

Highlights

- A total of 1 511 people (including 785 children under five years of age and 520 women) received lifesaving health services in two targeted districts; Baidoa and Berdale district of Bay region this month through the funding received from UN-CERF.
- Cholera cases continue to be reported in Banadir, Hiran and middle Shabelle region. The total cases reported in 2020 are 1 781 with 10 deaths.
- Surveillance data from the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) recorded 465 342 consultations in 412 (77%) out of 535 health facilities during the month of February 2020
- Diseases causing the highest morbidity were acute respiratory infections (31 022 cases) and acute diarrhoea (21 262 cases)
- In February 2020, cluster of AWD/Cholera cases were reported from Jowhar district. 10 stool samples were collected and analysed, of which six were positive for vibrio *cholerae*
- In February 2020, a total of 312 injuries were reported from Jubbaland, Galmudug, Southwest state and Banadir Region (17 were children under five years of age and 102 were female)



WHO supported mobile health clinics providing primary health care to flood affected IDPs in Eljale, Beletweyne

Overall situation

- The flooding reported in Hirshabelle, Jubbaland and South West states has receded with majority of the affected communities returning to their homes.
- The people currently displaced will be prone to infectious disease outbreaks due to harsh climatic conditions from drought and seasonal flooding.
- Small pockets of outbreaks from AWD/Cholera continue have been reported from Beledweyne, Jowhar, Jalalaqi, Bulaburte and Marka following flooding that affected these districts. WHO continued to support the state ministries of health in response to flood to avert health consequences through provision of medical supplies, strengthening surveillance, outbreak investigation and deployment of mobile health teams.
- The ongoing operations response to mitigate the threats of COVID-19 has been scaled up. WHO has trained 175 health care workers including airport staffs on screening, case detection and case management at the points of entry

HEALTH SECTOR

Key figures

105	Health cluster partners
3.1 million	People in need of health care
2.4 million	People targeted for health care

HEALTH FACILITIES

1 074	Total Health facilities
535	EWARN reporting sites

HEALTH EMERGENCY INDICATORS

1.1	Consultation per person per year
84.4%	SAM cure rate
93%	Measles1 vaccine coverage rate
68%	Reporting timeliness

FUNDING (US\$)

8.3 million	Required for WHO's health emergency programme
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Epidemiological/Surveillance Update

Out of the total 535 health facilities participating in the Early Warning Alert and Response Network(EWARN), 412 (77%) submitted weekly surveillance data in February 2020. The incidence of acute diarrhoea cases shows no significant increase in February 2020 (25 055 cases) compared to the same month in 2019 (24 347cases) (Fig.1). The number of acute respiratory cases also increased in February 2020 (41 629 cases) compared to February 2019 (31 091 cases). This may be as a result of the prolonged negative effect of drought conditions with large displacement of people, overcrowding and shortage of safe water, which are risk factors for infectious disease outbreaks.

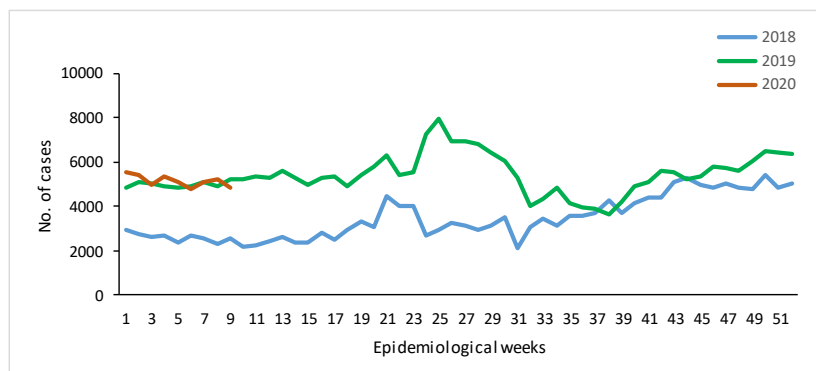


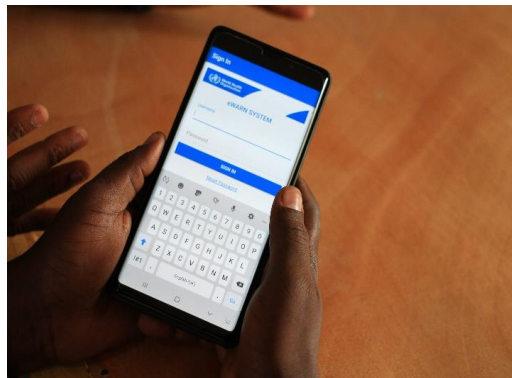
Fig. 1. Trends of acute diarrhoea cases in Somalia, 2018, 2019 and 2020

Emergency response activities

Following the report of sporadic cases of suspected cholera from Lower Shabelle, Marka district and surrounding villages, stool samples were collected and tested at the national public health reference laboratory in Mogadishu. The sample was tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* and currently, the spread of cholera has been contained. However, the possibility of spread of the cholera re-emerging remains high as the result of the dry season and shortage of clean water

