

Current situation

Somalia is experiencing worsening drought following four 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 (UNOCHA) estimates that the number of people affected by extreme drought has risen from 4.9 million in March to 7.8 million in September, with 1 million displaced from their homes in search of water, food, and pasture.

Some 6.8 million people - 45 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 catastrophic food insecurity (Phase 5) affecting more than 300,000 people.² An estimated 1.8 million children under age 5 face acute malnutrition, including 515 550 who are severely malnourished.³ The current situation including the displacement have led to more people being vulnerable to epidemic prone diseases, particularly acute diarrheal disease, and measles.



SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

7.8 million people estimated to be affected by the current drought; one million have been internally displaced by drought as of August 2022.¹

Some **6.8 million** people - **45 per cent** of the population - are acutely food insecure

45 percent children face acute malnutrition

An estimated **7.7 million** people in the country require humanitarian assistance and protection.

Epidemiological weeks 44-45, 31/10/2022-13/11/2022



738
suspected cholera cases



7077
acute diarrhoeal disease cases



476
suspected measles cases



4133
SARI cases



805
confirmed cases of Malaria in August 2022

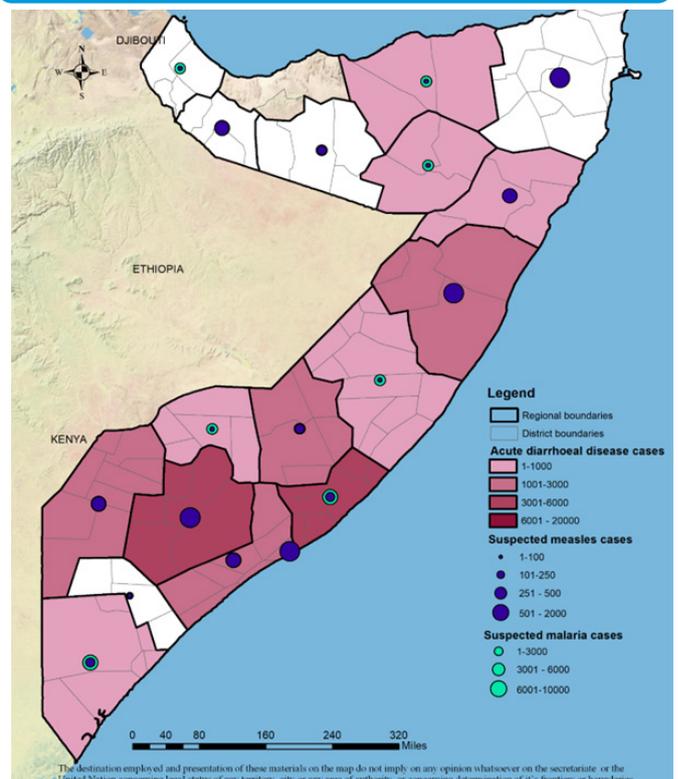


538
health facilities reporting through Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN)



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, (epidemiological weeks 1-45, 03 Jan to 13 November 2022)



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. To control cholera outbreak, one million people have received at least one dose of oral cholera vaccine in nine drought affected districts, cases are receiving treatment in nine cholera treatment facilities and 15 oral rehydration points supported by WHO. WHO and partners have scaled up the implementation of drought response activities in 29 drought affected districts in collaboration with UN agencies targeting hard to reach communities.

1 Somalia: 2022 Drought Impact Snapshot (As of August 2022) - Somalia | ReliefWeb
2 Somalia: Drought Response and Famine Prevention (1-24 October 2022) [EN/AR] - Somalia | ReliefWeb
3 IPC classification by FSNU as of 12 September 2022

CHOLERA IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

Recurrent cholera outbreaks have been reported in the drought-affected districts of Somalia since 2017, with no interruption in transmission in Banadir region. The number of new suspected cases of cholera have increased sharply in 2022 compared to the previous years due to an increasing number of people with limited access to safe water and proper sanitation practices especially in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps (Figure 1). Since the epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 12 734 suspected cases of cholera with 72 associated deaths (CFR 0. 6%) were reported from 25 drought-affected districts. The number of cholera cases reported have increased by 32% from 291 cases reported in week 42 to 385 cases in week 45. In Kismayo district there has been a 37% increase in the number of cholera cases while three cholera related deaths were reported in Kismayo during the same period. Of the 12 734 suspected cases of cholera, 8165 (64%) cases were children below 5 years, 6239 (49%) are women and 4892 (38%) are severe cases. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (4 9915), Bay (2 474) and Lower Juba (1842) and Kismayo (1842) which is the current epicenter of the outbreak (see Table 1). The risk factors for the ongoing cholera outbreak in Kismayo is limited access to safe water among displaced populations, poor sanitation due to open defaecation in camps and poor adherence to infection prevention and control (IPC) practices in treatment facilities. Of the 1734 stool samples collected and analyzed, 243 (14.0%) samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa, 7(0.4%) samples were tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 Inaba in Daynile and 1(0.06%) sample positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 Hikojima in Marka. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted in the national public health reference laboratory in Mogadishu showed that the *V. cholera* serotypes isolate is sensitive to chloramphenicol and tetracycline but resistant to ampicillin and nalidixic acid.

