

Current situation

Somalia is emerging from a risk of famine which was projected in 2022, following the five consecutive failed rainy seasons - a climatic event not seen in four decades. The famine has been averted through the collaborative efforts of national authorities, communities, humanitarian partners, and with better-than-expected Gu rainfall performance. Despite the scaled-up implementation of response activities, the situation remains critical. As of September 2023, nearly 3.7 million people – 22 per cent of the population - are acutely food insecure, a reduction from 6.6 million in April 2023. The number of people experiencing emergency food insecurity has reduced by 34% from 4.3 million March 2023 to 2.8 million as of September 2023. An estimated 1.5 million children under 5 face acute malnutrition, including 331 000 who are severely malnourished. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Somalia, the projected El Nino, expected to start in October 2023, is likely to exacerbate the extended humanitarian impact of an extended drought season and likely to cause flash floods in riverine districts along the rivers Shabelle and Juba affecting 1.2 million people⁵. Moderate to heavy rainfall has been reported in parts of Banadir, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland and Southwest states since early October and reports indicate that at least 122,000 people (20,347 families) have been affected by the rains and flash floods since 4 October, including 92,000 internally displaced people living in 178 settlements in the Baidoa. Humanitarian partners are working closely with the Government, through the Somalia Disaster Management Agency at the federal level and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management at the state level, on emergency response, preparedness and anticipatory action where applicable.



SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

An estimated **8.3 million** people in the country in need of water, humanitarian assistance, and protection¹.








Nearly **3.7 million** people - **22 per cent** of the population - are experiencing acute food insecurity including **2.8 million** in emergency (IPC 3) and **919 000** in catastrophe (IPC 4).

1.5 million of children are facing acute malnutrition².

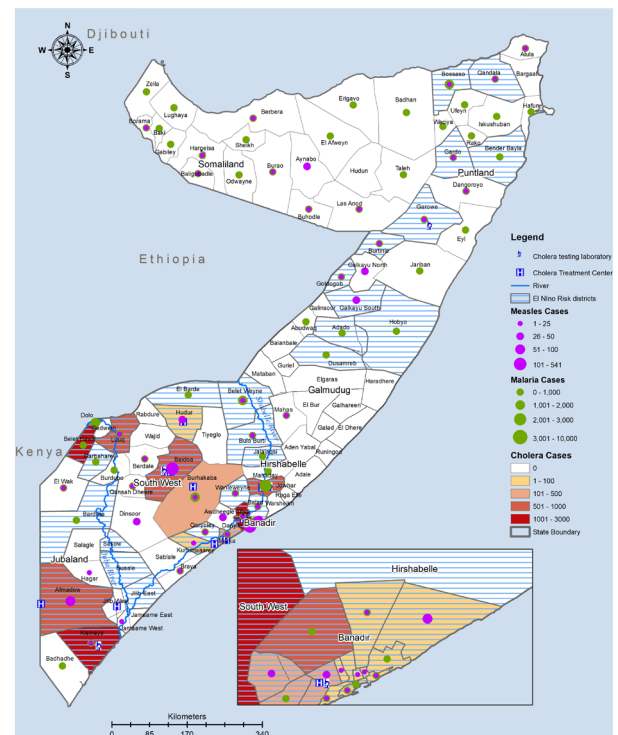
The projected El Nino expected to start in October to December 2023 is likely to cause flash floods in riverine districts that are likely to lead to disease outbreaks, loss of lives, destruction of property and food crops in field³.

Seasonal Deyr rains continue to be reported in Banadir, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland and Southwest states, have caused significant flash floods and affected at least 122,000 people including 92000 internally displaced people living in 178 settlements in Baidoa, damaged shelters, infrastructure⁴.

Epidemiological weeks 40-41, 02-15 Oct 2023

	539 suspected cholera cases
	1329 acute diarrhoeal disease cases
	517 suspected measles cases
	3695 SARI cases
	811 confirmed cases of malaria in August 2023
	260 health facilities reporting in DHIS2 ⁵
	222 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-Week 39 2023, 02 Jan to 01 October 2023)



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Map Production: WHO Somalia
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The Federal Ministry of Health and WHO monitor the trends of epidemic-prone diseases in drought affected districts using data from the electronic-based EWAR, DHIS-2, 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 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Report -September 18, 2023
- 3 FSNU/FAO report/July 2023-Understanding El Niño: projecting impacts and implications on food security & livelihoods in Somalia.
- 4 Somalia: Deyr rainy season 2023 Flash Update No. 2 (23 October 2023) - Somalia | ReliefWeb
- 5 Food and Agricultural Organization of the United National El Nino report August 2023

