World Health Organization
Somalia

EPI watch

Epidemiological Bulletin

For epidemic-prone diseases in Somalia for epidemiological weeks 40-41, 03/10/2022-16/10/2022

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 7.1 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 213,000 people. 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 effected by the current drought; one million have been internally displaced by drought as of August 2022[1]

More than **26 per cent** of the country is experiencing food crisis [2]

45 per cent children face severe acute malnutrition

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

Epidemiological weeks 40-41,03/10/2022-16/10/2022

610
suspected cholera cases

5961
acute diarrhoeal disease cases

379
suspected measles cases

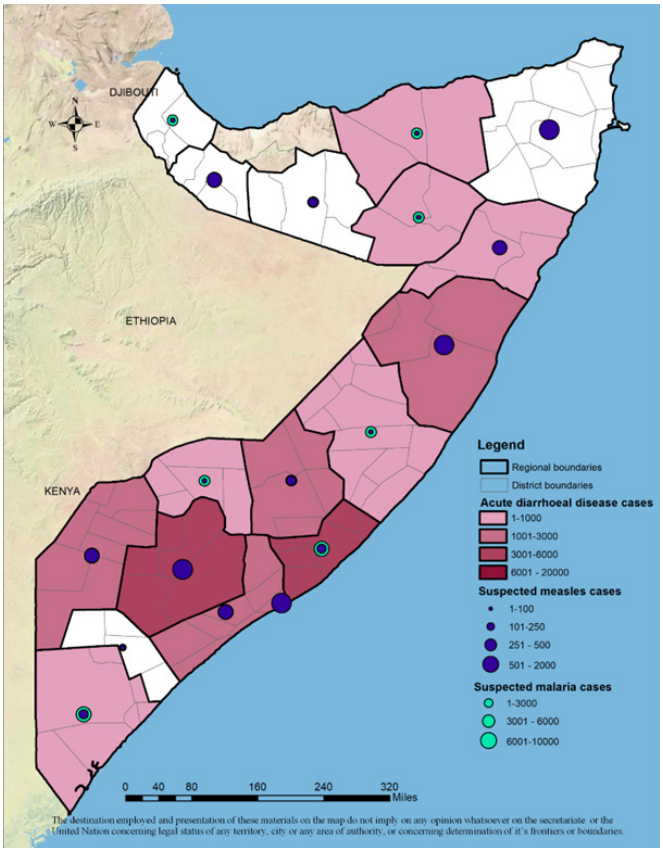
616
confirmed cases of Malaria in July 2022

4397
SARI cases

561
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 1-41, 03 Jan to 16 October 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 IPC classification by FSNU as of 12 September 2022 https://fsnau.org/in-focus/nearly-67-million-people-across-somalia-face-crisis-ipc-phase-3-or-worse-acute-food-insecur
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 safe sanitation practice especially in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps (Figure 1). Since the epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 11 339 suspected cases of cholera with 69 associated deaths (CFR 0. 6%) were reported from 25 drought-affected districts. The number of cholera cases reported have increased by 45% from 170 cases reported in week 33 to 311 cases in week 41. In Kismayo district there has been a 50-fold increase in the number of cholera cases from 18 cases to 989 cases during the same period of time. The number of cholera associated deaths in Kismayo has also increased by four fold from four deaths to 17 deaths (CFR 1.7% which exceed the WHO threshold limit of >1 for emergency settings). Of the 11 339 suspected cases of cholera, 7392 (65%) were children below 5 years, 5562 (49%) are women and 3982 (35%) are severe cases. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (4867), Bay (2 406) and Lower Shabelle (1628) and Kismayo (989) which is the current epicenter of the outbreak (see Table 1).

Of the 1 457 stool samples collected and analyzed, 230 (15.8%) samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa, 7(0.5%) samples were tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 Inaba in Daynile and 1(0.07%) sample positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 Hikojima in Marka. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted in the national public health reference laboratory in Mogadishu 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 community decreased in 2022 compared to the previous years (Figure 2). This reduction in cases might have been linked to the implementation of additional Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions in drought-affected districts. However, the number of new cases of acute diarrhoeal disease reported from drought affected districts has increased from 2777 cases in week 37 to 3039 cases in week 41 which represents a 12.5% increase in the past three months.

Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, 96 616 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease were reported from drought-affected districts of which, 77% (74343) were children below five years of age. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (37 062), Bay (10 179), and Middle Shabelle (10 010) (Table 1).

WHO conducts sentinel-based surveillance for Rota virus that is the commonest case of acute diarrhoeal disease infection among children under 5 years worldwide. Of the 457 stool samples collected from different locations, amongst children aged below 5 years, 165 were tested positive for Rotavirus infections. Of the 165 positive samples, 165 (100%) were reported from Banadir region.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

The number of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases reported through the EWARN decreased in 2022 compared to the previous years (Figure 3). Since epidemiological week 1, 2022, a total of 46 644 SARI cases were reported from drought-

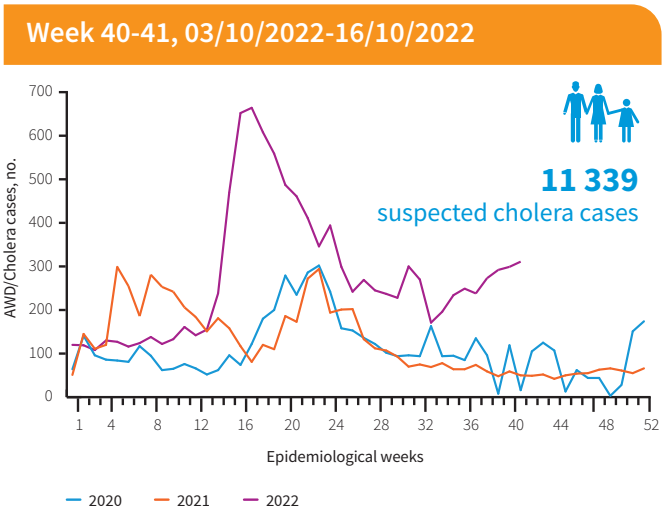


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2022

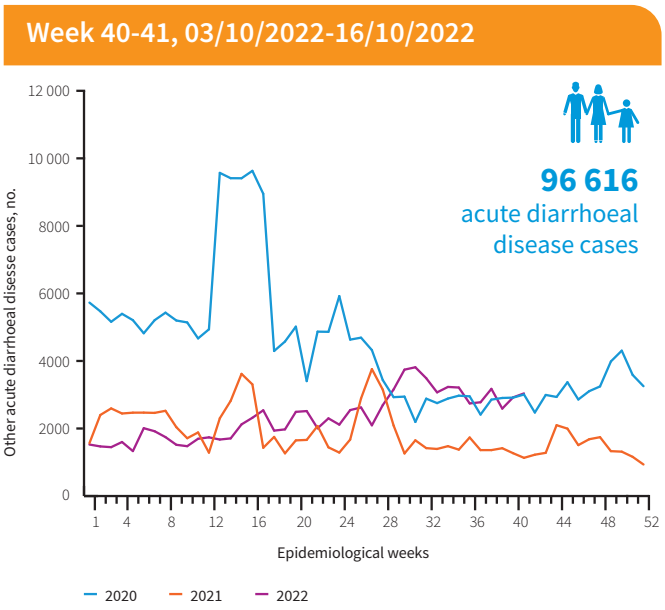


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2022

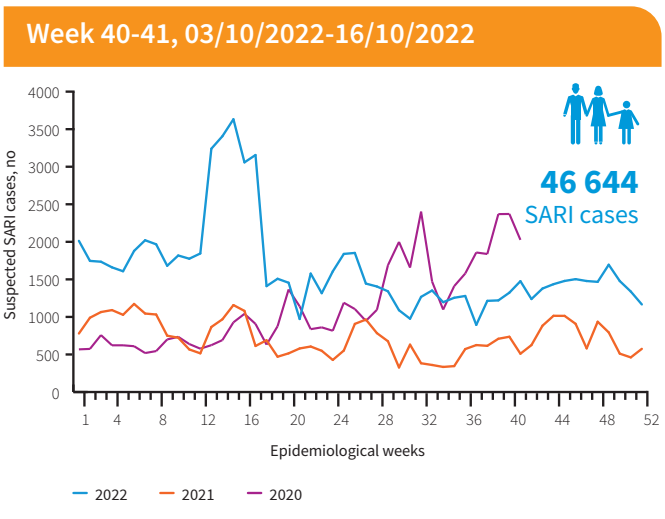


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

affected districts of which 64% (30082) were children below five years of age. However, the number of new cases of SARI decreased by 15% from 2371 to 2026 in the past two weeks. The region reporting most of the cases are Banadir (12,935), Galgadud (7867) and Bay (5593) (Table 1).

A total of 1243 suspected cases of Influenza were enrolled at two sentinel sites in Banadir region and reported in the platform of Eastern Mediterranean Flu (EMFLU) network. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, 1182 cases were tested in the national public health laboratory of which 88(7.8%) were tested positive for Influenza; 3 (3.4%) were positive for seasonal Influenza A (H1N1); 20 (22.7%) were positive for Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09; and 3 (3.4%) were positive for influenza A (H3N2), 61(69.3%)) were positive for Influenza B Victoria Lineage and 1(1.1%) were positive for Influenza Yagamata Lineage.