Emergency response activities

- On 28 February 2020, three integrated emergency response teams composed of 24 health workers (11 male and 13 female) were trained on case management of common childhood illnesses. The team consisting of four members each- one clinician, one qualified nurse, one nutritionist and one community mobilizer were deployed to Baidoa and Berdale districts to provide health care services to IDPs and rural host community.
- On 28th -29th February 2020, in response to the flooding and droughts affected communities in Baidoa, three integrated emergency response teams (IERT) comprising of 12 health workers were trained. Three IERT teams which consist of four members, were deployed to each district to provide emergency health outreach services to IDPs and rural host community.
- In February 2020, a total of 5 075 alerts were reported through the EWARN of which 3 575 alerts were verified through field investigation by WHO deployed Rapid Response Teams (RRT). True alerts included AD (1 269), AWD (82), Malaria (1 343), SARI (827) and Measles (54). Most of the alerts were from Southwest, Puntland and Banadir region. All patients were treated and referred to the nearest health center for further management and care.
- Through the CERF project for flood response in Baidoa and Berdale districts, a total of 1 511 people including 785 children under five years of age and 520 women received lifesaving health services in Bay region during February 2020.
- During February 2020, a joint mission from WHO country office, IOM, UNFPA, and UNICEF conducted a visit to Baidoa mental hospital, to assess the impact of the expansion and rehabilitation of the facility under UN peacebuilding fund supported by MIDNIMO project. WHO identified mental health as a community priority in Baidoa and led partners in the new initiative to better understand the link between mental health and peace building and to support provision of mental health care.
- On 15 February 2020, a joint team of Ministry of Health and WHO visited health facilities in Baidoa hospital and MCH to identify reasons for low reporting completeness and timeliness. The purpose of the visit was to discuss ways to improve reporting rates and to monitor ongoing activities on EWARN surveillance carried out by the focal persons.
- A total of 68 suspected AWD/Cholera cases including 4 deaths (one under five and 3 over five) were reported from the IDP Camp in Bossaso district. In response, coordination meeting was conducted, two mobile teams were deployed for case management at the camp, emergency medical supplies were pre-positioned and distributed, Water chlorination and water trucking was also done at the camp.



EWARN: an effective real-time surveillance system for monitoring health alerts currently covering 535 health facilities across the country



Training of IERTs continue to be conducted in Baidoa and other flood-affected areas supported by the UN-CERF

Preparedness for COVID-19

- As a part of the preparedness for COVID-19, WHO has been working closely with Federal Ministry of Health. Entry screening facilities were established at three main international airports receiving more than 20 international flights per week. During the month, 7400 returnee travelers were screened
- In response to COVID-19, WHO organized a cascade training of health care providers, airport staffs, seaport staffs on proper screening, detection, and isolation of suspected cases. A total of 175 healthcare workers and first responders were trained.
- WHO, UNICEF and other health partners discussed the ongoing emergency response activities and, WHO as the lead agency for the response, shared guiding documents for preparedness, prevention, detection and response for COVID-19 outbreak.
- airport staff on screening, case detection, sample collection and handing and also case management and prevention measures

Health cluster and coordination (HCC)

- The national health cluster coordination meeting was held on 11 February 2020. Representatives from WHO Somalia country office delivered an interactive presentation focusing on three key events- the COVID-19 situation, Acute Watery Diarrhea/Cholera and Polio. The discussion was aimed at creating awareness and deliberate on measures for prevention and control. The partners also received an update of the preparedness and response activities being implemented in the country in view of the threat of COVID-19.
- As part of the response activities of suspected AWD/Cholera in Shabelle IDP camp in Bossaso, health cluster partners have been encouraged to actively promote hygiene and sanitation measures in the IDP camp, and WHO rapid response team was mobilized to collect samples of the suspected AWD/cholera cases and send those to national public health referral laboratory.

Nutrition updates

- During February 2020, A total of 1 360 new admissions of sever acute malnutrition with medical complications were reported from 35 stabilization centres
- Out of 1 360 sever acute malnutrition with medical complication cases, 1143 (84%) children recovered, while 25 (1.8%) children left the center without any information while, 12 (0.9%) children were referred.
- The overall completeness of reporting rate was 66% (35 out of 53)

Monitoring of trauma cases

- In February 2020, a total of 312 injuries were reported from Jubbaland, Galmudug, Southwest state and Banadir Region (17 were children under five years of age and 102 were female). On 10 February 2020. WHO dispatched emergency medical supplies to the drought affected districts. A total of 533 boxes of medical supplies including cholera kits, antibiotics and Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) with essential medicines were distributed to Marka and Qoryoley hospital following the recent attacks in the districts. The distributed supplies are estimated to treat 1 600 patients.
- In response to a recent car bomb attack in the capital city of Mogadishu, WHO provided emergency medical supplies to Benadir Hospital. These supplies consisted of 1 IEHK which will benefit 1 00 patients for 3 months and one cholera Central kit enough to manage 100 patients for 3 months.

The Health Emergencies Programme of WHO Somalia is supported by the UN OCHA Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)



Contacts

Dr Mulugeta Debesay, WHE Team Lead debesaym@who.int	Mr Kyle Defreitas , External Relations Officer defreitask@who.int
Ms Fouzia Bano, Communications Officer banof@who.int	Mr Omar Omar , Information Management Officer oomar@who.int

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