

January 2021

Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



A mother and her children in Mogadishu © WHO

KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – January 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 consultations per person per year (as compared to OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person per year)

DISEASE BURDEN INDICATORS

- MCV1 coverage rate of 72% (37292 out of 51 688 infants under the age of 1) as of December 2020
- OPV-3 coverage rate of 77% (39 843 out of 51 688 infants under the age of 1 year) as of December 2020

FUNDING (US\$)

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

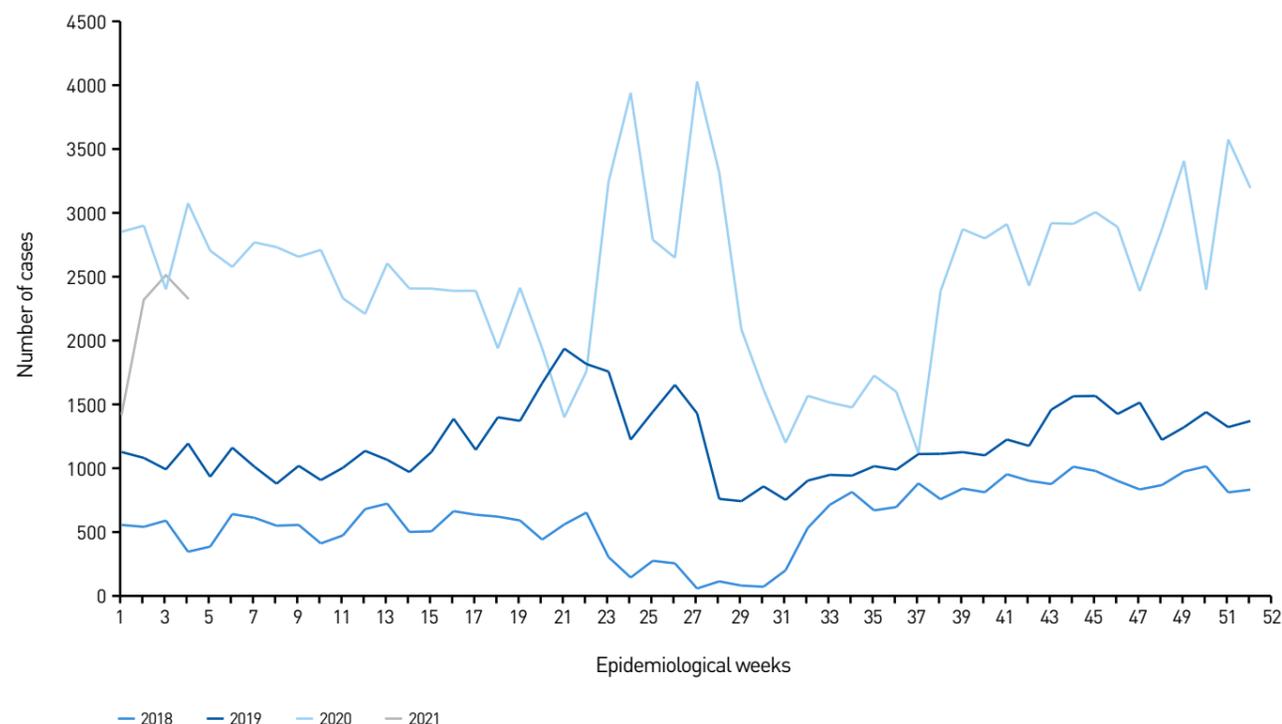
HIGHLIGHTS.

- **OUTBREAK ALERTS:** 753 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases were reported through the EWARN system in January 2021. The main three alerts were for suspected AWD/cholera (43%), suspected measles (39%) and malaria (18%) - with most cases located in drought and flood affected districts.
- **COVID-19:** In January 2021, there were 88 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Somalia, 2 patients were admitted in isolation facilities, and 2 deaths were reported. Since the beginning of the outbreak a total of 798 patients with COVID-19 were admitted in different isolation centres in Somalia.
- **Measles:** 63 suspected measles cases in children under five years were reported in Kismayo district, Jubaland state. WHO is monitoring the situation and working with health authorities on compiling a comprehensive line-list of the cases.

