

January 2022

# Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



Supportive supervision ongoing in health care facilities in South West state to monitor health response, January 2022 @WHO

## KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – DECEMBER 2021

130 Health cluster partners  
6.5 million People in need of health care

## HEALTH NEEDS AND PROVISION

- 6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia
- 4.3 million people in 66 districts are affected by severe drought; 271 000 have been displaced from their homes
- Fewer than 1 consultation per person per year reported during the month (as compared to the OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person/year)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 1833 community health workers deployed in 71 districts which also includes 66 drought-affected districts
- 22 216 people reached with key messages for disease prevention
- 139 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases detected by the community health workers, of which 28% alerts were verified as true after investigation.
- 1124 cases of severe acute malnutrition with complications treated in stabilization centres supported by the World Health Organization (WHO)
- 4 787 cases of trauma treated
- 18 severe acute malnutrition kits donated to Somaliland, Puntland and Federal Ministry of Health (MOH). Supplies will be further distributed to the stabilization centres in the drought-affected districts and expected to treat 2700 children with severe acute malnutrition

## Coordination meetings

- The Ministry of Health (MOH) of the South West state convened a coordination meeting with health cluster partners to discuss the implementation of drought response activities; response to drought-related epidemic-prone diseases, particularly acute diarrhoea and measles; and increasing the demand for the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccination in the state.
- The health cluster partners in Puntland state convened a meeting to review the trends of epidemic-prone diseases in drought-affected districts and the COVID-19 response. Key action points from the meeting included: health cluster partners to update mapping of their preparedness and response capacities in drought-affected districts; partners to share drought response plans with the MOH; and stakeholders to strengthen the coordination of drought response activities.
- The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene department of the Federal Ministry of Health, WHO and partners convened a country consultative meeting to review the implementation of WASH activities in drought-affected districts of Somalia. The team discussed about the need to scale up of WASH implementation in the health facilities in these districts. Participants resolved to include all relevant sectors in the planned assessment of WASH activities in health facilities. WHO and partners committed to scaling up WASH activities in the health care facilities, particularly in drought-affected districts. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), technical officers from the Federal MOH, Federal Ministry of Water, Ministry of Education, National Bureau of Statistics and state-based technical staff also attended the meeting.

## Research conference

- WHO supported the Somalia National Institute of Health (NIH) to convene the first ever public health research conference in Garowe. In total, 200 people participated from the Federal and State MOH, local and international universities, the health cluster, UN agencies and other key partners. During the conference, 51 research abstracts and findings were presented on six themes: health systems; health research production and dissemination; reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health; communicable diseases; noncommunicable diseases; and research training and capacity building. In the plenary sessions, the following topics were discussed: strengthening pharmacovigilance and drug regulation; human resource capacity building and motivation; improving access to health care for women, mitigation of medical complications of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); improving access to maternal and child health services through the engagement of community-based midwives to improve access to maternal health services in rural areas; mechanisms to address the high burden of Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Somalia; deployment of CHWs to enhance the timely detection of epidemic-prone diseases; and exploring the linkages between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the health system in Somalia. As a key milestone, a scientific peer-reviewed journal the Somali Health Action Journal (SHAJ) was launched during the conference.



Dr Mamunur Rahman Malik, WHO Representative to Somalia, in discussion with HE Per Lindgarde, Ambassador of Sweden to Somalia. © WHO/Mukhtar

### Community-based surveillance

- WHO supported the state ministries of health to deploy CHWs in drought-affected districts. A total of 333 (18%) of the 1833 CHWs submitted reports for community event-based surveillance in 71 drought-affected districts in January 2022. CHWs visited 9447 households and reached 22 216 people with key health messages for the prevention of COVID-19 and epidemic-prone diseases in their communities. Additionally, 139 alerts were reported to the district-based rapid response teams (RRTs). A total of 70 new contacts of COVID-19 confirmed cases were identified and 110 (57%) contacts of positive cases of COVID-19 were followed up for symptoms suggestive of COVID-19. In general, 1201 contacts were dropped from follow up after completing 14 days without development of symptoms.



Somali communities relocating due to drought face health threats as they move, Jalalaqsi, Hirshabelle state, January 2022 © WHO

### Drought response activities

- WHO has scaled up its emergency response operations in the drought-affected states of Somalia (Jubaland, Hirshabelle, Galmudug, Puntland, Somaliland, and South West state) to provide life-saving primary health care services with support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). An estimated 280 811 people affected by the drought received key health messages on hygiene, disease prevention, and proper health care-seeking behaviour practices. A total of 1105 health care workers have gained skills on the management of severe acute malnutrition cases with medical complications, water quality testing, risk communication, and laboratory sample handling.
- The Government of Somaliland conducted a rapid assessment in the drought affected areas and identified to have severe shortage of water and pasture (Togdheer, Sool, Sanag in Eastern region and Hawd of Marodijeeh region). In Guban district, particularly along the coastal and sub-coastal areas of Awdal and Sahil regions, communities are facing severe shortages of water, pasture and food. This has resulted in an increase in food prices while the livestock value in the market has plummeted. It is predicted that the situation will further deteriorate during the coming months of 2022.

### Installation of oxygen plants in Mogadishu

- WHO provided technical support for delivery and installation of the Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plant at the De Martino Hospital in Mogadishu that will provide oxygen to complicated cases of COVID-19, children with severe pneumonia and other patients requiring oxygen. WHO's biomedical engineer conducted on-the-job capacity development for the local engineer and technicians to manage and operate the oxygen plant. In addition, a solar-powered oxygen plant at the Hanano Hospital was repaired, and oxygen supply was installed to support children with severe acute pneumonia and other patients in need of oxygen therapy.