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 14 636 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 from 242 in week 40 to 137 in week 41 which represents a 43% decrease over the past two weeks. Of the 14 636 suspected measles cases reported, 77% (11329) are children below five years of age. The regions reporting the most cases include Bay (3059), Banadir (2812), and Bari (2 070), (see Table 1), Of the 831 blood samples collected from suspected cases of measles and analysed in the laboratories, 60.3% (501) tested positive for measles-specific immunoglobulin M (IgM).

MEASLES VACCINE UPDATES

A total of 52,397(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 August 2022 according to data from district health Information software 2 (DHIS2) (Figure 5). From August 2019 to August 2022, the measles vaccination coverage ranged between 72% and 96% per month compared to the national target of 95%.

MALARIA UPDATES

The number of suspected 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 (Figure 6). This decrease is attributed to the increased implementation of preventive measures in different regions. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 214168 cases of suspected malaria have been tested of which 6665(3%) have been confirmed positive by RDT and blood smear. Of the 5486 confirmed cases, 1900(21.5%) are children aged below 5 years.

In August 2022, of the 25810 suspected cases that were reported 855(3.3%) were tested positive for malaria and which 205(25.1%) were children below 5 years. However, the number of confirmed cases of malaria decreased by 9% from 940 cases in July to 805 cases in August 2022. Regions reporting most of the suspected of malaria cases in 2022 are Banadir (28629) Bay (16694) and Gedo (14178) (Table 1).

