ‘German measles’, has increased. Rwanda recently became the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to introduce a dual vaccine to protect children against both measles and rubella. The programme was made possible through support from the GAVI Alliance, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Red Cross and others belonging to the Measles and Rubella Initiative. The dual vaccine will become part of the Government’s routine immunization strategy by 2014.

Humanitarian partners scale up efforts to curb cholera in Uganda

The Ministry of Health and partners continue to respond to the cholera outbreak in Uganda. On 18 April, the Ugandan Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of cholera in...
the districts of Hoima, Nebbi, and Buliisa in western Uganda. Since the start of the year, there have been over 200 reported cases of cholera and 7 deaths in these three districts. A recent assessment conducted by Government authorities and the Ugandan Red Cross Society estimated that over 200,000 people in the affected areas are at high risk of cholera infection, while the wider population in the districts could also come into contact with the disease. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is supporting the Ugandan Red Cross Society to promote health and hygiene practices and increase awareness about cholera and its transmission.

Number of food insecure in the region halves

Since 2011, the number of food insecure in the region has halved from approximately 20 million in the greater Horn (excluding Burundi, Rwanda, DRC, CAR) to less than 10 million. As overall food security conditions continue to improve across the region, chronic vulnerability remains.

This last month has seen localised food shortages in Uganda, Sudan and South Sudan. Early assessments indicate hunger-related deaths and severe malnutrition. Humanitarian assessments are currently underway following an initial Government response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population in IPC Phase 3 &amp; 4</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>76,450</td>
<td>GTT Aug 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAR</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>GTI Jun 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>IPC/FSC Nov 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>6,400,000</td>
<td>GTT Jun 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>2,400,000</td>
<td>GoE Mar 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>KFFSG IPC Mar 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>1,050,000</td>
<td>FSNAU Feb 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>1,197,144</td>
<td>LAF Mar 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>4,253,112</td>
<td>IPC Mar 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>FSSG Feb 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17,526,706</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Food shortages and chronic vulnerability persist despite improving food security
41 deaths due to food insecurity reported from Karamoja

The Government of Uganda has reported 41 deaths due to food insecurity in Kaabong District, located in the sub-region of Karamoja in north-eastern Uganda, following a food security assessment conducted in June by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) through the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Center. The assessment determined the primary causes of the food insecurity to be too much or too little rainfall; late planting of crops; and a poor harvest in 2012 due to the flooding of gardens that caused the rotting of crops. As coping mechanisms, people have survived by gathering wild fruits and vegetables, with some going to neighbouring countries in search of food. Others have migrated to gold-mining areas to dig for the precious metal for survival. OPM reported that it had saved 59 elderly persons from starvation, after they had been left behind by their families who went out in search of food. Response to the situation is ongoing, and includes the Government of Uganda, WFP and World Vision, among others.

Light rains continue as post flooding reconstruction efforts underway

Countries in the region continue to experience light rains as part of the March to May rainy season. The rains, which are now likely to persist until late June/early July, were above average in parts of southern and central Somalia, south-eastern Ethiopia, and in localised areas of central and western Kenya and north-eastern Tanzania.

As of mid-May, some 225,000 people were displaced and at least 170 died across the eastern region following flash floods and landslides associated with the rains, which began in mid-March. The rains have subsided in most parts of eastern Africa and according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the two-week earlier-than-normal rainfall cessation in mid-May signaled the end of the rainy season.
Regional consensus by the 34th Climate Outlook Forum for the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) held in late May indicates that rainfall through August 2013 is expected to vary from just above to just below normal across the region. For much of South Sudan, northern Uganda, Burundi, and western Darfur in Sudan, below normal to normal rainfall is anticipated. Ethiopia, Sudan, Rwanda, and South Sudan are expecting normal to above normal rainfall. The coming months also mark the start of the main agricultural season in most of South Sudan and Darfur as well as the meher agricultural season in Ethiopia.

