

Current situation

Somalia is emerging from a risk of famine projected in 2022, following the poor performance of five consecutive rain seasons - a climate event not seen in four decades. The famine has been averted through the collaborative efforts of national authorities, communities, humanitarian partners, and with better-than-expected Gu rainfall performance. Despite the scaled-up implementation of response activities, the situation remains critical. As of September 2023, nearly 3.7 million people – 22 per cent of the population - are acutely food insecure a reduction from 6.6 million in April 2023. The number of people experiencing emergency food insecurity has reduced by 34% from 4.3 million March 2023 to 2.8 million as of September 2023. An estimated 1.5 million children under 5 face acute malnutrition, including 331 000 who are severely malnourished. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Somalia, the projected El Nino expected to start in October 2023 is likely to exacerbate the extended humanitarian impact of an extended drought season and likely to cause flash floods in riverine districts along rivers Shabelle and Juba affecting 1.2 million people⁴. The flash floods are expected to cause disease outbreak due to contaminated and stagnant water, loss of lives, property, population displacement, destruction of infrastructure and crops in the field.



SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

An estimated **8.3 million** people in the country in need of water, humanitarian assistance, and protection¹.

Nearly **3.7 million** people - **22 per cent** of the population - are experiencing acute food insecurity including **2.8 million** in emergency (IPC 3) and **919000** in catastrophe (IPC 4). **1.5 million** of children are facing acute malnutrition².

The projected El Nino expected to start in October to December 2023 is likely to cause flash floods in riverine districts that are likely to lead to disease outbreaks, loss of lives, destruction of property and food crops in field³.

Epidemiological weeks 36-37, 04 - 17 Sept 2023



341
suspected cholera cases



1158
acute diarrhoeal disease cases



437
suspected measles cases



3547
SARI cases



1655
confirmed cases of Malaria in July 2023

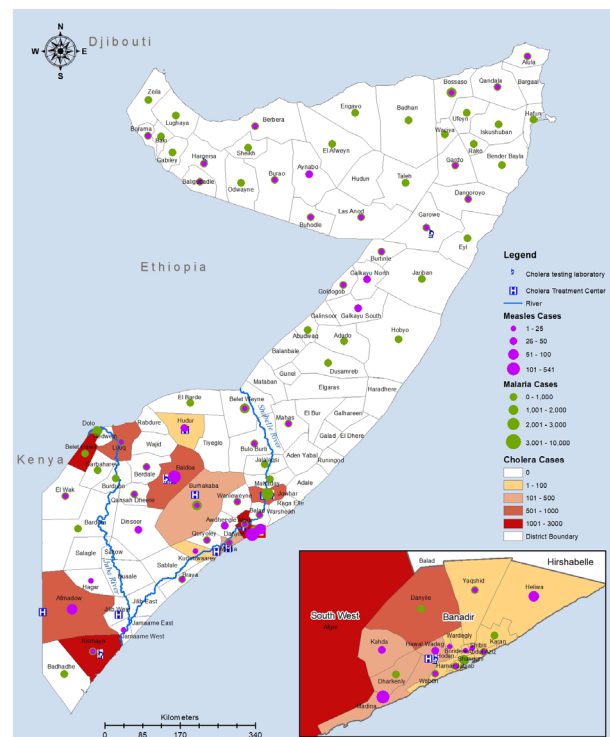


260
health facilities reporting in DHIS2⁵



222
community health workers deployed in high risk areas including in drought affected districts

Reported cases of acute diarrhoeal disease, suspected measles, SARI and clinically diagnosed malaria cases in drought-affected region of Somalia, (epidemiological weeks 1-Week 37 2023, 02 Jan to 17 September 2023)



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Map Production: WHO Somalia
Data Source: MCH Somalia
Map Projection: WGS 1984 Web Mercator
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Feedback: dir@mh@who.int

The Federal Ministry of Health and WHO monitor the trends of epidemic-prone diseases in drought affected districts using data from the electronic-based EWAR, DHIS-2, fever and rash surveillance system and community health workers deployed in drought affected districts. With support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and in collaboration with state ministries of health, WHO is implementing activities aimed at preventing disease outbreaks, including the timely detection and response to alerts of epidemic-prone diseases reported among vulnerable communities in drought affected districts.

