

Deep Dive on cholera in the WHO AFRO Region



World Health
Organization

African Region



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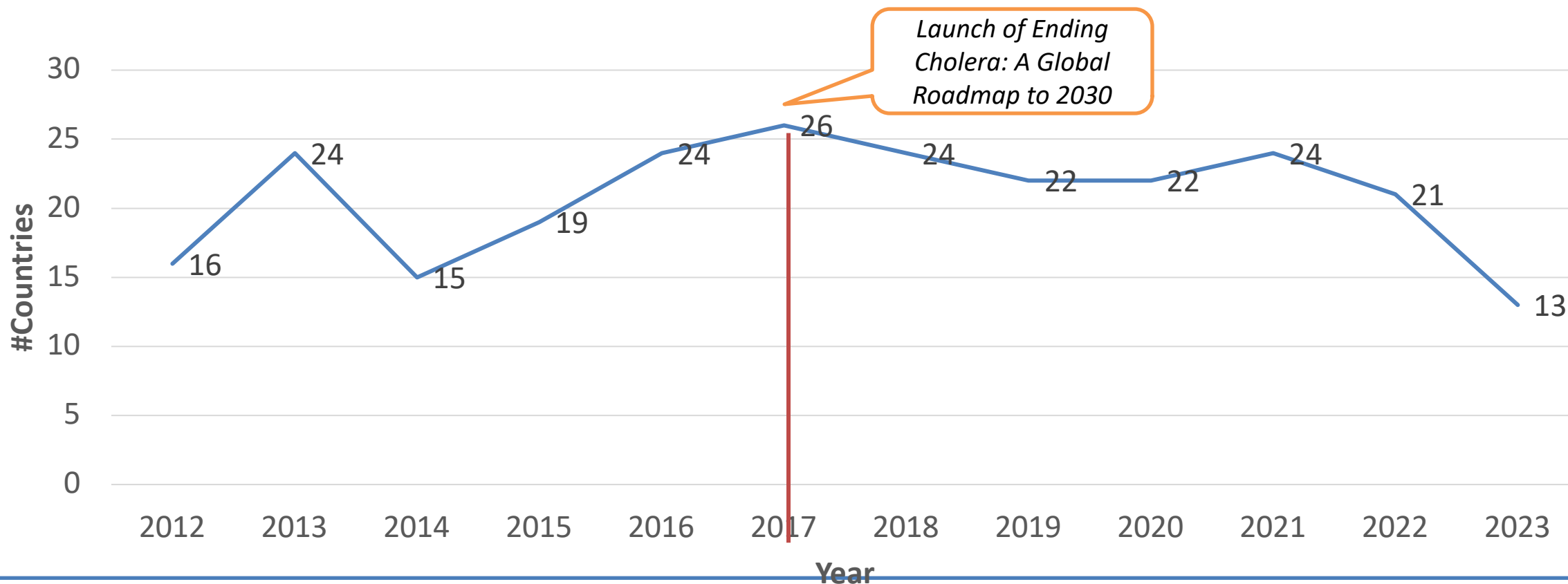
Cholera in WHO Africa Region

- In January and February 2023, new cases rose by close to 40% of the total caseload reported in the whole of 2022
- Cholera is happening in the context of:
 - **Natural disasters-Cyclones** (Mozambique, Malawi), **flooding** (Nigeria, Malawi), and **drought** (Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia)
 - **Conflict** (Cameroon, DRC, Nigeria, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia)
 - **Multiple other disease outbreaks** including Mpox, Wild and Vaccine Derived Polio, Measles, COVID-19 pandemic, etc.
 - Limited and **strained resources**
 - **Shortage of medical commodities** including cholera kits and Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV)
 - **Poor sanitation** and unreliable water supplies
 - Increased **cross-border movements**



Number of countries with Cholera Outbreaks in Africa from 2012-2023

- For the past 12 years, on average 20 countries in Africa have experienced Cholera outbreaks every year.



