

April 2021

Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



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IMMUNIZATION INDICATORS

- First dose of measles containing vaccine (MCV1) coverage rate reported to be **77.7%** (41 411 out of 53 239 infants under the age of 1 year) as of April 2021
- OPV-3 coverage rate reported to be **82%** (43 562 out of 53 239 infants under the age of 1 year) as of April 2021

HEALTH NEEDS AND PROVISIONS

- **2.4 million** people internally displaced of which 1.8 million require humanitarian assistance
- **681 000** drought-affected people in six states and Banadir
- < 1 consultation per person per year reported during the month (as compared to OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person per year)

KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – March 2021

- 130 Health Cluster partners
- 3.15 million people in need of health care

Funding gaps

US\$ 8.3 million Required for WHO's health emergency programme in 2021

HIGHLIGHTS.

- **OUTBREAK ALERTS:** 211 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases were reported through the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) system in April 2021. The three main alerts were for suspected Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera (57%), suspected measles (15%) and malaria (28%) - with most cases located in drought- and flood-affected districts.
- **COVID-19:** In April 2021, there were **2629** laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Somalia, centres. Overall, 615 patients were admitted in treatment centres across the country and 186 associated deaths were reported. Since the beginning of the outbreak in March 2020, a total of 2420 patients with COVID-19 were admitted in different treatment centres designated for COVID-19 in Somalia.
- **COVID-19 VACCINE:** In April 2021, a total of **80 838** people received the first dose of vaccine against COVID-19 in Somalia. These doses are part of the first phase of the vaccination campaign targeting high-risk priority groups, including frontline health workers, teachers, police, people above 50 years old and people with medical conditions.

Coordination

In April 2021, a coordination meeting led by the Federal Ministry of Health and Human Services and WHO discussed the current COVID-19 situation and urgent humanitarian issues, including drought response needs, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) guidelines, conflict-related displacement and other ongoing public health events.

Health cluster coordination meetings

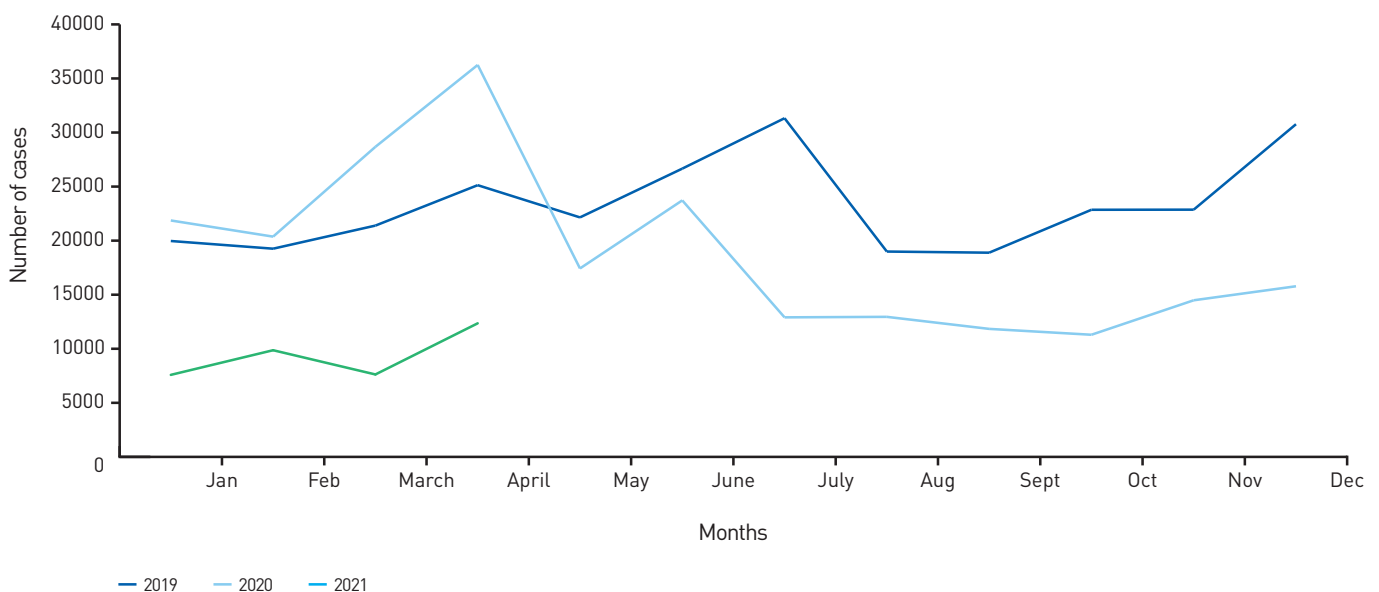
- **Sexual violence:** During the national health cluster coordination meeting, guidelines for the clinical management of victims of rape and GBV were discussed. Gaps identified during this meeting included the under-reporting of GBV and rape cases due to the culture of silence on this issue.
- **Flood updates:** Heavy *Gu* rains occurred in some parts of Somalia, especially in the coastal areas and districts located in the basins of rivers Jubba and Shabelle. Flash floods were reported in the districts located along River Juba and River Shabelle. According to the weather forecast by Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), the heavy rains are expected to continue until June. The flash floods along rivers lead to displacement of people and the contamination of water sources, which directly contribute to outbreaks of cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases.