1 Somalia: Drought response & famine prevention (15 February - 15 March 2023) - Somalia | ReliefWeb
2 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Report -September 18, 2023
3 FSNU/FAO report/July 2023-Understanding El Niño: projecting impacts and implications on food security & livelihoods in Somalia.
4 Food and Agricultural Organization of the United National El Nino report August 2023

CHOLERA IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

Recurrent cholera outbreaks have been reported in the drought-affected districts of Somalia since 2022, with no interruption in transmission in Banadir region since 2017. The number of cholera cases reported in drought affected districts have increased significantly in 2023 compared to the same time over the past two years (Figure 1). This increase is attributed to a higher proportion of people with limited access to safe water and uncontrolled cross border movement in Somalia and neighboring countries triggered by drought. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, a total of 13 243 cases of suspected cholera and 33 deaths (Case Fatality Rate 0.2%) were reported from 29 drought-affected districts of which 7073 (53.4%) cases were children under 5, 6863 (51.8%) were women and 6145(44.6%) were severe cases. In 2023, The regions reporting most of the cases are Gedo (4096), Lower Juba (2664), and Banadir (2610) (see Table 1). However, the number of cholera cases reported in all districts has reduced fourfold from the peak of 867 in week 15 to 174 in week 37. This reduction in the number of new cases is attributed to scaling up of response interventions by WHO, Health and WASH cluster partners. A total of 1880 stool samples collected and tested in WHO supported laboratories of which 188 (10%) samples tested positive. Out of the 188 samples tested positive, 187(99%) stool samples were tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa. In addition, 2027 samples tested by Rapid Diagnostic Kit (RDT) of which 567 (28%) stool samples were tested positive. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted showed that the *Vibrio cholerae* serotypes Ogawa isolates are sensitive to chloramphenicol and tetracycline but resistant to ampicillin and nalidixic acid.

ACUTE DIARRHOEAL DISEASES⁵

The number of new acute diarrheal disease cases reported through the District Health Information System (DHIS-2) decreased by two-fold compared to the same period in last year. The reduction in cases is attributed to scaling up the implementation of intervention for water sanitation and hygiene by the WASH cluster partners. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 39 441 cases of acute diarrheal disease were reported. The regions reporting most of the cases are Gedo (9607), Lower Juba (7171) and Mudug (4627), (Table 1). Despite the reported reduction in the number of new cases, the flash floods that are expected from the anticipated El Nino especially in the riverine districts of Somalia is expected to contribute to increased acute diarrheal cases.

WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health to conduct sentinel-based surveillance for Rota virus in Banadir region. Since epidemiologic week 1 of 2023, of the 667 cases of acute watery diarrhoea collected from cases admitted in Banadir hospital, 184 (27.6%) have tested positive for Rota Virus.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE⁷

The number of severe acute respiratory illnesses (SARI) reported through the DHIS-2 system increased by four-fold in 2023 compared to the same time in 2022. This increase may be attributed to increased displaced people who have poor access to standard shelter which resulted in people living in overcrowded conditions in camps (Figure 3). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 95 128 cases of SARI were reported from the drought affected districts. The regions

Week 1-37 of 2023 (2 January to 17 September 2023)

