

IRAQ: Early Warning and Disease Surveillance Bulletin

Epidemiological Week 15:

Reporting Period: 6 April– 12 April 2015

Overview

- During week 15, twenty one (21) reporting sites including six refugee, ten Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps, and five mobile clinics submitted their weekly reports timely and completely.
- The total number of consultations reported during this week was 11596 (males=5510 and females=8572) compared to 15876 (males=7325 and females=8572) consultations from the previous reporting week 14.
- There were ten alerts generated through EWARN which were timely responded and investigated by Erbil DoH.
 - Two alerts for suspected measles were generated from Arbatand Raniya IDP camps run by Emergency NGO and World Vision respectively.
 - An alert for suspected pertussis was reported from Zaytona IDP camp operated by a mobile clinic run by IOM.
 - Three alerts from suspected Lesihmaniasis were reported from Al-Nkeeb, Erbil and Harsham IDP camps run by UIMS and IMC NGOs respectively.
 - Three alerts for bloody diarrhea were generated by EWARN in Arbat, Esiyan and Shariya IDP camps managed by Emergency, IOM and Medair NGOs.

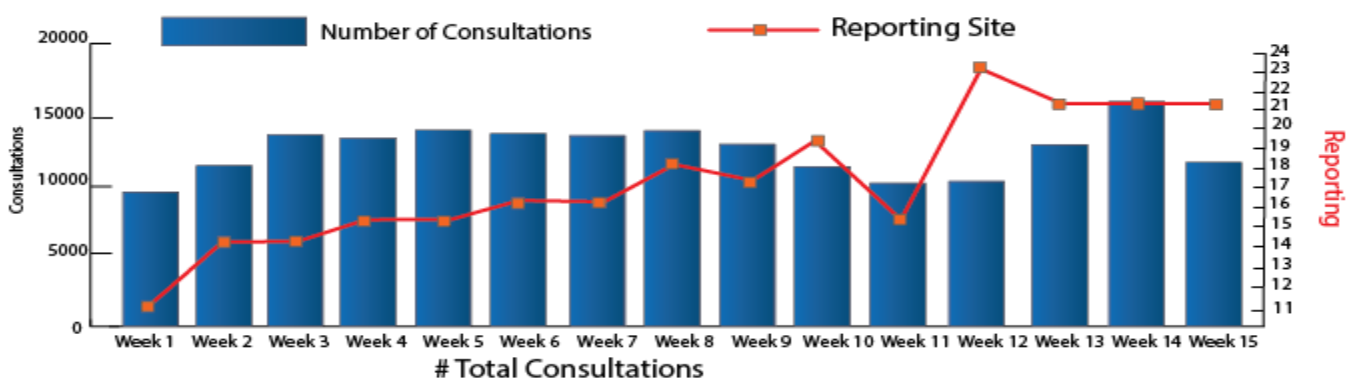
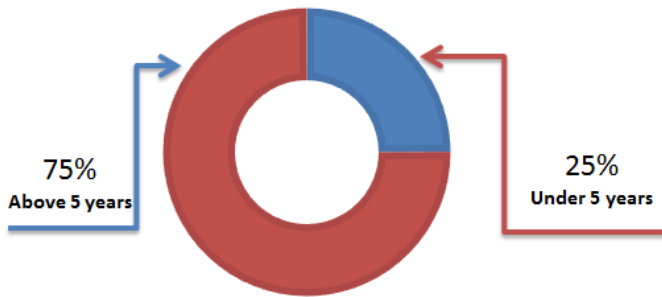


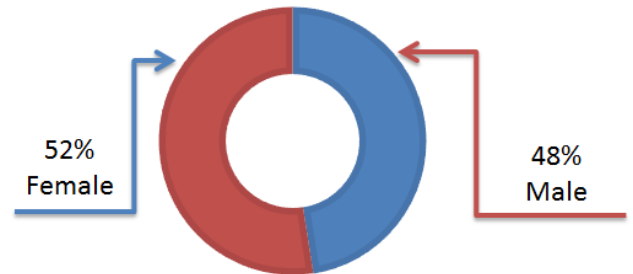
Figure 1: Total consultations and proportion of reporting health facilities b/w week 1-15

Consultations by Age and Gender week 1 – 15 in camps:

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED CASES BY AGE



TOTAL REPORTED CASES BY GENDER



Morbidity patterns

Proportion of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI), scabies (SCB) and Acute Diarrhea (AD) remains the leading causes of morbidity during this week with 4697 (41%), 874 (8%) and 308 (3%) cases respectively reported from all the camps reporting to EWARN during this period.

