

August 2021

# Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



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## HEALTH NEEDS AND PROVISIONS

- There are 2.9 million internally displaced persons of which 1.8 million require humanitarian assistance
- There are 681 000 drought-affected people in six states including in Benadir region
- Less than 1 consultation per person per year reported during the month (as compared to OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person per year)

## KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – August 2021

- 130 Health Cluster partners
- 3.15 million people in need of health care

## Funding gaps

**US\$ 8.3 million** Required for WHO's health emergency programme in 2021

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **OUTBREAK ALERTS:** In August, a total of 374 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases were reported through the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) system, 25% these were investigated. The three main types of alerts included; suspected acute watery diarrhoea (36%), suspected measles (36%) and malaria (29%) - with most suspected cases reported in drought- and flood affected districts.
- **COVID-19:** In August 2021, Somalia had reported 1970 laboratory-confirmed cases; 316 patients received care following admission in designated treatment centers across the country; and 130 associated deaths were reported. Since the beginning of the outbreak in March 2020, a total of 2687 patients with COVID-19 were admitted to treatment centers designated for COVID-19.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine:** In August 2021, 12 383 people received the first dose of vaccine against COVID-19 and 4 631 received the second dose. The campaign is targeting high-risk priority groups, including frontline health workers, teachers, police, people above 50 years old and people with chronic and underlying medical conditions.

## Coordination update

### Coordination meetings

Coordination meetings were convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to discuss the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) measures at designated points of entry and strengthening of One Health approach. The action points from this meeting included- identify key stakeholders supporting points of entry and One Health approach, conduct a baseline assessment for the capacities of IHR (2005) implementation at PoE and develop a contingency plan for the implementation of IHR (2005) activities at PoE and for implementation of a national One Health framework

A coordination meeting was also convened with the Director of the National Public Health Reference Laboratory to plan for the utilization of Antigen-based Rapid Diagnostic Kits for the testing of suspected cases of COVID-19 in communities with no access to real time Polymerase Chain Reaction (rt\_PCR) test. A training plan for health workers was developed for all states

Health Cluster coordination meetings were convened in all states with state-based ministries of health and health cluster partners. The meetings were aimed at developing strategies to increase demand for COVID-19 vaccines among the general population, improving the verification of alerts reported by the community health workers, strengthening sensitization and education of communities to practise COVID-19 community-based interventions and strengthening coordination of response to alerts of epidemic prone diseases.

WASH and Health cluster technical working group on water borne diseases convened a meeting to discuss the cholera outbreaks in Afgoye and Lower Shabelle regions of Southwest state and Benadir region. Action points included strengthening the implementation of WASH interventions in cholera endemic districts, strengthening surveillance for timely detection of alerts through the Early Warning Alert and Response Network and engagement of Federal Ministry of Health to consider implementation of oral cholera Vaccination campaigns in these districts before the next rainy season.

