WHO worried about cholera spike in south Somalia

July 13 2012

(AP) — The World Health Organization says it is concerned about an increasing number of cholera cases in a southern Somali town controlled by militants.

WHO said Friday that the hospital in the port city of Kismayo has reported 639 suspected cases of cholera this year. Cholera is a disease associated with diarrhea that can kill within hours if left untreated. Most victims are children under 8.

Kismayo is the last major stronghold of militants from the group al-Shabab. Kenyan military forces are slowly moving toward Kismayo and Kenyan leaders have vowed to take it from the militants by August.

WHO said it is sending in extra medical supplies. It said, though, that limited access and recent fighting has made it difficult to fully respond to the outbreak.

Copyright 2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: WHO worried about cholera spike in south Somalia (2012, July 13) retrieved 25 April 2024 from https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-07-cholera-spike-south-somalia.html

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.