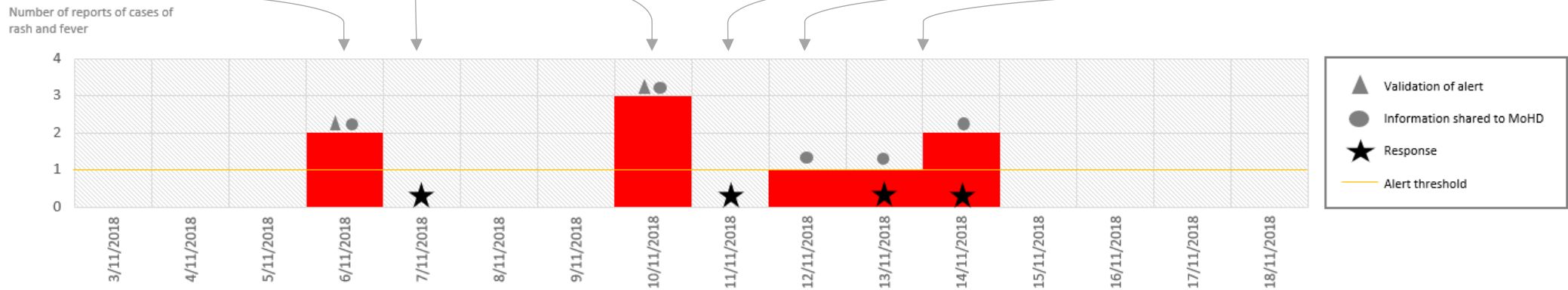


CBS Platform Alert Triggering Rapid Response to Scarlet Fever Outbreak in Togdheer region, Somaliland, November 2018

Since May 2018 Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) volunteers have been active in community based surveillance (CBS), aiming at early detection and response to potential outbreaks. In rural Somaliland, infrastructure and access to health care is poor, but with the new CBS platform developed by Norwegian Red Cross volunteers, SRCS volunteers can send a text message to alert when someone is sick with symptoms of epidemic-prone diseases. The cloud-based system enables real-time reporting, monitoring, and information sharing with all stakeholders and early action, so that outbreaks can be stopped before they happen. Early action is ensured through SRCS' network of mobile clinics, serving the rural population.

Event timeline	November 6th: Volunteers report two cases of fever and rash. The SRCS volunteer supervisor immediately follows up to validate the alert, and alerts the Ministry of Health Development (MoHD). SRCS Health Officer, in consultation with MoHD, decides to send an SRCS Mobile Health Team for investigation.	November 7th: SRCS Mobile Health Team dispatch to investigate. The sick children are diagnosed with Scarlet Fever, treated, and the community were provided with health information	November 10th: 3 cases of fever and rash are reported from the same community. Volunteer Supervisor and CBS Project Manager are immediately aware and inform MoHD and SRCS Health officer. They decide to send SRCS Mobile Team.	November 11th: SRCS Mobile Health Team dispatch to investigate the alert. Cases are identified as linked to the scarlet fever outbreak and treated by the SRCS Mobile Health Team.	November 12th: A neighbouring community reports 1 case of fever and rash. The mobile Health Team alert by Volunteer Supervisor and dispatch to the community. They confirm the case as scarlet fever.	November 13th-14th: One more case is reported on 13 th . The SRCS Mobile Health Clinic team follow up with a visit. Two more cases are reported from the community on the 14 th . New cases are treated, and the community and volunteers receives key information on the outbreak. The team explains the rapid response was possible due to the CBS reports and volunteers.	November 15th-December 5th: <i>No more cases of fever and rash reported from the communities.</i>
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What is scarlet fever?

- A disease caused by a bacterial infection.
- The bacteria spreads through contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze, or if you touch your eyes, mouth or nose after touching something with droplets on.
- Common symptoms include a red sore throat, fever, red characteristic rash, a "strawberry" red tongue and swollen glands. May also include head- or body ache, nausea, vomiting or abdominal pain.
- Most commonly affects children between five and fifteen years of age.
- There is no vaccine but can be prevented with good hand hygiene after coughing or sneezing and before preparing foods or eating. The disease can be treated with antibiotics.

What happened to the sick children?

- All children were confirmed to be already vaccinated against measles.
- 2 of the cases with high fever were taken to Burao hospital for treatment before the mobile health team arrived.
- 5 of the reported cases were treated by SRCS Mobile Health Clinic. Only 3 cases required treatment with antipyretics and antibiotics.
- Similar cases were reported and treated in the neighbouring district by both mobile and fixed clinics.

Volunteer action, information sharing, coordination, preparedness and early action by the SRCS, MOHD and the SRCS mobile health teams show that CBS is working in Somaliland!