

In Focus

Mogadishu ambulance services rushed injured to health facilities after bomb blast

On 4th October 2011 a truck loaded with drums of fuel exploded outside the compound of several ministries of Transitional Federal Government. The explosion took place on one of Mogadishu's busiest streets, near the K4 area, where students and their parents were registering for scholarships. As of today over 79 deaths were reported and over 200 more are injured. The death toll is still expected to raise in the coming days.



Wounded victims of the bomb blast are rushed to the health facilities

Four ambulances of the Aamin ambulance services rushed about 56 people to the nearby hospitals. Most of the injured were taken to Medina and Banadir hospitals, the two largest medical facilities in the city. The victims (12 women, 21 men and 23 children) have horrific wounds, including amputated limbs and burns. Due to the scale of the blast, some patients became even blind. Another 25 dead bodies were transported to the mortuary of the health facilities. Other patients were transported to the hospitals by the community and emergency services.



Four ambulances of Aamin ambulance services were used to transport the wounded to the nearby health facilities.

"Even in a city devastated by war and anarchy for the past two decades, the bombing horrified medical workers. It is the most awful tragedy I have ever seen since collapse of central government in 1991," paramedic Ali Abdullah from Aamin ambulance services said. "Most of the wounded people are unconscious and others have their faces blackened by smoke and heat" he continued. According to SOYDA (Somali Young Doctors Association) more than 80% of the wounded patients attended by them have completely burned bodies and up to 75% of body surface is lost.

Many of the injured require specialized treatment that often is not available in Mogadishu. There are enough doctors but there is shortage on equipment and space. As part of the response to the blast, Since last month, WHO pre-positioned 6 inter-agency kits (treatment for 180 000 people for one month) and two trauma kits, containing all needed equipment and medicines to carry out about 100 surgical operations, in two main hospitals in Mogadishu. In addition, WHO organized last June a trauma management training for health workers on how to treat severe trauma cases, including burns, fractures and chest injuries.

Table: Overview of reported casualty data from four main hospitals in Mogadishu (as of 4 October 2011)

Number of Casualties	Number of discharged	Number of casualties under the age of five	Number of burns	Number of fractures	Number of chest injuries	Number of operations carried out	Number of patients transferred to Nairobi or other place	Number of deaths in four main hospitals
200	112	6	23	16	21	40	38	35