

Current situation

Somalia is experiencing worsening drought following five consecutive seasons of failed rainy season. According to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and Famine Early Warning Network (FEWS NEST), Somalia received suboptimal amount of drier rains than expected since October 2021. Currently, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) estimates that the number of people affected by extreme drought has risen from 7.8 million in January to 8.3 million in March 2023, with 1.3 million displaced from their homes in search of water, food, and pasture. Nearly 6.6 million people – 38.8 per cent of the population - are acutely food insecure. For the first time since 2017, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification has confirmed pockets of emergency food insecurity affecting 4.3 million people (IPC 3) and 40350 in catastrophic food insecurity (Phase 5). An estimated 1.8 million children under 5 face acute malnutrition, including 478 000 who are severely malnourished. According to the weather forecast by FSNAU, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected over several areas in southern, central, and north-western parts of Somalia with dry conditions only in the north-eastern coastal areas. The heavy rains that started in April have affected 468 000 people and displaced 176 000 in Beletweyne and other districts. The floods destroyed and contaminated 97 percent of water sources in Beletweyne town of Hirshabelle state. It is also estimated that about 8 million people in Somalia lack access to safe water and proper sanitation. The current situation including the displacement has led to more people being vulnerable to epidemic prone diseases, particularly acute diarrhoeal disease, and measles.



SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

An estimated **8.3 million** people in the country in need of water, humanitarian assistance, and protection.¹

7.8 million people estimated to be affected by the current drought; **1.3 million** have been internally displaced by drought and **50,000** have migrated to Ethiopia and Kenya.²

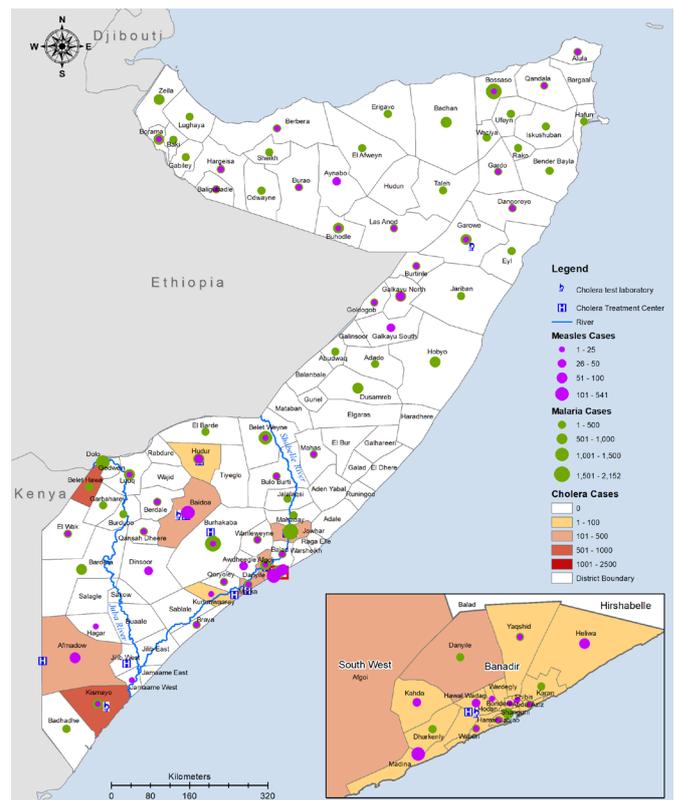
Nearly **6.6 million** people - **38.8 per cent** of the population - are experiencing acute food insecurity including **4.6 million** in emergency (IPC 3) and **40 350** in catastrophe (IPC 5). **1.8 million** of children are facing acute malnutrition³.

