

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 drier rains than expected since 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 7.8 million in December 2022, with 1.3 million displaced from their homes in search of water, food, and pasture. Some 6.3 million people - 45 per cent of the population - are acutely food insecure. For the first time since 2017, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification has confirmed pockets of catastrophic food insecurity (Phase 5) affecting more than 322,010 people. An estimated 1.8 million children under 5 face acute malnutrition, including 515 550 who are severely malnourished. The current situation including the displacement has led to more people being vulnerable to epidemic prone diseases, particularly acute diarrheal disease, and measles.



SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

7.8 million people estimated to be affected by the current drought; 1.3 million have been internally displaced by drought and 50,000 have migrated to Ethiopia and Kenya¹.

Some **6.3 million** people - **37 per cent** of the population - are experiencing acute food insecurity.

45 per cent of children are facing acute malnutrition².

An estimated **7.8 million** people in the country require humanitarian assistance and protection.

Epidemiological weeks 04-05, 23/01/2022-05/02/2023



397
suspected cholera cases



5927
acute diarrhoeal disease cases



368
suspected measles cases



3440
SARI cases



895
confirmed cases of Malaria in December 2022

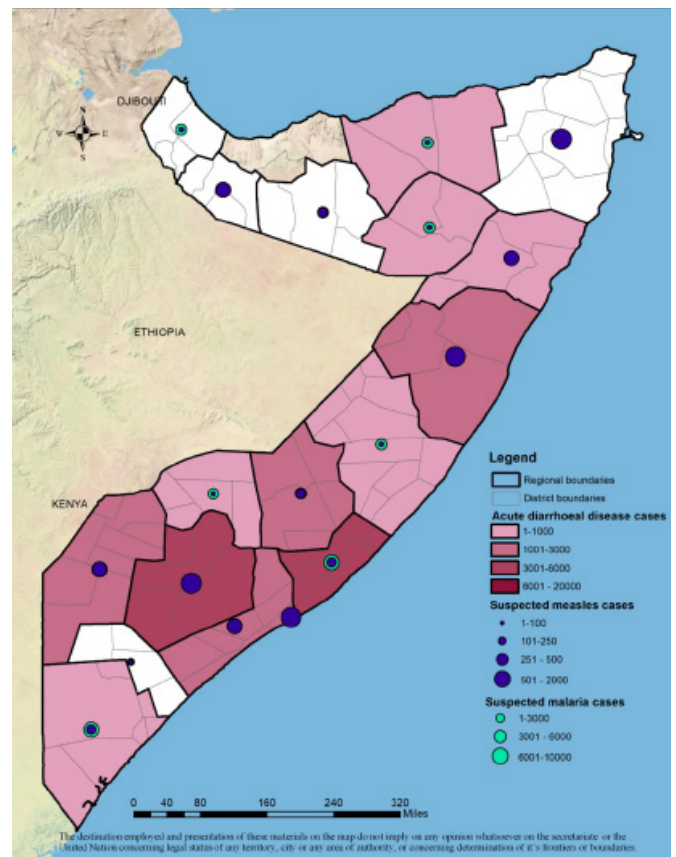


424
health facilities reporting through Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN)



2163
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 2023-Week 05 2023, 23 January 2022 to 05 February 2023)



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 districts.

1 Somalia: Drought Response and Famine Prevention (15 November - 15 December 2022) - Somalia | ReliefWeb
2 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Report -December 2022

CHOLERA IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

Recurrent cholera outbreaks have been reported in the drought-affected districts of Somalia since 2020/2022, with no interruption in transmission in Banadir region. The cholera outbreak in 2022 in which 15653 cases including 88 associated deaths in 26 drought affected districts were reported remained uninterrupted up to now. (Figure 1). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, a total of 1087 cases of suspected cholera and one death (Case Fatality Rate 0.1%) were reported in 26 drought affected districts of which 643 (59.1%) cases were children under 5, 533 (49%) were women and 472 (43.4%) were severe cases. In 2023, The regions reporting most of the cases are Lower Juba (386), Banadir (273) and Lower Shebelle (184). (see Table 1). However, the number of new cholera cases reported in Afmadow and Beletshawa district bordering Kenya and Kismayo have reduced significantly over the past two weeks. The reduction in cholera cases is attributed to implementation of health and WASH interventions in drought affected districts. In January 2023, 905,229 (90% of the target) people living in IDP camps received single dose of oral cholera vaccine in 10 drought affected districts. Of the 905,229 people vaccinated, 149,555 (16.5%) were aged 1-4 years, 300,712 (33.2%) aged 5-15 years while 454,962 (50.2%) were aged over 15 years.

