World Health Organization
Somalia

EPI watch

Epidemiological Bulletin

For epidemic-prone diseases in Somalia for epidemiological weeks 26-27 (27/06/2022-10/7/2022)

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 in 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 7.0 million in May, with **918 200** displaced from their homes in search of water, food, and pasture.

The current situation including the displacement have led to more people being vulnerable to epidemic prone diseases, particularly acute diarrhoeal disease and measles.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

7.0 million people estimated to effected by the current drought; **918 200** have been internally displaced by drought as of June 2022[1].

More than **45 per cent** of the country is food insecure, including nearly **2.1 million** who are suffering from severe food insecurity

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

Epidemiological weeks 26-27, (27-10/7/2022)

511
suspected cholera cases

3931
acute diarrhoeal disease cases

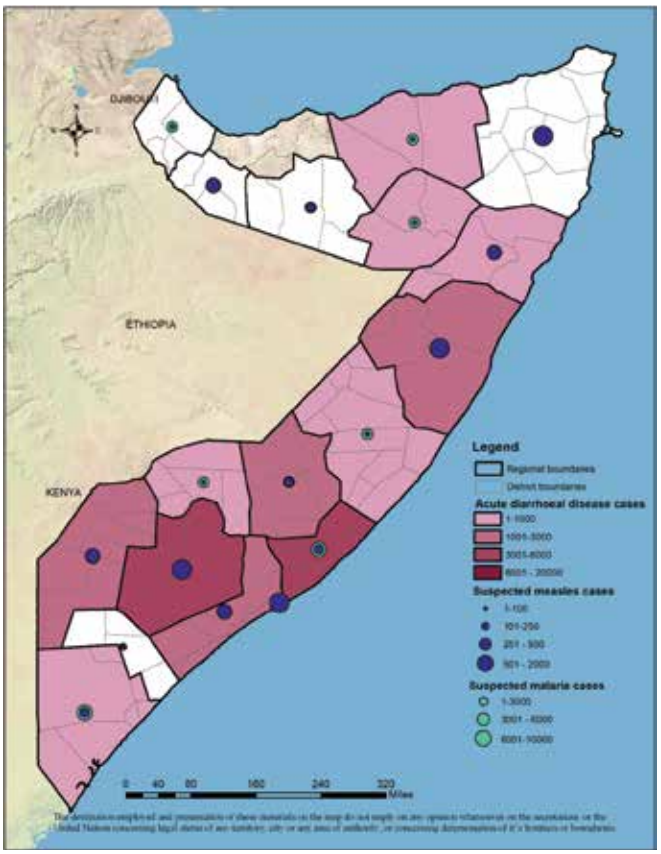
618
suspected measles cases

1924
SARI cases

653
health facilities reporting through Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN)

2 163
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 1-27, 03 Jan to 10 July 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.

1 Drought Displacement Monitoring Dashboard (June 2022) - Somalia | ReliefWeb

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 Benadir 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 (Figure 1).

Since the epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 7 796 suspected cases of cholera with 37 associated deaths (CFR 0. 5%) were reported from 23 drought-affected districts. The number of cholera cases reported have increased by 11% from 242 cases reported in week 26 to 269 in week 27. Of the 7 796 suspected cases of cholera, 64% (5 330) are children below five years of age. The regions reporting most of the cases are Benadir (3 788), Bay (2 033) and Lower Shabelle (1 019) (see Table 1). Of the 753 stool samples collected and analyzed, 149 samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted in the National Public Health Reference Laboratory in Mogadishu showed that the *V. cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa 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 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 diarrheal disease reported from drought affected districts has reduced by 41% from 2472 cases in week 26 to 1459 cases in week 27 . Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, 51 447 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease were reported from drought-affected districts of which, 78% (40 129) were children below five years of age. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banandir (24 624), Middle Shabelle (6 602), and Bay (5 887) , (Table 1).Of the 52 stool samples collected from different location from children aged below 5 years, nine were tested positive for Rotavirus infections. Of the nine positive samples, eight (88.8%) were reported from Benadir 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 of 2022, a total of 21 266 SARI cases were reported from drought-affected districts of which 66% (14 035) were children below five years of age. However, the number of new cases of SARI decrease by 24% from 1 094 cases in week 26 to 830 cases in week 27. The region reporting most of the cases are Banadir (8 278), Bay (2 924) and Galgadud (2 263) (Table 1). A total of 187 SARI cases were enrolled at two sentinel sites in Benadir region and reported in the platform of Eastern Mediterranean Flu (EMFLU) network[2]. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, 168 cases were tested in the national public health laboratory of which 26 (15.0%) were tested positive for Influenza; 3 (1.0%) were positive for seasonal Influenza A (H1N1);

