General Context

The major concerns in the socio-political scene this week are the military coup in Niger, the continued deteriorating political and social situation in Côte d’Ivoire and the protracted crises in the eastern DRC. In addition, the outbreaks are ongoing. Member states are receiving support from WHO for response mainly through the Health Clusters.

Situation in Countries

Acute crises

CAR: Clashes reported in Markounda (North-west) between local population and shepherds; 18 people have been killed and several others injured. Troops of National army have been sent to establish the order. Three confirmed cases of Yellow Fever without deaths reported in the capital city of Bangui*.

Chad: Insecurity continues in the East characterized by armed robberies and attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers. Measles outbreak: In week 6, a total of 25 new cases were reported in the east and south of the country. From week 7 to 6 in 2010, a cumulative 65 cases with 2 deaths (CFR: 3%) have been reported of which 31 were in the health district of Irba. Acute icteric syndrome: 13 new cases were again reported in week 6 making a cumulative number of 68 cases with one death from week 1 to 6 in 2010 reported in the east and south of the country. Suspected meningitis: Five new cases have been reported in week 6 from the districts of Abeche and Dogdore from which cerebrospinal fluid samples confirmed Neisseria Menigitis W135 and Hemophilus Influenzae.

Côte d’Ivoire: The political and social situation remains very tense in the country. A government has been formed and is awaiting the participation of the opposition parties. Demonstrations with violence are still being reported.

DRC: Insecurity: In the orientale province, about 20 people from the local community of Duru armed with machetes attacked a joint patrol of MONUC and FARDC (National Army) on the 6th of February 2010, no injury reported. In the same province the FARDC attacked a camp of LRA rebels at Duru and Uele junction on the 10th of February 2010, six abducted civilians were freed, handled over to the UNHCR.

Yellow Fever: Clashes reported in Markounda (North-west) between local population and shepherds; 18 people have been killed and several others injured. Troops of National army have been sent to establish the order. Three confirmed cases of Yellow Fever without deaths reported in the capital city of Bangui*.

Food security and malnutrition: According to WFP report, food insecurity continues to be reported in low land areas of eastern and north-eastern Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray, as well as many parts of Somali and Gambella regions. Various reports indicate that the situation is more serious in the north and eastern parts of Amhara, where the nutritional situation of mothers and children is rapidly deteriorating. Acute watery Diarrhoea (AWD): Cases continue to be reported. In Oromia region, six districts reported 99 AWD cases with one death while one district reported 11 cases in Somali region*.

Kenya: The political situation remained tense following the row between the President and the Prime Minister over the suspension of two Cabinet Ministers for corruption charges. Drafting: There are early warning signs of an impending prolonged drought in the north eastern province. The pasture and water pans have started drying up. There is migration of livestock from upper eastern areas to northern in search of pasture and water and this may become a source of conflict. Cholera outbreak: The outbreak continues to spread across the country. Since January 2010, it has occurred in 15 districts nationwide with a total of 550 cases, 15 deaths and a CFR of 2.75%.

Niger: Security and Political Situation: The military took over the power after a coup on February 18, 2010. The situation in the country is calm. Malnutrition: (No update received). Menigitis: The update of the data shows that 65 new cases with 5 deaths have been reported in week 6, making a cumulative total of 262 cases with 19 deaths (CFR: 7.3%) from week 1 to 6 in 2010.

Togo: Menigitis: 79 cases have been reported in the eastern district of Mono where 142 cases with 36 deaths (CFR: 25.4%) have been recorded. We are still closely monitoring the socio-political situation as we approach the presidential election planned to take place on the 28th of February 2010.

Countries Under Surveillance

Benin: Outbreak of cholera: (No update received) since the 15th of January 2010 a total of 133 cases with 2 deaths (1.5%) have been reported in the villages of Bonou, Adjobin, Dara, Agueguen*. WHO has provided the Ministry of Health with some cholera emergency kits (Drugs and tools) for the response.

Madagascar: The outbreak in Chikungunya in Mananjary, South-east coast, continues. As of 22nd of February 2010, a total of 1,454 cases without deaths have been reported*. Alert on cyclone: We continue to monitor.

Mozambique: Cholera outbreak continues: the updated figures gives a total 1,229 cases with 30 deaths (CFR: 2.4%) from January to 13th February 2010 in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Niassa, Zambezia and Sofala. Typhoid Fever Outbreak in Neno and Tsangano districts: As of 14th February 2010 a cumulative total of 441 cases with 43 deaths (CFR: 9.7%) reported since the outbreak began.

Zambia: Cholera outbreak since week 43 of 2009 has affected four provinces in the country with 559 cases and 13 deaths (CFR: 2.3%) as of 21st February 2010*. WHO is providing technical support to investigate, compile data and coordinate the response.

Zimbabwe: Cholera outbreak, 77 cumulative cases and 1 death (CFR: 1.3%) were reported as of 24 February 2010; 7 out of the 62 districts in the country are affected compared to 54 districts last year at the same time with a crude case fatality rate of 4.6%.