

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 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in Somalia, the drier rains have intensified with heavy rains reported across Somalia affecting 2.4 million people, displacing 1.2 million, people and led to deaths of 118 people in addition to destruction of property and food crops in field particularly in in Puntland, Galmudug, Southwest, Hirshabelle and Jubaland states. 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 to scale up implementation of humanitarian response activities.



SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

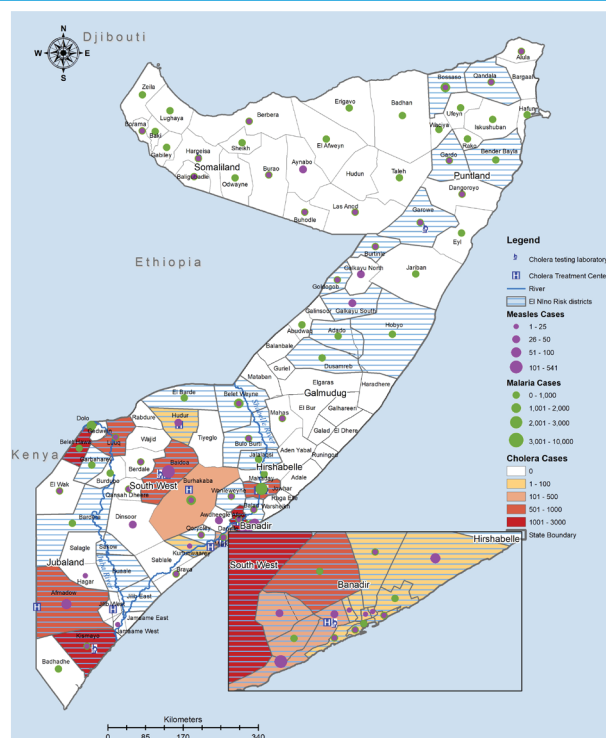
An estimated **8.3 million** people in the country in need of water, humanitarian assistance, and protection¹.

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 children under 5 are facing acute malnutrition².

The El Nino that started October have so far affected **2.4 million** people, displaced **1.1 million**, **118** people died in addition to destruction of property and food crops in field particularly in Puntland, Galmudug, Southwest, Hirshabelle and Jubaland states³.

Reported cases of acute diarrheal disease, suspected measles, SARI and clinically diagnosed malaria cases in drought-affected region of Somalia, (epidemiological Weeks 1-Week 49 2023, 02 Jan to 10 December 2023)



Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its borders or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Map Production: WHO Somalia
Data Source: MCH Somalia
Map Projection: WGS 1984 Web Mercator
Map Date: 30 March 2023
Feedback: trusursingiv@who.int



© WHO 2023 All rights reserved.

Epidemiological weeks 48-49 of 2023 (27 Nov -10 Dec 2023)



953
suspected cholera cases



2415
acute diarrhoeal disease cases



512
suspected measles cases



3071
SARI cases



719
confirmed cases of malaria in October 2023



260
health facilities reporting in DHIS2



185
community health workers deployed in high risk areas including in drought affected districts

Somalia is currently experiencing escalating floods caused by heavy Dyer rains that started in October 2023. The Federal Ministry of Health and WHO monitor the trends of vector and water borne epidemic-prone diseases in flood and drought affected districts using an Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Network (IDSR). 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 <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/somalia/>

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 and flood affected districts have increased 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 and floods. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, a total of 16 989 cases of suspected cholera and 43 deaths (Case Fatality Rate 0.3%) were reported from 25 drought and four flood-affected districts of which 9 192 (54.1%) cases were children under 5, 8 786 (51.7%) were women and 8405(49.5%) were severe cases. In 2023, The regions reporting most of the cases are Gedo (4607, Banadir (3317), and Lower Juba (3146), (see Table 1). A total of 3230 stool samples were collected and tested in WHO supported laboratories of which 306 (9.5%) samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* O1 serotype Ogawa and 1082 samples were tested by Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) of which 1082 (33.5%) stool samples were tested positive. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted showed that the *Vibrio cholerae* serotypes Ogawa isolates are sensitive to chloramphenicol and tetracycline but resistant to ampicillin and nalidixic acid.

ACUTE DIARRHOEAL DISEASES⁴

The number of new acute diarrheal 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, 49 713 cases of acute diarrheal disease were reported of which 32 505(68.7%) of the cases were from districts at risk of El Nino. The regions reporting most of the cases are Gedo (13 680), Lower Juba (7613) and Mudug (7262), (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 diarrheal 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 841 cases of acute watery diarrhea, collected from cases admitted in Banadir hospital, 221 (26.3%) have tested positive for Rota Virus.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE⁵

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, 117,183 cases of SARI were reported, of which 90 401 (79.2%) of the cases were from districts affected by the current El Nino. The regions reporting most of the cases are Galgadud (38 431), Gedo (16107), and Banadir (11 949), (Table 1).

