

October 2021

# Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



@WHO

## HEALTH NEEDS AND PROVISIONS

- There are 2.4 million people who require humanitarian assistance in the country, including 1.6 million people who are internally displaced
- There are 953 920 drought-affected people in six states including 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

## COORDINATION UPDATE

Health cluster coordination meetings were convened in Jubaland, South West, Puntland, Hirshabelle states and Banadir region. The partners reviewed the implementation of drought- and flood-related activities in addition to the implementation of integrated disease surveillance and response activities. In Puntland and Hirshabelle, the discussion focused on identifying the health needs of people displaced by conflict in Galmudug. Partners were requested to mobilize resources to support displaced communities with basic primary health-care services to prevent outbreaks of epidemic-prone diseases, including COVID-19.

## Emergency response operations

- **Community surveillance:** A total of 1833 community health workers (CHWs) were deployed and supported in 71 priority districts across Somalia. The CHWs implement community-based surveillance for epidemic-prone diseases, including COVID-19, and conduct risk communication activities at household level. During the month, CHWs also visited 364 135 households and shared health messages related to COVID-19 and other priority diseases with 1 726 388 people in their localities; 4731 outbreak alerts were reported, of which 1535 (32.4%) were investigated.
- **Investigation and verification of measles alerts:** WHO supported the investigation of measles outbreak alerts reported in Baidoa, Burhakaba and Dinsoor districts of South West state. The district-based rapid response teams conducted field visits to investigate and verify these alerts and collected six blood samples from suspected cases that were shipped to the laboratory for analysis. Three of these samples tested positive for measles specific Immunoglobulin M (IgM).
- **An inter-cluster assessment for displaced populations:** Inter-cluster assessments were conducted for communities displaced by conflict in Puntland, Galmudug and South West state. According to the assessment team, 5445 people were displaced to temporary camps and the most urgent needs for these people include shelter, primary health care services, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) kits and food.
- **Assessment of biomedical equipment in health facilities:** The biomedical engineer hired by WHO conducted an assessment in 14 health facilities in Somaliland to support the maintenance of bio-medical equipment in hospital and laboratory. The engineer convened meetings with teams from hospitals to identify the gaps in biomedical equipment management. As a result of this mission, Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (rt-PCR) machines and oxygen concentrators were repaired in the public health laboratory in Somaliland and in Hargeisa General Hospital respectively. The gaps identified included the lack of both maintenance schedules for equipment and qualified biomedical engineers. During this assessment, one national biomedical engineer was trained on the job on how to maintain bio-medical equipment.



Infection prevention and control training in Jubaland @WHO

## Supportive supervision and monitoring of health activities

- WHO conducted joint supportive supervision and monitoring visits to health facilities in Puntland, Jubaland and South West state. During the visits, 10 health care workers were trained on the job in case detection, reporting using standard case definitions, and the use of integrated management of epidemic-prone diseases. In Puntland, the team conducted a data quality audit for COVID-19 and other epidemic-prone diseases. The gaps identified for data quality included (i) limited knowledge on the use of standard case definitions by newly recruited health workers ii) poor quality of data registered in different tools at the health facilities and (iii) high staff turnover.

## Capacity building

- **International Health Regulations (IHR) workshop:** A four-day capacity building workshop for National IHR focal persons was conducted in Cairo. The workshop, which was facilitated by the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) aimed to equip the IHR national focal points with the necessary skills to fulfil their mandate, ensure regular reporting and lead implementation of IHR (2005) core capacities. A total of 14 participants (2 female and 12 male) from WHO country office and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) benefited from the capacity building workshop. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for IHR national focal points were drafted and reviewed by a team from the National Institute of Health (NIH), FMOH and WHO.

- **Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) workshop:** The second workshop of the first cohort of FETP trainees was convened in Mogadishu. During the workshop, trainees and mentors reviewed the field activities conducted by the trainees during the first four weeks of the training, and trained participants on outbreak investigation and response. At the end of the workshop, the trainees were given field-based assignments that will be conducted with support from their supervisors and mentors.
- **Trauma and Emergency Care training:** WHO supported the Ministry of Health Development (MOHD) of Somaliland to build the capacity of 69 frontline healthcare workers (57 male and 12 female), including doctors and nurses, in mass casualty management and surgical trauma care in Berbera. An implementation plan to support the establishment of trauma care for Somaliland was developed in consultation with policy makers from the MOHD, Regional Medical Officers and Directors of hospitals. Together, participants developed a mass casualty management plan to support preparedness and response to mass casualty incidents.
- **Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) training:** WHO supported the state ministries of health in Puntland and Jubaland to train 120 frontline health workers (48 female and 72 male) on the implementation of measles vaccination campaigns, recording and reporting vaccination information and conducting vaccination audits.

## 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 centres across the country. These supplies include SAM kits, distributed to the state health ministries on a quarterly basis.
- In October, 815 new SAM cases with medical complications were admitted to 30 stabilization centres in Somalia (three in Benadir region, seven in Jubaland, six in Galmudug, eight in Puntland, and four in the Southwest).
- Overall, 822 (93.2%) recoveries, 29 (3.3%) defaulters, 29 (13.3%) medical referrals and 19 (2.2%) deaths were reported during the month of September.
- WHO Somalia, in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Health and state-based ministries of health, conducted three days of joint supportive supervision for 17 stabilization centres. The main aim of the supervision was to verify the functionality of the stabilization centres and identify gaps in the services being offered.



Launching ceremony of fractional inactivated polio (fIPV) vaccination campaigns in Garowe, 16 October 2021 @WHO

## 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 October 2021, a total of 2913 injuries were reported from the health facilities through the District Health Information System (DHIS-2). Of these, majority (58%) were burns; These injuries represent a 33% decrease (1869) compared to 4782 injuries reported during the same period in October 2020. The reported cases are managed in different hospital in all states. In October 2021, WHO donated an assortment of antibiotics, trauma A and B kits and Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to the Ministry of Health of South West state. The districts where these kits were distributed include Baidoa, Barawe, Burhakaba, Berdale and Hudur. The supplies have been enough to manage 2960 cases of trauma.



Emergency and trauma care training conducted in Somaliland, October 2021 @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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