

Current situation

Somalia is experiencing worsening drought following four consecutive seasons of failed rainy season. According to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and Famine Early Warning Network (FEWS NEST), Somalia received suboptimal amount of drier rains than expected since October 2021. Currently, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) estimates that the number of people affected by extreme drought has risen from 4.9 million in March to 7.8 million in September, with 1 million displaced from their homes in search of water, food, and pasture.

Some 6.8 million people - 45 per cent of the population - are acutely food insecure. For the first time since 2017, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification has confirmed pockets of catastrophic food insecurity (Phase 5) affecting more than 300,000 people². An estimated 1.8 million children under age 5 face acute malnutrition, including 515 550 who are severely malnourished.³ The current situation including the displacement have led to more people being vulnerable to epidemic prone diseases, particularly acute diarrheal disease, and measles.



SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

7.8 million people estimated to be affected by the current drought; one million have been internally displaced by drought as of August 2022.¹

Some **6.8 million** people - **45 per cent** of the population - are acutely food insecure

45 percent children face acute malnutrition

An estimated **7.7 million** people in the country require humanitarian assistance and protection.

Epidemiological weeks 48-49, 28/11/2022-11/12/2022



897
suspected cholera cases



7150
acute diarrhoeal disease cases



490
suspected measles cases



3625
SARI cases



1470
confirmed cases of Malaria in October 2022

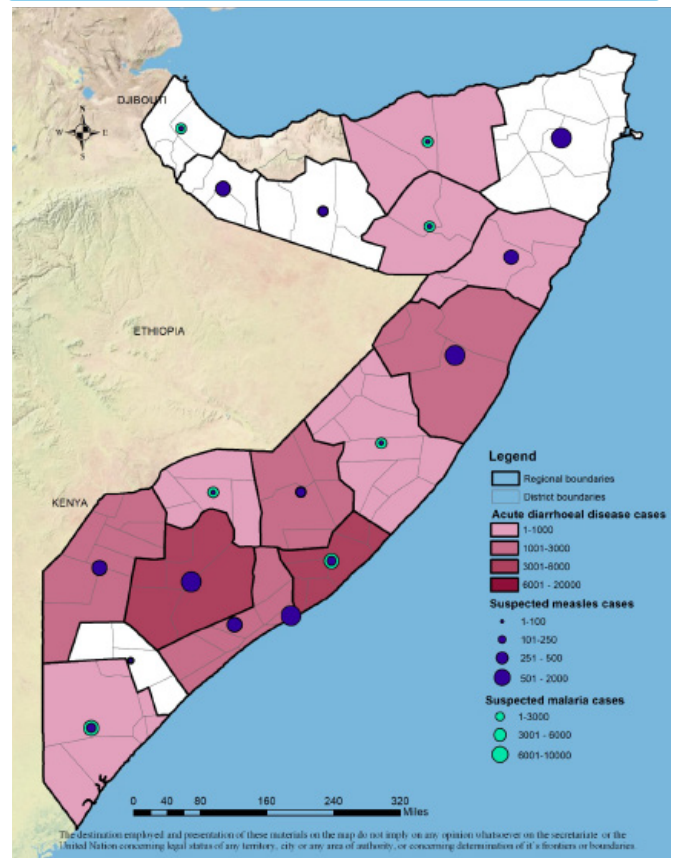


538
health facilities reporting through Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN)



2163
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 1-49, 03 Jan to 11 December 2022)



The Federal Ministry of Health and WHO monitor the trends of epidemic-prone diseases in drought affected districts using data from the electronic-based EWARN, 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: 2022 Drought Impact Snapshot (As of August 2022) - Somalia | ReliefWeb
2 Somalia: Drought Response and Famine Prevention (1-24 October 2022) [EN/AR] - Somalia | ReliefWeb
3 IPC classification by FSNU as of 12 September 2022

CHOLERA IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

Recurrent cholera outbreaks have been reported in the drought-affected districts of Somalia since 2017, with no interruption in transmission in Banadir region. The number of new suspected cases of cholera have increased sharply in 2022 compared to the previous years due to an increasing number of people with limited access to safe water and proper sanitation practices especially in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps (Figure 1). Since the epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 14280 suspected cases of cholera with 79 associated deaths (CFR 0.6%) were reported from 26 drought-affected districts. A new cholera outbreak was confirmed in Afmadow district in Jubaland state bordering Kenya. In Afmadow 373 new cases and 6 deaths (CFR 1.6%) were reported in the past two weeks. Of the 14280 suspected cases of cholera, 9139 (64%) cases were children below 5 years, 6997 (49%) are female and 5546 (39%) are severe cases. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (5107), Bay (2548) and Lower Juba (2856) and Kismayo 2483 which is the current epicenter of the outbreak (see Table 1).