Since January 2023, total of 397 stool samples were collected from suspected cases admitted in eight treatment facilities supported by WHO and analyzed in the national public health laboratory in Mogadishu, out of which 4 (1.0%) samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* O1 serotype Ogawa. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted showed that the *V. cholerae* serotypes isolate is sensitive to chloramphenicol and tetracycline but resistant to ampicillin and nalidixic acid.

ACUTE DIARRHOEAL DISEASES

The number of new acute diarrheal disease cases reported in the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) and from the communities in drought affected districts increased by two fold during the first five weeks of 2023 compared to the past two years. Over the past two weeks, the number of acute diarrheal cases decreased by 10% from 3122 cases in week 4 to 2805 in week 5 of 2023. The reduction in number of cases may be linked to scaling up of implementation of WASH interventions in drought affected districts. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 14,093 cases of acute diarrheal disease were reported of which 10,503 (74.5%) were children under five years of age. The regions reporting most of the cases are Banadir (3842), Bari (2417), and Lower Shabelle (1446) (Table 1). WHO conducts sentinel-based surveillance for rotavirus in Banadir region which is the most common case of acute diarrheal disease among children aged under 5 years worldwide. Of the 173 stool samples collected from three sentinel centers in Banadir region from children aged under 5 years in 2023, 49 (54.1%) were tested positive for rotavirus infections.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

The trends of cases of severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) increased in 2023 compared to the past two years. This increase may be attributed to increased displaced people who have poor shelter which resulted in people living in overcrowded conditions in camps (Figure 3). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 6932 cases of SARI were reported from drought affected.

Week 4-5 of 2023 (23 January-05-February-2023)

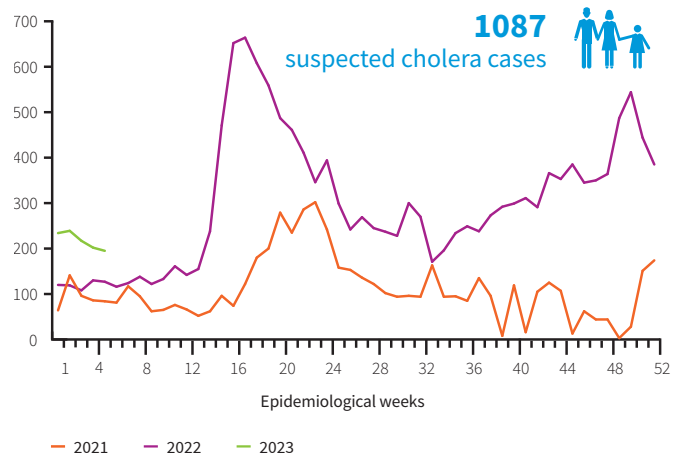


Figure 1. Trends of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 4-5 of 2023 (23 January-05-February-2023)

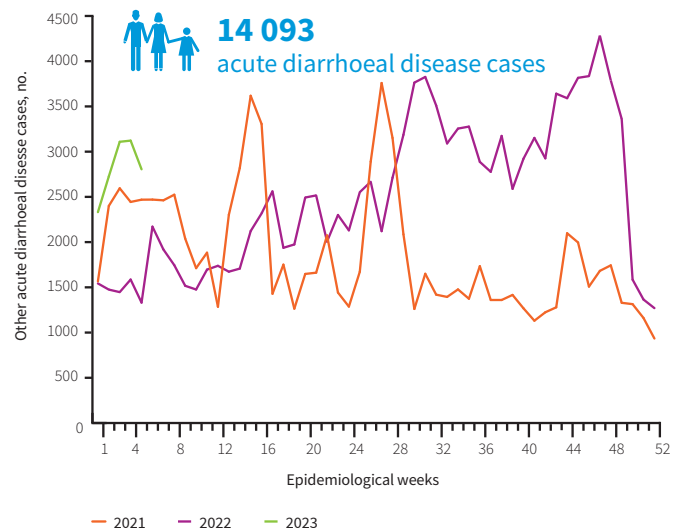


Figure 2. Trends of acute diarrhoeal disease cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 4-5 of 2023 (23 January-05-February-2023)