Humanitarian actors continue to provide assistance to people affected by the floods across the region, with focus on recovery and building resilience. Preparedness and pre-positioning of emergency supplies has largely alleviated the impact of the early and intense rains and flooding across the region.

In Kenya, the number of flood-displaced people in camps continues to decline. As of 14 June, total households living in camps stood at 4,292 with Coast region (Tana Delta) hosting the largest numbers (3,928) followed by North Eastern (291) and Western Kenya (73) according to the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS).

Negotiations have began in North Eastern Region between the Central and County Governments, KRCS and the local community on the support to be provided to the displaced persons who wish to settle permanently in the higher grounds to avoid future displacements. KRCS and the Ministry of Health are conducting medical outreaches that include schools to control the spread of diseases. Early recovery activities in rehabilitation of water supplies, disinfection of flooded shallow wells and construction of latrines at household level have begun. Procurement and distribution of assorted seeds and farm implements in Magarini area of Malindi (Coast region) are being undertaken. As the phase for early recovery and reconstruction is underway, there is need for more funding to cover these activities as the appeal funding status stands at 44 per cent.

In Ethiopia, the Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau is providing assistance to people affected by floods in various parts of the country. Further requests have been made to Federal Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector for additional supplies. Efforts are underway to coordinate more systematic flood preparedness and response to minimize the impact of anticipated flooding, since current responses are made on an ad hoc basis. Shortage of NFI and emergency shelter items is reported. OCHA continues to advocate with the Government to re-activate flood task forces at the national level and in at-risk areas. The Government is currently taking flood mitigation measures, including building two 18-km water canals to pump and divert water from Lake Beseka (in Metehara Town, 200 km east of Addis Ababa) to Awash River, as the lake poses additional risk of flooding to the nearby communities. Schools and health facilities around the lake are reportedly inundated.

Localised insecurity persists across region

Inter-communal conflict in northern Kenya displaces over 6,000 households

Kenya continues to experience isolated incidents of insecurity, ranging from terrorist-related grenade attacks, to bandit attacks, resource and inter-communal conflict. Reports by KRCS indicate that during the last three months, some 85 deaths and 96 casualties were recorded in Mandera County following inter-clan conflict between the Degodia and Garre communities. The protracted tensions and conflict between the two communities largely result from competition for natural resources and political disagreements over governance issues in the new devolution structures. Renewed conflict since 21 June has left nearly 25 people dead and several others injured in Guba sub-location of Mandera.
County. Others have been displaced and forced to flee to nearby locations in the relatively calm Rhamu and Rhamu Dinta location, for fear of attacks. In early June, 12 people were killed in Rhamu and six others seriously injured following seven separate incidents of armed attack. An estimated 9,000 people and unidentified number of livestock were displaced from the area resulting in massive disruption of community livelihoods. Insecurity also remains high in Wajir County where 24 people were killed in two days (22-23 June).

The Government has deployed security officers and commissioned a disarmament exercise to the affected areas. Food supplies have also been prepositioned in Mandera and will be distributed with the help of the County Government. Needs continue to emerge as the conflict persists, with current response gaps in shelter, food, and medication. The prices of food remain over 100 per cent higher, for instance in Banissaa area, which was initially inaccessible due to the recent flooding, hence increased food insecurity in the sub-county. The farms and homes have been abandoned and this has also had a negative impact on education, with an estimated 4,184 children from 16 primary schools and 1,453 Early Childhood Development participants out of school. Secondary education is crowded while adult learning for some 823 persons in the sub-county has been affected. The KRCS and other humanitarian partners are providing both food and non-food items to the affected population. Coordination is through the Deputy County Commissioner’s Office via the District Steering Groups in respective areas.

The conflict has further resulted in tensions among related groups of affected communities in Ethiopia, who are reportedly engaged in retaliatory attacks. Both communities are reportedly mobilizing support from their relatives across the border. The situation on both sides of the border remains tense and there is fear of retaliation.

