

After a severe drought sparked a devastating outbreak of cholera last year, Somalis are once again battling the waterborne disease as floods ravage several regions, engulfing shelters and contaminating water supplies.

The 2017 outbreak claimed around 1100 lives with 78 000 reported cases. The World Health Organization (WHO) worked closely with the Somali Ministry of Health, community workers, doctors, nurses and other United Nations agencies and local nongovernmental organizations to implement early warning systems, provide access to clean water, food and shelter, and to launch the biggest oral cholera vaccine campaign the country has ever seen. Lives were saved but the battle goes on in a country that is struggling to rebuild after decades of conflict, perennial droughts, and crippled infrastructure.

1 / 14



Amina Aden, 28, lies alongside her child inside a cholera treatment centre in Banadir hospital in Mogadishu. She has travelled 20 km from her home in Eelasha Biyaha because she is suffering from diarrhoea. Last year, Amina's 12-year-old daughter contracted cholera but recovered at the same centre. Cholera is endemic in Somalia but is treatable and preventable if patients receive proper and timely care. The WHO's support of disease surveillance systems and well equipped laboratories means that Somalia is better able to detect and respond to cases like Amina's.

Photo credits:Arete, Mogadishu, April 28, 2018 2 / 14



Khadiijo Ahmed and her 11-month-old child Abdi Mohamed wait inside at the cholera treatment centre in Banadir hospital in Mogadishu, Somalia. Khadiijo, who was forced to leave her home and now lives on the outskirts of the capital, has already lost 2 children to the

disease: her daughter Sahra died aged 8 last September while Gani, aged 11, died 7 weeks ago. This second outbreak of cholera started in December last year and has been exacerbated by severe flooding that has displaced around 430 000 people throughout the country, including many who are living in temporary shelters. 3 / 14



Khadiijo Ahmed and her 11-month-old child Abdi Mohamed are assisted by a nurse in Banadir hospital in Mogadishu. Last year's WHO-assisted response to the cholera outbreak included training health workers, expanding health facilities, a country-wide vaccination campaign and the provision of safe water and hygiene facilities. These improvements are now being tested, with around 2300 cases of cholera being reported since last December and 9 deaths. 4 / 14



Nor Ibrahim Sabdow, 30, walks past his makeshift home at the Shimbirale camp for internally displaced people on the outskirts of Mogadishu. He survived last year's cholera outbreak but his one-year-old daughter was killed by the disease. "I didn't think that I would survive, but I am happy I am still alive," he said. Among those most at risk from the new outbreak of cholera are the tens of thousands of internally displaced people who are living in temporary shelters with little access to clean water. To combat this latest outbreak, WHO has strengthened surveillance and case investigations and trained and deployed community health workers to provide basic care. 5 / 14



Women and their children wait to be vaccinated against cholera at the Banadir hospital in Mogadishu during last year's severe outbreak. The vaccination campaign focused on hotspots in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Beledweyne, Baidoa and Jowhar. Experts travelled house to house to educate and immunize the community. The vaccines were provided by GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, and administered by the government of Somalia, the WHO, the UN children's agency UNICEF and other bodies. 6 / 14



Healthcare workers at the ESRC in the Maldives



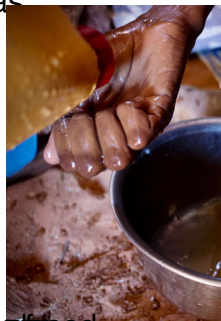
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Children in a ward at the Broad Hospital, Mogadishu, receiving rehydration fluids at the cholera treatment



A woman in a purple headscarf holding a child in a ward at the Broad Hospital, Mogadishu, receiving rehydration fluids at the cholera treatment



Close-up of hands holding a medical tube at the cholera treatment



A man sitting on a hospital bed with a cane at the cholera treatment