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 and neighboring countries triggered by drought. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, a total of 14 191 cases of suspected cholera and 38 deaths (Case Fatality Rate 0.3%) were reported from 29 drought-affected districts of which 7620 (53.7%) cases were children under 5, 7355 (51.8%) were women and 6612(46.6%) were severe cases. In 2023, The regions reporting most of the cases are Gedo (4234), Banadir (2766), and Lower Juba (2710), (see Table 1). However, the number of cholera cases reported in all districts have increased by 33% from 231 in week 40 to 308 cases in week 41. This increase may be attributed to heavy rains that started on 4 October and may have contaminated water sources in high-risk districts. A total of 1926 stool samples were collected and tested in WHO supported laboratories of which 203 (10.5%) samples tested positive. Out of the 222 samples tested positive, 221(99%) stool samples were tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa. In addition, 2264 samples tested by Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) of which 628 (27.7%) stool samples were tested positive. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted showed that the *Vibrio cholera* serotypes Ogawa isolates are sensitive to chloramphenicol and tetracycline but resistant to ampicillin and nalidixic acid.

ACUTE DIARRHOEAL DISEASES⁶

The number of new acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported through the District Health Information System (DHIS-2) decreased by two-fold compared to the same period 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, 41 894 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease were reported. The regions reporting most of the cases are Gedo (10 530), Lower Juba (7262) and Mudug (527), (Table 1). Despite the reported reduction in the number of new cases, the flash floods that are expected from the anticipated El Nino especially in the riverine districts of Somalia is expected to contribute to increased acute diarrhoeal diseases cases.

WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health to conduct sentinel-based surveillance for Rota virus in Banadir region. Since epidemiologic week 1 of 2023, of the 768 cases of acute watery diarrhoea, collected from cases admitted in Banadir hospital, 207 (26.9%) have tested positive for Rota Virus.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE⁷

The number of severe acute respiratory illnesses (SARI) reported through the DHIS-2 system 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 access to standard shelter which resulted in people living in overcrowded conditions in camps (Figure 3). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 102 104 cases of SARI were reported from the drought affected districts. The regions

Week 1-41 of 2023 (2 January to 15 October 2023)

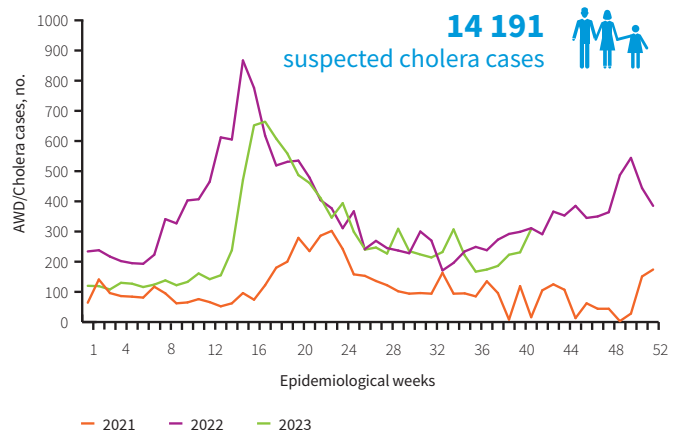


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 1-41 of 2023 (2 January to 15 October 2023)

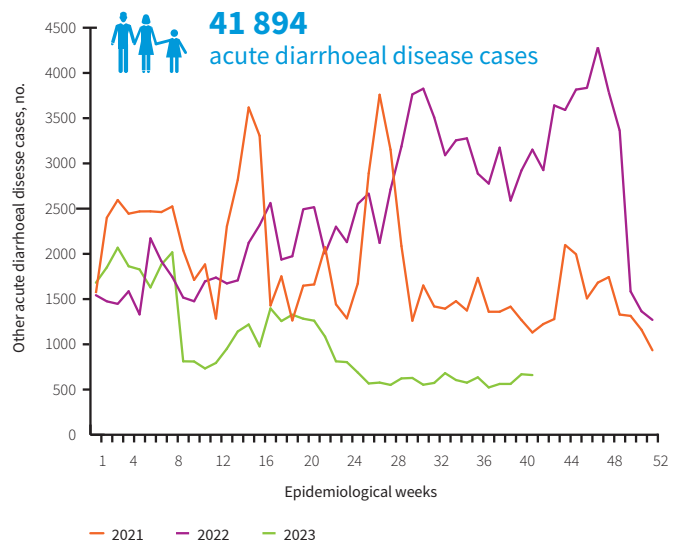


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 1-41 of 2023 (2 January to 15 October 2023)