Week 1-49 of 2023 (2 January 2023 to 10 December 2023)

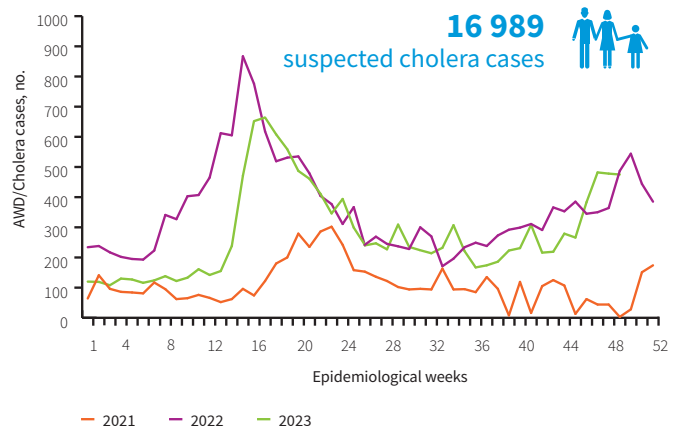


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 1-49 of 2023 (2 January 2023 to 10 December 2023)

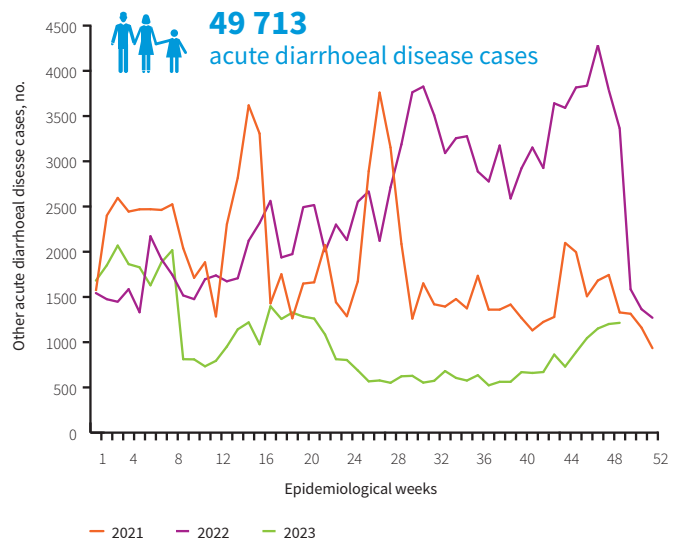


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 1-49 of 2023 (2 January 2023 to 10 December 2023)

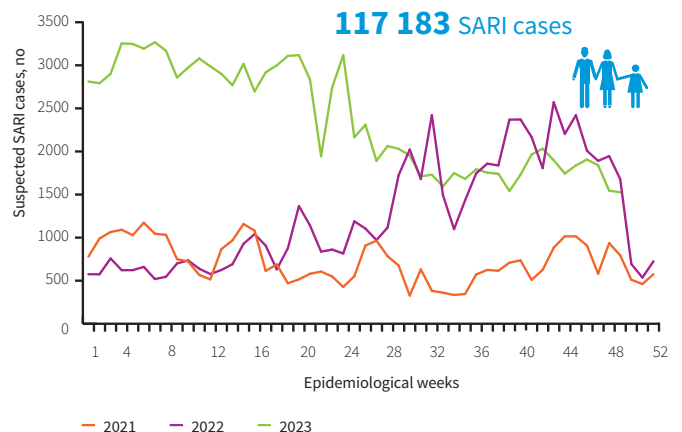


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

4 source of data is DHIS-2.

5 Data source is DHIS-2

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 3135 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, 3056 (97.5%) cases were tested at the National Public Health Laboratory of which 209 (6.0%) were tested positive for influenza; 155 (5.0%) were positive for influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 2(0.0%) positive for influenza A(H3N2) while 13 (5.4%) 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 12 569 cases of measles of which 9767(81%) of the cases were from districts affected by the current El Nino were reported from week 1 to week 49 of 2023. The regions reporting most cases are Banadir (3600), Bay (2107), and Lower Juba (1819). Of the 2 934 blood samples collected from cases of fever and rash, 1649 (56.2%) were tested positive for measles specific Immunoglobulin M(IgM).

MEASLES VACCINE UPDATES

A total of 44605(79%) out of the targeted 56,482 children under one year received the first dose of measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) in drought-affected districts in October 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 79% 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 October 2023, a total of 270 695 cases of suspected malaria have been reported of which 10 892 (4.0%) 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 719 cases in October. Of the 10 892 confirmed cases, 2625 (24.1%) are children under 5. Regions reporting most of the suspected malaria cases in 2023 are Gedo (32 146), Bay (28 963) and Banadir (26 049) (Table 1).

