



## IRAQ: Early Warning and Disease Surveillance Bulletin

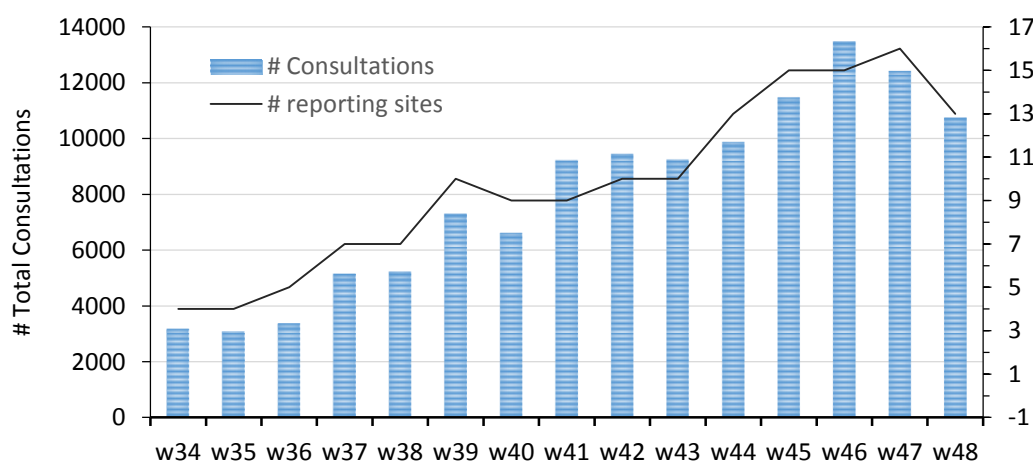
### Epidemiological Week 48

Reporting Period: 24 –30 November 2014

### Overview

- Reporting sites that submitted their weekly reports decreased from the 16 in week 47 to 13 in week 48 (7 Refugee camps and 6 IDP camps) refer to figure1 for details
- The number of consultations decreased by 13.5% in Week 48 (10,747) compared to week 47 (12,423).
- The EWARN system is still in its piloting phase, with more reporting sites expected to be added soon.

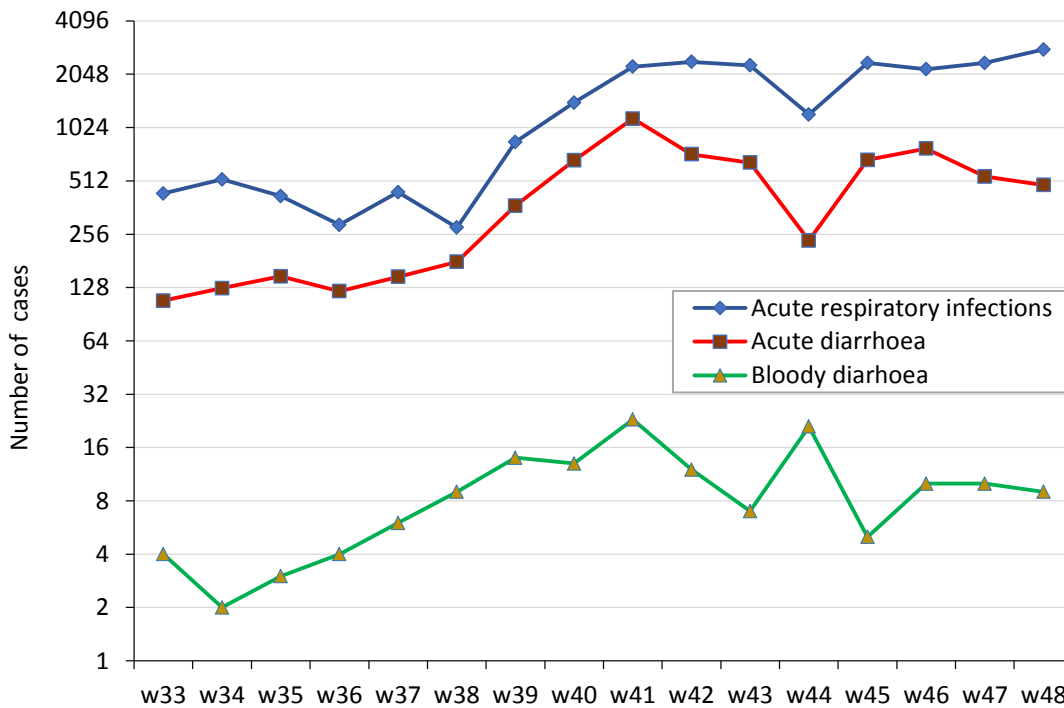
**Fig 1. Total consultations and proportion of reporting health facilities since week 34**