ACUTE DIARRHOEAL DISEASES

The number of new cases of acute diarrhoeal disease reported in the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) and from the community decreased in 2022 compared to the previous years (Figure 2). This reduction in cases might have been linked to the implementation of additional Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions in drought-affected districts. However, there has been a significant increase in the number of new cases of acute diarrhoeal disease reported from drought affected districts since week 28 compared to the past two years due to increased number of displaced population who have limited access to safe water and proper sanitation attributed to the escalating drought. In the past four weeks, cases of acute diarrhoeal disease cases decreased by 22% from 2885 cases in week 42 to 3521 cases in week 45.

Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, 110 242 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease were reported from drought-affected districts of which, 76% (84 334) were children under five years of age. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (39 650), Bay (11 006), and Middle Shabelle (10 955) (Table 1).

WHO conducts sentinel-based surveillance for rotavirus that is the most common case of acute diarrhoeal disease infection among children under 5 years worldwide. Of the 571 stool samples collected from different locations from children aged below 5 years, 197(35%) were tested positive for rotavirus infections. Of the 197 positive samples, 197 (100%) were reported from Banadir region.

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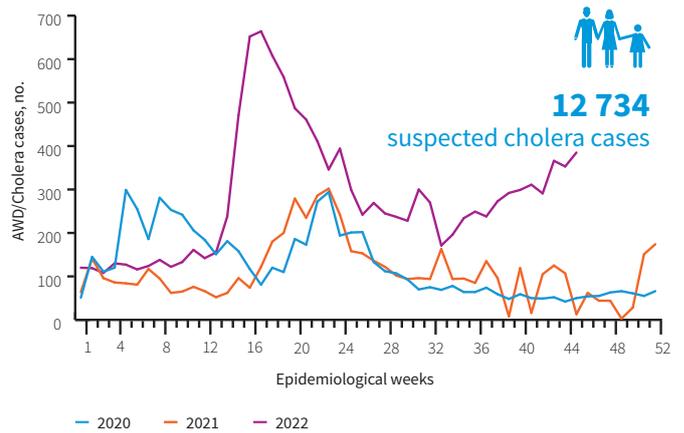


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

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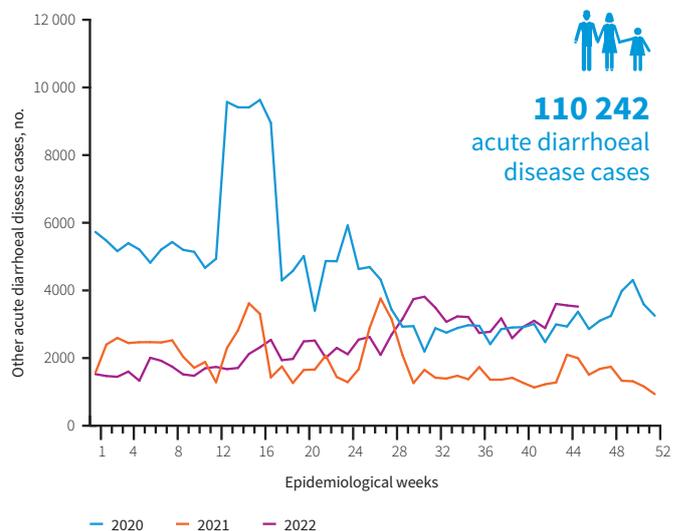