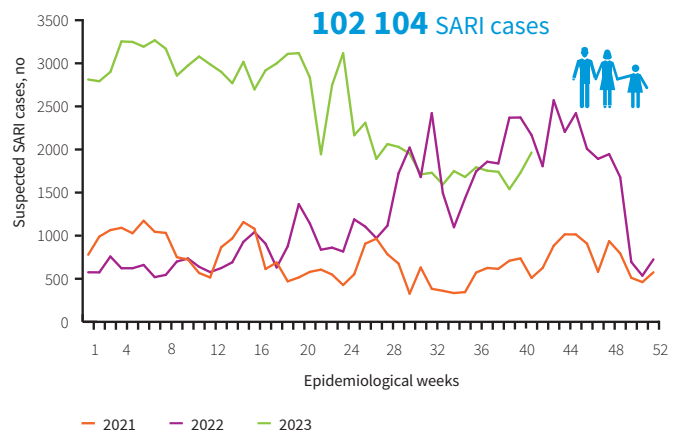


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought affected districts, 2021-2023

⁶ Source of data is DHIS-2
⁷ Data source is DHIS-2

reporting most of the cases are Galgadud (35413), Gedo (13087), and Banadir (10 337), (Table 1).

WHO, in collaboration with Center for Disease Control and Prevention of United States (US-CDC) and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework supports Ministry of Health to implement sentinel-based surveillance for seasonal influenza and other respiratory pathogens in four sites-two located in Banadir region, one in Puntland and one in Hargeisa Somaliland. In 2023, a total of 2780 cases of SARI and ILI were enrolled at four sentinel sites and were reported in the platform of Eastern Mediterranean Flu (EMFLU) network. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 2693 (96.9 cases were tested at the National Public Health Laboratory of which 195 (7.0%) were tested positive for influenza; 148 (75.9%) were positive for influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 2(1.0%) positive for influenza A(H3N2) while 11 (5.6%) were positive for influenza B virus (Victoria Lineage). 5 (0.2%) cases were also positive for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) while 13 (0.5%) were positive for COVID-19.

MEASLES UPDATES

The number of suspected cases of measles reported through the AFP/Polio surveillance system and DHIS2 in 2023 decreased by two-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 9 629 cases of measles were reported from week 1 to week 37 of 2023. The regions reporting most cases are Banadir (2710), Bay (1872), and Lower juba (1310). Of the 1903 blood samples collected from cases of fever and rash, 1196 (62.8%) were tested positive for measles specific Immunoglobulin M(IgM).

MEASLES VACCINE UPDATES

A total of 44135(78%) out of the targeted 56,482 children under one year received the first dose of measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) in drought-affected districts in June 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 78% 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 in 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. The observed reduction is linked to scaling up of implementation of additional malaria control interventions in drought affected districts. (Fig 6). As of August 2023, a total of 220 272 cases of suspected malaria have been reported of which 9478 (4.3%) have been confirmed positive by Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) and blood smear. However, the number of confirmed cases of Malaria decreased from 909 cases in January to 811 cases in August. Of the 9478 confirmed cases, 2248 (23.7%) are children under 5. Regions reporting most of the suspected malaria cases in 2023 are Gedo (26 578), Bay (22 989) and Banadir (21 613) (Table 1).