## Epidemiological update

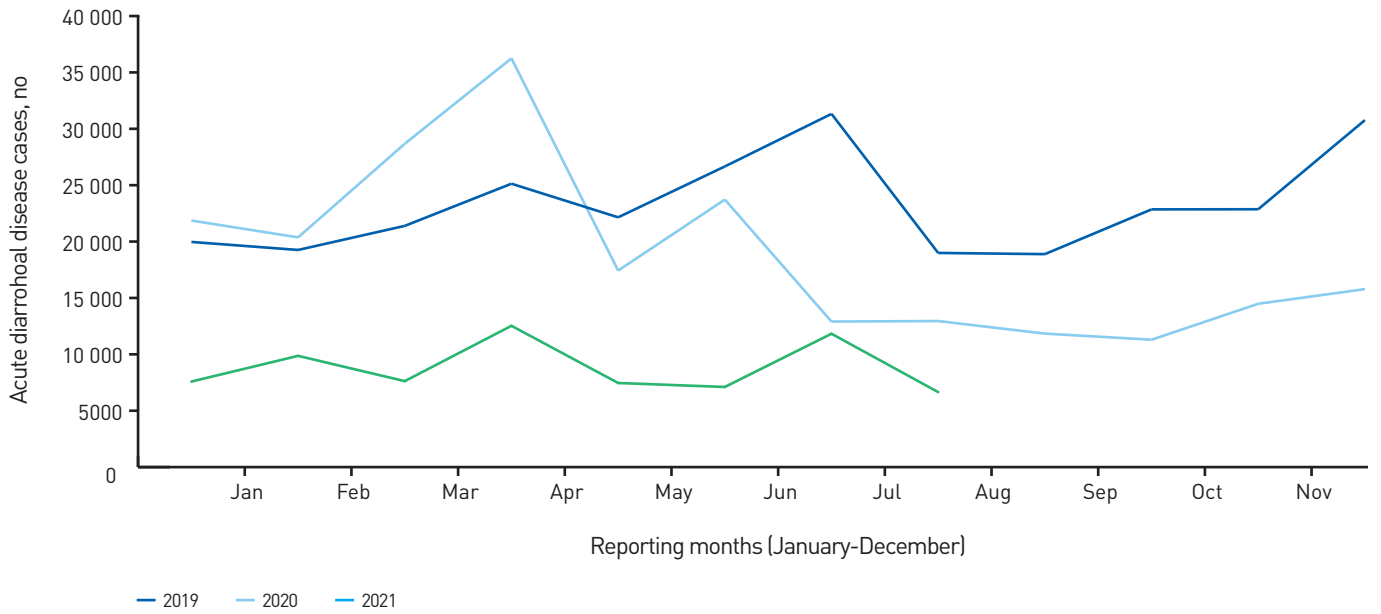
### Acute diarrhoeal disease cases

- In August 2021, a total of 6838 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease were reported from drought-affected districts through the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN). The most affected districts were Baidoa (855) in South West State, Daynile (964) in Banadir region, and Marka (911) in Lower Shabelle region.
- The number of new cases of acute diarrhoeal disease reported in August 2021 is 43% lower than in August 2020 (12 952). This reduction is attributed to improved access to safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene among displaced communities in drought-affected districts.
- Since January, 733 samples of suspected acute diarrhoeal disease were collected and analyzed in the National Public Health Reference Laboratory; 192 (26%) of these were confirmed as positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa

### Suspected cholera cases

- Somalia is a cholera endemic country that has reported uninterrupted cholera transmissions since 2017. The heavy *Gu* rains that affected districts in the basins of Rivers Juba and Shabelle led to flash floods contaminating water sources in villages located by the river banks.
- In August, 262 suspected cholera cases including two associated deaths (CFR 0.76 %) were reported from 20 districts. Districts mostly affected include 17 districts of Benadir region, Baydhawa, Qoryooley, and Qardho.
- Of the 262 cases, 98 (67.5%) were children aged below five years. Since January 2021, a total of 711 stool samples have been tested, of which 192 were positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa. Health cluster, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster partners are conducting response activities to contain the current cholera outbreak.