Cholera cases and deaths in Africa Jan 2022 to 12 March 2023

| Country | Cumulative Cases | Cumulative Deaths | CFR (%) | Total Cases in 2023 | Data Start Date | Last update |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Burundi | 176 | 1 | 0.6 | 156 | Jan 2023 | 3/12/2023 |
| Cameroon | 15 287 | 310 | 2.0 | 163 | Oct 2021 | 3/05/2023 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | 23 478 | 332 | 1.4 | 5 284 | Jan 2022 | 3/10/2023 |
| Ethiopia | 1 770 | 39 | 2.2 | 955 | Aug 2022 | 3/12/2023 |
| Kenya | 6 391 | 99 | 1.5 | 2 874 | Oct 2022 | 3/06/2023 |
| Malawi | 53 464 | 1 643 | 3.1 | 23 308 | Mar 2022 | 3/12/2023 |
| Mozambique | 8 620 | 51 | 0.6 | 6 082 | Sep 2022 | 3/12/2023 |
| Nigeria | 24 435 | 617 | 2.6 | 672 | Jan 2022 | 2/28/2023 |
| Zambia | 224 | 5 | 2.2 | 224 | Jan 2023 | 3/12/2023 |
| South Africa | 6 | 1 | 16.7 | 6 | Feb 2023 | 3/04/2023 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 72 | 3 | 4.2 | 72 | Feb 2023 | 3/10/2023 |
| Zimbabwe | 58 | 0 | 0.0 | 58 | Feb 2023 | 3/05/2023 |
| South Sudan | 176 | 1 | 0.4 | 269 | Feb 2023 | 3/12/2023 |
| TOTAL | 134 250 | 3 102 | 2.3 | 40 123 | | |