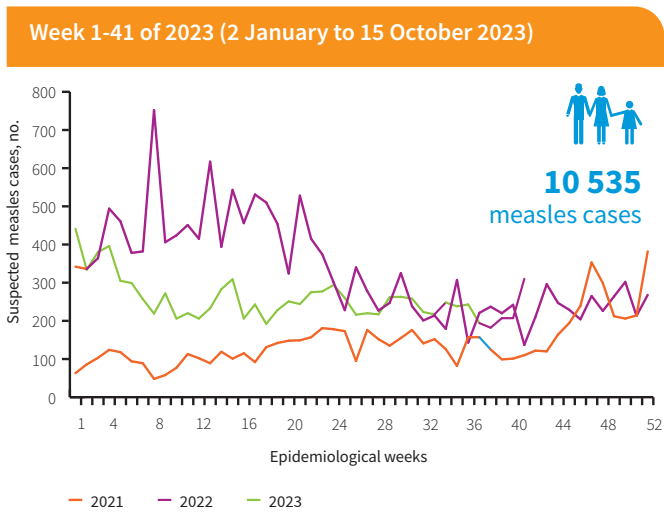


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

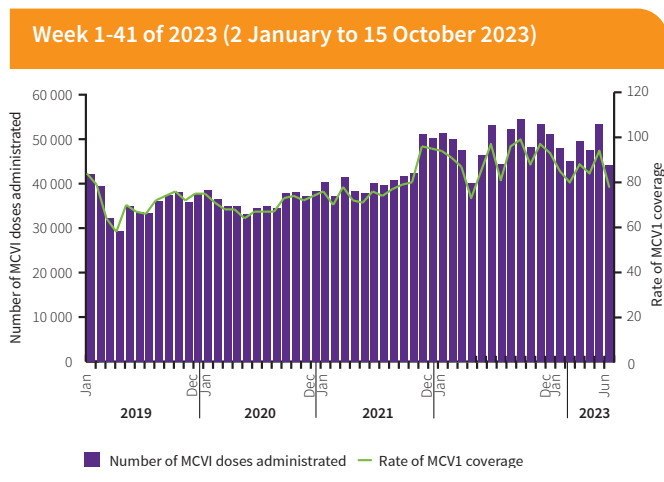


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 vaccinated against measles by month, 2020-2023

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

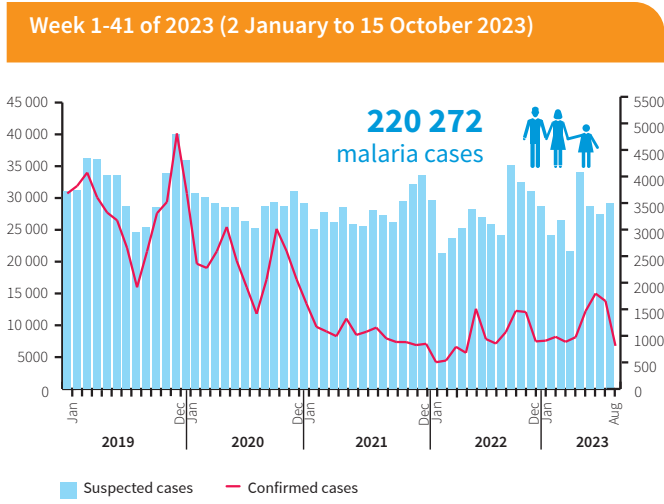


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2020-2023

POLIO UPDATE

- A total of 328 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) were reported in 2023, of whom 139 (43.5%) cases were female and 189(56.5%) cases were male. Of the 328 AFP cases reported, 310 (95%) cases had stool samples collected and analysed in the laboratory while 18 (5%) cases are pending laboratory diagnosis.
- In 2023, three circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from AFP cases, compared to five cases isolated in 2022.
- 181 environmental surveillance (ES) samples have been collected as of week 41 of 2023. Of these, 166 (92%) samples have lab results, while 15 (8%) are still awaiting processing.
- Out of the 166 ES samples with Lab results in 2023, 5(3%) cVDPV2, 3(2%) PV2-nOPV2-negative, 59(36%) of the samples isolated NPEV, 4(2%) Sabin, like virus and the remaining 95(57%) samples 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 -Week 39 2023, 02 January to 01 October 2023)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease ⁸	Suspected Measles cases ⁹	Suspected Malaria case ¹⁰	SARI cases ¹¹	Suspected cholera cases ¹²	cVDPV2 ¹³
AWDAL	0	11	9574	0	0	0
BAKOOL	383	695	6104	9508	66	0
BANADIR	3347	3028	21613	10337	2766	1
BARI	3481	50	13542	95	0	0
BAY	1173	1933	22989	8701	1466	1
GALBEED	0	14	7448	0	0	0
GALGADUD	1663	269	12381	35413	0	0
GEDO	10530	277	26578	13087	4234	0
HIRAN	791	502	10050	3728	1	0
KARKAR	1537	0	5998	428	0	0
LOWER JUBA	7262	1480	12146	8250	2710	0
LOWER SHABELLE	2165	727	16895	2719	2013	1
MIDDLE JUBA	0	0	0	0	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	518	968	11149	1677	935	0
MUDUG	5271	276	12283	6289	0	0
NUGAL	1772	60	7906	493	0	0
SOUTH MUDUG	929	238	0	1521	0	0
SAHIL	0	18	2736	0	0	0
SANAG	1098	0	8060	5	0	0
SOOL	5	1	3552	245	0	0
TOGDHER	0	76	9268	0	0	0
TOTAL	41 894	10 535	220 272	102 104	14 191	3

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.

⁸ Source of data DHIS-2

⁹ Source of data is fever and rash surveillance system for week 1-9 and DHIS-2 for week 10-29

¹⁰ Source of data is DHIS2 as of July 2023

¹¹ Source of data is DHIS2 and EMFLU

¹² Source of data is suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea surveillance system managed by the FMOH as of June 2023

¹³ Source of data is EPI/Polio Weekly update sitrep report 2023.



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