

October 2020

Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – October 2020

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 October 2020
- 0.59 consultations per person per year (as compared to OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person per year)

DISEASE BURDEN INDICATORS

- 852 alerts of epidemic prone diseases detected by 696 health facilities registered with EWARN in October 2020
- MCV1 coverage rate of 74% (38 249 out of 51 688 infants under the age of 1 year) as of 2020
- OPV-3 coverage rate of 77% (39 799 out of 51 688 infants under the age of 1 year) as of October 2020

FUNDING (US\$)

8.3 million Required for WHO's health emergency programme in 2020

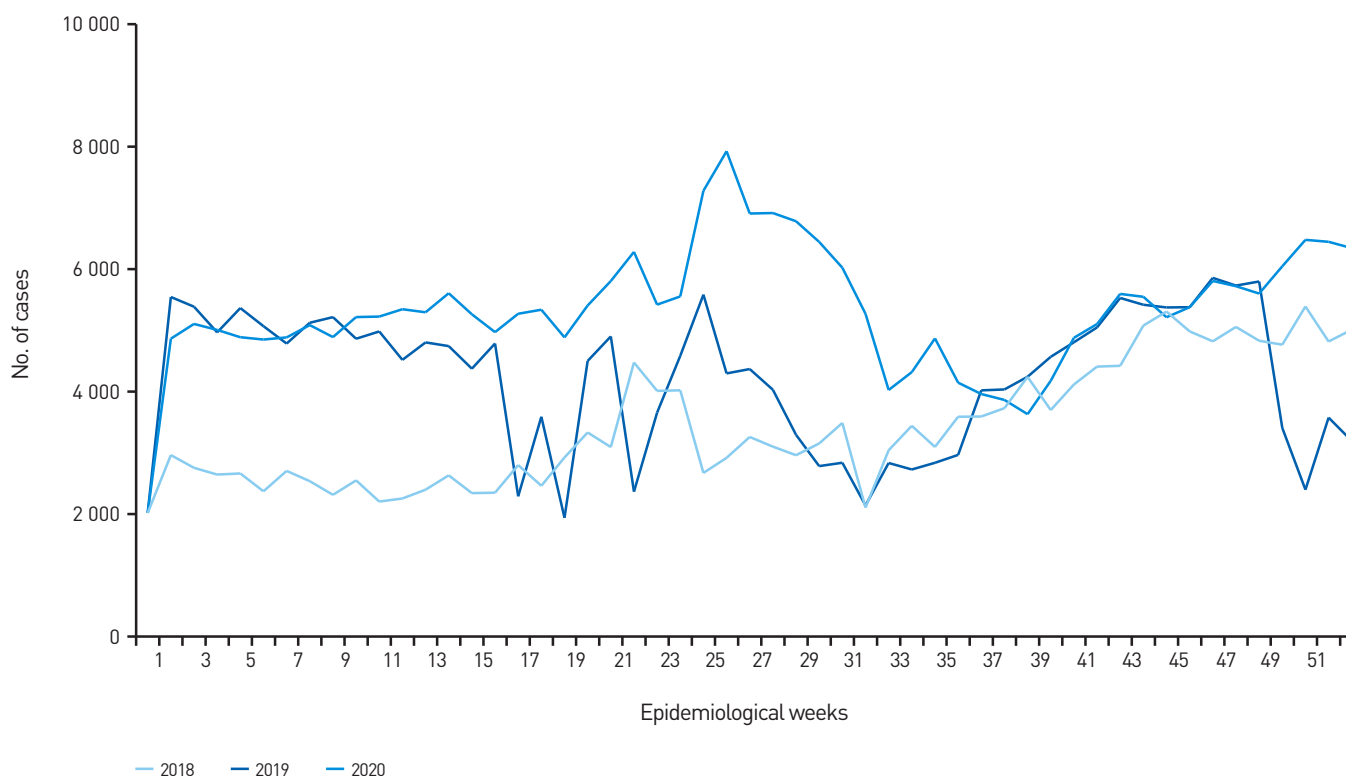
HIGHLIGHTS.

