Infectious diseases respect no geographical boundaries and poses a significant challenge to the vulnerable population living along the Horn of Africa border areas. The low population immunity among the people living along the border and hard to reach areas makes them vulnerable to infectious diseases. They share common ecology, culture, mobile population, low socioeconomic among other risk factors. These characteristics make routine immunization, disease surveillance and rapid response in border areas critical for preventing or containing the spread of infectious diseases between countries.

The two-day quarterly cross-border meeting was held from August 11-12, 2021, at Koket Hotel, Moyale border town of Ethiopia. The forum was hosted by CCORDA/CORE Group Polio & Global Health Security Ethiopia Secretariat and Save the Children. The meeting hosted representation from Federal MOH of Ethiopia, MOH & Veterinary officials from Borena and Afere regions of Ethiopia, Kenya border Counties MOH & Veterinary officials (Wajir, Mandera, and Marsabit), WHO representatives (Ethiopia), IGAD-Ethiopia, CORE GROUP Polio-GHSA Project (CGP-GHS)-HOA Secretariat and CGP-GHS Project-Kenya partners (World Vision-Kenya, Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA-Kenya), & Catholic Relief Service) and Ethiopia Orthodox Church (CGP-GHS Ethiopia partner).

The cross-border threat of importation and propagation of infectious diseases calls for a collective, coordinated, systematic cross-border collaboration among County/Woreda-level officials and partners from Kenya and Ethiopia in improving synchronized surveillance and vaccination activities.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss and update the synchronized cross border micro-plans, strengthen the existing joint cross-border polio & GHSA priority zoonotic disease surveillance activities and coordination mechanism among border regions.

The action points from the forum were;

- Developed Kenya-Ethiopia cross-border listserv for improved communication and coordination
- Joint cross-border workplans developed by Borena region of Ethiopia/Marsabit County of Kenya and Afdeer/Liban region of Ethiopia/Mandera/Wajir counties of Kenya
- Planned synchronized GIS mapping of cross-border settlements, health/veterinary infrastructure, livestock movement, formal and informal transit points to aid in surveillance and vaccination activities.
- Establishment of One Health taskforces at the sub-national levels.
Cross Border Activities Updates (KENYA)

- **Community based surveillance**: No suspected cases of AFP were reported by the community mobilizers during the week.
- **Routine Immunization Outreaches**: The project supported 8 immunization outreach services during the week.
- **Social Mobilization**: The CVs conducted weekly routine sensitization on immunization & surveillance through house to house strategy while observing COVID-19 protocols. 4,741 households visited, reaching 3,462 (1349 males & 2113 females).
- **Defaulter tracing**: During the week, border health facilities in Kenya reported 238 children < 1-year defaulters and traced 139 (59%).

Cross Border Activities Updates (SOMALIA)

- **Community based surveillance**: 1 suspected AFP case was detected by the community mobilizer during the week in bulla Waberi, Dhobley, Lower Juba region of Somalia.
- **Routine Immunization Outreaches**: 2 routine immunization outreach sessions were supported during the week in the CGPP supported regions.
- **Social Mobilization**: The CVs conducted weekly routine sensitization on immunization & surveillance through house to house strategy while observing COVID-19 protocols. 1,676 households visited, reaching 565 (262 males & 303 females).
- **Defaulter tracing**: During the week, border health facilities in Somalia did not conduct any routine immunization defaulter tracing.

Global Health Security—Priority Zoonotic Diseases Updates: (KENYA):

- **REPORTING**: CHV total of 22 suspected animal alerts were reported, 3 cluster of animal deaths in Lamu and Marsabit, 4 suspected brucellosis in Mandera, 1 suspected measles in Marsabit, 2 suspected rabies in Mandera, while 12 cases of suspected of trypanosomiasis reported in Lamu and Turkana.
- **For suspected human disease alerts, a total of 12 alerts were reported**: Acute watery diarrhea (5 Lamu , 2 cluster of human death /illness in Lamu and Mandera ), 1 case of suspected AFP and 2 cases of fever , cough and breathing problem in Dhiba and Nairobi reported by the CMs
- **A total of 360 zero reports as well 4 cases of rumors were reported by the community health volunteers.**
- **Support animal vaccination in Banissa sub-county in Mandera**

CM taking part In animal vaccination exercise.
STRENGTHENING OF IMMUNIZATION SYSTEMS: OUTREACH SERVICES TO HARD TO REACH BORDER, NOMADIC PASTORALIST.