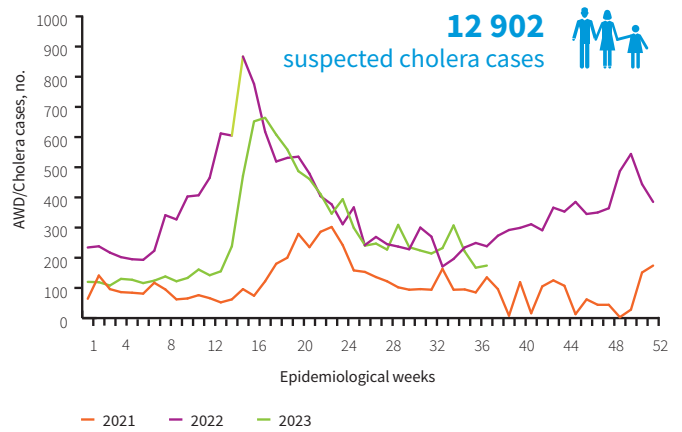


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 1-37 of 2023 (2 January to 17 September 2023)

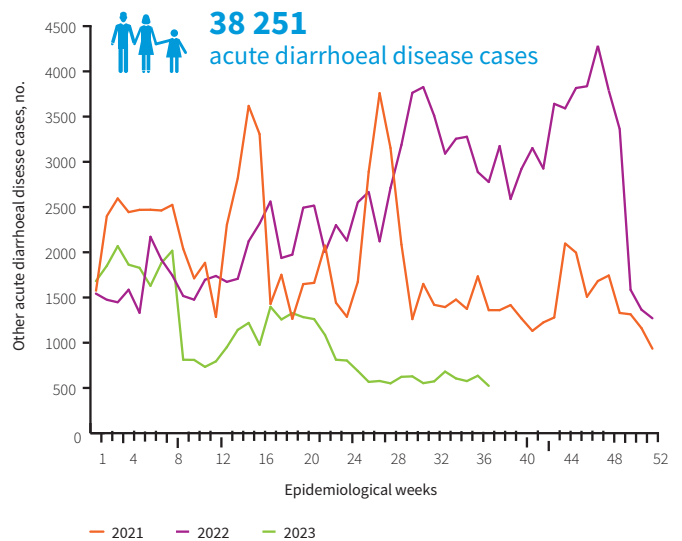


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 1-37 of 2023 (2 January to 17 September 2023)

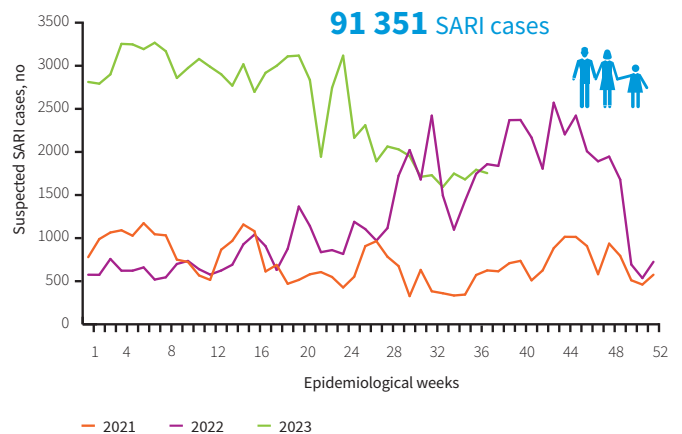


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

⁵ Source of data is DHIS-2

⁶ Data source is DHIS-2

reporting most of the cases are Galgadud (33 670), Gedo (11 745), and Banadir (9502), (Table 1).

WHO, in collaboration with United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC) and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework supports Ministry of Health to implement sentinel-based surveillance for seasonal influenza and other respiratory pathogens in four sites-two located in Banadir region, one in Puntland and one in Hargeisa Somaliland. In 2023, a total of 2625 cases of SARI and ILI were enrolled at four sentinel sites and were reported in the platform of Eastern Mediterranean Flu (EMFLU) network. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 2525 (96.2%) cases were tested at the National Public Health Laboratory of which 163 (6.5%) were tested positive for influenza; 115 (70.6%) were positive for influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 2(1.2%) positive for influenza A(H3N2) while 11 (6.7%) were positive for influenza B virus (Victoria Lineage). 5 (0.2%) cases were also positive for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) while 13 (0.5%) were positive for COVID-19

