

November  
& December  
2020

# Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



## KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – October 2020

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

## HEALTH NEEDS AND PROVISION

- 2.4 million people internally displaced of which 1.8 million require humanitarian assistance
- 681 000 drought-affected people in six states and Banadir in October 2020
- 1 consultations per person per year (as compared to OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person per year)

## DISEASE BURDEN INDICATORS

- 1460 alerts of epidemic prone diseases detected by 696 health facilities registered with EWARN in November and December 2020
- MCV1 coverage rate of 72% (37292 out of 51 688 infants under the age of 1) as of December 2020
- OPV-3 coverage rate of 77% (39 843 out of 51 688 infants under the age of 1 year) as of December 2020

## FUNDING (US\$)

8.3 million Required for WHO's health emergency programme in 2020

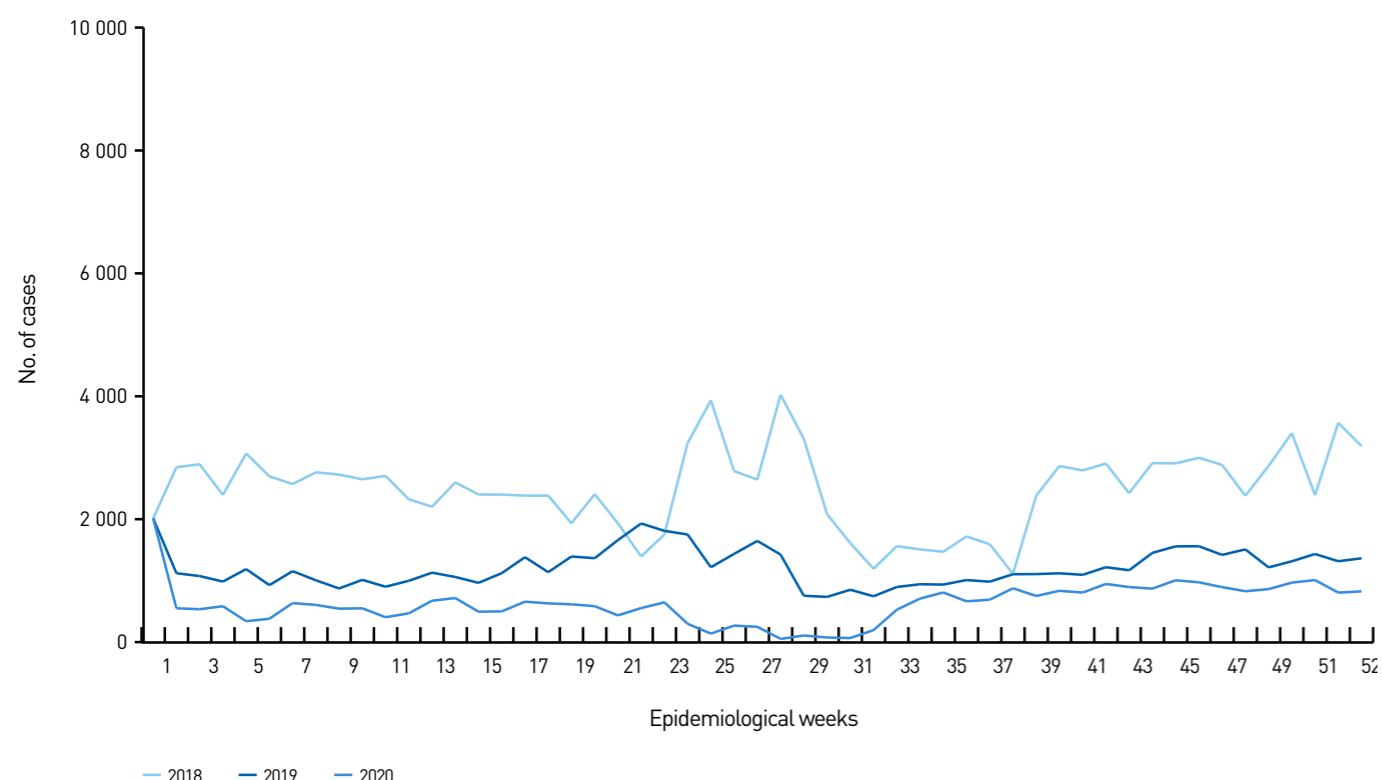
## HIGHLIGHTS.

- **ALERTS:** 2487 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases were reported through the EWARN system in November and December 2020. The top three leading alerts were for suspected AWD/cholera (60%), suspected measles (30%) and malaria (10%) - with most cases located in drought and flood affected districts
- **COVID-19:** In November and December 2020, the MoH with support from WHO tested 40 698 suspected cases of COVID-19, of which 626 cases were laboratory-confirmed. There were also 432 recoveries and 26 deaths associated with the virus. Since the onset of the outbreak in Somalia, there have been 5151 laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 145 associated deaths. The median age amongst confirmed cases is 33 years and 76% of the cases have been male.
- **OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES:** WHO has continued to support the Ministry of Health in delivering emergency health services to hard-to-reach communities and IDP populations in Hudur district through outreach activities. In November and December 2020, approximately 2700 patients benefited from life-saving primary health care services

## Disease surveillance update

- In November and December 2020, the EWARN system reported the following:
  - 2487 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases, with the top three leading alerts being for suspected AWD/ cholera (60%), suspected measles (30%) and malaria (10%)
  - 528 cases of AWD/cholera, representing a 143% decrease as compared to same periods in 2019 (893 cases)
  - 28 002 cases of acute diarrhoea, which represents a 49% decrease as compared to same periods in 2019 (33 591 cases)
  - 608 cases of measles, representing a 94% decrease as compared to same period in 2019 (918 cases)
  - 1880 cases of malaria, which constitutes a 128% decrease as compared to November 2019 (4279 cases)