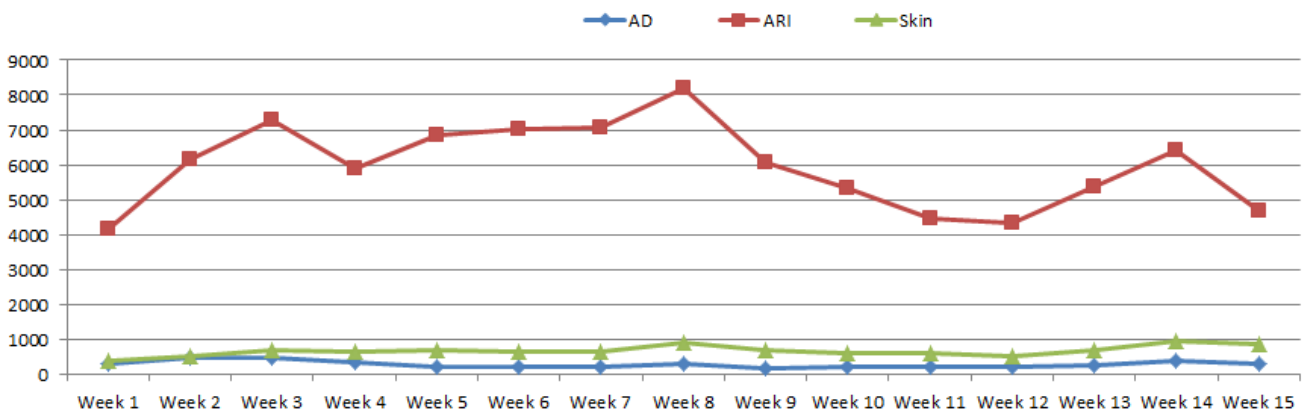


Figure II¹: Trend of # of cases of ARI, Scabies and AD from week 1 – 15

- The proportion of AD remains steady ranging between 1% t and 6% (week 15=5%). Skin diseases trend remained constant from week 2-13 (week 15=24%). ARI proposition shows a steep decrease of 13% in the caseload since week 15 (w14=61% and w15=48%).

¹ The graphic axis is made on the basis of a logarithmic scale based on the orders of magnitude rather than the standard line scale. This enables illustration of data despite the large range of quantities.

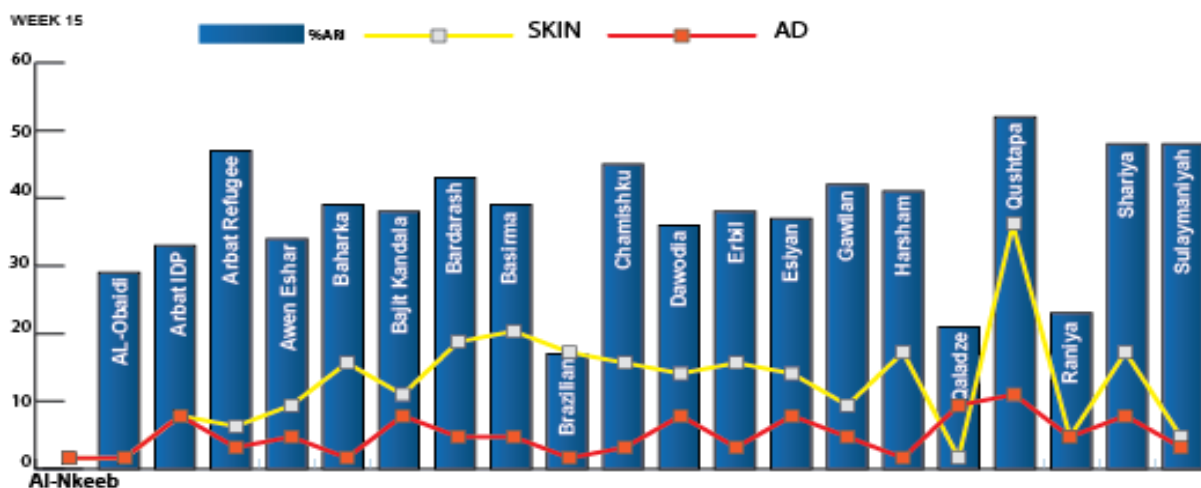
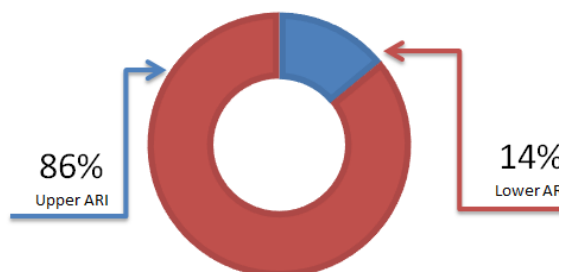


