WEEKLY COVID-19 PROGRESS REPORT
Vol. #2

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Garowe
1. INTRODUCTION

In Somalia, the current pandemic trends indicate a total of 873 confirmed cases with a death toll of 39 cases as of 7th May 2020. The number of recovered patients are 87 persons with 2 more critical cases recorded during this reporting period. However, Somalia is experiencing a substantial upsurge of community transmission of the COVID-19 infection such as those experienced in neighboring countries in Kenya and Ethiopia. The data shows a significant increase of the Coronavirus case detection rate in Somalia in the last two weeks. Notably, given the insufficient resources, public health capacity and the availability of essential skills and materials to cope with the pandemic, it is anticipated that the community transmission of the infection may have reached its highest peak unnoticed. Compared to the neighboring countries, such as Kenya 607 cases and Ethiopia 187 cases respectively, Somalia COVID-19 cases has exceeded both countries combined.

2. PUNTALAD HEALTH SECTOR UPDATE

This reporting period, 122 suspected cases has been tested by the Puntland Public Health Referral Laboratory (PPHRL) stationed in Garowe. A significant 48% of the cases tested turned positive which translates 59 cases into numbers. It is worth mentioning that 78% (45 cases) of the confirmed cases happen to be Male patients, which the age of the patients ranges between 14yrs to 70years.

As shown in the right diagram, the public health referral laboratory has undertaken ten activities during this reporting period, of those clearly indicated herein, the daily case detection trend has been on the rise. Due to insufficient of personal protection equipment for the health workers and the necessary testing reagents, routine laboratory undertakings could not be practical. This
illustrates if the necessary supplies would have been sufficient, the daily case trends would have been sky high. The daily case trend also notices that, the level of transmission of the infection in the community has taken to another level despite effort to mitigate, awareness and social mobilization and most of all necessary restrictions imposed.

Having mentioned 59 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infections in Puntland, the cases with outcome so far is three, which categorizes in recovery and death cases. two deaths has been confirmed so far along one case with recovery with the first results of repeat samples indicate NEGATIVE.

Geographical case trends demonstrate that, Nugal region has a significant 78% (46 cases) confirmed COVID-19 cases compared to the rest of the Puntland regions. The second highest trends of the COVID-19 cases revealed in Karkar region. This diagram is indicating that, not only the infection has taken its toll in Garowe, the capital city of Puntland but the infection is also transmitting in other various regions and districts of Puntland.

The majority of the emergency calls received by the call center have come from Garowe town of Nugal region, with Karkar region the second highest. The distribution indicates that, six regions have called for either counseling or testing services. 19% (28) of the emergency calls revealed that they have the COVID-19 indication and requested to be diagnosed while the rest of the 81% (119) were in search of counseling and medical advices. The majority of the callers were Male 78%. The call center has stationed by qualified health workers, those were trained and equipped to provide
health advices and counseling services delivery.

2.1 OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS
✓ Meeting with WHO and discussed the COVID-19 issues and planned the Incidence Management Team Meeting during this week.
✓ A call center has been established in MoH and a toll free line 343 has been activated
✓ Over 200 frontline health workers have been trained in the management of COVID-19 cases
✓ Rapid Response Teams have been deployed to investigate alerts
✓ The laboratory in Garowe has been equipped and health workers trained to conduct analysis of samples in Garowe and samples were also referred from other regions of Puntland
✓ Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control have been developed and shared with all treatment facilities
✓ A total of 500 cartons of soap have been distributed to health facilities in Garowe, Bosaso, Galkacyo and Qardho.
✓ Sound track awareness and community engagements were conducted as well as the media e.g. TV, Radio and Journals to increase the level of community education for COVID-19.
✓ Community social mobilisers have been trained and deployed to conduct community sensitization
✓ There has been additional isolation sites established, those were also equipped and deployed trained health workers

3. CHALLENGES
- Limited supplies for PPE and laboratory reagents to test the suspected cases
- Limited funding to support alert investigation and response activities in different communities
- Lack of food supplies for suspected and confirmed cases in eight isolation sites in Puntland

4. RECOMMENDATIONS
- Provision of essential testing reagents and personal protection equipment for the health workers
- Provision of essential food services in the isolation sites
- Deployment of additional trained health workers in the isolation and quarantine sites in other regions of Puntland