**New influx of 20,000 South Sudanese reported in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda in 2013**

Population displacements from Jonglei, South Sudan, have been reported in neighbouring countries, with nearly 12,000 South Sudanese registered in Ethiopia, some 5,000 in Kenya and around 2,500 in Uganda in 2013. According to UNHCR, nearly 6,000 of these were registered between 7 and 24 May following an escalation of the violence in the area. Jonglei State has recorded the highest number of violent incidents since January, while Upper Nile has the highest number of displacements, although the number of IDPs in Jonglei remains unknown due to lack of access.

An estimated 10,000 people living in Pibor County of Jonglei State, South Sudan, continue to be displaced from protracted conflict and insecurity in the area. An estimated 7,000 civilians from Boma payam in Jonglei recently fled from their damaged or burned homes and are living in nearby wilderness, where humanitarian access remains a challenge due to insecurity and flooding. Essential facilities including hospitals and warehouses for humanitarian supplies have been both looted and destroyed.

A helicopter funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) flew to Gumuruk Payama, Pibor County, where partners conducted an interagency assessment. Humanitarian assistance, including food distribution, nutrition screening and immunization of children is however ongoing in accessible areas, including Akobo where some 23,000 people were affected by inter-communal conflict in May.

In Sudan, an estimated 29,000 people were displaced and about 30 killed in Upper Nile following a cattle raid incident on 18 May that affected both Ulang and Baliet Counties. The majority of the 13,000 affected people in Ulang County have sought refuge with host
communities along river Sobat. Preliminary assessments point to food and households items as the most pressing needs among the displaced people. Insecurity has also been reported in Unity State where 28 people died and over 4,700 people were displaced by inter-communal violence and cattle raiding in several counties towards the end of May. Aid organizations are addressing the needs of the affected people. In Abyei, the security situation remained stable but unpredictable following the bombing on 13 June of an oil pipeline and the shelling of a United Nations base in Kadugli on 14 June. Despite these events, aid agencies continued with the distribution of non-food items and hygiene kits as part of the rainy season assistance to vulnerable communities in Abyei.

**Conflict remains widespread in Somalia hampering humanitarian activities in south and central Somalia**

Terrorist attacks and fighting with Government forces in different parts of the country continues. Over the course of the month, heavy fighting broke out between rival factions of Somalia’s militant Islamist group Al Shabaab near the key coastal town of Brava. On 7-8 June, people were killed in fighting in southern Somalia for the control of Kismayo port, reportedly the heaviest clashes the city has seen in over four years. On 19 June, Al Shabaab militants attacked a UN Compound in one of the biggest assaults targeting the UN in recent years.

**In Brief**

**Humanitarian Logistics Base to be built in Djibouti**

The UN World Food Programme (WFP), with support of the Government of Djibouti, the Government of Canada and the Government of Finland, have officially launched the first phase of building a humanitarian logistics base that will improve storage and transport of humanitarian assistance across the Horn of Africa. The new hub, which is being built in the vicinity of Djibouti port, will enable WFP and the wider humanitarian community to dispatch humanitarian assistance more quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively in the region. The port is the main gateway for food entering Ethiopia. The structure, which should be completed by 2015, will eventually ease the flow of assistance not only to Ethiopia and Djibouti, but also to Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya and Somalia. About one quarter of the people that WFP assists worldwide live in the Horn of Africa.

For further information, please contact:

Gabriella Waaijman, Deputy Head of Office, OCHA Eastern Africa, waaijman@un.org, Tel. (+254) 732600012
Matthew Conway, Public Information Officer, OCHA Eastern Africa, conwaym@un.org, Tel. (+254) 732500010
Tamara Leigh, Humanitarian Reporting Officer, OCHA Eastern Africa, leight@un.org, Tel. (+254) 71770 4002
Truphosa Anjichi-Kodumbe, Humanitarian Reporting Officer, OCHA Eastern Africa, anjichi@un.org, Tel. (+254) 732600018