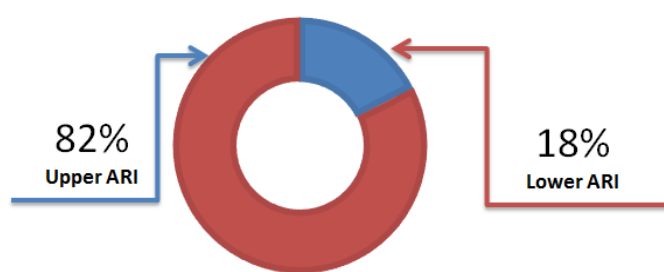
Figure III²: Trend of # of cases of ARI, Scabies and AD from week 1 - 15

- Acute Respiratory Tract Infection (ARI) has been divided into upper and lower respiratory tract infections from week 1, 2015.
- According to EWARN data, the trends of upper and lower ARI remained the same when compared with week 15 (Upper ARI=82% and Lower ARI=18%).
- Proportion of Lower ARI cases was the highest in Qushtapa refugees settlement (L-ARI=18%) when compared with the other reporting site in week 15 although there has been a decrease in the proportion when compared with week 14 (L-ARI=17%).
- Refresher training on EWARN is planned at the end of the month to strengthen proper diagnosis and filling of EWARN forms.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPIRATORY TRACK INFECTIONS (ARI) WEEK 14



DISTRIBUTION OF RESPIRATORY TRACK INFECTIONS (ARI) WEEK 15



- Skin infections are the second highest cause of consultation after ARI.
 - Qushtapa Refugees camp reported the highest proportion of skin infection cases (24%) followed by Basirma Refugees camp (12%) and Bardarash Refugee (10%) Camp.
 - The health, WASH clusters and WHO in coordination with the Department of Health are conducting hygiene and health education and promotion activities in all the camps.
- Acute Diarrhea (AD) cases trend has remained constant in most of the camps and on-job training on EWARN has helped the healthcare providers to differentiate between Acute Diarrhea and Acute Watery Diarrhea

² 1 The graphic axis is made on the basis of a logarithmic scale based on the orders of magnitude rather than the standard line scale. This enables illustration of data despite the large range of quantities.

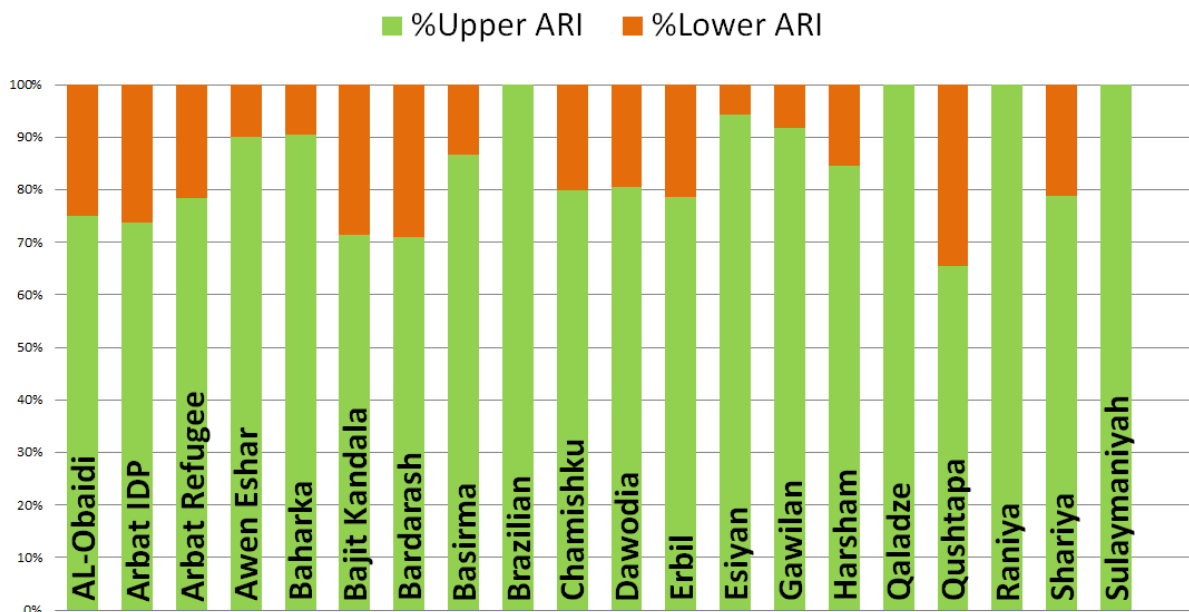


Figure IV: Trend of Upper and Lower ARI leading communicable disease, by weeks 15

