

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 December 2022, with 1.3 million displaced from their homes in search of water, food, and pasture.

Some 6.8 million people - 45 per cent of the population - are experiencing severe food insecurity. Since 2017, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification has confirmed pockets of catastrophic food insecurity (Phase 5) affecting more than 200,000 people. An estimated 1.8 million children under age 5 face acute malnutrition, including 513,00 who are severely malnourished². 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; 1.3 million have been internally displaced by drought as of December 2022¹

Some **6.7 million** people - **45 per cent** of the total population - are experiencing acute food insecurity **45 per cent** of the children face acute malnutrition

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

Epidemiological weeks 50-51, 12/12/2022-25/12/2022



988
suspected cholera cases



2255
acute diarrhoeal disease cases



515
suspected measles cases



625
SARI cases



1470
confirmed cases of Malaria in October 2022

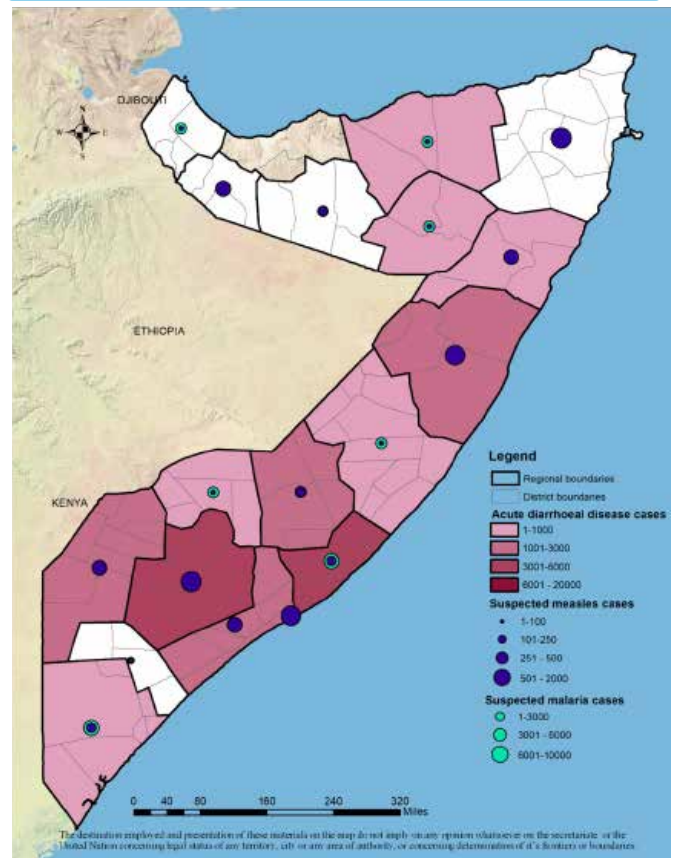


458
health facilities reporting through Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN)



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 1-51, 03 Jan to 25 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: Drought response and Famine prevention report (November to December 2022)

2 IPC classification by FSNU-December 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 15 268 suspected cases of cholera with 87 associated deaths (CFR 0. 6%) were reported from 26 drought-affected districts. The number of cholera cases reported in 26 districts including Afmadow have decreased by 18% from 544 cases reported in week 50 to 444 cases in week 51. Of the 15 268 suspected cases of cholera, 9577 (63%) cases were children below 5 years, 7550 (49%) are women and 6605 (43%) are severe cases. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (5194), Lower Juba (3567), Bay (2580) and Kismayo 2729 which is the current epicenter of the outbreak (see Table 1).

A total of 2110 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 265(13.2%) samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa, 7(0.4%) samples were tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 Inaba in Daynile and 1(0.05%) sample positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 Hikojima in Marka. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted showed that the *V. cholera* 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 diarrheal disease reported in the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) and from the communities in drought affected districts have decreased by 75% in the past four weeks from 3788 cases in week 48 to 945 cases in week 51. The reduction in new cases of acute diarrhoeal disease cases is linked to increased implementation of WASH interventions by WASH cluster partners in drought affected districts. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, 128 255 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease were reported from drought-affected districts of which, 76% (97 474) were children under five. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (43 503), Bay (12 840), and Middle Shabelle (11 503) (Table 1).

WHO conducts sentinel-based surveillance for rotavirus in Banadir region which is the most common cause of acute diarrhoeal disease among children below 5 years worldwide. Of the 752 stool samples collected from different locations from children below 5 years, 271(36%) were tested positive for rotavirus infections.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

The trends of cases of severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) started to decrease in week 49 of 2022 compared to the past two years. (Figure 3). Since epidemiological week 1, 2022, a total of 63 997 SARI cases were reported from drought-affected districts of which 65% (41 598) were children under five. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (15 884), Galgaduud (11090) and Gedo (7849) (Table 1).

