

February
2021

Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



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KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – February 2021

130 Health cluster partners
3.15 million People in need of health care

HEALTH NEEDS AND PROVISION

- 2.4 million people internally displaced of which 1.8 million require humanitarian assistance
- 681 000 drought-affected people in six states and Banadir in 2020
- < 1 consultation per person per year (as compared to OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person per year)

DISEASE BURDEN INDICATORS

- MCV1 coverage rate of 75% (39 787 out of 53239 infants under the age of 1) as of January 2021
- OPV-3 coverage rate of 77% (40 837 out of 53 239 infants under the age of 1 year) as of January 2021

FUNDING (US\$)

8.3 million Required for WHO's health emergency programme in 2021

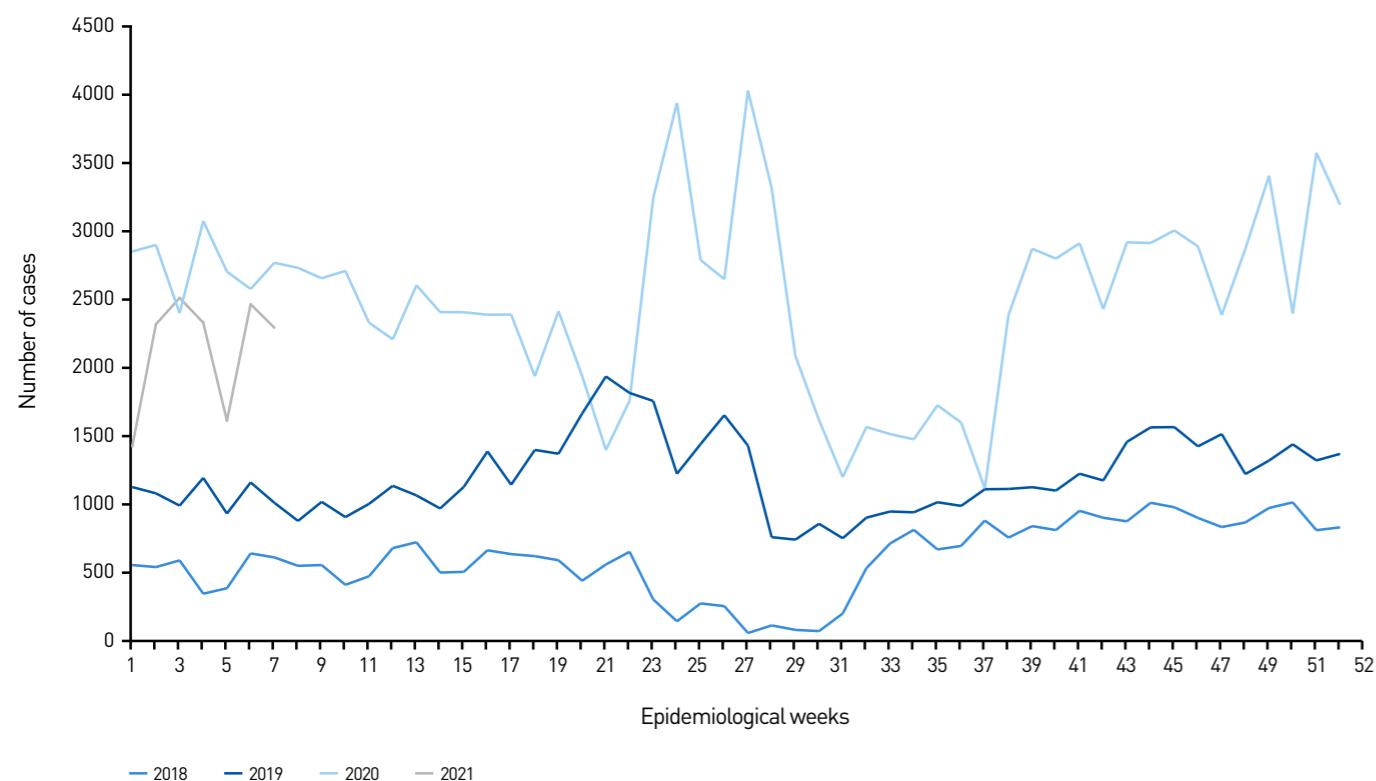
HIGHLIGHTS.

- **OUTBREAK ALERTS:** 933 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases were reported through the EWARN system in February 2021. The three main alerts were for suspected AWD/cholera (35%), suspected measles (25%) and malaria (40%) - with most cases located in drought and flood affected districts
- **COVID-19:** In February 2021, there were 2443 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Somalia, 276 patients were admitted in isolation facilities, and 68 deaths were recorded. Since the beginning of the outbreak a total of 1074 patients with COVID-19 were admitted in different isolation centres in Somalia.
- **Sero-epidemiological survey:** WHO Somalia in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, State Ministries of Health and Banadir Regional Administration conducted a training workshop in Garowe, Puntland on 9 and 10 February 2021 for data enumerators conducting the sero-epidemiological survey COVID-19.

Disease surveillance update

- In February 2021, the EWARN system reported the following surveillance data :
 - 933 outbreak alerts of epidemic-prone diseases. The main alerts were for suspected AWD/cholera (35%), suspected measles (25%) and malaria (40%)
 - 9762 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease, which represents a 9.5% decrease as compared to February 2020 (1020 cases)
 - 417 cases of measles, representing a 50% increase as compared to February 2020 (251 cases)
 - 779 cases of malaria, which constitutes a 61% decrease as compared to February 2020 (1970 cases).

