

September 2020

Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



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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 September 2020
- 0.49 consultations per person per year (as compared to OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person per year)

DISEASE BURDEN INDICATORS

- 784 alerts of epidemic prone diseases detected by 696 health facilities registered with EWARN in September 2020
- MCV1 coverage rate of 73% (37,732 out of 51,688 infants under the age of 1) as of 2020
- OPV-3 coverage rate of 77% (39,800 out of 51,688 infants under the age of 1 year) as of September 2020

FUNDING (US\$)

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

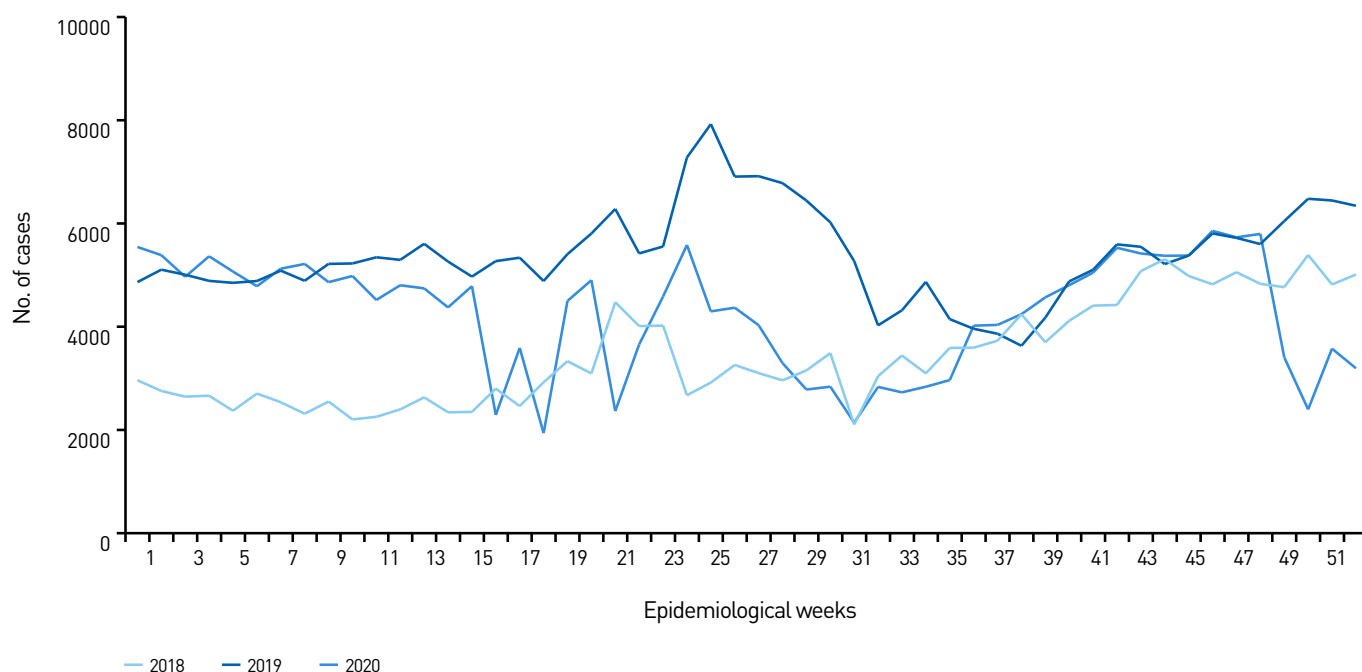
HIGHLIGHTS.

- **ALERTS:** 784 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases were reported through the EWARN system in September 2020. The top three leading alerts were for malaria (38%), suspected AWD/ cholera (13%) and measles (49%) – with most cases located in the drought and flood affected districts.
- **COVID-19:** In September 2020, the MoH with support from WHO tested 11 046 suspected cases of COVID-19 and recorded 96 recoveries and 2 deaths associated with the virus. Since the onset of the outbreak in Somalia, there have been 4074 laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 100 associated deaths. The median age amongst confirmed cases is 32 years and 74% of the cases have been male.
- **Measles and polio campaign:** An integrated measles and polio campaign in 17 districts of Banadir region took place from 30 August to 3 September 2020, vaccinating over 400 000 children from 6 months to 5 years.

Disease surveillance update

- In September 2020, the EWARN system reported the following:
 - 784 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases, with the top three leading alerts being for malaria (38%), suspected AWD/cholera (13%) and measles (49%)
 - 250 cases of AWD/cholera, representing a 49% increase as compared to September 2019 (127 cases)
 - 11 048 cases of acute diarrhoea, which represents a 51% decrease as compared to September 2019 (16 865 cases)
 - 228 cases of measles, representing a 66% decrease as compared to September 2019 (448 cases)
 - 656 cases of malaria, which constitutes a 180% decrease as compared to August 2019 (1838 cases)

