World Health Organization
Somalia

EPI watch

Epidemiological Bulletin

For epidemic-prone diseases in Somalia for epidemiological weeks 52 of 2022 to week 01 of 2023, 26/12/2022-08/01/2023

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 dyer 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 people[2]. 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 has led to more people being vulnerable to epidemic prone diseases, particularly acute diarrheal disease, and measles. 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 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 52-01, 26/12/2022-08/01/2023

619
suspected cholera cases

3581
acute diarrhoeal disease cases

443
suspected measles cases

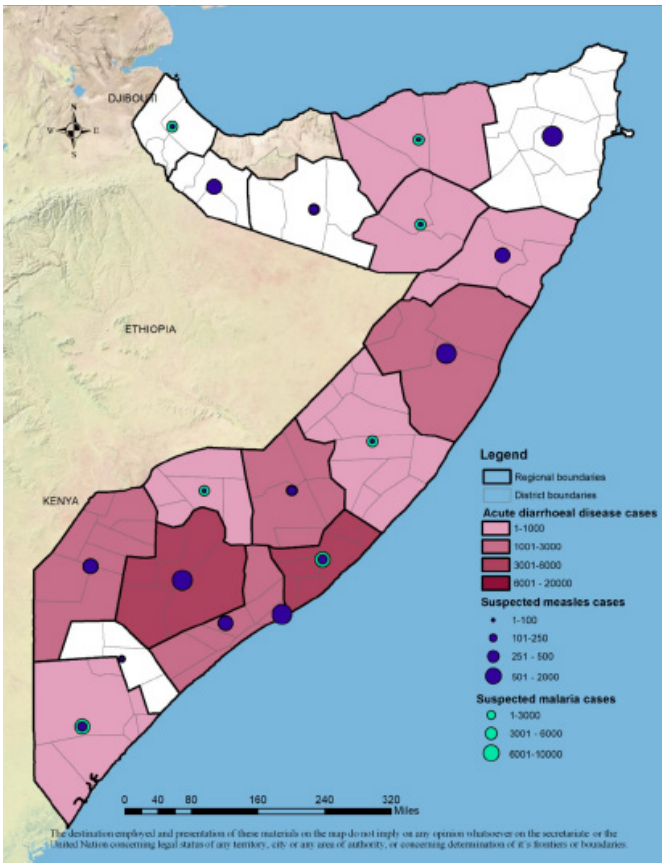
1519
SARI cases

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 2022-Week 01 2023, 03 Jan 2022 to 08 January 2023)



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

RRecurrent 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 increased sharply in 2022 compared to the previous years and the outbreak continues into 2023. (Figure 1). In 2022, a total of 15 887 suspected cases of cholera with 88 associated deaths (CFR 0. 6%) were reported from 26 drought-affected districts. Over the past two weeks, the number of cholera cases reduced from 385 cases in week 52 of 2022 to 234 cases in week 1 of 2023 which represents a 39% reduction which is linked to implementation of interventions by health and WASH cluster partners. Of the 15 887 suspected cases of cholera, 9910 (62%) cases were children below 5 years, 7870 (49%) are women and 6870 (43%) are severe cases. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (5306), Lower Juba (3908), Bay (2680) and Kismayo 2829 which is the current epicenter of the outbreak (see Table 1).

A total of 2200 stool samples were collected from suspected cased admitted in eight treatment facilities supported by WHO and analyzed in the national public health laboratory in Mogadishu, out of which 278(13%) 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 increased by two-fold from 1270 cases in week 52 of 2022 to 2311 cases in week 1 of 2023. A total of 130308 cases were reported in 2022 while 2311 new cases were reported in week 1 of 2023. Of the 132 617 cases of acute diarrheal disease were reported from epidemiological week 1 of 2022 to epidemiological week 1 2023; 76% (100,997) were children under five years of age. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (44 786), Bay (13154), and Middle Shabelle (11 581) (Table 1). WHO conducts sentinel-based surveillance for rotavirus in Banadir region which is the most common case of acute diarrhoeal disease among children aged below 5 years worldwide. Of the 780 stool samples collected from different locations from children aged below 5 years, 294(37.9%) were tested positive for rotavirus infections.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