Fig. 1. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases in Somalia, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021



Emergency health activities

- **Mental Health:** Mental health training supported by WHO and the Federal Ministry of Health and Human Services was conducted in Kismayo from 4 to 11 February 2021. Topics covered included substance abuse, stigma around mental health, as well as awareness and prevention of miraa consumption and other substances. In total, 20 health care workers (13 male and 7 female) from different health centres in Kismayo benefited from the training.
- **Severe Acute Respiratory Infection and Influenza-like illnesses (SARI/ILI):** Between 9 and 11 February 2021, the Ministry of Health & Human Services of Federal Government of Somalia, with support from WHO, conducted a training of trainers for setting up a surveillance system for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) in Somalia. The training was attended by 20 health care workers (3 female, 17 male) from across the country. This training will be further cascaded down to health care workers who will be responsible for case identification, sample collection and reporting.
- **Capacity building:** Between 14 and 18 February, WHO supported the Federal Ministry of Health in conducting the Basic Emergency Care (BEC) training in Mogadishu. Four national provisional facilitators and an international master trainer trained 20 medical doctors and nurses on the basics of emergency care management and response. Funded by the World Bank's Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF), the course was facilitated by the African Federation for Emergency Medicine (AFEM).

Response operations to COVID-19

Coordination

COVID-19 related coordination meetings which include national and state health cluster meetings, inter-cluster coordination meetings and UN task force technical meetings, were held throughout February 2021. These meetings involved ministries of health, UN agencies and partners at different administrative levels.

In February 2021, the coordination meetings focused in particular on the following:

- Supplying of GeneXpert cartridges for COVID-19 testing
- The deployment of new rapid response teams supported by WHO in three additional districts in Banadir region to support isolation facilities in the states
- The scaling up of COVID-19 surveillance, collection and shipment of samples, training of health workers; supporting referrals from public hospitals to isolation centres and increased support to isolation centres in light of an increase in COVID-19 cases in the country
- Preparations for the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out

Surveillance and laboratory

- In February, 2021, the MoH with support from WHO tested 40 698 suspected cases of COVID-19, 88 of which were laboratory-confirmed. There were also 26 associated deaths. The median age amongst confirmed cases is 33 years and 77% of the cases have been male.
- In February 2021, with the support of WHO:
 - 102 alerts for COVID-19 were reported through the EWARN were timely investigated
 - 22 931 suspected cases of COVID-19 were investigated by district rapid response teams
 - 2409 community health workers were deployed for case finding and contact tracing
 - 119 samples from suspected cases of COVID-19 were shipped and transported from inaccessible areas
 - 77 health care workers were trained on surveillance, case management and risk communication
 - 10 isolation centres were supported for patient care
 - 73 rapid response teams were deployed for case investigation and sample collection
 - 55 920 face masks and 1200 PPEs were distributed
 - A total of 3490 travelers were screened, of which 19% (1840) were screened at Aden Abdule international Airport, Mogadishu. The remaining travelers were screened at Kismayo and Gedo entry points.

Case management

- In February 2021, 276 patients were admitted in isolation facilities in Somalia, and 68 deaths were reported. Since the beginning of the outbreak a total of 1074 patients with COVID-19 were admitted in different isolation centres in Somalia. It is important to note that most suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 self-isolate at home rather than go to designated isolation facilities.
- In February 2021, WHO supported an Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) training for 34 intern medical doctors (21 female and 13 male) in Banadir hospital. The training included background information on IPC, IPC strategies to break the chain of infection, steps for hand washing, as well as the donning and doffing of PPE.



Sero epidemiological surveillance meeting in Garowe, Puntland

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Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Community health workers have continued to provide key messages to the community focusing on COVID-19 transmission, prevention and testing in order to limit the spread of the outbreak. In February 2021, the teams reached out to 103 608 households (497 423 people) in order to share COVID-19 awareness messages through house-to-house visits as well as through group communication.

Emergency medical supplies

- Following the recent upsurge in COVID-19 cases, WHO Somalia donated a new PCR machine to the National Public Health and Reference Laboratory in order to increase the testing capacity for COVID-19. WHO also donated 55 920 face masks to protect the community from COVID-19 infection.
- In February 2021, 6000 kgs of medical supplies were donated by WHO to Somaliland, Jubaland, Puntland and Banadir to support the management of COVID-19 cases and other health emergencies. These supplies included testing kits and reagents to test for COVID-19; laboratory supplies to establish influenza surveillance and testing; personal protective equipment; trauma kits; surgical kits; intra-agency emergency health kits and cholera kits.

Nutrition updates

- WHO provides support to state health ministries with regards to cases of severe acute malnutrition with medical complications in the drought, flood and conflict affected districts in Somalia. This is done notably through technical support, training and the provision of supplies to nutritional stabilization centers in the country, including the distribution of SAM Kits to the state health ministries on a quarterly basis.
- In February 2021, there were 1112 new admissions to 31 stabilization centres (3 SC in Banadir region, 9 SC in Jubaland, 6 SC in Galmudug, 10 SC in Puntland and 3 SC in Hirshabelle). During this month, 20 (2%) deaths, 915 (92.3%) cures, 28 (2.8%) defaulters, 14 (1.4%) medical referrals were reported amongst the admitted children (991) while 915 children were discharged after receiving treatment.

Monitoring of trauma cases

- As the country is experiencing different emergencies including conflict, WHO is closely monitoring the number of people affected by these conflicts in the country and responding accordingly. In February 2021, a total of 4219 injuries were reported from the health facilities reporting through DHIS2, which represents a 10% decrease as compared to reported same period in 2020 (4655 injuries in February 2020)
- WHO provides quarterly distributions of emergency medical supplies, including Trauma Kit A and B, IEHK, surgical kits and infusions to provide life saving interventions of those injuries.

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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 Reports:

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



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