A total of 1963 stool samples were collected from suspected cases admitted in eight treatment facilities supported by WHO and analyzed in the national public health laboratory in Mogadishu, out of which 257 (13.6%) samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* O1 serotype Ogawa, 7 (0.4%) samples were tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* O1 Inaba in Daynile and 1 (0.05%) sample positive for *Vibrio cholerae* O1 Hikojima in Marka. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted showed that the *V. cholerae* serotypes isolate is sensitive to chloramphenicol and tetracycline but resistant to ampicillin and nalidixic acid.

ACUTE DIARRHOEAL DISEASES

The number of new cases of acute diarrhoeal disease reported in the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) and from the communities in drought affected districts have increased starting in week 29 compared to the past two years. In the past two weeks, cases of acute diarrhoeal disease cases decreased by 10% in the past four weeks. The observed reduction in the new cases may be linked to scaling up of implementation of WASH interventions in drought affected districts. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, 126 000 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease were reported from drought-affected districts of which, 76% (95 990) were children under five years of age. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (42 555), Bay (12 384), and Middle Shabelle (11 489) (Table 1).

WHO conducts sentinel-based surveillance for rotavirus in Banadir region which is the most common cause of acute diarrhoeal disease among children aged below 5 years worldwide. Of the 691 stool samples collected from different locations from children aged below 5 years, 251 (36.3%) were tested positive for rotavirus infections.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

The trends of cases of severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) started to increase in week 29 of 2022 compared to the past two years. This increase may be attributed to increased displaced people who have poor shelter which resulted into people living in overcrowded conditions in camps (Figure 3). Since epidemiological week 1, 2022, a total of 63 372 SARI cases were reported from drought-affected districts of which 65% (41 192) were children under five years of age. However, the number of new cases of SARI decreased by 15% from 1946 in week 48 to

Week 48-49, 28/11/2022-11/12/2022

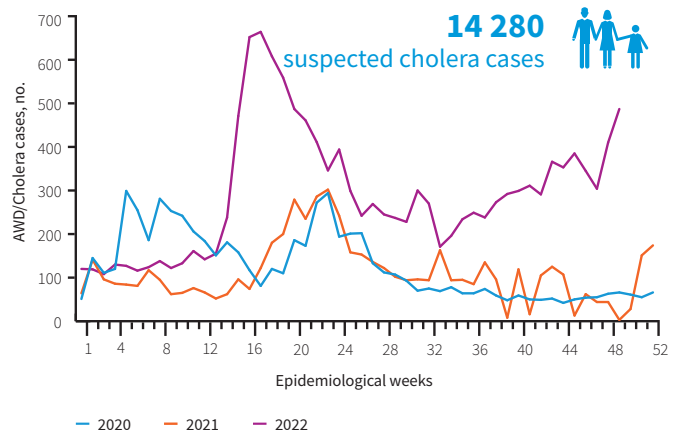


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

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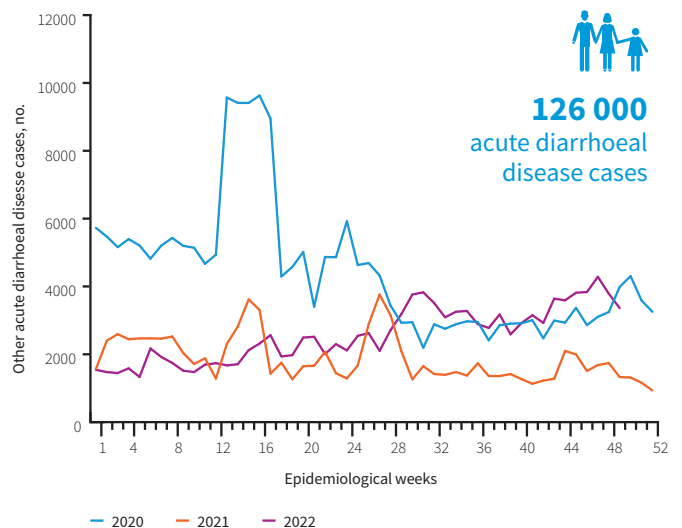