2 https://emflunet.emro.who.int/Home/Dashboard

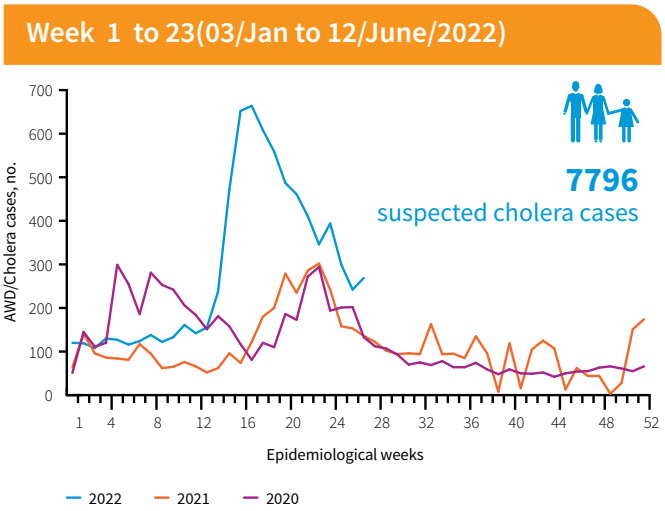


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2022

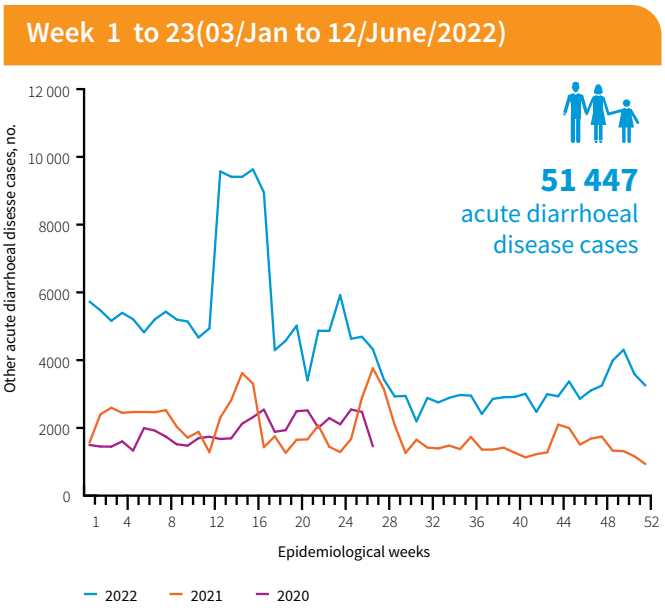


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2022

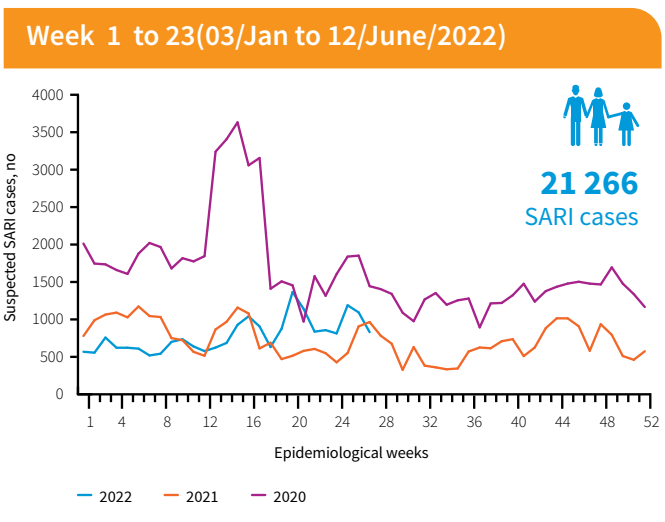


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought-affected Regions/districts of Somalia, 2020-2022

20 (11.0%) were positive for Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09; and 3 (1.0%) were positive for influenza A (H3N2). No sample tested positive for influenza type B.

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 11 498 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 18 % from 340 cases in week 26 to 278 cases in week 27 . Of the 11 498 suspected measles cases reported, 82% (9 428) are children below five years of age. The regions reporting the most cases include Bay (2 436, Bari (1 912) , and Benadir (1 859), (see Table 1), Of the 444 blood samples collected from suspected cases of measles and analyzed in the laboratories, 62.2% (276) tested positive for measles-specific immunoglobulin M (IgM).

MEASLES VACCINE UPDATES

A total of 40 161(87%) 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 April 2022 according to data from District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) (Figure 5). From March 2019 to March 2022, the measles vaccination coverage ranged between 58% and 73% per month compared to the national target of 95%.

MALARIA UPDATES

The number of suspected cases of malaria reported through DHIS2 has decreased since January 2022 (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 84 411 clinically diagnosed cases of malaria have been reported of which 1 888 have been tested positive for Malaria. Of the 1 888 confirmed cases since January 2022, 974 (51.6%) are female while 421 (22.3%) are children aged below 5 years. In March 2022, of the 21236 suspected cases that were reported of which 535 tested positive for malaria. Of the 535 confirmed cases 276 cases were female and 259 were male[3]. No malaria deaths were reported in March. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (12 234) Bay (8 766) and Bari (6,664) (Table 1).

Polio update

- During the reporting week, no new cVDPV2 isolate from the acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) case was reported.
- In 2022, two (02) cVDPV2 were isolated from acute flaccid paralysis cases, two (02) cVDPV2 were isolated from environmental samples (ES) while one (01) VDPV2 was isolated from an environmental sample
- In 2022, A total of 173 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (73 female and 100 male) were reported. A total 163 (94%) of the reported cases have lab results, while 10 (6%) of these are being processed.