468 000 people affected by flash floods of whom **247 000** have been displaced especially in Baardheere district of Gedo region and Beletweyne, **176 000 (70 per cent)** of those affected in Beletweyne have been reached with humanitarian assistance.⁴

Epidemiologic weeks 22-23 of 2023 (29 May- 11 Jun 2023)

	781 suspected cholera cases
	1897 acute diarrhoeal disease cases
	295 suspected measles cases
	4659 SARI cases
	974 confirmed cases of malaria in April 2023
	435 health facilities reporting through Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) ⁵
	260 health facilities reporting in DHIS2 ⁶
	2163 community health workers deployed in high risk areas including in drought affected districts

Reported cases of acute diarrhoeal disease, suspected measles, SARI and clinically diagnosed malaria cases in drought-affected region of Somalia, (epidemiologic weeks 1 -23 2023, 02 Jan to 11 June 2023)



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Map Production: WHO Somalia
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Map Projection: WGS 1984 Web Mercator
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Feedback: it@somalia.who.int

The Federal Ministry of Health and WHO monitor the trends of epidemic-prone diseases in drought affected districts using data from the electronic-based EWARN, fever and rash surveillance system and community health workers deployed in drought affected districts. With support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and in collaboration with state ministries of health, WHO is implementing activities aimed at preventing disease outbreaks, including the timely detection and response to alerts of epidemic-prone diseases reported among vulnerable communities in drought affected districts.

1 Somalia: Drought response & famine prevention (15 February - 15 March 2023) - Somalia | ReliefWeb
2 Somalia: Drought response & famine prevention (15 January - 15 February 2023) - Somalia | ReliefWeb
3 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Report - April 2023
4 <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-2023-flash-and-riverine-floods-situation-report-no-2-6-june-2023>
5 EWARN mobile application was deactivated in February 2023- MOH is transitioning from EWARN to Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response strategy supported by the DHIS2 web-based application.
6 Health facilities reporting in 10 regions in DHIS2

CHOLERA IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

Recurrent cholera outbreaks have been reported in the drought-affected districts of Somalia since 2022, with no interruption in transmission in Banadir region since 2017. The number of cholera cases reported in drought affected districts have increased significantly in 2023 compared to the same time over the past two years (Figure 1). This increase is attributed to a higher proportion of people with limited access to safe water and uncontrolled cross border movement in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia triggered by drought. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, a total of 9 768 cases of suspected cholera and 28 deaths (Case Fatality Rate 0.3%) were reported from 28 drought-affected districts of which 5371 (55%) cases were children under 5, 4620 (51.5%) were women and 4405(45.1%) were severe cases. In 2023, The regions reporting most of the cases are Gedo (3361), Lower Juba (2207), and Banadir (1760) (see Table 1). The number of cholera cases reported in all districts has reduced by more than half from the peak of 867 in week 15 to 377 in week 23. This reduction in the number of new cases is attributed to scaling up of response interventions by WHO, Health and WASH cluster partners. Risk factors for the current outbreak include limited access to safe water, poor sanitation due to open defecation in camps and uncontrolled border movement between Somalia and Kenya. Since January 2023, total of 1159 stool samples were collected from suspected cases admitted in eight treatment facilities supported by WHO and analyzed in the national public health laboratory in Mogadishu, out of which 25(2.2%) samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted showed that the *Vibrio cholerae* serotypes isolate is sensitive to chloramphenicol and tetracycline but resistant to ampicillin and nalidixic acid.

ACUTE DIARRHOEAL DISEASES⁷

The number of new acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported District Health Information System (DHIS-2), the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) and from the communities in drought-affected districts decreased by 40 percent compared to the same period in last year. The reduction in cases is attributed to scaling up the implementation of intervention for water sanitation and hygiene by the WASH cluster partners. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 30 677 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease were reported. The regions reporting most of the cases are Gedo (6969), Lower Juba (6044) and Bari (3481), (Table 1). However, the flash floods that have been reported in 26 districts of Somalia is expected to contribute to increased acute diarrhoeal cases

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE⁸

The trends of cases of severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) increased by four-fold in 2023 compared to the same time in 2022. This increase may be attributed to increased displaced people who have poor shelter which resulted in people living in overcrowded conditions in camps (Figure 3). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 66 559 cases of SARI were reported from the drought affected districts. The regions reporting most of the cases are Galgaduud (25608), Gedo (7742), and Bakool (5819), (Table 1).