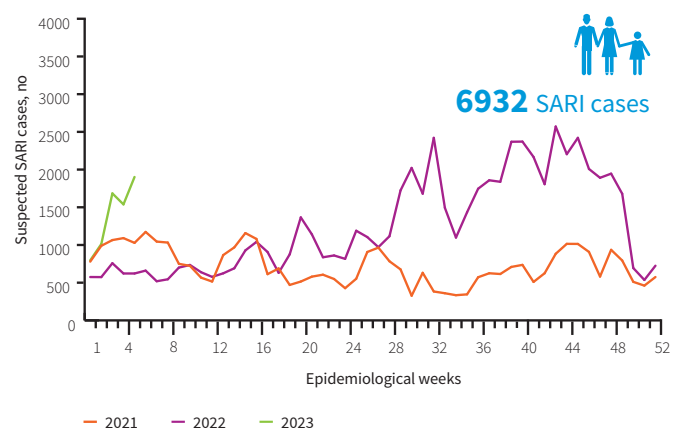


Figure 3. Trends of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) reported from drought affected.

affected districts of which 4800(69.2%) are children under five years. The regions reporting most of the cases are Galgaduud (2148), Banadir (1212), and South Mudug (630), (Table 1). WHO in collaboration with United States Center for Disease Control (US-CDC) and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework supports Ministry of Health to implement sentinel-based surveillance for Influenza in three sites-two located in Banadir region and one in Puntland.

In 2023, a total of 504 suspected cases of influenza were enrolled at three sentinel sites and were reported in the platform of Eastern Mediterranean Flu (EMFLU) network. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2023, 480 influenza cases were tested at the National Public Health Laboratory of which 4 (0.8%) were tested positive for influenza; 1 (25%) were positive for seasonal influenza A (H1N1); 1 (25%) were positive for influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 1(0.2%) were positive for influenza B Victoria Lineage.

MEASLES UPDATES

The number of suspected cases of measles reported in January 2023 decreased compared to the same period in 2022. This reduction in cases is linked to an increase in the number of children vaccinated mainly in IDP camps through integrated outreaches supported by WHO. (Figure 4). A total of 926 cases of measles were reported through the AFP/Polio surveillance system from week 1 to week 5 of 2023 of which 654(70.6%) are children under 5. The regions reporting most cases are Bay (341), Banadir (267) and Lower Shabelle (57).

MEASLES VACCINE UPDATES

A total of 596,737(91%) out of the targeted 658,035 children under one year received the first dose of measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) in drought-affected districts in 2022 according to data from district health information software 2 (DHIS2) (Figure 5)³. From 2019 to 2022, the measles vaccination coverage ranged between 80% and 91% per month compared to the national target of 95%.

MALARIA UPDATES

The number of laboratory-confirmed cases of malaria reported through DHIS2 has gradually decreased since January 2022 which might be linked to implementation of additional malaria control interventions in drought affected districts. However, the number of confirmed cases of malaria reported over the past two months have decreased by 38% from 1449 in November to 895 in December (Figure 6). Since epidemiological week 1 of 2022, a total of 336840 cases of suspected malaria have been reported of which 11550 (3.4%) have been confirmed positive by Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) and blood smear. Of the 1 1550 confirmed cases, 2970 (25.7%) are children under 5. Regions reporting most of the suspected malaria cases in 2022 are Banadir (39,659) Bay (29,544) and Mudug (27,978) (Table 1).

POLIO UPDATE

- A total of 27 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) were reported in January 2023, including 16 female cases and 11 male cases. Of the 27 AFP cases reported, 12 cases had stool samples collected and analysed in the laboratory while 15 AFP cases are pending laboratory

Week 4-5 of 2023 (23 January-05-February-2023)

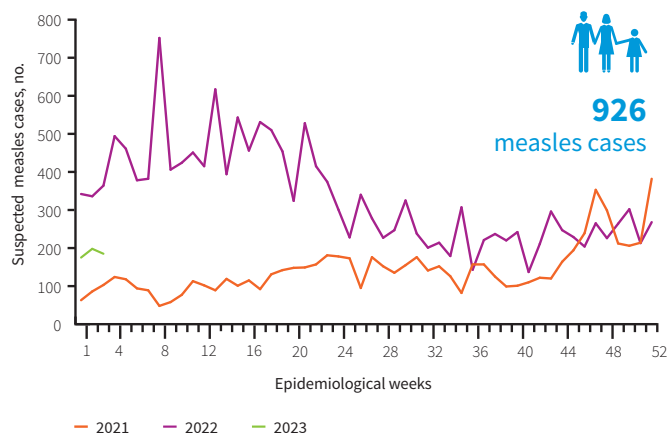


Figure 4. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected regions/districts of Somalia, 2021-2023