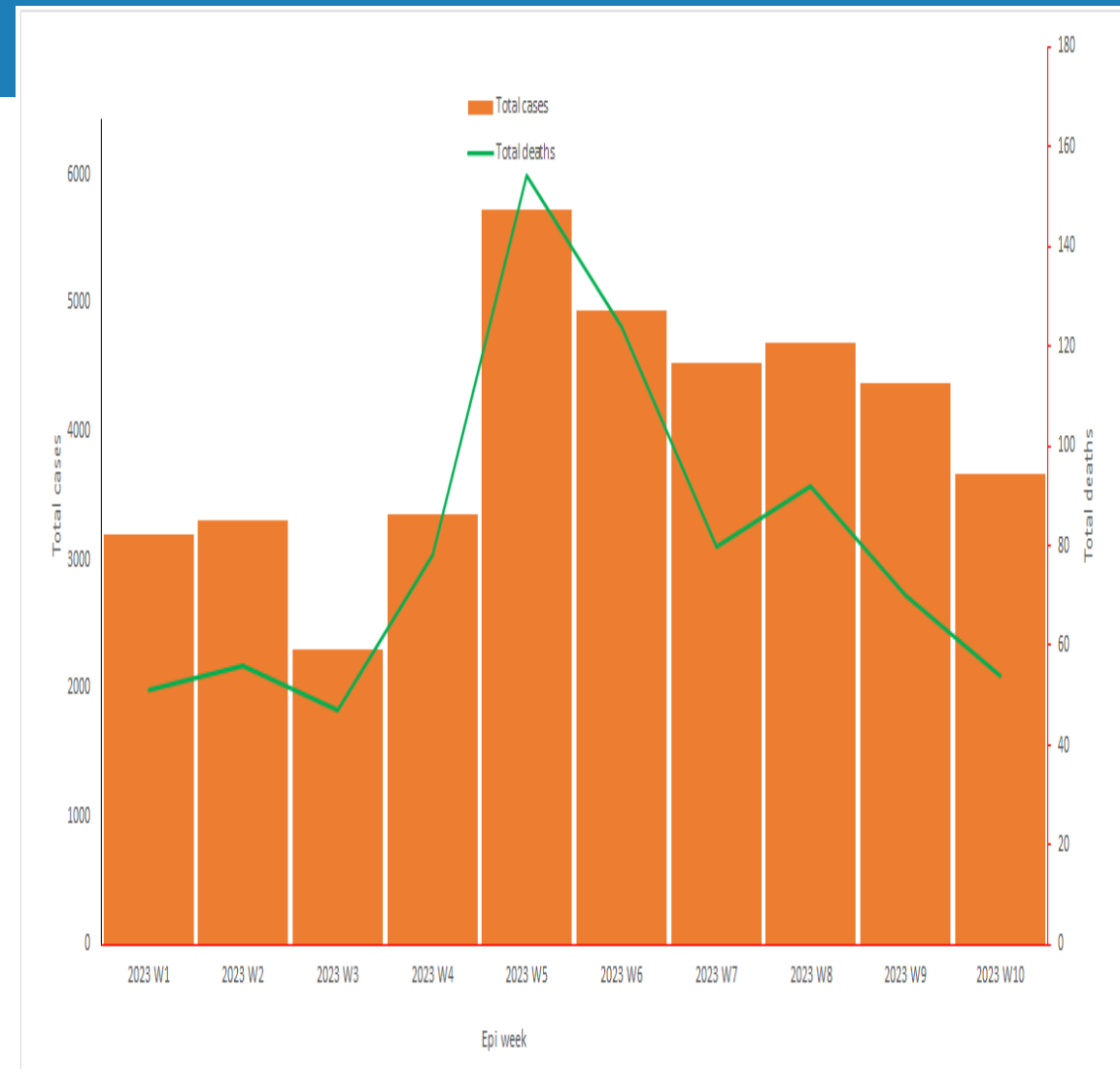
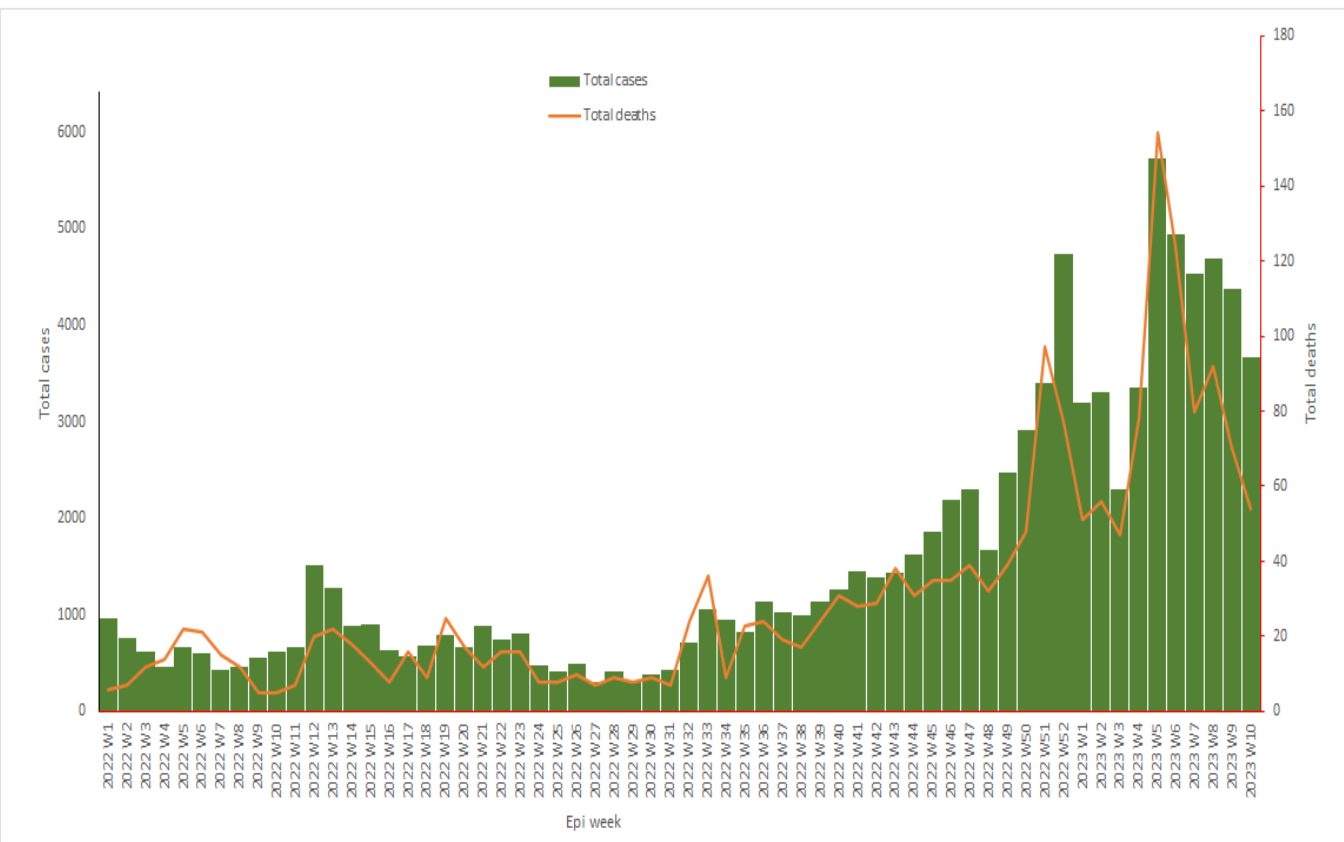
- Total of **13** countries reporting
- Cumulative cases = **134, 250**
- Cumulative deaths = **3,102**
- CFR = **2.3%**