- **ALERTS:** 852 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases were reported through the EWARN system in October 2020. The top three leading alerts were for malaria (37%), suspected AWD/cholera (15%) and measles (38%) – with most cases located in the drought and flood affected districts
- **COVID-19:** In October 2020, the MoH with support from WHO tested 14 662 suspected cases of COVID-19 and recorded 239 recoveries and 5 deaths associated with the virus. Since the onset of the outbreak in Somalia, there have been 4427 laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 105 associated deaths. The median age amongst confirmed cases is 33 years and 74% of the cases have been male.
- **Silent districts activities:** The first and second phases of the sample collection in 'silent' districts have been concluded: 1082 samples were collected in 44 districts, out of which 779 have already been tested and 303 laboratory results are pending. Out of those tested, 70 samples have so far come back positive, bringing the positivity rate to date to 9%.

Disease surveillance update

- In October 2020, the EWARN system reported the following:
 - 852 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases, with the top three leading alerts being for malaria (37%), suspected AWD/cholera (15%) and measles (38%)
 - 294 cases of AWD/cholera, representing a 2% increase as compared to October 2019 (290 cases)
 - 11 421 cases of acute diarrhoea, which represents a 82% decrease as compared to October 2019 (20 800 cases)
 - 314 cases of measles, representing a 49% decrease as compared to October 2019 (475 cases)
 - 748 cases of malaria, which constitutes a 199% decrease as compared to October 2019 (2236 cases)

Fig. 1. Trends of acute diarrhoea cases in Somalia, 2018, 2019 and 2020



WHO emergency health activities

- **AWD/cholera:** there were 246 cases of other acute diarrhoea reported from health facilities in Galmudug in October 2020. In South West state, the cholera outbreak has been contained in Marka, Sabiid Anole and Mareerey villages. In Baidoa, some suspected cholera cases were admitted to the Bayhow CTC.
- **Measles vaccination campaign:** Between 7 and 11 October, 56 500 children from 6 months to 5 years of age in Kismayo received an additional dose of measles vaccine and vitamin A in response to an outbreak of measles detected there. Children above 1 year also received albendazole tablets. Activities were supervised and monitored by the Federal MOH, the Jubaland MoH, UNICEF and WHO.
- **HeRAMS:** In Banadir, WHO conducted a Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) webinar training for 56 state level data contributors. The partners were taught the HeRAMS standard data model, how to add new health facilities, as well as how to enter, edit and update records on the online system.
- **Mental health:** During the reporting period, WHO conducted a mental health training in Southwest state as part of capacity building to improve mental health services for flood and drought affected IPDs in Southwest state.
- **Water safety:** In October WHO conducted a training on water quality training for 30 healthcare workers in Mogadishu

Response operations to COVID-19

Coordination

- In October 2020, coordination meetings related to the COVID-19 response took place at national, state, regional and district levels between the ministries of health, UN agencies and health partners. These have included national and state level health cluster meetings, inter cluster coordination meetings and UN task force technical meetings.
- In October, SOPs for COVID-19 testing and quarantine were the focus of discussions at the UN task force technical meeting on COVID-19. Partners agreed on the need to accelerate surveillance activities at community level, improve data quality and contact tracing in light of the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases.

Surveillance and laboratory

- In October 2020, the MoH with support from WHO tested 14 662 suspected cases of COVID-19 and recorded 239 recoveries and 5 deaths associated with the virus. Since the onset of the outbreak in Somalia, there have been 4427 laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 105 associated deaths. The median age amongst confirmed cases is 33 years and 74% of the cases have been male.
- During the month of October 2020:
 - 226 alerts of COVID-19 were notified by community health workers
 - 110 80 suspected cases of COVID-19 were investigated by the district rapid response community health workers
 - 3327 community health workers were deployed for case finding and contact tracing
 - 15 new risk communication materials were developed and distributed by the Community health workers
- In silent districts: WHO is currently working with health authorities to plan the next steps of the exercise - namely addressing the issue of local transmission of the virus in districts with a positivity rate greater or equal to 5%. A total of nine districts (El-waq in Jubaland and 8 districts in Puntland) fall under this category.