The trends of cases of severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) increased in 2022 compared to the past two years. This increase may be attributed to increased displacement of people who have poor shelter which resulted into people living in overcrowded conditions in camps (Figure 3). A total of 65 327 cases of SARI were reported from drought affected districts from week 1 to 52 of 2022 while 794 cases were reported in epidemiological week 1 of 2023. Over the past two weeks, the number of new cases of SARI increased by 10% from 725 in week 52 of 2022 to 794 cases in week 01 2023. Of the 66121 cases reported from epidemiological week 1, 2022 to week 1 2023 64.5% (42 677) were children under five. The regions reporting most of the SARI cases are Banadir (16 413), Galgadud (11090) and Gedo (8810) (Table 1).

Week 52 of 2022 to week 01 of 2023, 26/12/2022-08/01/2023

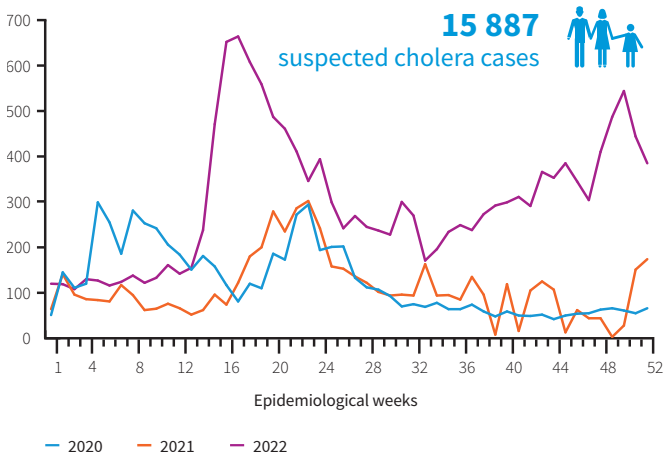


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoeal cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2023