Week 40-41, 03/10/2022-16/10/2022

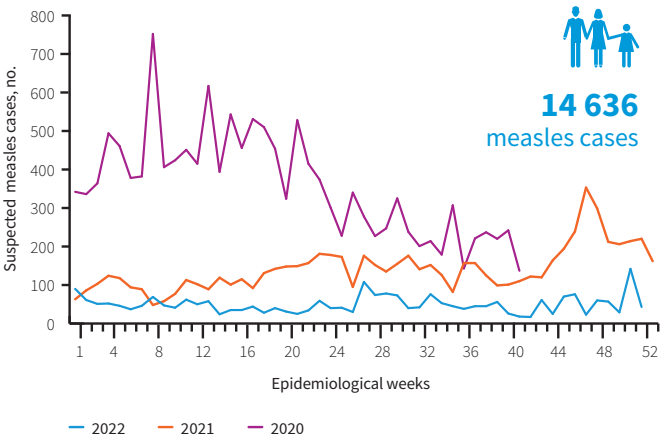


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2022

Week 40-41, 03/10/2022-16/10/2022

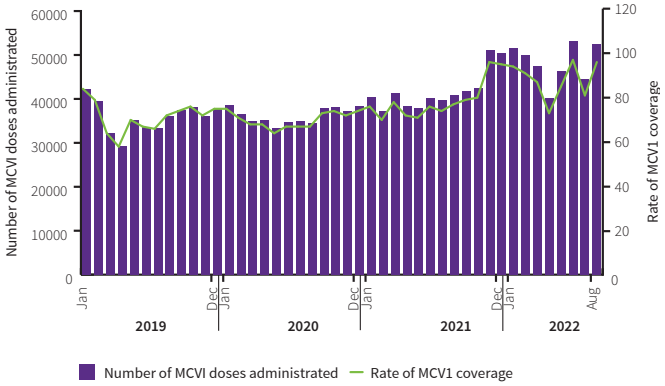


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 year vaccinated against measles by month, 2019-2022

*The measles vaccination data for June and July 2022 is not yet available

Week 40-41, 03/10/2022-16/10/2022

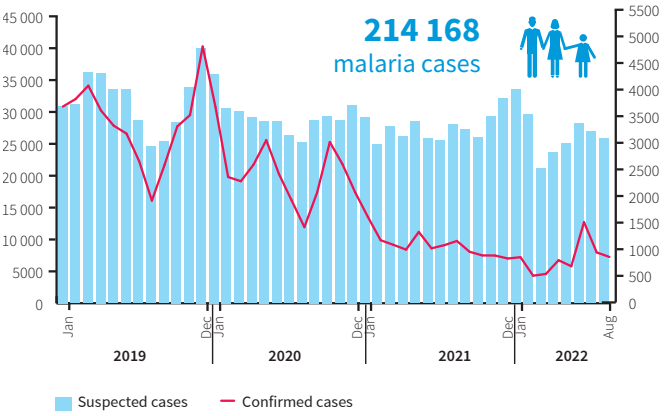


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2019-2022

Polio update

- In 2022, four circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from acute flaccid paralysis 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 268 cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases of which 123 were females and 145 males were reported in 2022. Of the 268 cases, 219 (82%) cases have lab results, and 49(18%) cases are pending for processing. Out of the 219 cases with lab results, four were positive for cVDPV2 , 10 positive for Sabin Like (SL) type virus while 205 cases were tested negative.
- A total 168 Environmental samples were collected from 16 sites and sent to the laboratory in 2022.Out of these samples, three 03 were positive for cVDPV2, one was positive for VDPV2, thirty three were positive for None Polio Enterovirus (NPEV)) , one Sabin like virus type 3(SL3), thirteen Sabin like virus type (SL2) , one positive for both SL2 and None enterovirus, 81 samples were negative.

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 1-39, 03 Jan to 16 October 2022)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease[4]	Suspected Measles cases[5]	Suspected Malaria case[6]	SARI cases[7]	Suspected cholera cases[8]
AWDAL	0	102	7602	0	0
BAKOOL	1636	178	6196	174	413
BANADIR	37 062	2812	28 629	12 935	4867
BARI	4951	2070	13181	720	0
BAY	10 179	3059	21 922	5593	2406
GALBEED	0	392	7162	0	0
GALGADUD	1699	141	6622	7867	0
GEDO	2832	689	18 677	3850	0
HIRAN	6561	356	11 605	2414	0
KARKAR	2086	-	4890	1980	0
LOWER JUBA	1623	954	12 840	1474	989
LOWER SHABELLE	5211	510	16 664	968	1628
MIDDLE JUBA	0	29	0	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	10 010	286	13 802	1242	1036
MUDUG	2870	1724	16 408	567	0
NUGAL	3454	672	6583	1236	0
SOUTH MUDUG	3049	0	0	4745	0
SAHIL	0	37	4516	0	0
SANAG	2720	35	5796	579	0
SOOL	673	145	4632	300	0
TOGDHER	0	475	6441	0	0
TOTALS	**96 616**	**14 636**	**214 168**	**46 644**	**11 339**

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 September 2022
5 Source of data is fever and rash surveillance system
6 Source of data is DHIS2 as of July 2022
7 Source of data is EWARN as of September 2022
8 Source of data is suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea surveillance system managed by the FMOH
8 Source of data is EPI/Polio Weekly update sitrep report

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