Week 50-51, 12/12/2022-25/12/2022

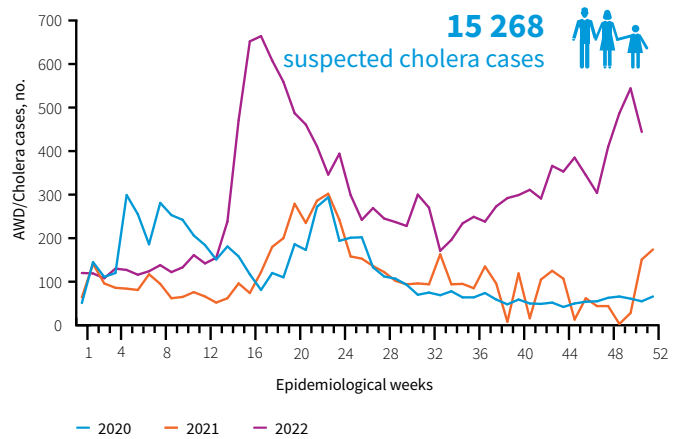


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

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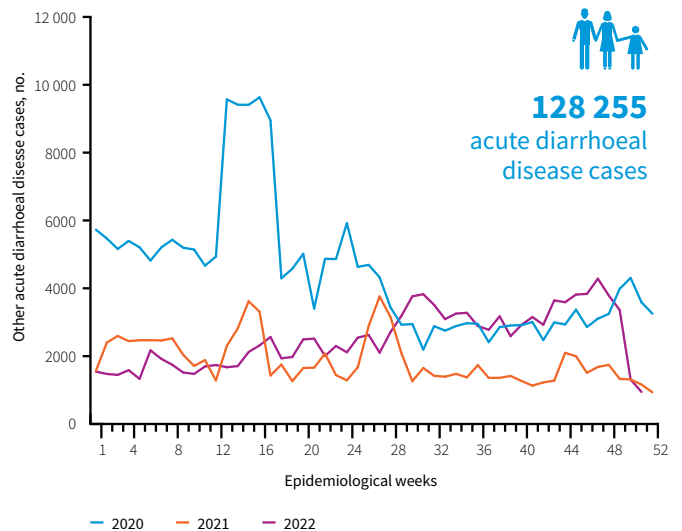


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

Week 50-51, 12/12/2022-25/12/2022

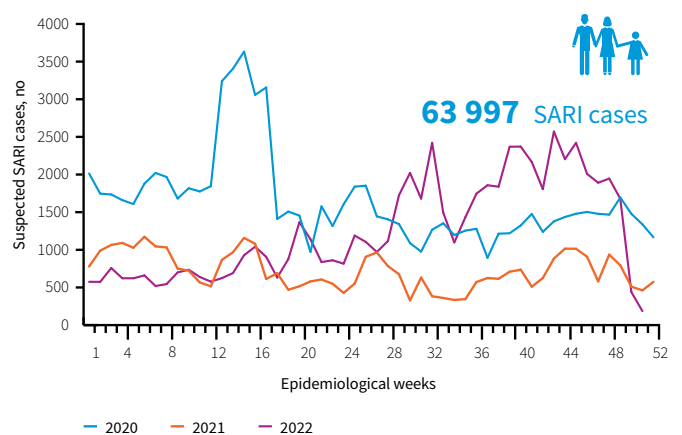


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

WHO with support from United States Center for Disease Control (US-CDC) and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework conducts sentinel-based surveillance for influenza at three sentinel sites - three located in Banadir and one in Puntland. Of the 1994 cases enrolled in the four sites since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, 1779 influenza cases were tested at the National Public Health Laboratory of which 136 (7.6%) 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%) SARI cases were 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 in drought affected districts (Figure 4). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 17 093 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 decreased by 29% from 302 in week 50 to 213 in week 51. This reduction is linked to scaling up of vaccination campaigns by outreach teams deployed by WHO in drought affected districts. Of the 17 093 suspected measles cases reported, 77% (13 090) are children below five years of age. The regions reporting most of the cases include Bay (3978), Banadir (3509), and Bari (2115), (see Table 1), Of the 1226 blood samples collected from suspected cases of measles and analysed in the laboratories, 63.7% (781) 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 laboratory-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 Rapid Diagnostic Test (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 50-51, 12/12/2022-25/12/2022