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



WHO emergency health activities

- An integrated measles and polio campaign was conducted in 17 districts of Banadir region from 30 August to 3 September 2020. By the end of the campaign, 407 956 (92%) children from 6 months to 5 years had received the measles vaccine, 459 456 (93%) children under 5 years of age had received the polio vaccine. 92% of the children targeted also received vitamin A capsules and deworming tablets. 224 District Field Assistants (DFAs) supervised more than 3000 vaccinators in the field. The MoH, UNICEF and WHO monitored the vaccination campaign. The vaccinators and supervisors ensured the strict implementation of health safety measures during the campaign implementation.
- Preparations are ongoing to conduct a monovalent type 2 oral polio vaccination campaign which will cover 62 districts of the south and central part of Somalia. Approximately 1.65 million children under the age of 5 years will be targeted for this campaign. In total, 8951 volunteers and 1125 field supervisors will be deployed during the campaign to perform the house-to-house vaccinations under strict COVID-19 preventive measures. All teams, including DFAs and monitors, have been trained. The prepositioning of the vaccines, finger markers, PPEs and other supplies is ongoing.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to facilitate dedicated cargo airlifts on behalf of the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), WHO and key health partners upon request. As of September, over 140 MT of COVID-19 related cargo has been transported to Dhusamareeb, Kismayo, Baidoa, Jowar, Hargeisa, Beletweyne, Garowe, Guriel and Barawe.
- As result of recurrent floods and droughts, Somalia has experienced outbreaks of AWD/cholera. In response to this, WHO has trained 54 (30 male and 24 female) health care workers from federal member states on water quality surveillance thanks to funding from CERF.

Response operations to COVID-19

Coordination

- During the reporting period, weekly coordination meetings related to the COVID-19 response took place at national, state, regional and district levels between the ministries of health, UN agencies and health partners. These have included national and state level health cluster meetings, inter cluster coordination meetings and the UN task force technical meetings.
- At the state level, a topic of focus has been the collection of samples from 'silent' districts and the need to improve and strengthen sample collection, contact tracing and follow up. The need to scale up household visits and improve ODK reporting rates were also regularly discussed.
- The WHO and MOH Emergency teams had a number of meetings in order to agree on how to improve the surveillance and testing all suspected cases. They also exchanged on how to improve the capacity of the laboratories in terms of training and supplies.

Surveillance and laboratory

- In September 2020, the MoH with support from WHO tested 11 046 suspected cases of COVID-19 and reported 3 deaths associated with the virus. Since the onset of the outbreak in Somalia, there have been 4074 laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 100 associated deaths. The median age amongst confirmed cases is 32 years and 75% of the cases have been male.
- In September 2020:
 - 52 alerts of COVID-19 were notified by community health workers
 - 3339 suspected cases of COVID-19 were investigated by district rapid response teams
 - 3327 community health workers have been deployed for case finding and contact tracing

Case management

- In September 2020, 69 patients were admitted to isolation facilities in Somalia and 96 recoveries were recorded. Most suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 self-isolate at home rather than go to designated isolation facilities.
- Since the beginning of the outbreak, a total of 720 COVID-19 cases were admitted in isolation centres across the country, 2946 recoveries were documented, and 99 people died from COVID-19.
- In September 2020, WHO conducted a refresher training on infection prevention and control (IPC) measures for 17 doctors and nurses at De Martino hospital in Mogadishu.

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Community health workers have continued to provide key messages to the community focusing on COVID-19 prevention measures, testing and community engagement in limiting the spread of the outbreak.
- In September, the teams reached 2.2 million individuals in order to share COVID-19 awareness messages through house-to-house visits as well as through mass communication.

Emergency medical supplies

- In September 2020, WHO delivered 122 Personal Protective Equipment sets to isolation centers and hospitals providing essential health care services.

Nutrition updates

- WHO provides support to state health ministries with regards to cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications in the drought, flood and conflict affected districts in Somalia. This is done notably through capacity building and the provision of supplies to nutritional stabilization centers in the country.
- The total number of new admissions in September 2020 was 755 as reported from 31 stabilization centres (3 SC in Banadir region, 10 SC in Jubaland, 5 SC in Galmudug, 11 SC in Puntland and 2 SC in Hirshabelle). In September 2020, a total of 23 (3.4%) deaths, 609 (90%) cures, 45 (6.6%) defaulters, 11 (1.6%) medical referrals were reported by these nutritional centers.

- A nutrition training was conducted in Baidoa, Dhusomareb and Balatwein during the month of September 2020. A total of 79 health care workers (56 male, 23 female) selected from nutrition stabilization centers in Southwest, Galmudug and Hirshabelle were trained on case management of severe acute malnutrition with medical complications. Trainings were conducted over 5 days, including a one-day clinical session in Bay regional hospital, Hanano hospital and Hiran regional hospital.

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 September, there were 4995 injuries reported in DHIS2, which represents a 18.7% increase as compared to August 2020. Since the beginning of the year a total of 39 640 injuries have been reported through DHIS2.
- In September 2020, WHO distributed 15 Basic Integrated Emergency Health Kits in order to support the management of 15 000 severely injured patients for 3 months.



A child receiving measles vaccine in response to the outbreak in Kismayo , September 2020



An EU flight transports WHO supplies designated to flood affected IDPS in Beletweyen and Jowhar, September 2020

Contacts

Dr Mary Joan Karanja, karanjam@who.int
 Dr Mutaawe Lubogo, mutaawea@who.int
 Ms Fouzia Bano, Communications Office Banof@who.int
 Mr Kyle Defreitas, External Relations Officer defreitask@who.int
 Dr. Omar Omar, Information Management Officer 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



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