3 Malaria data for April and May has not been reported in DHIS2 by the time of publishing this report

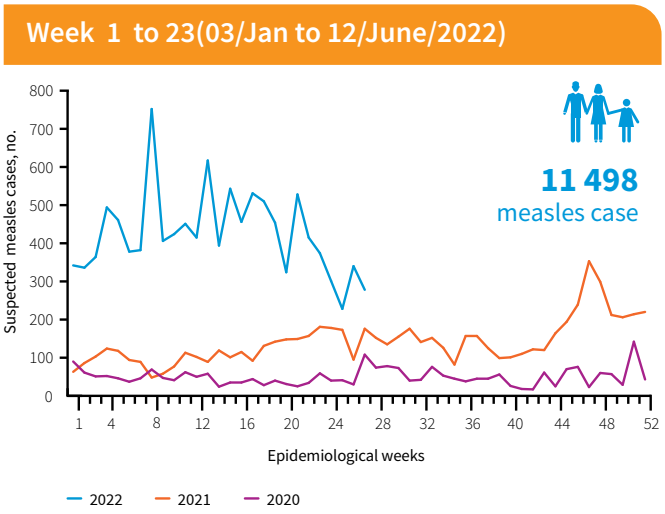


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2020–2022

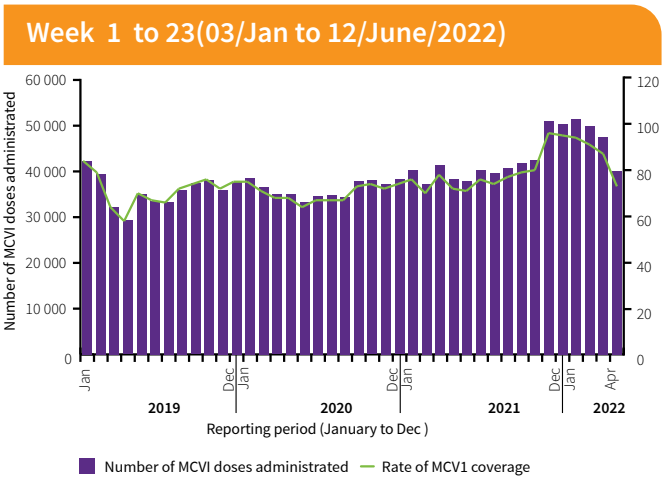


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 year vaccinated against measles by month, 2019-2022

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

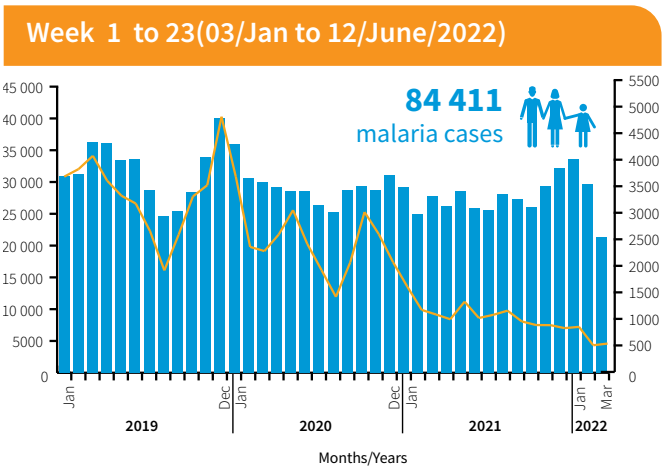


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2019 - 2022

- A total one hundred-eight (108) ES samples were collected from 16 ES sites and sent to the lab in 2022 of which 93(86%) have lab results while 15(14%) of these are being lab for processing.

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 1-27, 03 Jan to 10 July 2022)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease[3]	Suspected Measles cases[4]	Suspected Malaria case[5]	SARI cases[6]	Suspected cholera cases[7]
AWDAL	0	13	2 877	0	0
BAKOOL	1019	48	2 257	107	130
BANADIR	2 4624	1 859	12 937	8 278	3 788
BARI	429	1 912	5 502	0	0
BAY	5 887	2 436	9 054	2 924	2 033
GALBEED	0	385	5 297	0	0
GALGADUD	1 098	138	3 424	2 263	1
GEDO	1 912	593	7 801	1 775	0
HIRAN	2 885	284	3 706	927	0
LOWER JUBA	1011	336	5 211	1 154	0
LOWER SHABELLE	2 553	427	7 224	635	1 019
MIDDLE JUBA	0	29	0	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	6 602	232	5 726	353	825
MUDUG	666	1 641	4 314	167	0
NUGAL	444	620	2 860	240	0
SOUTH MUDUG	1 297	284	0	2065	0
SAHIL	0	37	9	0	0
SANAG	103	1	2 149	374	0
SOOL	234	133	1 192	4	0
TOGDHER	0	374	2 880	0	0
TOTALS	**51 447**	**11 498**	**84 411**	**21 266**	**7 796**

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 10 July 2022
5 Source of data is fever and rash surveillance system as of 10 July 2022
6 Source of data is DHIS2. Data for April and May 2022 has not been uploaded in DHIS2
7 Source of data is EWARN as of 10 July 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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