Acute Diarrhoea, Acute Watery Diarrhoea/cholera

In April 2021, a total of 12 354 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease were reported from drought-affected districts through the EWARN. The districts Merka (1282), Daynile (2119), Baidoa (1350), Heliwaa (966) and Beletweyne (930) reported more than 900 cases. The number of cases in April 2021 is approximately two times lower than in April 2020 (23 763). This reduction is attributed to improved access to safe water among communities in these districts.

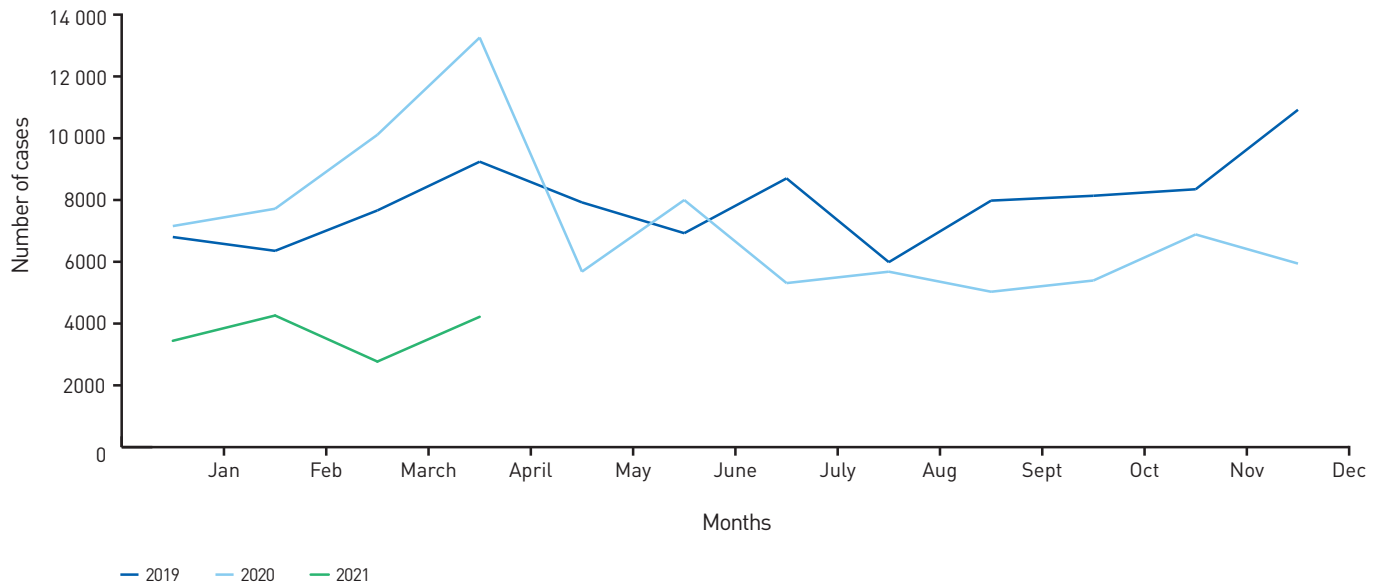
The heavy *Gu* rains that affected Adale district led to flash floods contaminating water sources especially among villages on the banks of the flooded River Shabelle. A total of 101 cholera cases and 3 deaths (CFR 2.9%) were reported from Adale district in Hirshabelle state. Out of the 101 cases, 53 (52.5%) were female, 48 (47.5%) were male and 57 (56%) of these cases were children below 5 years. Out of 10 stool samples collected, nine tested positive for *Vibrio Cholerae* serotype Ogawa. Since January 2021, 299 stool samples have been tested, of which 92 were positive for *V. Cholerae* serotype Ogawa. WHO, Health and WASH cluster partners are implementing response activities to contain the outbreak.

Fig.1. Acute diarrhoea cases reported to EWARN, Somalia, 2019-2021



Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) are the two most frequent causes of morbidity reported from the EWARN. In April 2021, the EWARN recorded 4219 SARI cases from the reporting health facilities across the country. This is three times less than the number reported in April 2020 (13 258). The majority of the cases of SARI reported from the flood- and drought-affected districts include Adado (810), Beletweyne (751), Buloburte (252) and Galkayo (370).