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

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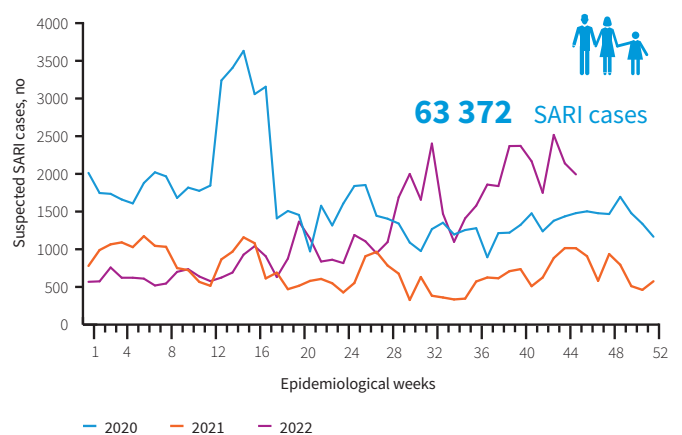


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

1679 cases in week 49. The region reporting most of the cases are Banadir (15 658), Galgadud (11 090) and Gedo (7849) (Table 1).

A total of 1953 suspected cases of influenza were enrolled at three sentinel sites- two located in Banadir region and one in Puntland were reported in the platform of Eastern Mediterranean Flu (EMFLU) network. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, 1771 influenza cases were tested at the National Public Health Laboratory of which 136 (7.7%) were tested positive for influenza; 3 (2.2%) were positive for seasonal influenza A (H1N1); 20 (14.7%) were positive for influenza A (H1N1) pdm09; and 3 (2.2%) were positive for influenza A (H3N2), 13(9.6%) Influenza not subtyped, 85(62.5%) were positive for influenza B Victoria Lineage, 1(1.2%) were positive for influenza Yagamata Lineage while 12(14.1%) Influenza B lineage not determined.

MEASLES UPDATES

The number of suspected cases of measles have increased in 2022 compared to the previous years. This surge in cases is linked to a decrease in measles vaccination coverage of children below five years of age in drought affected districts (Figure 4). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 16 578 suspected cases of measles were reported through the surveillance system for fever and rash used by the polio programme in drought-affected districts. However, the number of new measles cases reported has increased by 17% from 224 in week 48 to 264 in week 49. Of the 16 578 suspected measles cases reported, 77% (12 765) are children below five years of age. The regions reporting most of the cases include Bay (3738), Banadir (3381), and Bari (2 095), (see Table 1), Of the 1018 blood samples collected from suspected cases of measles and analysed in the laboratories, 61.8% (629) tested positive for measles-specific immunoglobulin M (IgM).

MEASLES VACCINE UPDATES

A total of 48152(96%) out of the targeted 54 836 children under one year of age received the first dose of measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) in drought-affected districts in October 2022 according to data from district health Information software 2 (DHIS2) (Figure 5). From October 2019 to October 2022, the measles vaccination coverage ranged between 80% and 88% per month compared to the national target of 95%.

MALARIA UPDATES

The number of laboratories confirmed cases of malaria reported through DHIS2 has gradually decreased since January 2022 which might be linked to implementation of additional malaria control interventions in drought affected districts. However the number of confirmed cases of malaria reported over the past two months have increased by 37% from 1071 in September to 1470 in October (Figure 6). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 273 297 cases of suspected malaria have been reported of which 9206(3.4%) have been confirmed positive by RDT and blood smear. Of the 9,206 confirmed cases, 2390 (26%) are children aged under 5 years. Regions reporting most of the suspected malaria cases in 2022 are Banadir (33,229) Bay (25,398) and Gedo (23,310) (Table 1).