Children < 1 year vaccinated with various antigens by County / Region in Kenya and Somalia, 28/12/2020 - 15/08/2021

KENYA:
- Total # of children defaulted = 11,182
- Total # of children traced = 6,635 (59%)

SOMALIA:
- Total # of children defaulted = 957
- Total # of children traced = 493 (52%)

Geocoded CGPP outreach supported site in Kenya and Somalia 01/01/2021 - 15/08/2021

Routing Immunization defaulter tracing targeting children < 1 year who defaulted by county/region, 01/01/2021- 15/08/2021

# Outreach supported by County/Region, 28/12/2020 - 15/08/2021
1 new suspected AFP case detected by community mobilizer in Bulla Waberi, Dhobley, Lower Juba region of Somalia. This brings the suspected AFP cases to a total of 23 in Kenya and 7 in Somalia.

Mapping of AFP surveillance active case search in Kenya and Somalia 01/01/2021 - 15/08/2021
COMMUNITY BASED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE ON PRIORITY ZOONOTIC DISEASES.

SUSPECTED ANIMAL DISEASE ALERTS RECEIVED BY COUNTIES.
01/10/2020 - 15/08/2021

Rumour and Zero Report as from 01/10/2020 - 15/08/2021

Mapping of suspected PZD alerts 01/10/2020 - 15/08/2021
## TRAININGS DURING THE WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Type of training</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th># trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07/08/2021</td>
<td>Turkana</td>
<td>To sensitize community on surveillance of AFP and PZDs to improve detection and reporting</td>
<td>100 community members sensitized on AFP surveillance and PZDs aimed at improving detection and reporting</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## INTEGRATED SUPPORT SUPERVISION DURING THE WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th># HF visited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/08/2021 – 13/08/2021</td>
<td>Mandera</td>
<td>To Enhancing feedback and building team approaches that facilitate problem-solving.</td>
<td>Some facilities reported missing vaccines and fridge tags</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IEC materials for immunization lacking in some facilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KENYA

- Confirmed cases: 220,727
  - Male cases: 130,175
  - Female cases: 90,552
  - Death (CFR= 2%): 4,340
  - Recoveries & discharges: 203,922

A total 2,253,457 COVID-19 tests have been conducted.

SOMALIA

- Confirmed cases: 16,362
  - Deaths: 880
  - Recoveries & discharges: 7,550

A total 256,401 COVID-19 tests have been conducted.

Source: MoH

Regions supported by CGPP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Confirmed cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jubaland State</td>
<td>1,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West State</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WHO Somalia
**CHALLENGES**

- Impassable roads and insecurity affecting movement in parts of Gedo region.
- Recent attacks by insurgents in Gedo region affecting project activities.
- Ravaging drought alert in project areas especially Mandera, Wajir & Garissa.

**UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS/CONFERENCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly GPEI Coordination Meeting</td>
<td>23rd August</td>
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<tr>
<td>IP Comms Network Virtual Meeting</td>
<td>25th August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support supervision: Gedo and Mandera</td>
<td>22-28th August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct Care Group model training for lead mothers in Gedo region</td>
<td>22-28th August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community dialogue meeting in Lower Juba and Mandera to Discuss</td>
<td>22-28th August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vaccine Preventable Disease (VPDs).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PICTURE SPEAK**

On joint support supervision & active case search, the team met traditional healers to sensitize them & to refer AFP cases brought to them by community for traditional medicines to health facilities at Kiliwehiri, Mandera County.

Priority Zoonotic Disease, active case search at watering points and nomadic settlement by community volunteer in Mandera county.