Fig. 1. Trends of acute diarrhoea cases in Somalia, 2018, 2019 and 2020



## WHO emergency health activities

- **SARI and Influenza-like illness surveillance:** a sentinel- based surveillance system for severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) and influenza-like illness (ILI) was established in the country to strengthen and monitor the SARI and ILI as well as COVID-19 in hospitals.
- **Measles:** In November 2020, a total of 37 suspected cases of measles were reported in Elbon village, in the outskirts of Luuq town in Gedo region. In response to this, an investigation team from the Jubaland Ministry of Health, Trocaire and WHO was sent to the affected site. The teams explored ways of obtaining information about the affected communities to facilitate interventions, as the district is inaccessible.
- **Cyclone Gati:** In November 2020, Tropical Cyclone Gati hit the coastal areas of Somaliland and Puntland. Following heavy rain and storms, flash floods and landfall affected many areas in the coastal region. According to UN-OCHA, an estimated 180 000 people were affected with over 42 000 people displaced from their homes and 3800 shelters were damaged.

## Response operations to COVID-19

### Coordination

COVID-19 related coordination meetings which include national and state health cluster meetings, inter-cluster coordination meetings and UN task force technical meetings, were held during the reporting week. These meetings involved ministries of health, UN agencies and partners at different administrative levels. In November and December, the coordination meetings focused in particular on the following:

- Preparations for COVID-19 sero-surveillance survey
- Improving response activities, in particular strengthening data collection, analysis and reporting; improving alert notification, investigation and contact tracing activities
- Ensuring adequate response to the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in certain districts, including through the scaling up of surveillance and setting of priorities for the community rapid response teams

### Surveillance and laboratory

- In November and December 2020, the MoH with support from WHO tested 40 698 suspected cases of COVID-19, 626 of which were laboratory-confirmed. There were also 432 recoveries and 26 deaths associated with the virus. The median age amongst confirmed cases, reported till date, is 34 years and 75% of the cases have been male.
- In November and December 2020, with the support of WHO:
  - 190 alerts for COVID-19 were investigated
  - 12 oxygen concentrators were distributed to federal member states
  - 40 710 suspected cases of COVID-19 were investigated by the district rapid response teams
  - 3327 community health workers were deployed for case finding and contact tracing
  - 94 samples from suspected cases of COVID-19 were shipped and transported from inaccessible areas
  - 96 health care workers were trained on surveillance, case management and risk communication
  - 15 isolation centres were supported for patient care
  - 73 rapid response teams were deployed for case investigation and sample collection

### Case management

- In November and December 2020, 38 patients were admitted in isolation facilities in Somalia, and 432 recoveries and 26 deaths were recorded. Since the beginning of the outbreak a total of 795 patients with COVID-19 were admitted in different isolation centres in Somalia. It is important to note that most suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 self-isolate at home rather than go to designated isolation facilities.

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Community health workers have continued to provide key messages to the community focusing on COVID-19 transmission, prevention and testing in order to limit the spread of the outbreak. In November and December, the teams reached out to 915 008 households (3 928 964 people) in order to share COVID-19 awareness messages through house-to-house visits as well as group communication.



A WHO staff surveys the damage from Cyclone Gati

## Emergency medical supplies

- In November 2020, WHO provided 10 tonnes of emergency medical supplies to the MoH in Puntland, Jubaland and South West state. The supplies aim to facilitate their response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and include oxygen concentrators, personal protective equipment, interagency emergency health kits, as well as kits for cholera, trauma, surgery, sample collection and testing.
- In December 2020, WHO delivered personal protective equipment, including 15 000 face masks and 15 000 pairs of gloves, to the authorities in Somaliland in order to support COVID-19 preventive measures during the upcoming election.

## Nutrition updates

- WHO provides support to state health ministries with regards to cases of severe acute malnutrition with medical complications in the drought, flood and conflict affected districts in Somalia. This is done notably 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 November and December 2020, there were 2120 new admissions to 31 stabilization centres (3 SC in Banadir region, 9 SC in Jubaland, 6 SC in Galmudug, 10 SC in Puntland and 3 SC in Hirshabelle). In total, 34 (2%) deaths, 1742 (93%) cures, 88 (5%) defaulters, 19 (1%) medical referrals and 1882 (85.5 %) total discharges were reported. The overall completeness of reporting was 58.5% (31 out of 53).

## Monitoring of trauma cases

- As the country is experiencing different emergencies including conflict, WHO is closely monitoring the number of people affected by these conflicts in the country and responding accordingly. In November and December, a total of 9 525 injuries were reported from the health facilities reporting through DHIS2, this implies 1 882 (19.8%) increase comparing to 7643 injuries reported same period in 2019. In 2020, a total of 55 216 injuries were reported from Health facilities through DHIS2.
- WHO provides quarterly distributions of emergency medical supplies, including Trauma Kit A and B, IEHK, surgical kits and infusions. In November and December 2020, WHO distributed 22 Trauma Kit A and B, 24 IEHK Kits and 7 Surgical kits which can support the management of 107 900 patients over a period of three months.

## Contacts

Dr Mary Joan Karanja, [karanjam@who.int](mailto:karanjam@who.int)  
Dr Mutaawe Lubogo, [mutaawea@who.int](mailto:mutaawea@who.int)  
Mr Kyle Defreitas, External Relations Officer [defreitask@who.int](mailto:defreitask@who.int)  
Ms Fouzia Bano, Communications Office [Banof@who.int](mailto:Banof@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