WHO responded to the flooding situation in Hirshabelle, Jubbaland and South West states by:
- Providing emergency medical supplies to treat 19 600 patients
- Deploying rapid response teams to investigate outbreaks
- Deploying integrated mobile teams to provide life-saving health care services benefiting 16 655 displaced persons

Surveillance data from the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) recorded a total of 450 985 consultations in 403 (out of 485) health facilities in October 2019.

Diseases causing the highest morbidity were acute respiratory infections (38 495 cases) and acute diarrhoea (26 338 cases).

Active cholera transmission is currently reported in Banadir region only. In 2019, a total of 2 281 cholera cases were reported across Somalia with no deaths.

Flooding has been reported in in Hirshabelle, Jubbaland and South West states of Somalia in October. This follows a period of drought resulting from the low Gu rains (April–June 2019) which followed below average Deyr rains (October–December) in 2018. The flooding affected close to 547 000 people with 370 000 being displaced in a country that already had an estimated 2.6 million internally displaced persons and 2.2 million in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

The negative effects of drought are still being experienced leading to poor hygiene and sanitation, lack of portable drinking water and malnutrition which are predisposing factors to disease outbreaks.

A total of 498 health facilities in Somalia are equipped with the EWARN system, out of which 403 (81%) submitted weekly surveillance data during October 2019. Some of the health facilities were damaged by floods, 8 of these facilities are completely non-functional.

The incidence of infectious diseases such as acute diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection has been increasing compared to the past two years. 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 has negatively affected hygiene and sanitation measures.

Suspected measles cases in Somalia decreased after a mass measles vaccination campaign conducted in early 2018. However, the number of suspected cases has started to rise and another mass vaccination campaign is scheduled for November 2019. In all, 502 suspected cases of measles were reported during October 2019.

Heavy Dyer rains which started in September 2019 and continued into early October in the Ethiopian Highlands and some parts of Somalia caused river banks to burst, leading to flash floods in districts located in the basins of rivers Juba and Shabelle. Over 547 000 people were affected including over 370 000 people (of whom 273 000 are in Beletweyne) being displaced by the flood. Beletweyne, Berdale, Baardhere and Jowhar are the most affected districts in the country.

In Hirshabelle state, Beletweyne was the worst affected district where 85% of the town was submerged with over 273 000 people being displaced and 17 deaths reported. The major roads in Beletweyne were impassable and movement of goods and medical supplies became difficult.
Emergency response activities

- Eight health facilities were affected by the floods of which five health facilities are in Beletweyn.
- WHO conducted Rapid Needs Assessment which identified gaps such as shortage of medical supplies, lack of primary health care services due to closure of health facilities and lack of mosquito control measures.
- In response to the flood emergency, WHO as lead agency in health, intensified its effort to support the ministry of health in coordination and leadership to respond to the needs of the affected communities.
- Emergency supplies were dispatched to the flood affected districts. A total of 2,323 boxes of medical supplies including cholera kits, antibiotics, trauma A and B kits and Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) were distributed to Beletweyne, Hudur, Kismayo and Banadir to support health response activities. The distributed supplies are estimated to treat 19,600 patients.
- In response to the current flood, WHO has deployed Rapid Response Teams (RRT) for alert investigation and rumour verification, in the flood-affected districts. 53 alerts for suspected measles, acute watery diarrhoea and malaria were investigated in the flood affected districts (Beledweyne, Bardhere, Berdale). 10 (two for malaria and eight for measles) out of 53 alerts were verified to be true, meanwhile 43 alerts were false.
- In response to the recent floods WHO deployed Integrated Emergency Response Teams (IERT) to Beletweyne, Berdale and Bardhere districts. The IERT treated 16,655 (40% female and 39% children under five years of age) patients who received live saving primary health care. A total of 3,369 (30% male and 70% female) received health messages on diseases prevention, hand washing, vaccination, nutrition and prevention and control of malaria and diarrhoea.
- During October, 2019, WHO conducted rapid response training in the flood affected districts of Beletweyne, Bardhere, Jowhar and Berdale. A total of 13 Rapid Response Teams (RRT) were trained on surveillance of priority diseases, thresholds for alert investigation, rapid assessment in emergencies and response. In addition, 20 Integrated Emergency Response Teams (EIRT) were trained. The IERT are essential in providing lifesaving primary health care to affected communities in emergency settings.

Nutrition updates

The total number of new admissions of patients with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications was 907 in October 2019, which shows 10% increase compared to that reported during September 2019. The increase was mainly reported in stabilization centres located in the flood affected districts.

- Out of the 907 children of SAM with medical complication who were admitted in the stabilization centers during the month of October, 13 (1.4%) died, while 892 (98.3%) children were cured, 44 children (4.8%) defaulted and 11 children (1.2%) were medically referred.
- A total of 30 (57%) stabilization centres out of 53 across Somalia submitted monthly reports in October 2019 compared to 37 in September 2019.
- In response to the increasing number of SAM cases, WHO provided severe acute malnutrition kits to the state health ministries, estimated to treat around 1000 patients and 100 severe acute malnutrition cases for a period of 2 months. Clinicians working in stabilization centers in Hirshabelle, Jubbaland and South West States will be trained on case management of severe acute malnutrition with medical complications during the month of November 2019.
Since July 2019, 4,056 trauma cases were reported of which 742 trauma cases and 50 deaths were reported in October 2019, from health facilities in Hirshabelle, Puntland, Jubbaland, Galmudug and South West states of Somalia. Of the 742 cases, 26% (193) were female and 22% (169) were in children under five years of age. The deaths were mainly as a result of gunshot and stab wounds.

In response to increasing trauma cases, WHO provided medical supplies, including 2 trauma kits and 1 interagency health kit, to Hirshabelle Ministry of Health that would be enough to treat estimated 1,200 patients for a period of 2 months.

Health cluster coordination meeting was conducted during the month of October with the following objectives:

- Share experiences, challenges and lessons learnt from the development of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2020
- Update partners on emergency preparedness planning for the recent floods
- Discuss health activities information management – Health resource availability and monitoring system (HeRAMS) and Public health situation Analysis (PHSA)

During the month, sub-national monthly health cluster meeting coordinated by WHO was also conducted with the following objectives:

- Since July 2019, 4,056 trauma cases were reported of which 742 trauma cases and 50 deaths were reported in October 2019, from health facilities in Hirshabelle, Puntland, Jubbaland, Galmudug and South West states of Somalia. Of the 742 cases, 26% (193) were female and 22% (169) were in children under five years of age. The deaths were mainly as a result of gunshot and stab wounds.
- In response to increasing trauma cases, WHO provided medical supplies, including 2 trauma kits and 1 interagency health kit, to Hirshabelle Ministry of Health that would be enough to treat estimated 1,200 patients for a period of 2 months.

The emergency programme of WHO Somalia is supported by the Central Emergency Response Fund of UNOCHA

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

You can access our weekly and monthly information products at:
Monthly reports: http://www.emro.who.int/som/somalia-infocus/somalia-situation-reports.html
Weekly EpiWatch: http://www.emro.who.int/som/information-resources/weekly-epi-watch.html

Follow us
Web: www.emro.who.int/countries/som/index.html
Twitter: @WHOSom
Instagram: somaliawho