

October 2022

# Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



WHO is responding to the Twin blasts in Mogadishu with an assorted of essential medical supplies and trauma and surgical kits. © WHO Somalia

## KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – October 2022

<b>130</b>	Health cluster partners; 44 (33.8%) active health cluster partners in 56 districts.
<b>7 million</b>	People in need of health care

## HEALTH NEEDS AND PROVISION

- 7.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance with 2.9 million internally displaced in Somalia<sup>1</sup>.
- 7.8 million people in 74 districts are affected by severe drought; 1.1 million have been displaced from their homes, 4.3 million people facing severe food insecurity and 6.4 million people have no access to safe water.<sup>2</sup>
- 6.7 million people experiencing acute food insecurity, including 300 000 people classified as catastrophic (integrated phase classification (IPC) 5).<sup>3</sup>
- Fewer than 1 consultation per person per year reported during the month (as compared to the OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person/year).

<sup>1</sup> Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2022 | HumanitarianResponse

<sup>2</sup> Somalia: Drought Response and Famine Prevention (1-24 October 2022) - Somalia | ReliefWeb

<sup>3</sup> Somalia: Drought Response and Famine Prevention (1-24 October 2022) - Somalia | ReliefWeb

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 1929 community health workers (CHWs) deployed in 60 districts, including in 24 drought-affected districts where WHO is implementing drought response activities.
- 559 488 people reached with key health promotion and disease prevention messages.
- 1844 COVID-19 alerts were notified by CHWs; of which 1775 (96%) were investigated and 17 (1%) were validated by district level rapid response teams (RRTs).
- 1794 children aged 6 to 59 months with acute diarrhoea were treated with oral rehydration salt (ORS) and Zinc by CHWs.
- 20 961 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened for malnutrition using mid upper arm circumference (MUAC) tape of which 7544 (36%) were referred to an outpatient therapeutic program (OTP) for additional treatment by CHWs.
- 1229 pregnant women were given iron and folic acid supplements.
- 6626 children aged 6 to 59 months were given vitamin A supplements.
- 5525 lactating mothers were educated on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) activities.
- 2602 severely malnourished children with medical complications treated in nutrition stabilization centres that are supported by the World Health Organization (WHO); Of these 2104 (92.1%) children recovered and were discharged.
- 4969 cases of trauma treated in health facilities supported by WHO.
- WHO donated medical supplies including 53 paediatric kits for the management of severe cases of acute malnutrition with medical complications, 5 cholera kits, antibiotics, antimalarials, Vitamin A capsules and oral rehydration salt (ORS) to 7 states.

## Coordination meetings

The World Health Organization (WHO) convened drought response meetings with ministries of health and clusters of WASH, health and nutrition in three states affected by drought.

**In Jubaland state**, the meeting discussed the modalities of scaling up implementation of response activities for cholera. During the meeting participants developed the following action points; request for oral cholera vaccines for displaced communities from International Coordinating Group (ICG), deploy 90 community health workers (CHWs) to provide home based management of simple cases of suspected cholera and refer severe cases to nearby health facilities, establish oral rehydration points in internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps and request to scale up implementation of WASH activities.

**In Galmudug state**, WHO in collaboration with the ministry of health (MoH) convened sub-national health cluster meeting to review drought response activities across the state including an ongoing COVID-19 vaccination campaign and health cluster reporting hub. The partners agreed to strengthen the drought response in 9 districts of which and four (4) are inaccessible districts.

**In Puntland state** WHO convened a health cluster coordination meeting to review drought response plan, progress of ongoing activities, gaps identified during implementation, disease surveillance data highlighting five major diseases, updates from the health cluster partners and health services mapping. The meeting took the following action points; WASH cluster led by Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) to develop a plan for the scale up of implementation of WASH interventions in drought affected districts reporting a high number of diarrhea cases, data managers to share the number of people receiving primary health care services in health facilities in the state for better planning, and a plan to conduct joint assessment mission with all UN agencies to assess the impact of flash floods in Qardo district.



WHO is responding to the Twin blasts in Mogadishu with an assorted of essential medical supplies and trauma and surgical kits. © WHO Somalia

## Implementation of community-based surveillance

WHO deployed 1968 community health workers (CHWs) of which 1260 (74%) submitted reports in 63 districts across six states, including 28 districts where WHO is implementing drought response activities. These CHWs carried out activities such as risk communication and community education (RCCE), alert detection, reporting, child malnutrition screening, and home-based management of common childhood illnesses.