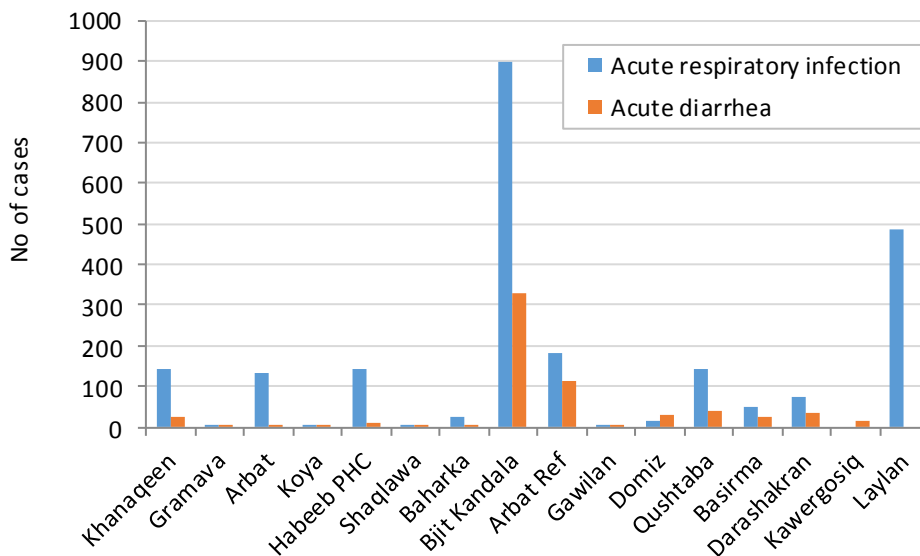
### Morbidity patterns

- Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) and Acute Diarrhoea (AD) remained the leading causes of morbidity in week 48, with 2,825 and 485 cases respectively, 26.1% increase in the ARI cases and 10.51% decrease in AD cases (Fig 2)
- The trend of ARI appears to be increasing while that of AD is decreasing in AD from week46; The increase in the number of ARI cases could be associated to the winter season that started in late November
- Bajit Kandala IDP camp accounts for the highest reported diarrhoea and ARI cases; during week 48the camp reported 324 acute diarrhoea and 866 ARI cases (66.8%) and 30.7% respectively, *during the current reporting week*. While size of the camp population alone may not account for the consistently higher burden of the diarrhoeal diseases in the camp, there is need to examine other possible reasons, EWARN team is planning a field visit
- Ten sporadic bloody diarrhoea cases were reported; 7 cases from four Refugee camps and 3 cases from 2 from Garmava and 1 from Arbat IDP camps.

**Fig 2. Trend of leading communicable diseases, by weeks**



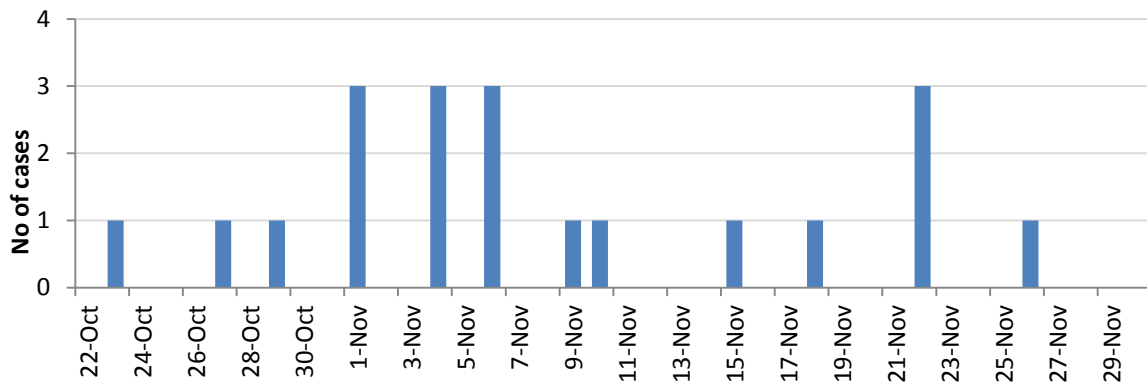
**Fig 3. Trends of leading communicable diseases from major reporting sites week 48**



## Alerts and outbreaks

- Acute viral hepatitis outbreak was detected in 23 November 2014 in Barhaka camp. While the outbreak is not escalating, it is not over yet. One more case was reported in week 48 (Fig 4).
- The other camp reporting one case of AJS in week 48 was Basirma camp; the case is under five years.

**Fig 4. Trend of acute jaundice syndrome cases in Baharka camp from 23/10- 30/11/14**



- Routine screening was performed on 45 stool samples at Erbil Public Health Laboratory and all tested negative for vibrio cholera.
- Two alerts of measles were reported from Gramava IDP camp, verification is going on for all the cases.

## Comments

- Cases of Hepatitis A have decreased in the last 2 weeks with only two cases recorded in this reporting period.
- WHO is working with the Federal Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Health in Kurdistan Regional Government to expand the EWARN system which is currently in its piloting phase.
- In areas with limited accessibility, WHO is relying on a network of focal points to notify the Organization of any changes in the health status of the populations in their areas of operations. This week the network did not notify WHO of any epidemic-prone diseases.

**NB:** Any suspected disease outbreak, or any **suspected case of measles, AFP, meningitis, suspected cholera, or unusual cluster of health events** should be immediately notified to relevant health authorities in your district or to the contacts provided below in order to facilitate further investigation.

**For comments or questions, please contact**

**Dr. Abdulla Kareem | 07703973937 | [drabdullakareem@yahoo.com](mailto:drabdullakareem@yahoo.com)** Head of Surveillance Department, Federal MOH  
**Dr Saifadin Muhedin | 07502303929 | [saifadinmuhedin@yahoo.com](mailto:saifadinmuhedin@yahoo.com)** Head of Surveillance Department in MOH-KRG,  
**Dr. Seifeddin Hussein | 07809288616 | [husseins@who.int](mailto:husseins@who.int)**