Disease surveillance update

- In January 2021, the EWARN system reported the following surveillance data:
 - 753 outbreak alerts of epidemic-prone diseases, with the three major outbreak alerts being for suspected AWD/cholera (43%), suspected measles (39%) and malaria (18%)
 - 302 cases of AWD/cholera, representing a 72% decrease as compared to January 2020 (530 cases)
 - 8 920 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease, which represents a 6% increase as compared to January 2020 (8376 cases)
 - 349 cases of measles, representing a 40% decrease as compared to January 2020 (208 cases)
 - 845 cases of malaria, which constitutes a 49% decrease as compared to January 2020 (1258 cases)

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



Emergency health activities

- Measles:** In January 2021, a total of 63 suspected measles cases in children under 5 years were reported in Kismayo district, Jubaland state. WHO is monitoring the situation and working with health authorities on compiling a comprehensive line-list of the cases.
- Environmental Health:** On 17 January 2021, the WHO Public Health Specialist on Environmental Health met with the Puntland water development agency (PWDA), UNICEF, and WASH cluster partners to improve communication on water quality surveillance and water testing. An on-the-job training on water quality and testing for 4 PWDA staff was also conducted on 20 January.
- Capacity building:** The Ministry of Health of Jubaland conducted a health management information system (HMIS) cascade training between 2 and 6 January 2021. The training was attended by 32 participants (12 female and 20 male) from different departments of all functional health facilities of Lower Jubba.

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 January 2021. These meetings involved ministries of health, UN agencies and partners at different administrative levels.

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

- Preparations for the COVID-19 sero-surveillance survey
- Ongoing preparation for vaccination against COVID-19, and the need to strengthen COVID-19 preventive measures through advocacy and social mobilization activities.
- Case management and routine immunization activities to prevent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Strengthening supportive supervision, on-the-job training for community response teams to improve community awareness, alert detection, and notification.



Community Health workers visit households to generate awareness about COVID-19 © WHO

Surveillance and laboratory

- In January, 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 January 2021, with the support of WHO:
 - 159 alerts for COVID-19 were investigated
 - 14 819 suspected cases of COVID-19 were investigated by the district rapid response teams
 - 2409 community health workers were deployed for case finding and contact tracing
 - 75 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
 - 7 isolation centres were supported for patient care
 - 73 rapid response teams were deployed for case investigation and sample collection
 - A total of 9569 traveler were screened, of which 19% (1841) were screened at Aden Abdulle international Airport, Mogadishu. The remaining travelers were screened at Kismayo and Gedo entry points.

Case management

- In January 2021, 2 patients were admitted in isolation facilities in Somalia, and 2 deaths were reported. Since the beginning of the outbreak a total of 798 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 an effort to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among health care workers, a total of 57 healthcare providers, among them 26 female, were trained with infection prevention and control, including the importance of hand hygiene, wearing face mask and practicing social distance.

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. The teams reached out to 295 256 households (1 413 478 people) in order to share COVID-19 awareness messages through house-to-house visits as well as group communication.

Emergency medical supplies

- In January 2021, WHO delivered personal protective equipment including 9 231 face masks and 200 personal protective equipments to the state authorities in order to contribute to protecting frontline health care workers.

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 January 2021, there were 2120 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, 34 (2%) deaths, 1742 (93%) cures, 88 (5%) defaulters, 19 (1%) medical referrals were reported amongst the admitted children (1883) while 1882 children were discharged after receiving treatment.



Community Health workers visit households to generate awareness about COVID-19 © WHO

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 January a total of 4607 injuries were reported from the health facilities reporting through DHIS2, which is similar to the same period last year (4647 injuries in January 2020).
- WHO provides quarterly distributions of emergency medical supplies, including Trauma Kit A and B, IEHK, surgical kits and infusions. In January 2021 WHO distributed 470kg of emergency medical supplies to state health ministries in Puntland, Jubaland and Somaliland. The supplies consisted of medicine, emergency kits and cholera supplies which can support the management of 1000 patients with life threatening conditions for three months.

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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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