Fig.2. SARI/ILI cases reported through EWARN, Somalia, 2019-2021

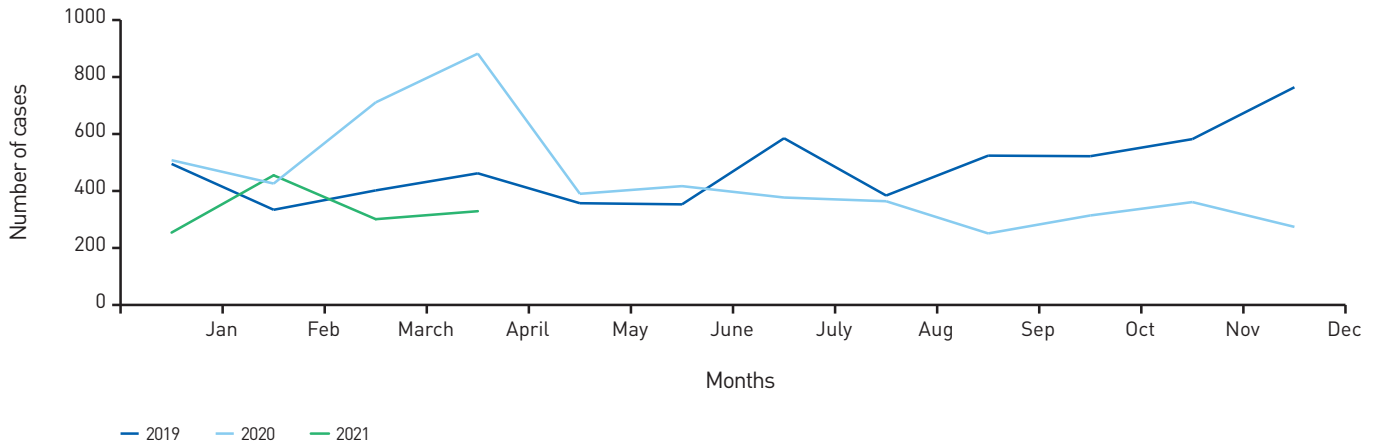


Rapid response teams attending a training on COVID-19 in Hargeisa, 25 April 2021 © WHO

Suspected measles cases

As a result of the mass measles vaccination campaign conducted in Somalia in 2020, there has been a continued decrease in the trend of suspected measles cases reported through the EWARN in recent months. In April 2021, a total of 329 suspected cases of measles were reported mainly from Baidoa (66 cases), Heliwa (46 cases), Jowhar (36) and Daynile (66 cases), which represents a 50% decrease when compared to the number of reported cases in April 2020 (2967 cases).

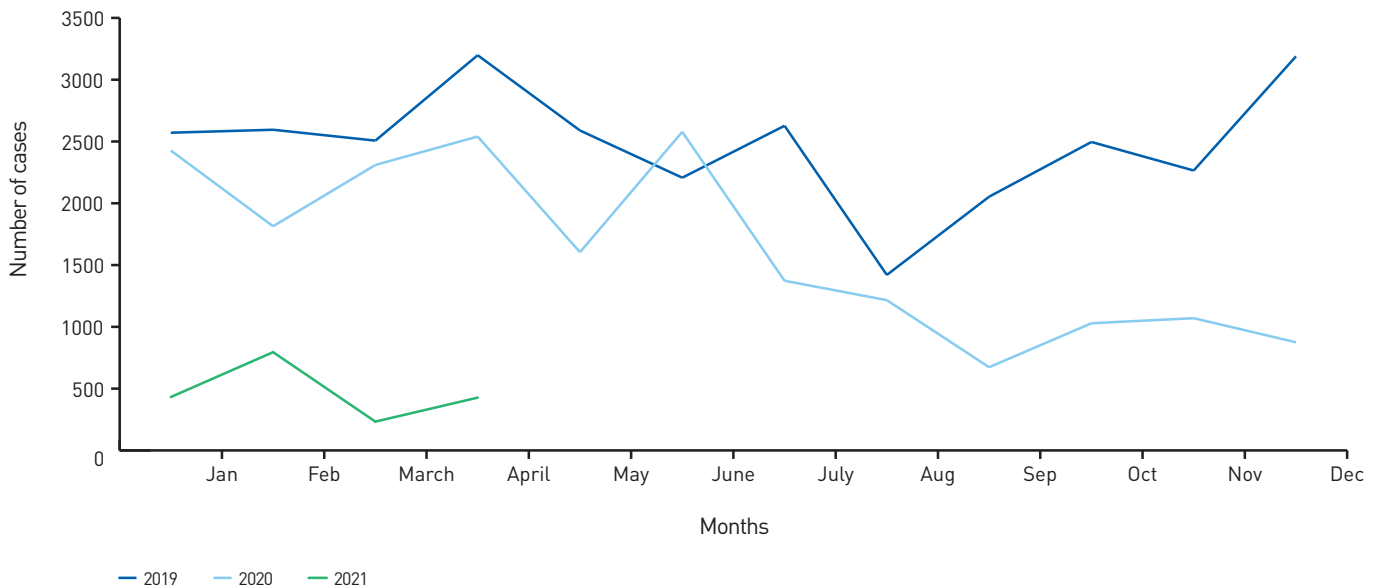
Fig.3. Suspected measles cases reported through EWARN, Somalia, 2019-2021