Proportion of total cases in 2023

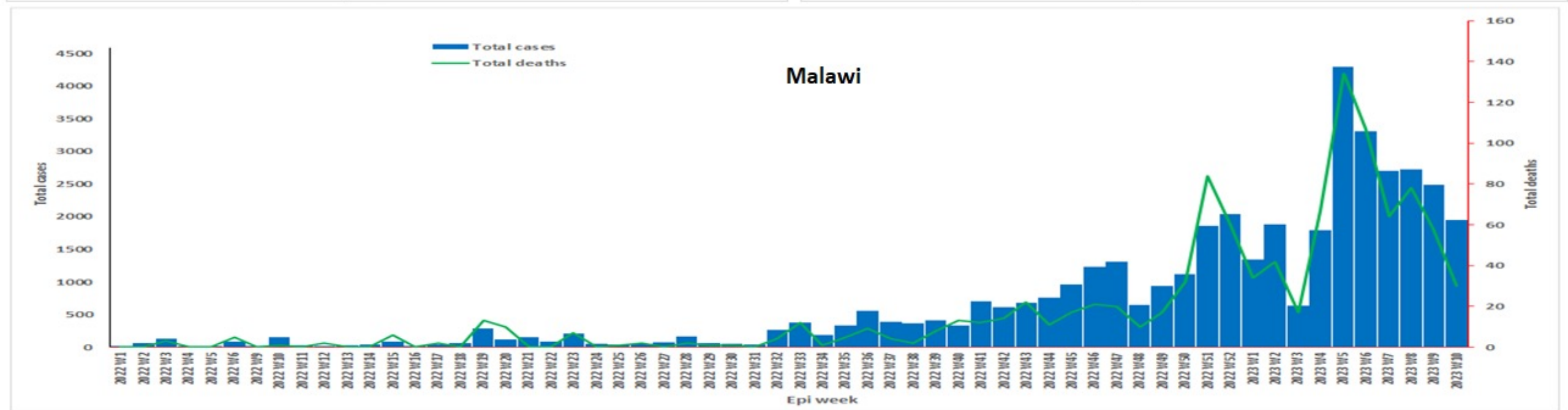
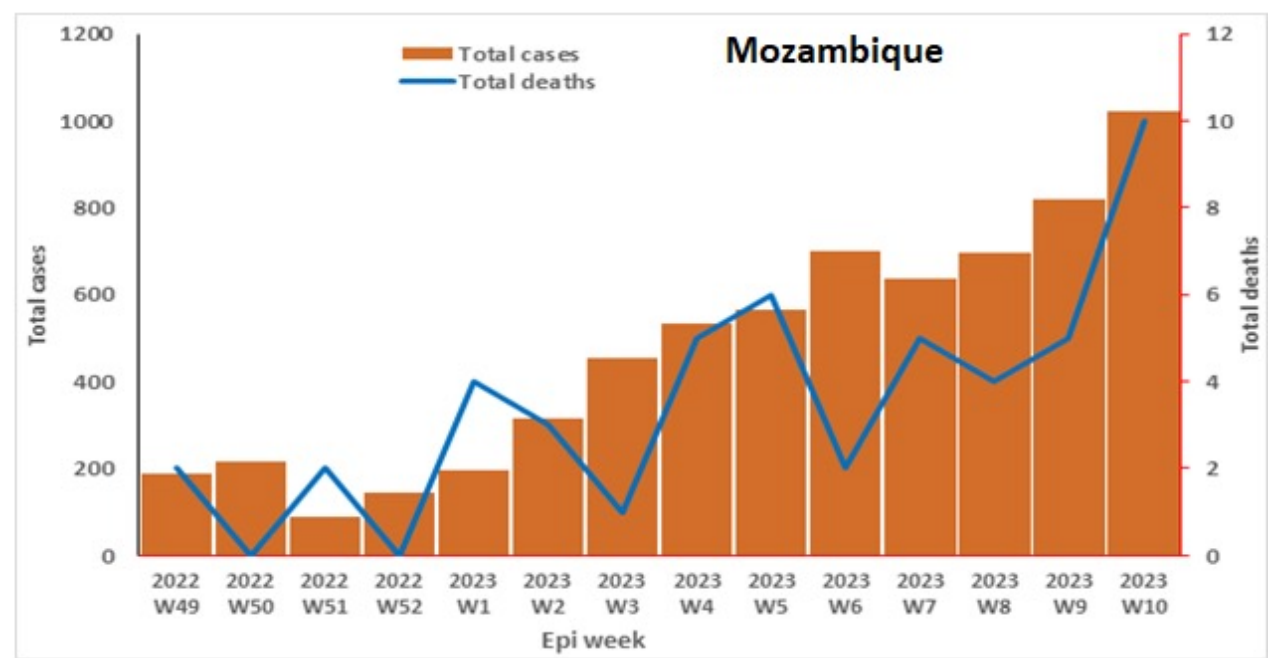
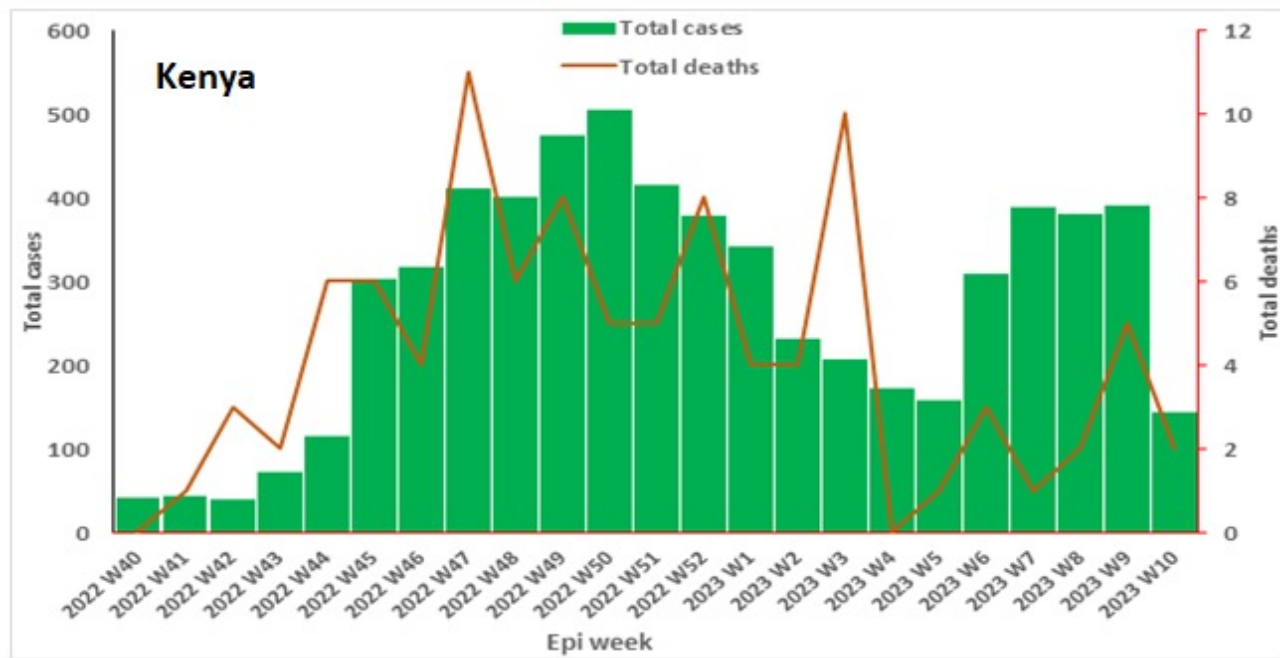
- Malawi 58.1%
- Mozambique: 15.2%
- DRC: 13.2%

