

Highlights

- COVID-19:** In April 2020, a total of 19,342 people were screened for COVID-19 at 4 land crossings in Kismayo, Dolow, Doble and Luuq districts, Jubaland State. Furthermore, from 11 March to 30 April 2020, the Ministry of health working with WHO tested 1,528 suspected cases of COVID-19, of which 932 were positive (680 males, 252 females)
- FLOODING:** A total of 48 700 people has been affected by the recent flooding in Beledweyne and Jalalaqsi districts in Hirshabelle state.
- CHOLERA:** Cholera cases continued to be reported in Banadir, Bari, Hiran and middle Shabelle regions. A total of 3,193 cases and 16 deaths have been reported since the beginning of the year.
- DIPHTHERIA:** As of 30 April 2020, a total of 25 suspected diphtheria cases were identified in Puntland state - 15 are male and 10 are children below the age of 5 years.
- EWARN:** Out of 390 health facilities having sent weekly surveillance data in April, a total of 407,984 consultations recorded. Diseases causing the highest morbidity were acute respiratory infections (38,379 cases) and acute diarrhoea (22,403 cases).



WHO assisted the MoH to collect and ship COVID-19 sample from suspected cases from different areas to the national public health laboratory in Mogadishu

COVID-19 situation

- During the reporting period, 120 alerts of malaria, measles and AWD as well as 40 alerts of COVID-19 were reported through the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN). Rapid Response Teams (RRT) trained and deployed by WHO in Jubaland, Galmudug and Puntland responded to the alerts.
- A total of 360 RRT were trained and deployed to support community-level COVID 19 response activities. The teams conducted contact tracing, risk communication and follow-up of people on self-quarantine and self-isolation. The community teams reported on a daily basis using ODK platform.
- COVID-19 risk communication messages translated into local language were shared with more than 80 health facilities in Benadir region.

Epidemiological/Surveillance Update

- Out of the total 538 health facilities participating in the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN), 390 (72%) submitted weekly surveillance data in April 2020. The incidence of acute diarrhoea cases in April 2020 (22,403 cases) is similar to that of April 2019 (25,302 cases) (Fig.1).
- The number of acute respiratory cases increased in April 2020 (22,403 cases) compared to April 2019 (34,047 cases). This may be as a result of the prolonged negative effect of drought conditions, with large displacement of people, overcrowding and shortage of safe water, which are risk factors for infectious disease outbreaks.

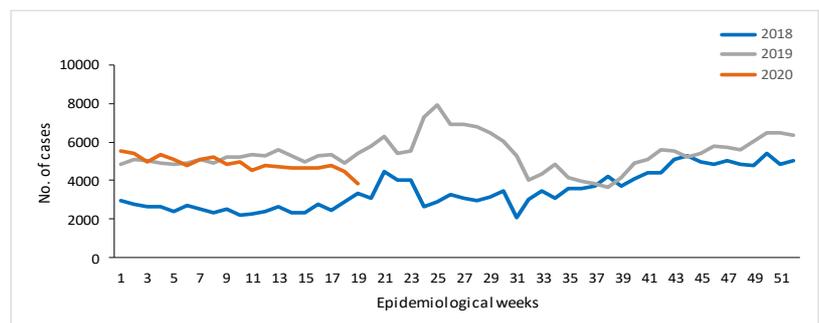


Fig. 1. Trends of acute diarrhoea cases in Somalia, 2018, 2019 and 2020

Emergency response activities

- In April 2020, the initial finding of WHO's rapid needs assessment related to recent floods in Hirshabelle found that a total 89,220 people have been affected by the floods, approximately half of which are located in Beledweyne and Jalalaqsi districts. Six riverine villages in Jowhar district reported 40 520 people affected by the floods. In Gedo region, a further 11,000 people were affected as the result of heavy Gu rains. WHO is conducting rapid needs assessments in Beledweyne, Jowhar and Gedo regions to identify health priorities in the community.

HEALTH SECTOR

Key figures

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|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 105 | Health cluster partners |
| 3.1 million | People in need of health care |
| 2.4 million | People targeted for health care |

HEALTH FACILITIES

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1 074 | Total Health facilities |
| 538 | EWARN reporting sites |

HEALTH EMERGENCY INDICATORS

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.4 | Consultation per person per year |
| 94.2% | SAM cure rate |
| 80% | Measles1 vaccine coverage rate |
| 66% | Reporting timeliness |

FUNDING (US\$)

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 8.3 million | Required for WHO's health emergency programme |
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Response to COVID-19