Week 4-5 of 2023 (23 January-05-February-2023)

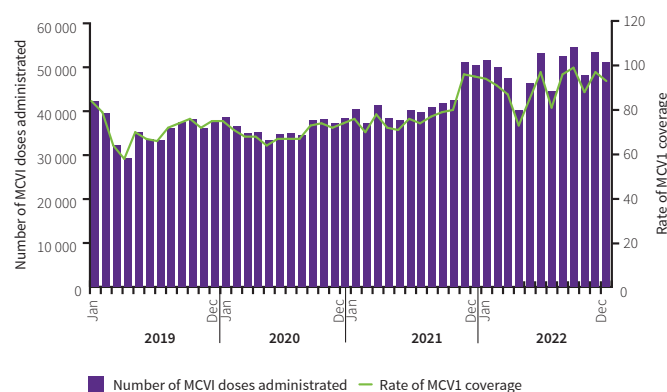


Figure 5. Number of children under 1 vaccinated against measles by month, 2019-2022

Week 4-5 of 2023 (23 January-05-February-2023)

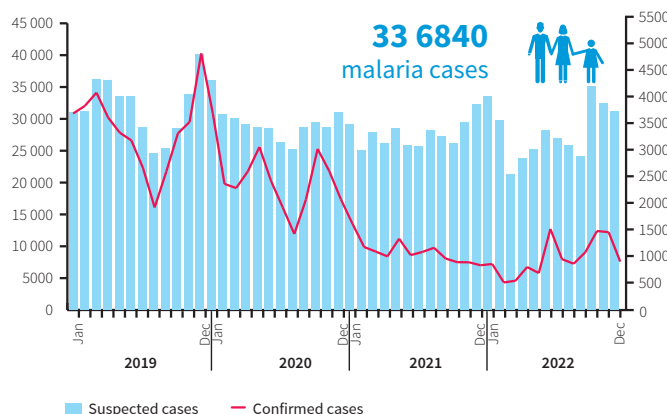


Figure 6. Trends of malaria cases reported in drought-affected regions, 2019-2022

- diagnosis. The 14 environment samples collected from different locations are also pending laboratory results
- In 2022, five circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases, four circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated from environmental samples (ES) while one vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) was isolated from an environmental sample.
 - A total 221 environmental samples were collected from 16 sites and sent to the laboratory in 2022. Out of these samples, four were positive for cVDPV2, one was positive for VDPV2, forty-seven were positive for No Polio Enterovirus (NPEV), two Sabin like virus type 3 (SL3), fifteen Sabin like virus type (SL2), one positive for both SL2, None enterovirus, one hundred fourteen samples were negative and thirty eight are pending for processing.

Table 1: Cumulative number of acute diarrheal disease, suspected cholera, suspected measles, SARI, and suspected malaria cases in drought-affected regions of Somalia (epidemiological weeks 1 -Week 05 2023, 23 January to 05 Feb 2023)

Regions	Acute diarrhoeal disease ⁴	Suspected Measles cases ⁵	Suspected Malaria case ⁶	SARI cases ⁷	Suspected cholera cases ^{8,9}
AWDAL	0	7	17624	0	0
BAKOOL	168	33	9509	31	66
BANADIR	3842	267	39659	1212	273
BARI	2417	24	22580	52	0
BAY	858	341	29544	520	75
GALBEED	0	1	13818	0	0
GALGADUD	85	0	14261	2148	0
GEDO	425	5	27978	665	38
HIRAN	516	14	17795	351	1
KARKAR	1008	-	8425	281	0
LOWER JUBA	0	41	19481	0	386
LOWER SHABELLE	1446	57	21518	194	184
MIDDLE JUBA	0	0	75	0	0
MIDDLE SHABELLE	156	18	19540	16	64
MUDUG	955	57	24221	200	0
NUGAL	1108	15	11379	240	0
SOUTH MUDUG	428	0	0	839	0
SAHIL	0	1	7027	0	0
SANAG	676	0	10522	0	0
SOOL	5	1	9464	178	0
TOGDHER	0	44	12411	0	0
TOTAL	14093	926	336 840	6932	1087

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 January 2023

5 Source of data is fever and rash surveillance system as of January 2023

6 Source of data is DHIS2 as of December 2022

7 Source of data is EWARN as of January 2023

8 Source of data is suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea surveillance system managed by the FMOH as of December 2023

9 Source of data is EPI/Polio Weekly update sitrep report.



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