Week 52 of 2022 to week 01 of 2023, 26/12/2022-08/01/2023

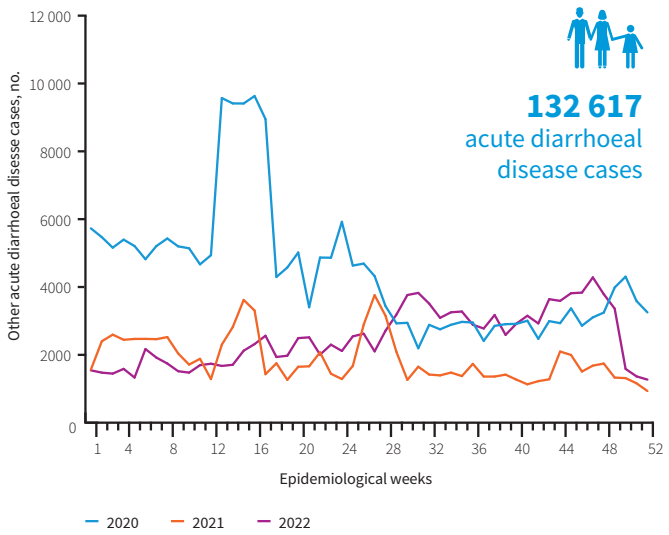


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2023

Week 52 of 2022 to week 01 of 2023, 26/12/2022-08/01/2023

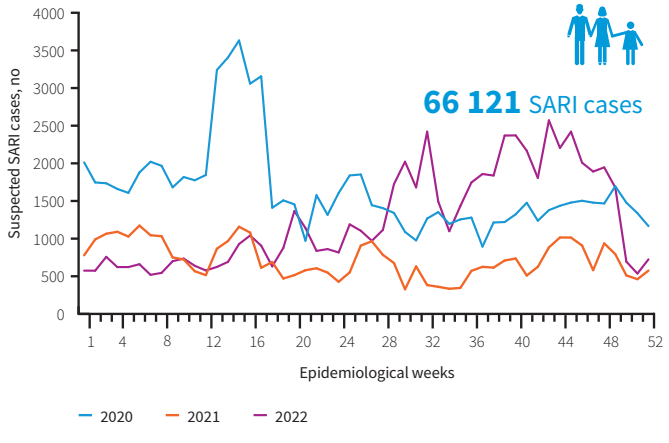


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2023

In 2022, a total of 1638 suspected cases of influenza, 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, 1612 influenza cases were tested at the National Public Health Laboratory of which 132 (8.2%) were tested positive for influenza; 3 (2.3%) were positive for seasonal influenza A (H1N1); 20 (15.2%) were positive for influenza A (H1N1) pdm09; and 3 (2.3%) were positive for influenza A (H3N2), 13(9.8%) Influenza not subtyped, 81(61.4%)) were positive for influenza B Victoria Lineage , 1(1.2%) were positive for influenza Yagamata Lineage while 12(14.8%) Influenza B lineage not determined.

In week 1 of 2023; a total of 186 suspected cases of influenza were enrolled at the three sentinel sites of which 163 (87.6%) cases were tested and one (0.6%) case was tested positive for Influenza A (H3N2)

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 under 5 in drought affected districts (Figure 4). A total of 17361 cases of measles were reported from week 1 to week 52 of 2022 while 175 cases were reported in week 1 of 2023. The measles cases were reported through the surveillance system for fever and rash used by the polio programme in drought-affected districts. The number of measles cases reduced by 35% in the past two weeks from 268 cases in week 52 of 2022 to 175 cases in week 1 of 2023. This reduction is linked to scaling up of vaccination campaigns by outreach teams deployed by WHO in drought affected districts. Of the 17 536 suspected measles cases reported from epidemiological week 1 of 2022 to epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 77% (13 408) are children under 5 . The regions reporting most of the cases include Bay (4150), Banadir (3632), and Bari (2120), (see Table 1), Of the 1332 blood samples collected from suspected cases of measles and analysed in the laboratories, 63.7% (809) tested positive for measles-specific immunoglobulin M (IgM).

MEASLES VACCINE UPDATES

A total of 48152(96%) out of the targeted 54 836 children under 1 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 2022 (Figure 6).Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 273297 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 under 5.[4] Regions reporting most of the suspected malaria cases in 2022 are Banadir (33,229) Bay (25,398) and Gedo (23,310) (Table 1).

4 Malaria data for November and December 2022 has not been submitted by health facilities in DHIS2

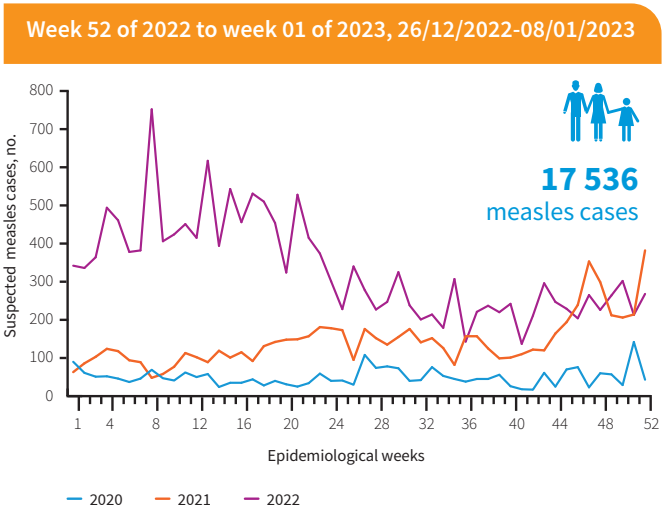


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2022

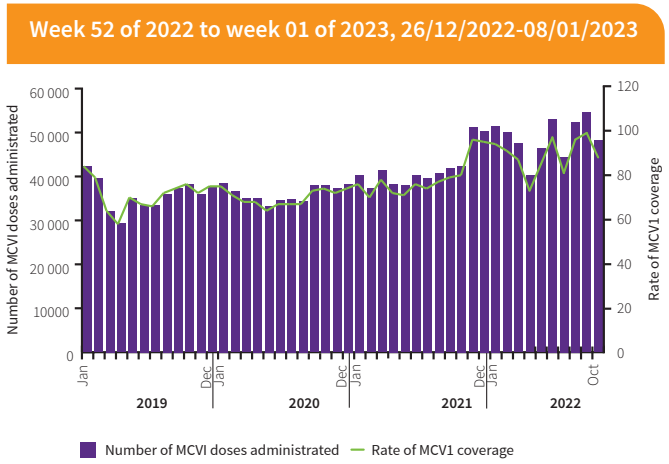


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 year vaccinated against measles by month, 2019-2022