Case management

- In October 2020, 26 patients were admitted in isolation facilities in Somalia, and 239 recoveries and five deaths were recorded. Since the beginning of the outbreak a total of 746 patients affected by COVID-19 were admitted across isolation centers 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.
- On 12 October 2020, WHO supported Jubaland state MoH in conducting a three-day Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) training for 33 health care workers from Lower Juba and Gedo region health facilities. WHO also conducted on-the-job training for 14 healthcare workers at Hamarjajab MCH on basic IPC measures and the appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

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 October, the teams reached 462 445 households (2 350 693 people) in order to share COVID-19 awareness messages through house-to-house visits as well as group communication.

Emergency medical supplies

- In October 2020, WHO distributed 3300 face masks and 997 PPEs in order to contribute to protecting health care providers in the federal member states.

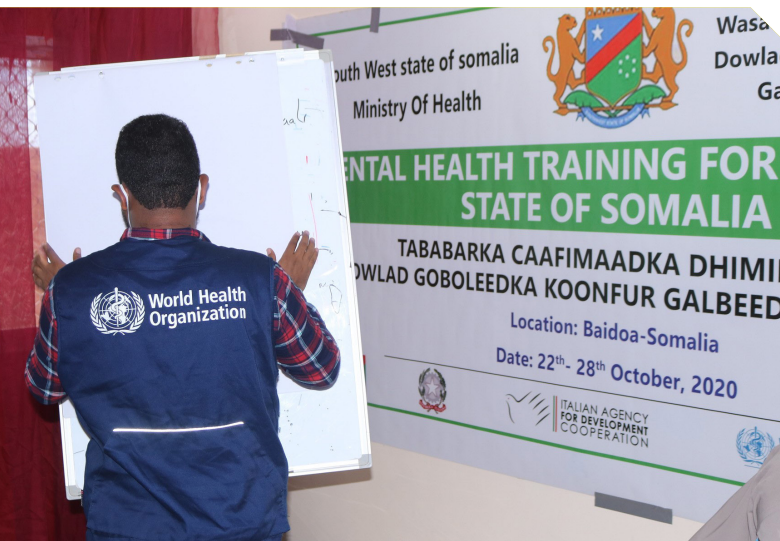
Nutrition updates

- 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 October 2020, there were 845 new admissions for malnutrition in 32 stabilization centers (3 SC in Banadir region, 10 SC in Jubaland, 6 SC in Galmudug, 11 SC in Puntland and 2 SC in Hirshabelle) .
- A total of 9 (1.1%) deaths, 727 (91%) cures, 44 (5.5%) defaulters and 21 (2.6%) medical referrals were reported in October 2020. The overall completeness of reporting was 60% (32 out of 53).
- In October 2020, a nutrition training was conducted in Hargeisa. In total, 20 health workers (13 male, 7 female) selected from nutrition stabilization centers in Somaliland were trained on management of severe acute malnutrition with medical complications. Training was conducted over 5 days, including a one-day clinical session in Hargeisa group hospital stabilization center.

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. There were 4609 injuries reported in October 2020 from the health facilities reporting through DHIS2, which accounts to a 7.7% decrease as compared to October 2019. Since the beginning of the year a total of 45 349 injuries were reported through DHIS2.
- WHO provides quarterly distributions of emergency medical supplies, including Trauma Kit A and B, IEHK, surgical kits and infusions. In October, WHO distributed 53 medical kits and surgical assortments that can support the management of 94 200 severely injured patients for 3 months



Mental health training conducted by WHO in Southwest state in October 2020



Community RRT are conducting active case searching and providing risk awareness messages in Jowhar

Contacts

Dr Mary Joan Karanja, karanjam@who.int
 Dr Mutaawe Lubogo, mutaawea@who.int
 Mr Kyle Defreitas, External Relations Officer defreitask@who.int
 Ms Fouzia Bano, Communications Office Banof@who.int
 Dr. Omar Omar, Information Management Officer oomar@who.int

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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