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

Week 44-45, 31/10/2022-13/11/2022

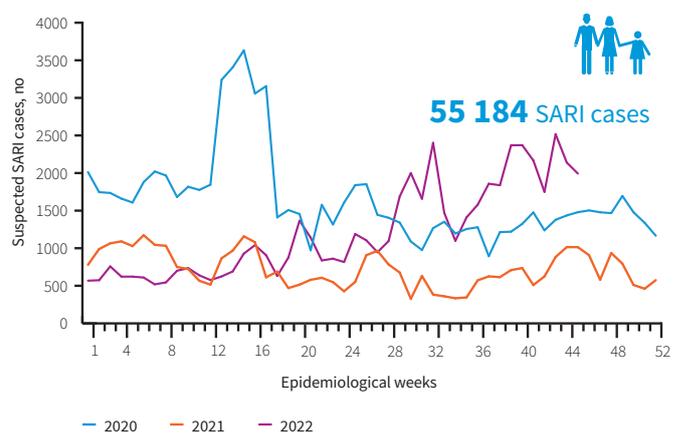


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

The trends of cases of severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) started to increase in week 29 of 2022 compared to the past two years. This increase may be attributed to increased displaced people who have poor shelter which resulted into people living in overcrowded conditions in camps (Figure 3). Since epidemiological week 1, 2022, a total of 55 184 SARI cases were reported from drought-affected districts of which 64.6% (35 642) were children under five years of age. However, the number of new cases of SARI decreased by 8% from 2167 in week 41 to 1993 cases in week 45. The region reporting most of the cases are Banadir (14 138), Galgaduud (9797) and Bay (5901) (Table 1).

A total of 1428 suspected cases of influenza were enrolled at three sentinel sites- two located in Banadir region and one in Puntland and were reported in the platform of Eastern Mediterranean Flu (EMFLU) network. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, 1354 influenza cases were tested at the National Public Health Laboratory of which 97 (7.1%) were tested positive for influenza; 3 (2.2%) were positive for seasonal influenza A (H1N1); 20 (20.6%) were positive for influenza A (H1N1) pdm09; and 3 (3.1%) were positive for influenza A (H3N2), 71 (73.2%) were positive for influenza B Victoria Lineage and 1 (1.0%) were positive for influenza Yagamata Lineage.

MEASLES UPDATES

The number of suspected cases of measles has increased in 2022 compared to the previous years. This surge in cases is linked to a decrease in measles vaccination coverage of children below five years of age in drought affected districts (Figure 4). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 15 619 suspected cases of measles were reported through the surveillance system for fever and rash used by the polio programme in drought-affected districts. However, the number of new measles cases reported has increased from 137 cases in week 41 to 229 in week 45 which represents a 67% increase. Of the 15 619 suspected measles cases reported, 77% (12 055) are children below five years of age. The regions reporting most of the cases include Bay (3352), Banadir (3104), and Bari (2 084), (see Table 1), Of the 926 blood samples collected from suspected cases of measles and analysed in the laboratories, 61.9% (573) tested positive for measles-specific immunoglobulin M (IgM).

MEASLES VACCINE UPDATES

A total of 52,397 (96%) out of the targeted 54 836 children under one year of age received the first dose of measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) in drought-affected districts in August 2022 according to data from district health Information software 2 (DHIS2) (Figure 5). From August 2019 to August 2022, the measles vaccination coverage ranged between 72% and 96% 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 2022 which might be linked to implementation of additional malaria control interventions in drought affected districts (Figure 6). This decrease is attributed to the increased implementation of preventive measures in different regions. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 214 168 cases of suspected malaria have been tested of which 6665 (3.1%) have been confirmed

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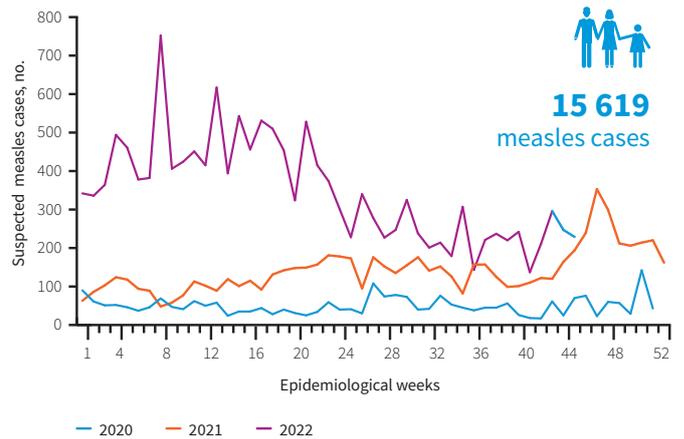