Week 1-49 of 2023 (2 January 2023 to 10 December 2023)

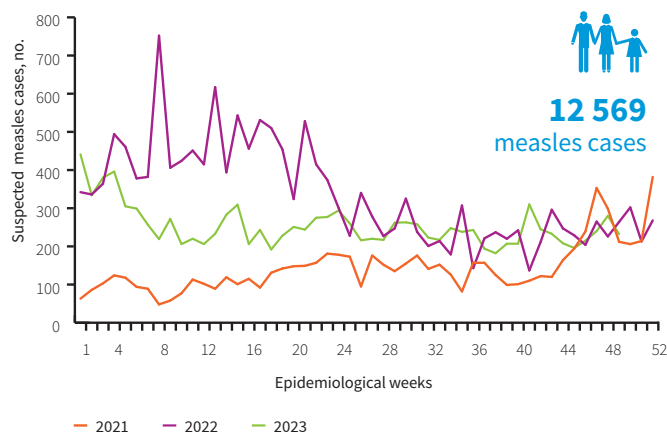


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 1-49 of 2023 (2 January 2023 to 10 December 2023)

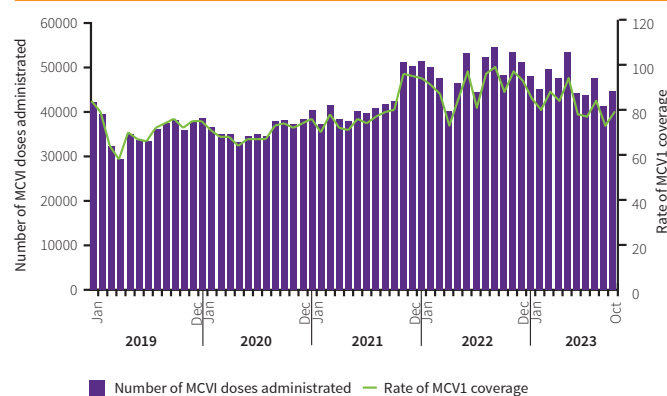


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 vaccinated against measles by month, 2020-2023

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

Week 1-49 of 2023 (2 January 2023 to 10 December 2023)

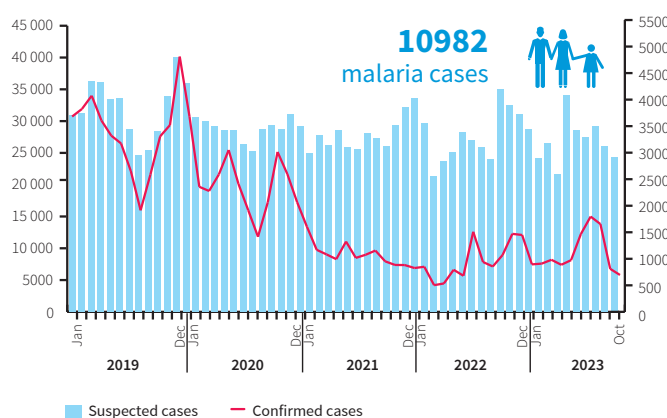


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2020-2023

POLIO UPDATE

- A total of 388 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) were reported in 2023, of whom 174 (43.5%) cases were female and 214(56.5%) cases were male. Of the 388 AFP cases reported, 377 (97%) cases had stool samples collected and analyzed in the laboratory while 11(3%) cases are pending laboratory diagnosis.
- In 2023, five circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from AFP cases, compared to five cases isolated in 2022.

- 210 environmental surveillance (ES) samples have been collected as of week 49 of 2023. Of these, 203 (97%) samples have lab results, while 7(3%) are still awaiting processing.

Out of the 203 ES samples with Lab results in 2023, 7(4%) cVDPV2, 2(1%) PV2-nOPV2-negative, 73(36%) of the samples isolated NPEV, 7(3%) Sabin, like virus and the remaining 114(56%) 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 49 2023, 02 January to 10 December 2023)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease ⁶	Suspected Measles cases ⁷	Suspected Malaria case ⁸	SARI cases ⁹	Suspected cholera cases ¹⁰	cVDPV2 from AFP Case ¹² ¹¹
AWDAL	0	11	11180	0	0	0
BAKOOL	433	797	7968	10 897	66	0
BANADIR	4045	3600	26049	11949	3317	1
BARI	3487	50	16049	95	0	0
BAY	1349	2107	28963	10247	2127	2
GALBEED	0	14	8887	0	0	0
GALGADUD	2015	399	15857	38431	0	1
GEDO	13680	327	32146	16107	4607	0
HIRAN	1058	530	13170	4394	1	0
KARKAR	1537	0	7698	428	0	0
LOWER JUBA	75	1819	14672	8883	3146	0
LOWER SHABELLE	2789	1025	21935	3656	2521	1
MIDDLE JUBA	0	0	0	0	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	595	1099	13708	1954	1204	0
MUDUG	7262	306	11028	8015	0	0
NUGAL	1772	123	9818	595	0	0
SOUTH MUDUG	929	279	4384	1521	0	0
SAHIL	0	18	2859	0	0	0
SANAG	1098	0	9794	15	0	0
SOOL	5	1	3851	246	0	0
TOGDHER	0	76	10386	0	0	0
TOTAL	49 713	12 569	270 695	117 183	16 989	5

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.

⁶ Source of data DHIS-2

⁷ Data is extracted from DHIS-2 and community-based surveillance system for fever and rash

⁸ Data source is DHIS-2

⁹ Data source if DHIS-2 and EMFLU for influenza surveillance

¹⁰ Data source if cholera surveillance system managed jointly by WHO and MOH

¹¹ Data source if the EPI/Polio program



@WHO Somalia



WHO Somalia



somaliawho