- During the reporting period, WHO, MoH and health partners supported the development of risk communication messages for community awareness on preventive measures for COVID-19. The messages which were translated into local language were disseminated to all partners, broadcasted on local radios and published on billboards in big cities/towns.
- WHO provided COVID-19 sample collection kits to the Ministry of Health of all states and supported the transportation of samples to reference laboratories in Somalia and Nairobi. Additionally, surveillance tools, including case investigation, contact tracing, and case definition materials were developed together with the MOH.
- From 21 to 22 April 2020, MoH/WHO conducted a two-day training to front-line health workers on COVID-19 detection and response (screening teams at the airport and entry points in Baidoa and Hudur district). A total of 48 health workers (22 female and 26 male) were trained and deployed to Baidoa isolation centers to support case management.
- On April 2020, a cascade training was conducted for 50 facility health workers (18 female and 32 male). The training focused on COVID-19 case management, surveillance, contact tracing, risk communication for COVID-19.
- Two Integrated rapid response teams (District health teams and community response teams) were deployed at the high priority districts of Baidoa and Elberde. They have been screening for COVID-19 individuals who have been travelling. Community surveillance data collection tools have been developed and training for community surveillance by District Field Assistants (DFA), Village Polio Volunteers (VPVs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs) is ongoing across the priority districts.
- A total of 108 active surveillance sites are expected to provide report. 68 of these sites have submitted their weekly report consistently with an average reporting completeness of 54% and average reporting timeliness of 63%.
- In this month, alerts of epidemic prone infectious diseases were reported in the early warning surveillance network. A total of 122 alerts were received, all of which were investigated and 74 of which were confirmed as true alerts. Acute diarrhoea and malaria were the leading causes of alerts. Trained rapid response teams, Regional surveillance officers and Public Health Emergency Officers (PHEO) were actively involved in the verification and monitoring of alerts, follow up and support to response activities. These cases received immediate treatment and were referred to the nearest health facilities.
- The MoH of Galmudug with support from WHO trained and deployed 172 Rapid response team composed of 117 women and 55 men in the districts of Abudwak, South Galkacyo and Dusamareeb as part of the response to COVID-19. The responders will carry different activities including risk communication, contact tracing, case detection and follow up of people on self-quarantine and self-isolation.
- The MoH of Galmudug confirmed the first COVID-19 case on 20 April 2020, a 60 years old man living in south Galkayo with no history of travel. Following confirmation of the first case, WHO's rapid response teams listed 12 contacts including his family. WHO handed over 30 COVID-19 sample collection kits to the health authority to collect samples and send it to national laboratory in Mogadishu.



COVID-19 Sample collection and shipment using UNHAS flights is an ongoing response activities in all states supported by WHO during April 2020



WHO PHEO conducting community rapid response team training in Galkayo south, April 2020

- In October 2019, an outbreak of suspected diphtheria was reported in Gardo district, Puntland state. As of 30 April 2020, a total of 25 suspected cases, including 15 men and 10 children between the ages of 3-17 had been identified. A WHO rapid response team conducted a listing of suspected cases in Karkar, as well as case management using penicillin-based antibiotics and informed EPI/Polio team to scale up vaccination of children in camps and surrounding areas in Gardo district.
- A localized outbreak of cholera was reported in Bossaso at the end of January, and peaked in February 2020. A total of 251 suspected cases (including 8 deaths) were reported between January and April 2020 of which 111 (44%) are women, 179 (71 %) are below the age of 10. 88 (35 %) of these cases were reported in Shabelle B area. The outbreak was attributed to limited access to safe water among the IDPs in the area. In response to the outbreak, WHO enhanced surveillance and carried out a line list of all suspected cases. Nine stool sample were collected and shipped to the national public health laboratory in Mogadishu for testing. Three of these stool samples were tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* and WHO provided essential medical supplies for the management of 160 severe cases of cholera in Bossaso.

Emergency response activities

Health cluster and coordination (HCC)

- The national health cluster coordination meeting was held on 30 April 2020 where over 30 partners participated. The partners discussed COVID-19 related issues including an update of the COVID-19- WHO, Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), Project revisions by partners, inclusion of disabilities into the humanitarian response. The session introduced key considerations on disability and risks and to ensure health prevention and response is inclusive of persons with disabilities and also to provide practical and actionable examples to ensure COVID19 health prevention and response is inclusive of persons with disabilities as well as Increase access to resources for inclusive health response.
- OCHA took partners through the HRP revision requirements to accommodate the COVID-19 response. All HRP Partners are required to update their Health projects based on the below inclusion criteria. The following projects were included into the revision criteria: Health and WASH COVID specific projects; food security and nutrition interventions for areas IPC3 and above; COVID logistics support; COVID preparedness and prevention; Response to desert locust upsurge and Response to flood [included as "locust upsurge" in the matrix]

Nutrition updates

In April 2020, there were 694 new admissions from 23 nutritional stabilization centres (1 SC in Banadir region, 10 SC in Jubaland, 4 SC in Galmudug, 2 SC in Hirshabelle, and 6 SC in Puntland). Out of these 694 admissions, there were 17 (2.4%) deaths, 654 (94.2%) 37 (5.3%) cured, 20 (2.9%) defaulters, and 717 (85 %) total discharges.

Monitoring of trauma cases

- In April 2020, all health facilities across the country reported 1 146 injuries, including gun shot and non-war injuries. Recent conflicts in Gedo Region contributed to 886 casualties and five deaths (197 male, and 689 female). Galmudug, Puntland and Southwest states reported a total of 260 injuries, of which 78 were women, 169 men and 13 children below the aged of 5. There was a 46% increase in trauma cases reported in these states as compared to March 2020 (362 injuries).

The Health Emergencies Programme of WHO Somalia is supported by the UN OCHA Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)



Contacts

| | |
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| Dr Hussein Y. Hassan, PhD , WHE Team Lead hassenh@who.int | Mr Kyle Defreitas , External Relations Officer defreitask@who.int |
| Ms Fouzia Bano, Communications Officer banof@who.int | Mr Omar Omar , Information Management Officer oomar@who.int |

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