### Investigation and response to alerts of epidemic-prone diseases

- WHO supported state-based rapid response teams to investigate and verify alerts of epidemic-prone diseases. In the South West state, RRTs conducted field visits in Baidoa, Marka, Afgoye and Qoryoley districts to investigate alerts of cholera. The team reviewed surveillance records and recorded 155 suspected cases in a standard line list. The team also collected 6 stool samples, all of which tested negative for *Vibrio cholera* at the National Public Health Laboratory in Mogadishu. The team also investigated 17 suspected measles cases in Hudur district of South West. The team collected 10 suspected measles samples out of that 7 tested positive for measles specific Immunoglobulin M (IgM) in the National Public Health Laboratory in Mogadishu.



- During the month, 252 suspected measles cases were reported in the Early Warning and Response Network (EWARN) from the SOS and Banadir Hospitals. Of these cases, 83 samples were collected and investigated, and 52 samples tested positive for Measles IGM+. In response, WHO donated 2000 pieces of sample collection kits to the National Public Reference Laboratory.

## Response to conflict in Puntland and Hirshabelle state

- An event of armed conflict was reported in Bossaso in November 2021, in which 1261 people were injured, while 1749 people were displaced from their homes. The injured people were admitted to the Bossaso Hospital. WHO provided essential medical supplies to treat 126 severe injury cases. In Hirshabelle state, 2500 people were displaced from Mahaday district due to armed conflict, 27 of whom were injured and are currently receiving treatment at the Jowhar General Hospital. Cluster partners provided relief items in the form of food, shelter and health care services to the communities displaced by conflict. WHO coordinated the response activities, which included case management; and supported the provision of health services to the sick, and the vulnerable, such as pregnant women and children and internally displaced persons.

## Supportive supervision and monitoring of emergency health services

### Capacity building for influenza surveillance

- The Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) with support of WHO Somalia, conducted a virtual training for two frontline health workers — one data manager and two laboratory technicians — on submitting epidemiological and virologic data for influenza using the revised online Eastern Mediterranean Flu (EMFLU) reporting tool. During the workshop, the team conducted a data quality audit for influenza-like illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI), with support from the data manager in regional office.

### Capacity building for mass casualty management

- WHO conducted a virtual capacity development session for 30 doctors and nurses on the provision of oxygen therapy to patients in critical care and use of oxygen delivery supportive devices. Additionally, mass casualty management plans were launched for four major hospitals —the Baidoa Regional Hospital in South West state, Garowe Regional Hospital in Puntland state, Hanano Regional Hospital in Galmudug State, and Beledweyn Regional Hospital in Hirshabelle state.

## Nutrition update

- WHO supported the Federal MOH in the management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases with medical complications in the districts affected by drought, floods, and conflict in Somalia. This in the form of technical support, capacity development, and the provision of supplies to 53 WHO supported nutritional stabilization centres across the country. These supplies include SAM kits, distributed to the state health ministries on a quarterly basis. In January 2022, 31 (74%) stabilization facilities from all states submitted monthly reports.
- A total of 1550 new SAM cases with medical complications were admitted to 31 stabilization centres in Somalia (three in the Banadir region, six in Puntland, nine in Jubaland, six in Galmudug, two in Hirshabelle, and five in the South West state). Overall, 1124 (88.2%) recoveries, 33 (2.6%) defaulters, 69 (5.4%) medical referrals, and 39 (3%) deaths were reported during December 2021.
- Eighteen severe acute malnutrition kits were handed over to the Somaliland, Puntland and Federal Ministries of Health. Supplies will be further distributed to stabilization centres in the drought- affected districts which is expected to treat 2700 children with severe acute malnutrition cases.



Communities fleeing homes due to drought settling in IDP camps in Jalalaqsi, Hirshabelle state © WHO

## Trauma case monitoring and critical care

- As the country is experiencing different types of emergencies, including conflict, WHO is closely monitoring the number of people affected by these events in the country and responding accordingly. In January 2022, 4787 trauma-related injuries were reported from the health facilities in all states through the District Health Information System (DHIS-2). Of these, the majority (71%) were non-weapon-related injuries, which included burns and road accidents. These injuries represent a 2.5% increase (123) compared to 4664 injuries reported during the same period in January 2021. The reported cases of injuries were managed in different hospitals in all states. The most affected districts are Afgoye (576 cases), Baidoa (1024 cases) and Wartanabada (326 cases).



Populations have had to flee their homes due to the ongoing drought, Beletweyne, Hirshabelle state, January 2022 © WHO



A family sets up their home in an IDP camp in Beletweyne, Hirshabelle state, January 2022 © WHO

### Contacts

Dr Mirza Mashrur Ahmed, [ahmedmi@who.int](mailto:ahmedmi@who.int)  
Ms Fouzia Bano, Communications Officer [Banof@who.int](mailto:Banof@who.int)  
Mr Kyle Defreitas, External Relations Officer [defreitask@who.int](mailto:defreitask@who.int)  
Dr Omar Omar, Information Management Officer [oomar@who.int](mailto:oomar@who.int)

### Our weekly and monthly information products

#### Weekly Cholera infographic:

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

#### Monthly Reports:

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



@WHO Somalia



@WHOSom



somaliawho