Suspected malaria cases

The burden of malaria in Somalia is considered a major public health issue. The dominant malaria species in the country is the Plasmodium falciparum, accounting for more than 95% of cases. However, an increased number of Plasmodium Vivax cases have been reported from Somaliland and Puntland. The most vulnerable population to malaria are children under five years and pregnant women. In April 2021, 427 suspected malaria cases were reported through the EWARN, half of which came from the drought-and flood-affected districts of Baidoa (148), Berdale (86). Reported cases in April 2021 are six times lower than those reported same period in April 2020. This reduction is attributed to the implementation of Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in households and the distribution of Long-Lasting Insecticide Treated Mosquito Nets (LLINT) in high-risk districts.

Fig.4. Suspected malaria cases reported through EWARN, Somalia, 2020-2021



Other emergency updates and response operations

- A joint assessment conducted in April 2021 by health cluster partners and the Ministry of Health indicated that 7656 individuals from 1276 households, mainly women and children have been displaced from Bacadwene village in Hoby district due to insecurity. These people are currently living in Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) camps in Galkayo and Abudwaq districts. An estimated 42 102 individuals from 7017 households from 19 villages in Berdale district were also displaced by armed conflict. Of the displaced people in Berdale, 8% are currently living in IDP camps in Baidoa. According to the findings of the rapid inter-agency assessment report, displaced people are living in deplorable conditions where access to basic services including health, shelter, food, safe water and hygiene is limited.
- As part of WHO-supported response activities under the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) project, Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) reached 4427 displaced people in April 2021, of which 1635 (40%) were children under five years (685 boys and 950 girls) and 1567 were women. The RRTs provided health education, hygiene promotion and conducted screening for acute malnutrition in Hudur district, Southwest state.



Partners marking World Malaria Day, Bosaso, Puntland, 2021. © WHO

Nutrition update

- WHO provides support to state health ministries with regard to management of cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications in the drought-flood-and conflict-affected districts in Somalia. This is done through technical support, training, and the provision of supplies to nutritional stabilization centers in the country, including the distribution of SAM kits to the state health ministries on a quarterly basis.
- In April 2021, there were 1510 new admissions of SAM cases with medical complications to 30 stabilization centres in Somalia (three in Banadir region, eight in Jubaland, six in Galmudug, six in Puntland, five in Southwest and two in Hirshabelle). During this month, there were 1034 (95%) recoveries, 23 (2.1%) defaulters, 16 (1.5%) medical referrals and 17 (1.5%) deaths reported.



In April 2021, a mission from WHO, including the WHO Representative to Somalia, Dr Mamunur Malik, visited the Gambol Health Centre, which is a COVAX vaccination site, in Garowe, April 2021 © WHO

Trauma cases monitoring

- As the country is experiencing different types of emergencies, including conflict, WHO is closely monitoring the number of people affected by these conflicts in the country and responding accordingly. In April 2021, a total of 4953 injuries were reported from the health facilities through DHIS2, which represents a 12% increase as compared to the same period (4362) injuries in April 2020.
- WHO provides quarterly distributions of emergency medical supplies to support the management of patients with different forms of injuries. In April 2021, WHO donated essential medical supplies which will support treatment of approximately 8800 patients. The supplies that were distributed to Banadir region, Galmudug, Southwest, Jubaland and shabelle states included three trauma kits, 78 boxes of interagency emergency health kits and one surgical kit.



Commemorating World Malaria Day 2021 in Bosaso, Puntland
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Participants at a workshop on COVID-19 Response, Hargeisa © WHO

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Our weekly and monthly information products

Weekly cholera infographic:

- <http://www.emro.who.int/somalia/information-resources/acute-watery-diarrhoeacholera-situation-reports.html>

Monthly COVID-19 reports:

- <http://www.emro.who.int/countries/somalia/index.html>
- COVID-19 Dashboard-Somalia



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