Alerts and Outbreaks

- There were ten alerts generated through EWARN which were timely responded and investigated by Erbil DoH.
- Two alerts for suspected measles were generated from Arbat and Raniya IDP camps run by Emergency NGO and World Vision respectively.
 - The measles campaign has been completed and the outbreak of measles in Arbat IDP camp in Sulamaniya run by Emergency NGO is gradually decreasing with a notable reduction in number of cases since 12 April, 2015.
 - Stool samples were collected from the suspected measles case from Raniya IDP camp and sent to the laboratory for confirmation. The situation is being monitored for any new suspected cases or clustering through Erbil DOH and WHO.

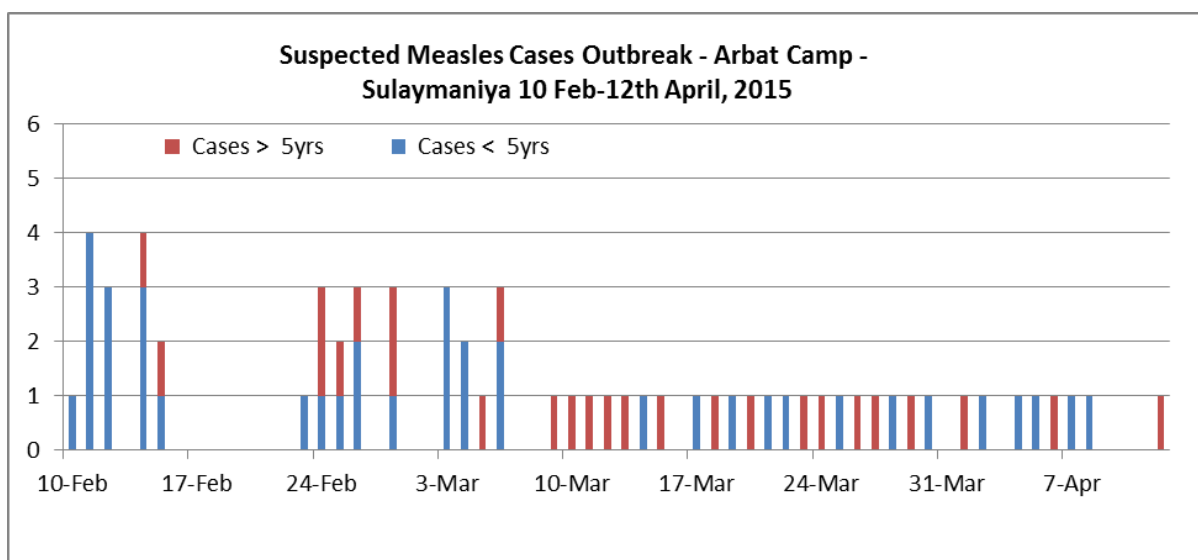


Figure V: Trend of measles outbreak in Arbat IDP camp – Sulamaiyah from 10 Feb – 12 April, 2015.

- Three alerts from suspected Leishmaniasis were reported from Al-Nkeeb, Erbil and Harsham IDP camps run by UIMS and IMC NGOs respectively. Cases were identified and given proper treated. Vector control campaign through Erbil DoH in coordination with WHO is in process to control and limit the spread of the sand fly.

- Three alerts for bloody diarrhea were generated by EWARN through Arbat, Esiyan and Shariya IDP camps run by Emergency, IOM and Medair NGOs. The cases were investigated and were found to be sporadic, no clustering was found. The situation is monitored by the EWARN system.

Comments and recommendations

- Electronic EWARN refresher training is due from 21 to 30 April 2015 in all the three Governorates of KRG. This training will help the healthcare providers from NGOs and DoHs to understand the case definitions and proper data entry through the android tablets. This will avoid false diagnosis of suspected cases.

For comments or questions, please contact

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