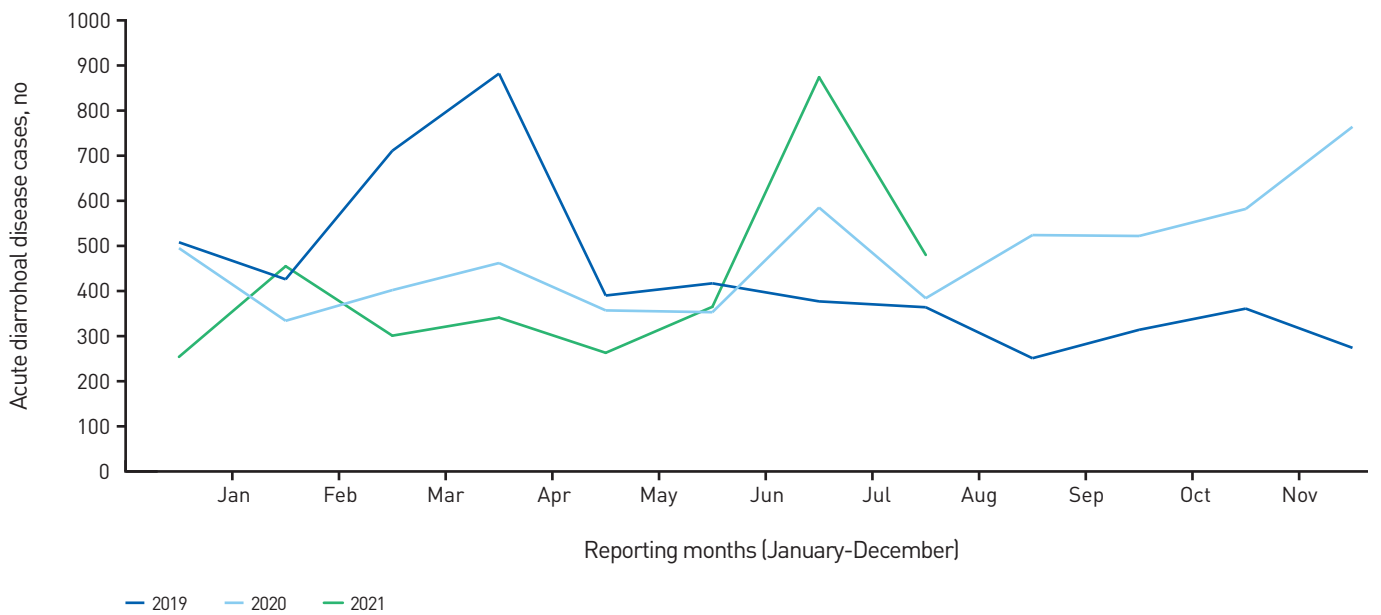
**Fig.1. Acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported to EWARN, Somalia, 2019-2021**



### Suspected measles cases

- The number of new suspected cases of measles reported in the EWARN from drought-affected districts started to increase since May. This is linked to the reduction in the number of children being vaccinated in high-risk districts due to the negative impact of COVID-19
- In August 2021, 480 new suspected cases of measles reported through EWARN increased by 32% compared to 364 in August 2020.
- Of the 404 blood samples collected from suspected cases of measles, 296 (73.2%) tested positive for measles by immunoglobulin M (IgM). Districts mostly affected include Beletweyne, Jowhar, Kismayo, Baidoa, Heliwaa, Baidoa and Marka.

**Fig.2. Suspected measles cases reported through the EWARN, Somalia, 2019-2021**





## Other emergency updates and response operations

### Community based surveillance

- A total of 2033 community health workers were deployed in 71 target districts to implement community-based surveillance for epidemic prone diseases including COVID-19. The CHWs visited 353,983 households and reached 656,032 persons with preventive messages for epidemic prone diseases and educated the communities on the importance of being vaccinated against COVID-19. A total of 1,815 alerts were detected by the CHWs and investigated by the district based RRTs and 662 were found to be true alerts. A total of 899 contacts of COVID-19 confirmed cases were followed up for 14 days and no case of COVID-19 was detected among the contacts. A total of 10049 suspected cases of COVID-19 were detected by the community health workers and isolated in their homes.