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

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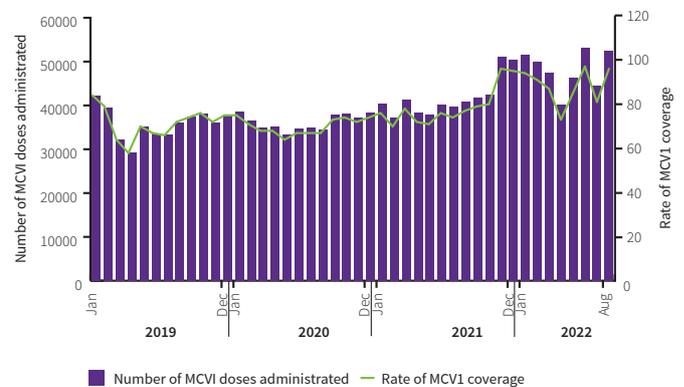


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 year vaccinated against measles by month, 2019-2022

*The measles vaccination data for June and July 2022 is not yet available

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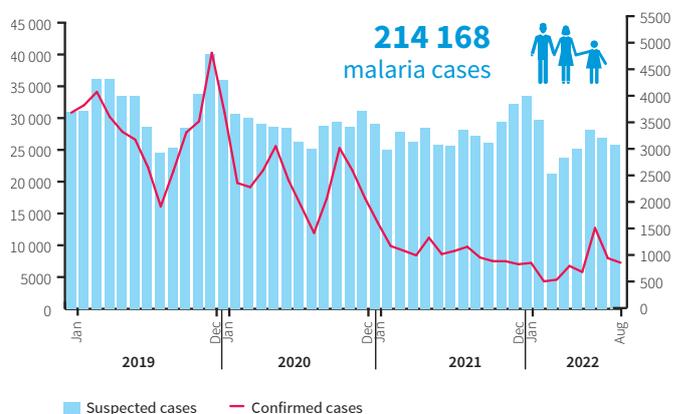


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2019-2022

positive by RDT and blood smear. Of the 6665 confirmed cases, 1900 (28.5%) are children aged under 5 years. Regions reporting most of the suspected malaria cases in 2022 are Banadir (28629) Bay (16694) and Gedo (14178) (Table 1).

POLIO UPDATE

- In 2022, four circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from acute flaccid paralysis cases, three circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from environmental samples (ES) while one vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) was isolated from an environmental sample.
- A total of 291 cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) of which 130 were females and 161 males were reported in 2022. Of the 277 cases, 256 (88%) cases have laboratory results, and 35(12%) cases are pending for processing.

Out of the 256 cases with laboratory results, four were positive for cVDPV2, 10 positives for Sabin Like (SL) type virus while 237 cases were tested negative.

- A total 186 environmental samples were collected from 16 sites and sent to the laboratory in 2022 .Out of these samples, three were positive for cVDPV2, one was positive for VDPV2, thirty six were positive for None Polio Enterovirus (NPEV) , one Sabin like virus type 3(SL3), thirteen Sabin like virus type(SL2) , one positive for both SL2, None enterovirus, eight five samples were negative and forty five are pending for processing.

Table 1: Cumulative number of acute diarrheal disease, suspected cholera, suspected measles, SARI, and suspected malaria cases in drought-affected regions of Somalia (epidemiological weeks 1 - 45, 03 Jan to 13 November 2022)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease ⁴	Suspected Measles cases ⁵	Suspected Malaria case ⁶	SARI cases ⁷	Suspected cholera cases ⁸
AWDAL	0	109	7602	0	0
BAKOOL	1863	251	6196	314	493
BANADIR	39 650	3104	28 629	14 138	4991
BARI	6686	2084	13 181	942	0
BAY	11 006	3352	21 922	5901	2474
GALBEED	0	392	7162	0	0
GALGADUD	1796	141	6622	9797	0
GEDO	3497	715	18 677	5721	0
HIRAN	7700	362	11 605	2810	0
KARKAR	3144	-	4890	2138	0
LOWER JUBA	1961	1062	12 840	1695	1842
LOWER SHABELLE	5793	541	16 664	1075	1809
MIDDLE JUBA	0	29	0	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	10 955	317	13 802	1605	1125
MUDUG	3801	1759	16 408	703	0
NUGAL	4832	688	6583	1579	0
SOUTH MUDUG	3474	0	0	5688	0
SAHIL	0	37	4516	0	0
SANAG	3408	35	5796	678	0
SOOL	676	146	4632	391	0
TOGDHER	0	495	6441	0	0
TOTAL	110 242	15 619	214 168	55 184	12 734

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.

4 Source of data is EWARN as of November 2022

5 Source of data is fever and rash surveillance system as of November 2022

6 Source of data is DHIS2 as of August 2022

7 Source of data is EWARN as of November 2022

8 Source of data is suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea surveillance system managed by the FMOH as of November 2022

8 Source of data is EPI/Polio Weekly update sitrep report



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