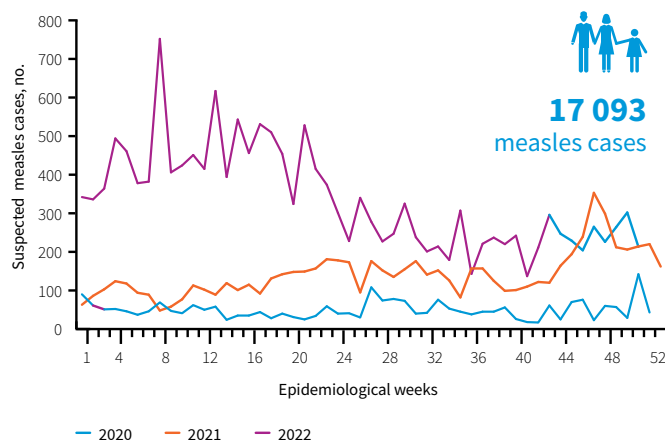


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2022

Week 50-51, 12/12/2022-25/12/2022

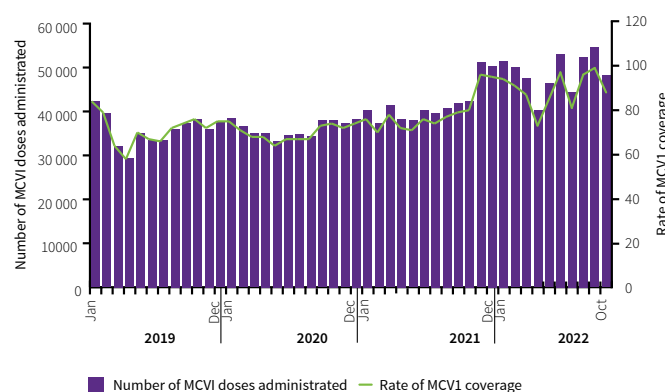


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 year vaccinated against measles by month, 2019–2022

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

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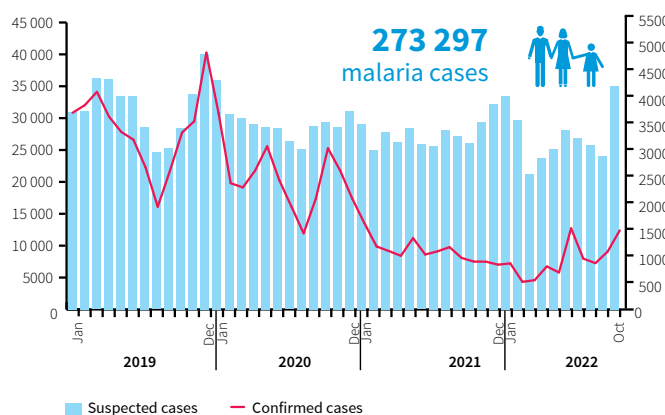


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2019–2022

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 341 cases of AFP of which 154 were females and 187 males were reported in 2022. Of the 341 cases, 315 (92%) cases have laboratory results, and 26(7%) cases are pending for processing. Out of the 315 cases

with laboratory results, four were positive for cVDPV2, one positive VDPV2, 8 suspected Polio Virus type 2, 11 positives for Sabin Like (SL) type virus while 291 cases were tested negative.

- A total 203 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 None Polio Enterovirus (NPEV)), two Sabin like virus type 3(SL3), fourteen Sabin like virus type (SL2) , one positive for both SL2, None enterovirus, ninety samples were negative and fifty five are pending for processing.

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 1-51, 03 Jan to 25 December 2022)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease ⁴	Suspected Measles cases ⁵	Suspected Malaria case ⁶	SARI cases ⁷	Suspected cholera cases ⁸
AWDAL	0	127	13 005	0	0
BAKOOL	2030	333	7593	400	635
BANADIR	43 503	3509	33 229	15 884	5194
BARI	8907	2115	22 550	1015	0
BAY	12 840	3978	25 398	6476	2580
GALBEED	0	392	9736	0	0
GALGADUD	1959	141	10 435	11 090	0
GEDO	4725	740	23 310	7849	0
HIRAN	8561	369	15 137	3140	0
KARKAR	4380	-	6160	2326	0
LOWER JUBA	2880	1139	16 345	2129	3567
LOWER SHABELLE	6766	577	19 538	1232	2077
MIDDLE JUBA	0	29	0	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	11 503	336	17 430	1728	1205
MUDUG	5111	1820	20 275	944	0
NUGAL	6260	704	9028	2099	0
SOUTH MUDUG	4000	0	0	6332	0
SAHIL	0	37	5555	0	0
SANAG	4150	36	8150	753	0
SOOL	680	150	5639	600	0
TOGDHER	0	530	8059	0	0
TOTAL	128 255	17 093	273 297	63 997	15 268

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 November 2022

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

6 Source of data is DHIS2 as of August 2022

7 Source of data is EWARN as of November 2022

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

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



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