In-kind donation from Germany to WHO: the handover of the surgical and medical mask to Somalia @ WHO

### Investigation of suspected measles

- WHO supported the Benadir region Rapid Response Team (RRT) to investigate measles alerts in Daynile district. The team convened a meeting with community leaders and health cluster partners and identified the children who were not vaccinated against measles and had migrated to Daynile district from inaccessible areas of lower Shabelle. The children suffering from measles were also suffering from severe acute malnutrition. The Rapid Response Team collected 43 blood samples from suspected cases of measles of which all tested positive for measles specific IgM. As part of action points health cluster partners were requested to scale up the implementation of routine vaccination campaigns in districts reporting measles cases

### Training of frontline health workers

- WHO supported the training of 23 public health officers in three states i.e Puntland (13) Jubbaland (10). The health officers were trained on sampling water sources for water quality testing, standard water sample collection and testing of water quality using field-based kits.
- WHO also supported the training of 198 frontline health care workers in the implementation of Infection Prevention and Control Measures in their respective health facilities in Mogadishu (17), Puntland (25), Somaliland (42) Jubbaland (42) Galmudug (42) and Hirshabelle (30). Of the 198 health workers trained, 111 (56%) of the participants were male and 87 (44%) are female. The training focused on donning and doffing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect health workers from getting infected while treating patients.
- WHO supported the training of 80 health workers (50 male and 30 female) from 14 stabilization centers in Somaliland, Puntland, Hirshabelle and Jubbaland. The health workers were trained on the management of severe cases of malnutrition with complications, management of critically ill children with malnutrition, data collection and reporting. The training was conducted in collaboration with UNICEF, nutrition cluster partners and state ministries of health. WHO supported Federal Ministry of Health to train additional 30 frontline health workers from Di-Martino and Benadir hospital on influenza surveillance, collecting, packaging and transportation of samples and submission of reports using a paper-based surveillance system for seasonal influenza. . The National Public Health Reference Laboratory in Mogadishu was provided with reagents that will be used to analyze influenza samples collected from suspected cases during the COVID-19 response.

- WHO supported the training of 69 laboratory technicians on the use of Antigen-based Rapid Diagnostic kit for COVID-19 in Galmudug, Somaliland and Southwest state. The training is expected to contribute to the increase in the number of suspected cases of COVID-19 that are tested especially in areas that do not have access to real time Polymerase Chain Reaction (rt-PCR) tests
- WHO in collaboration with FMOH, Africa Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) and Intergovernmental authority on Development (IGAD) conducted the training of the first cohort of frontline health worker as part of the country's Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP). The cohort which was composed of 26 trainees from national, regional level and WHO were trained on the principles of surveillance, data collection, interpretation, analysis, interpretation, and communication. At the end of the 5-day training, each of the trainees was allocated a mentor to support them in the implementation of field activities aimed at strengthening the implementation of integrated disease surveillance and response system in Somalia.

## Nutrition update

- WHO supports state health ministries in the management of cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications in the districts affected by drought, floods and conflict in Somalia. This is provided through technical support, training, and the provision of supplies to nutritional stabilization centers in the country. These supplies include SAM kits, distributed to the state health ministries on a quarterly basis.
- In August, there were 1148 new SAM cases with medical complications admitted to 31 stabilization centers in Somalia (three in Benadir region, seven in Jubaland, five in Galmudug, eleven in Puntland, four in South West and one in Hirshabelle).
- Overall, 981 (85.5%) recoveries, 34 (3%) defaulters, 19 (1.7%) medical referrals and 38 (3.3%) deaths were reported in August.

## Trauma case monitoring and critical care

- As the country is experiencing different types of emergencies, including conflict, WHO is closely monitoring the number of people affected by these conflicts in the country and responding accordingly. In August 2021, a total of 5096 injuries were reported from the health facilities through the District Health Information System (DHIS-2). Of these, 3% were burns; These injuries represent a 22.5% increase compared to 6 575 injuries reported during the same period in August 2020. The reported cases are managed in different hospital in all states.



On August 18 2021, Water Quality testing and surveillance training for health workers in Garowe, Puntland @ WHO

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## Our weekly and monthly information products

### Weekly cholera infographic:

- <http://www.emro.who.int/somalia/information-resources/acute-watery-diarrhoeacholera-situation-reports.html>

### Monthly COVID-19 reports:

- <http://www.emro.who.int/countries/somalia/index.html>
- COVID-19 Dashboard-Somalia



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