MEASLES UPDATES

The number of suspected cases of measles reported through the AFP/Polio surveillance system and DHIS2 in 2023 decreased by two-fold compared to the same period in 2022. This reduction in cases is linked to an increase in the number of children vaccinated mainly in IDP camps by WHO supported outreach teams that have scaled up the provision of integrated primary health care services including vaccination services to these camps. (Figure 4). A total of 9 629 cases of measles were reported from week 1 to week 37 of 2023. The regions reporting most cases are Banadir (2710), Bay (1872), and Lower juba (1310). Of the 1903 blood samples collected from cases of fever and rash, 1196 (62.8%) were tested positive for measles specific Immunoglobulin M(IgM).

MEASLES VACCINE UPDATES

A total of 44135(78%) out of the targeted 56,482 children under one year received the first dose of measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) in drought-affected districts in June 2023 according to data from district health Information software 2 (DHIS2) (Figure 5). From 2019 to 2023, the measles vaccination coverage ranged between 84% and 78% per month compared to the national target of 95%.

MALARIA UPDATES

The number of laboratory-confirmed cases of malaria reported through DHIS2 has gradually decreased in 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. The observed reduction is linked to scaling up of implementation of additional malaria control interventions in drought affected districts. (Fig 6). As of July 2023, a total of 191078 cases of suspected malaria have been reported of which 8667 (4.5%) have been confirmed positive by Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) and blood smear. However, the number of confirmed cases of Malaria increased from 909 cases in January to 1655 cases in July which represents two-fold increase. Of the 8667 confirmed cases, 2095 (24.2%) are children under 5. Regions reporting most of the suspected malaria cases in 2023 are Gedo (23094), Bay (19917) and Banadir (17199) (Table 1).

Week 1-37 of 2023 (2 January to 17 September 2023)

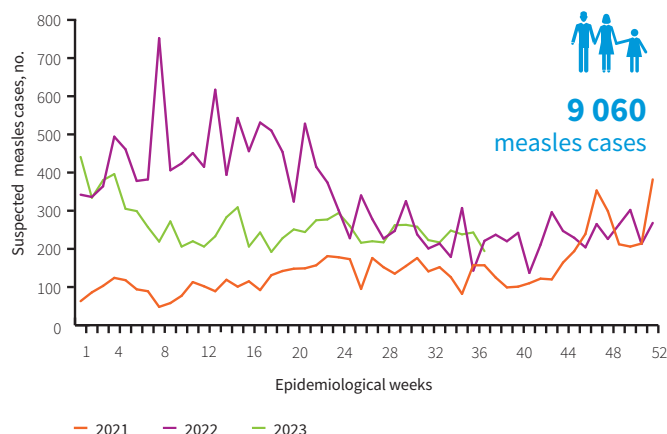


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 1-37 of 2023 (2 January to 17 September 2023)

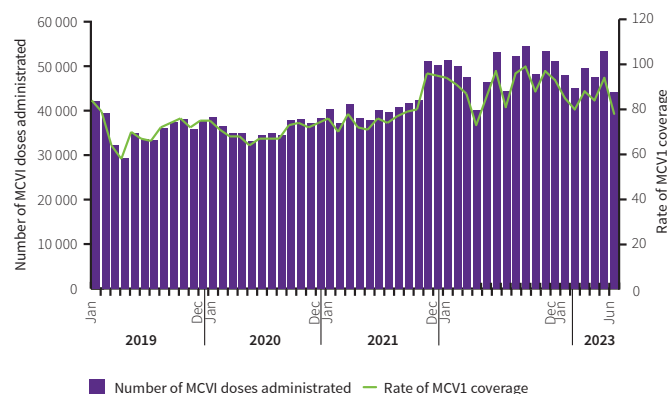


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 vaccinated against measles by month, 2020-2023

*The measles vaccination data for November and December 2022 is not yet available