WHO, in collaboration with United States Center for Disease Control (US-CDC) and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework supports Ministry of Health to implement sentinel-

7 The number of acute diarrhoea cases in this report have been extracted from DHIS-2 system that started functioning in week 8 in Banadir region
8 The number of cases of SARI reported from week 1 to week 7 are extracted from EWARN while after 7, the cases have been extracted from DHIS-2

Week 1-23 of 2023 (2 January to 11 Jun 2023)

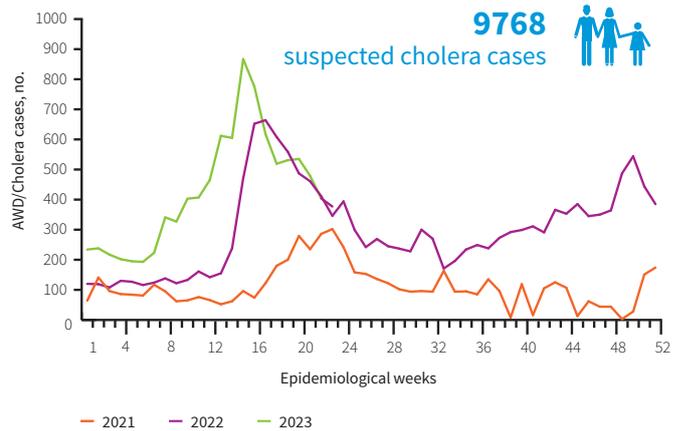


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 1-23 of 2023 (2 January to 11 Jun 2023)

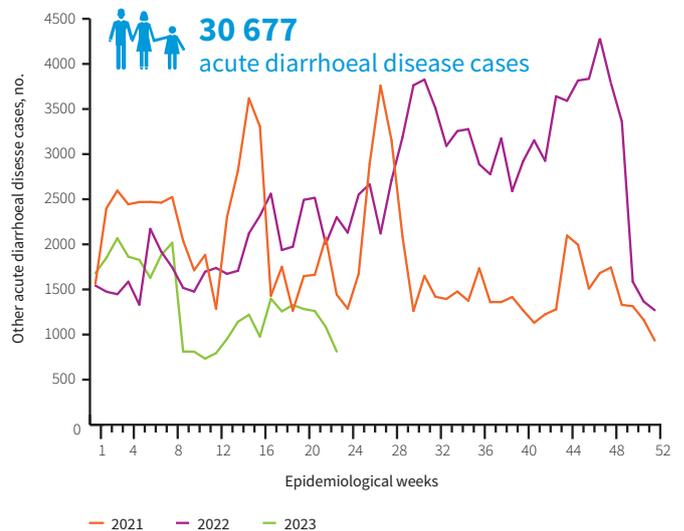


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2023

Week 1-23 of 2023 (2 January to 11 Jun 2023)

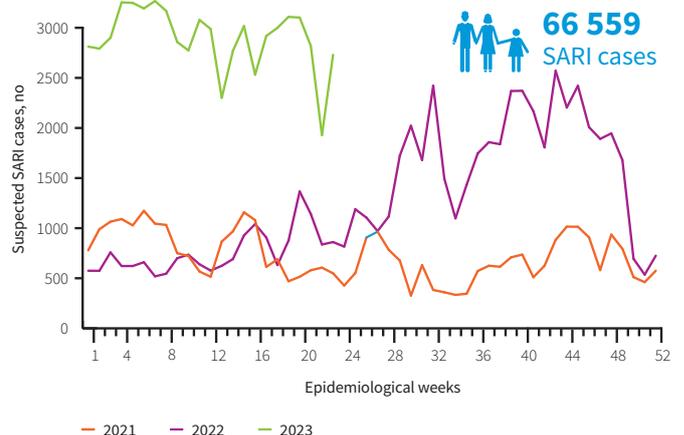


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2023

based surveillance for seasonal influenza and other respiratory pathogens in three sites-two located in Banadir region and one in Puntland. In 2023, a total of 1821 suspected cases of seasonal influenza were enrolled at four sentinel sites and were reported in the platform of Eastern Mediterranean Flu (EMFLU) network. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 1736 suspected cases of Influenza were tested at the National Public Health Laboratory of which 140 (8.1%) were tested positive for influenza; 101 (72.1%) were positive for influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 1(0.7%) positive for influenza A(H3N2) while 10(0.6%) were positive for influenza B virus (Victoria Lineage). 5 (0.4%) cases were also positive for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) while 7 (0.4%) were positive for COVID-19.