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

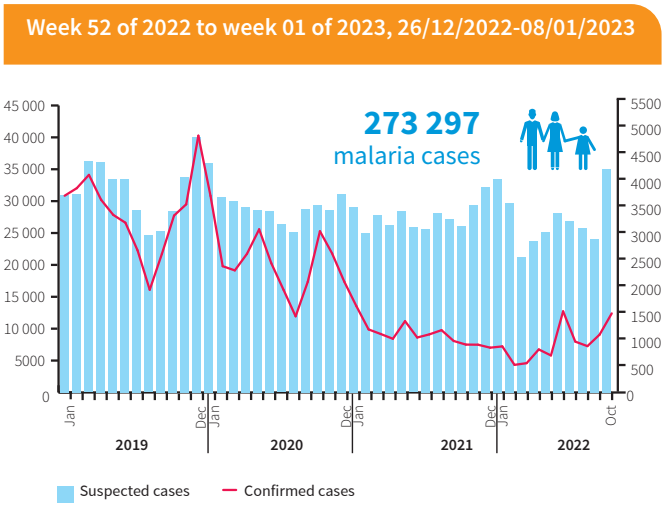


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2019-2022

POLIO UPDATE

- In 2022, five circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases, four 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 351 cases of AFP of which 158 (45.0%) were females and 193(54.9%) males were reported in 2022. Of the 351 cases, 329 (93.7%) cases have laboratory results, and 22(6.3%) cases are pending for processing. Out of the 329 cases with laboratory results, five were positive for cVDPV2, two positive VDPV2 3 suspected Polio Virus type 2, 14 positives for Sabin Like (SL) type virus while 306 cases were tested negative.
- A total 205 environmental samples were collected from 16 sites and sent to the laboratory in 2022. Out of these samples, five 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), fifteen 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 2022-Week 01 2023, 03 Jan 2022 to 08 January 2023)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease[5]	Suspected Measles cases[6]	Suspected Malaria case[7]	SARI cases[8]	Suspected cholera cases[9]
AWDAL	0	130	13005	0	0
BAKOOL	2131	361	7593	409	681
BANADIR	44786	3632	33229	16413	5306
BARI	9381	2120	22550	1022	0
BAY	13154	4150	25398	6603	2608
GALBEED	0	392	9736	0	0
GALGADUD	1959	141	10435	11090	0
GEDO	5380	743	23310	8810	0
HIRAN	8709	389	15137	3224	0
KARKAR	4642	-	6160	2379	0
LOWER JUBA	2974	1200	16345	2257	3908
LOWER SHABELLE	7144	589	19538	1275	2156
MIDDLE JUBA	0	29	0	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	11581	344	17430	1736	1228
MUDUG	5365	1843	20275	1011	0
NUGAL	6397	719	9028	2118	0
SOUTH MUDUG	4019	0	0	6420	0
SAHIL	0	38	5555	0	0
SANAG	4150	36	8150	753	0
SOOL	682	150	5639	601	0
TOGDHER	0	530	8059	0	0
TOTAL	**132 617**	**17 536**	**273 297**	**66 121**	**15 887**

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.

5 Source of data is EWARN as of December 2022
6 Source of data is fever and rash surveillance system as of December 2022
7 Source of data is DHIS2 as of 31 October 2022 due to delayed reporting
8 Source of data is EWARN as of December 2022
Source of data is EPI/Polio Weekly update sitrep report
9 Source of data is suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea surveillance system managed by the FMOH as of December 2022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