Week 1-37 of 2023 (2 January to 17 September 2023)

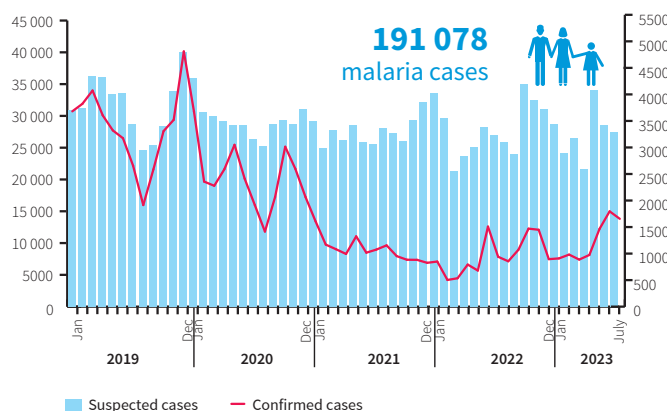


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2020-2023

POLIO UPDATE

- A total of 302 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) were reported in 2023, of whom 128 (43.5%) case were female and 174(56.5%) cases were male. Of the 302 AFP cases reported,283 (95%) cases had stool samples collected and analysed in the laboratory while 19 (5%) cases are pending laboratory diagnosis.
- In 2023 three circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from AFP cases, compared to five cases isolated in 2022.
- A total of 163 environmental surveillance (ES) samples were collected since epidemiologic week 1 of 2023 of which 151 (94.0%) samples have laboratory results and 10(6%) are pending for processing.
- Out of the 151 ES samples with Lab results in 2023, 4(3%) cVDPV2, 2(1%) PV2-nOPV2-negative, 53(36%) of the samples isolated NPEV, 3(2%) Sabin, like virus and the remaining 89(58%) samples tested negative.

Table 1: Cumulative number of acute diarrheal disease, suspected cholera, suspected measles, SARI, and suspected malaria cases in drought-affected regions of Somalia (epidemiological weeks 1 -Week 37 2023, 02 January to 17 September 2023)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease ⁷	Suspected Measles cases ⁸	Suspected Malaria case ⁹	SARI cases ¹⁰	Suspected cholera cases ¹¹	cVDPV2 ¹²
AWDAL	0	11	8357	0	0	0
BAKOOL	374	612	5248	8678	66	0
BANADIR	3136	2710	17199	9502	2610	1
BARI	3481	50	12572	95	0	0
BAY	1036	1872	19917	8126	1218	1
GALBEED	0	14	6313	0	0	0
GALGADUD	1544	227	10857	33670	0	0
GEDO	9607	268	23094	11735	4096	0
HIRAN	721	482	8863	3392	1	0
KARKAR	1537	0	5130	428	0	0
LOWER JUBA	7171	1310	10674	7827	2664	0
LOWER SHABELLE	1921	548	14310	2209	1749	1
MIDDLE JUBA	0	0	0	0	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	482	865	10280	1538	839	0
MUDUG	4627	267	10811	5664	0	0
NUGAL	1772	60	6905	493	0	0
SOUTH MUDUG	929	238	0	1521	0	0
SAHIL	0	18	2474	0	0	0
SANAG	1098	0	6950	5	0	0
SOOL	5	1	3025	245	0	0
TOGDHER	0	76	8099	0	0	0
TOTAL	39 441	9 629	191 078	95 128	13 243	3

Note: Continuous data quality review has been conducted which may lead to variation of figures for new cases and cumulative cases of epidemic prone disease in each region.

⁷ Source of data DHIS-2

⁸ Source of data is fever and rash surveillance system for week 1-9 and DHIS-2 for week 10-29

⁹ Source of data is DHIS2 as of July 2023

¹⁰ Source of data is DHIS2 and EMFLU

¹¹ Source of data is suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea surveillance system managed by the FMOH as of June 2023

¹² Source of data is EPI/Polio Weekly update sitrep report 2023.



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