MEASLES UPDATES

The number of suspected cases of measles reported through the AFP/Polio surveillance system in 2023 decreased by three-fold compared to the same period in 2022. This reduction in cases is linked to an increase in the number of children vaccinated mainly in IDP camps by WHO supported outreach teams that have scaled up the provision of integrated primary health care services including vaccination services to these camps. (Figure 4). A total of 3006 cases of measles were reported from week 1 to week 19 of 2023 of which 2090(69.5%) are children under 5. The regions reporting most cases are Bay (967), Banadir (930) and Lower juba (199). Of the 1170 blood samples collected from cases of fever and rash, 838 (71%) were tested positive for measles specific Immunoglobulin M(IgM)

MEASLES VACCINE UPDATES

A total of 45,183(80%) out of the targeted 56,482 children under one year received the first dose of measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) in drought-affected districts in February 2023 according to data from district health Information software 2 (DHIS2) (Figure 5). From 2019 to 2023, the measles vaccination coverage ranged between 84% and 80% per month compared to the national target of 95%.

MALARIA UPDATES

The number of laboratory-confirmed cases of malaria reported through DHIS2 has gradually decreased since January 2021 which might be linked scaling up of implementation of additional malaria control interventions in drought affected districts (Fig 6). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, a total of 101 008 cases of suspected malaria have been reported of which 3751 (3.7%) have been confirmed positive by Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) and blood smear. However, the number of confirmed cases of Malaria increased from 909 cases in January to 974 cases in April which represents a decrease of 2 per cent. Of the 2777 confirmed cases, 1000 (26.6%) are children under 5. Regions reporting most of the suspected malaria cases in 2023 are Gedo (11268), Bay (9208) and Banadir 9105) (Table 1).

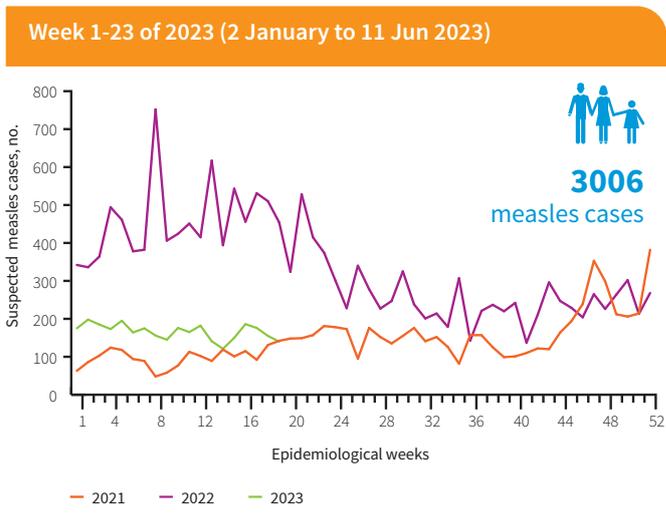


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021–2023

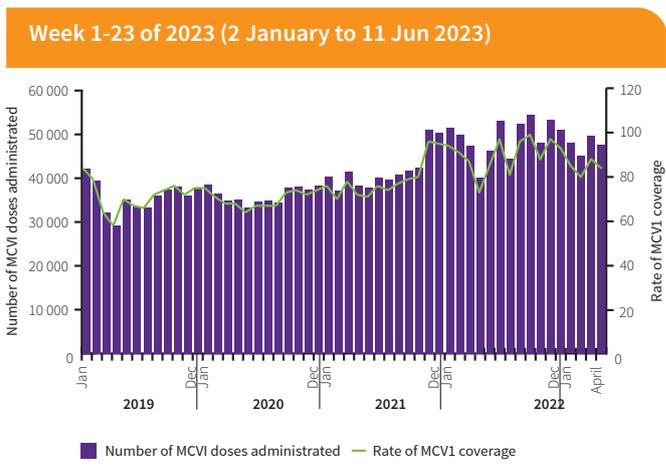


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 vaccinated against measles by month, 2019-2023

*The measles vaccination data for November and December 2022 is not yet available