Week 48-49, 28/11/2022-11/12/2022

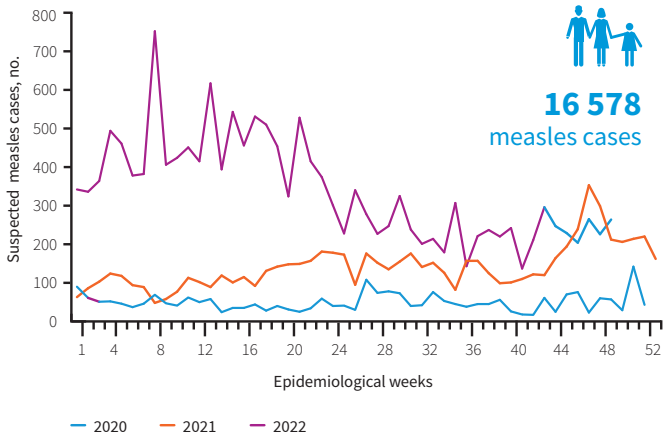


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2022

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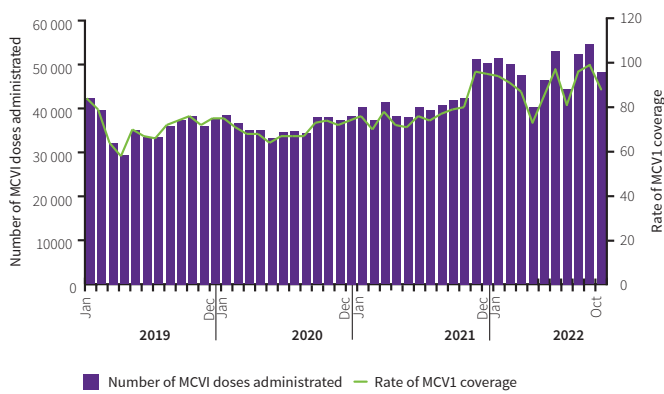


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 year vaccinated against measles by month, 2019-2022

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

Week 48-49, 28/11/2022-11/12/2022

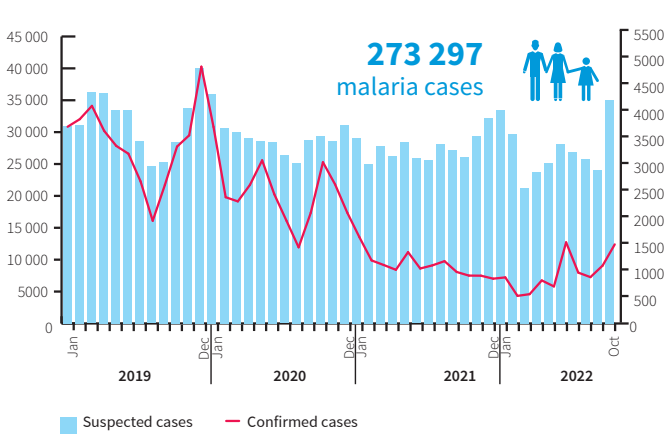


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2019-2022

POLIO UPDATE

- In 2022, four circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases, three circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from environmental samples (ES) while one vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) was isolated from an environmental sample.
- A total of 310 cases of AFP of which 140 were females and 170 males were reported in 2022. Of the 287 cases, 256 (93%) cases have laboratory results, and 23(7%) cases are pending for processing. Out of the 287 cases with laboratory results, four were positive for cVDPV2, 6 suspected Polio Virus type 2, 10 positives for Sabin Like (SL) type virus while 267 cases were tested negative.
- A total 193 environmental samples were collected from 16 sites and sent to the laboratory in 2022. Out of these samples, three were positive for cVDPV2, one was positive for VDPV2, thirty seven were positive for Non- Polio Enterovirus (NPEV) one Sabin like virus type 3(SL3), thirteen Sabin like virus type (SL2) , one positive for both SL2, None enterovirus, ninety samples were negative and forty- five samples are pending laboratory-confirmation.

Table 1: Cumulative number of acute diarrhoeal disease, suspected cholera, suspected measles, SARI, and suspected malaria cases in drought-affected regions of Somalia (epidemiological weeks 1-49, 03 Jan to 11 December 2022)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease ⁴	Suspected Measles cases ⁵	Suspected Malaria case ⁶	SARI cases ⁷	Suspected cholera cases ⁸
AWDAL	0	125	13 005	0	0
BAKOOL	1994	300	7593	342	581
BANADIR	42 555	3381	33 229	15 658	5107
BARI	8791	2095	22 550	1004	0
BAY	12 384	3738	25 398	6353	2548
GALBEED	0	392	9736	0	0
GALGADUD	1959	141	10 435	11 090	0
GEDO	4725	740	23310	7849	0
HIRAN	8538	369	15 137	3129	0
KARKAR	4217	-	6160	2291	0
LOWER JUBA	2834	1139	16 345	2050	2856
LOWER SHABELLE	6590	572	19 538	1214	1987
MIDDLE JUBA	0	29	0	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	11 489	330	17 430	1728	1201
MUDUG	4882	1790	20 275	881	0
NUGAL	6257	693	9028	2099	0
SOUTH MUDUG	4000	0	0	6332	0
SAHIL	0	37	5555	0	0
SANAG	680	36	8150	752	0
SOOL	678	149	5639	6332	0
TOGDHER	0	522	8059	0	0
TOTAL	126 000	16 578	273 297	63 372	14 280

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.

4 Source of data is EWARN as of December 2022

5 Source of data is fever and rash surveillance system as of December 2022

6 Source of data is DHIS2 as of October 2022

7 Source of data is EWARN as of December 2022

8 Source of data is suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea surveillance system managed by the FMOH as of December 2022

8 Source of data is EPI/Polio Weekly update sitrep report



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