CHOLERA CASES AND DEATHS IN AFRICA 01 JAN 2022 – 12 MARCH 2023

- Overall, cases and deaths declining since week 6



TOP THREE COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST CHOLERA BURDEN IN 2023



Cases and deaths in the past two weeks

Cases in past 2 weeks

| Country | Week 9 | Week 10 | % change |
|--------------|--------|---------|----------|
| Burundi | 7 | 27 | 285.7% |
| Cameroon | 11 | - | - |
| DRC | 428 | 336 | -21.5% |
| Ethiopia | 95 | 123 | 29.5% |
| Kenya | 390 | 143 | -63.3% |
| Malawi | 2482 | 1949 | -21.5% |
| Mozambique | 819 | 1023 | 24.9% |
| Nigeria | - | - | - |
| South Africa | 1 | - | - |
| South Sudan | 107 | 42 | -60.7% |
| Tanzania | 4 | 15 | 275.0% |
| Zambia | 26 | 1 | -96.2% |
| Zimbabwe | 12 | 11 | -8.3% |
| Total | 4382 | 3670 | -16.2% |

Deaths in past 2 weeks

| Country | Wk. 9 | Wk. 10 | % change |
|--------------|-------|--------|----------|
| Burundi | 0 | 0 | - |
| Cameroon | 0 | - | - |
| DRC | 0 | 7 | ↑ |
| Ethiopia | 1 | 1 | ↔ |
| Kenya | 5 | 2 | -60.0% |
| Malawi | 58 | 30 | -48.3% |
| Mozambique | 5 | 10 | 100.0% |
| Nigeria | - | - | - |
| South Africa | 0 | - | - |
| South Sudan | 0 | 1 | ↑ |
| Tanzania | 0 | 3 | ↑ |
| Zambia | 1 | 0 | ↓ |
| Zimbabwe | 0 | 0 | ↔ |
| Total | 70 | 54 | -37.1% |

Comparing weeks 9 & 10

Increase in new cases

- Burundi = 285.7%
- Tanzania = 275.0%
- Mozambique = 24.9%
- Overall decrease of 23.7%

Increase in new deaths

- Mozambique = 100.0%
- Overall decrease in deaths by 33.7%

Response Activities

- ☐ Multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration
 - ☐ High-level ministerial meeting on cholera and climate-related public health emergencies
- ☐ Technical team of experts deployed to support countries e.g., Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique
- ☐ Supplies – Case management, Lab, IPC /WASH commodities
- ☐ Heightened surveillance activities including cross-border collaboration
- ☐ Integrated community-based interventions(IPC, WASH, Surveillance, RCCE and Case management)
- ☐ Training of healthcare providers on the management of cholera cases
- ☐ Supported the establishment of CTCs and ORPs within the communities including WASH/IPC activities
- ☐ Intensified community engagement and risk communication activities
- ☐ OCV campaigns in DRC, Kenya, South Sudan and Mozambique
- ☐ Support countries to scale up operational readiness

Key challenges-Cholera

- **Competing priorities** (Humanitarian crises due to conflicts, floods, drought, other disease outbreaks, etc.)
- **Cyclone Freddy** poses a challenge to response activities in Mozambique and Malawi
- **Limited resources**, both financial and human
- **Inadequate staff skills**, especially on case management
- **Lack of medical supplies**, laboratory reagents, shortage of beds
- **Limited WASH**, access to latrines, potable water and in some cases, health services
- **Sub-optimal surveillance** and data management/**late detection**
- **Low-risk perception/late presentation** at treatment centers



Summary of cholera epidemiological situation



- ❑ **Thirteen(13)** countries have confirmed cholera outbreaks in AFRO
- ❑ **Overall decrease** in new cholera cases and deaths since **week 6 2023**
- ❑ In week 10 **Increase in cases was observed in Burundi, DRC, Mozambique, and Tanzania**
- ❑ Cases decreasing in **Malawi and Kenya** (too early to be certain)
- ❑ Cyclone Freddy in Mozambique and Malawi **poses a risk of increased transmission in the next two weeks**
- ❑ **Rain** season in the southern African subregion is projected to last till the end of April
- ❑ **Response actions** should be scaled up in all 13 countries