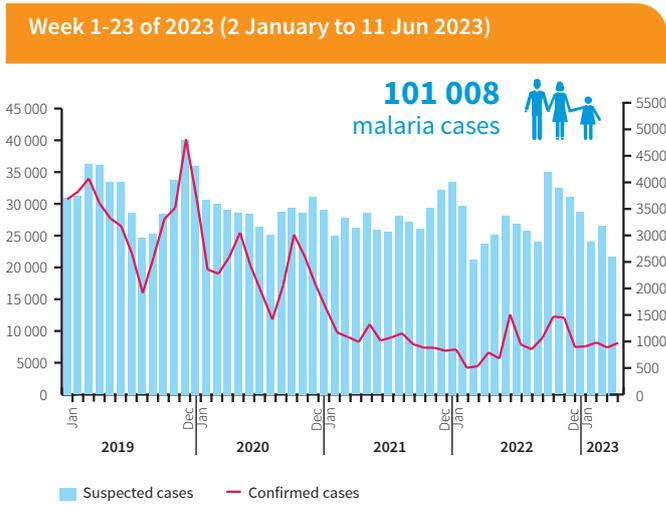


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2019-2023

POLIO UPDATE

- A total of 188 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) were reported in 2023, of whom 80(41.7%) case were female and 108(58.3%) cases were male. Of the 188 AFP cases reported,169 (90%) cases had stool samples collected and analysed in the laboratory while 29 (10%) cases are pending laboratory diagnosis.
- In 2023 two circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from AFP cases, compared to five cases isolated in 2022.
- A total of 99 environmental surveillance (ES) samples have been collected since epidemiologic week 1 of 2023 of which 80 (88%) samples have laboratory results and 12(12%) are pending for processing.
- Out of the 80 environmental samples with laboratory result in 2023, 26(30%) of the samples were isolated none polio enterovirus (NPEV), 2 Sabin like virus (2%) and the remaining 59 (68%) samples were tested negative.

Table 1: Cumulative number of acute diarrhoeal disease, suspected cholera, suspected measles, SARI, and suspected malaria cases in drought-affected regions of Somalia (epidemiological weeks 1 -23 2023, 02 Jan to 11 June 2023)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease ⁹	Suspected Measles cases ¹⁰	Suspected Malaria case ¹¹	SARI cases ¹²	Suspected cholera cases ¹³	cVDPV2 from AFP Case ¹⁴
AWDAL	0	11	3937	0	0	0
BAKOOL	317	39	4099	5819	66	0
BANADIR	2045	930	9105	5403	1760	0
BARI	3481	50	8672	95	0	0
BAY	718	967	9208	5106	677	1
GALBEED	0	14	3147	0	0	0
GALGADUD	968	43	6162	25608	0	0
GEDO	6969	8	11268	7742	3361	0
HIRAN	443	193	5286	2598	1	0
KARKAR	1537	-	1872	428	0	0
LOWER JUBA	6044	198	5420	5682	2207	0
LOWER SHABELLE	1414	199	5869	1437	1182	1
MIDDLE JUBA	0	0	0	0	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	252	55	6735	927	514	0
MUDUG	2685	144	6995	3450	0	0
NUGAL	1772	60	3928	493	0	0
SOUTH MUDUG	929	0	0	1521	0	0
SAHIL	0	18	1488	0	0	0
SANAG	1098	0	2950	5	0	0
SOOL	5	1	1101	245	0	0
TOGDHER	0	76	3766	0	0	0
TOTAL	30 677	3006	101 008	66 559	9768	2

Note: Continuous data quality review has been conducted which may lead to variation of figures for new cases and cumulative cases of epidemic prone disease in each region.

⁹ Source of data is EWARN as of February 2023(up to week 6-7) and DHIS-2 starting with week 8.

¹⁰ Source of data is fever and rash surveillance system as of January 2023

¹¹ Source of data is DHIS2 as of January 2023 and DHIS-2 as of June 2023

¹² Source of data is EWARN as of February 2023 and DHIS2 as of June 2023

¹³ Source of data is suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea surveillance system managed by the FMOH as of February 2023

¹⁴ Source of data is EPI/Polio Weekly update sitrep report 2023.



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