- CHWs visited 176 341 households and sensitized 1 638 372 persons with preventive messages for epidemic prone diseases including COVID-19.
- CHWs detected and reported 3034 COVID-19 alerts to district based rapid response teams (RRTs) of which 2505 (82%) alerts were investigated and 389 (16%) confirmed as true.

### In drought affected districts, the following activities were conducted.

- 4863 children under the age of five years with acute diarrhoea were identified and treated with oral rehydration salt (ORS) and 2888 (59.3%) children treated with Zinc.
- 256 (13%) children with severe dehydration were referred for further case management in health facilities.
- A total of 45 394 children under the age of five were screened for malnutrition using mid upper arm circumference (MUAC) tape; Of which 9852 (21.7%) had moderate malnutrition and were referred to an outpatient therapeutic program (OTP) for additional treatment 4561(10.1%) had severe acute mal nutrition and were referred to stabilization facilities for therapeutic feeding programme (OTP).
- 1148 children aged 6-59 months were identified with acute respiratory infections of which 451 (39%) were treated in health facilities.
- 563 pregnant women were given iron and folic acid supplements.
- 8149 children aged 6 to 59 months were given vitamin A supplements.
- 66 590 lactating mothers were sensitized on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) activities.

- 1069 community deaths were notified by CHWs in the communities of which 501 (43%) were aged below 5 years while 568 (57%) were over 5 years. These community deaths alerts will be investigated by the district based rapid response teams to find out the cause of deaths.

## Implementation of WASH interventions in drought affected districts

- WHO convened meetings with WASH cluster partners and health authorities in Banadir region and ministries of health of Hirshabelle, Southwest, Galmudug, Puntland and Jubaland state. The meetings helped to review the implementation of WASH activities in drought affected districts. During these meetings, a plan for training health workers on implementation of infection prevention and control (IPC) in six states was developed.
- WHO supported the state-based ministries of health in six states to train 240 frontline health workers including 113 females on the assessment of implementation of WASH interventions in health facilities using standard tools.
- WHO supported the implementation of water quality surveillance in drought affected five districts of Southwest and six districts of Jubaland states. Of the 34 water sources that were tested in Southwest state, nine were contaminated with coliform bacteria while eight of the 21 water sources in Jubaland states were contaminated with coliform bacteria. The WASH teams in these districts conducted chlorination of the contaminated water sources.



WHO implementing massive immunization campaigns including measles vaccines, Vitamin A in Drought affected districts in Southwest state © WHO Somalia

## Capacity building for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- WHO supported the state ministry of health of Southwest state to conduct three sessions of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures training for health workers from Lower Shabelle region, Bay region and Bakool region of Southwest State. A total of 40 health workers including 17 females from 55 health facilities were trained. The trainees helped to learn about how IPC practices stop the spread of infections and antimicrobial resistance in healthcare settings.
- The ministry of health conducted four-days IPC training in Garowe from 10th to 13th October 2022 to enhance health care worker's infection prevention and control (IPC) knowledge and practice in the field. A total of 40 healthcare workers including 28 females who include state IPC focal points, Regional medical officers, District medical officers, medical doctors and nurses, and non-medical staff those working in Isolation center, CTUs, CTCs, hospitals, and health facilities, from Puntland state.

## Progress on the implementation of Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response activities

- WHO supported FMoH and ministries of health in six states to convene a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya aimed for reviewing and updating the DHIS2 tracking application that is useful to standardize the different module for integrated disease surveillance and response system (IDSRS). The meeting was attended by 35 participants from six state-based ministries of health, technical team from the National Institute of Health, UNICEF, technical teams from WHO, and Health Information System Program (HISP) of Ministry of Health in Tanzania. During the workshop, participants updated the applications that will be used to support alert detection, reporting and notification from health facilities as well as integrated management of laboratory information for the alerts reported from health facilities. The participants also made the following recommendations at the end of the workshop; improving access to data forms for immediate and weekly reporting, reporting of deaths detected in communities and health facilities, align all diseases for immediate and weekly reporting as stipulated in IDSRS technical guidelines, define information requirements for IDSRS dashboard and specifying surveillance functions for technical officers at all levels. The recommendations are expected to be adopted by the IDSRS technical working group by the end of November 2022.

## Investigation of suspected cholera outbreaks in two districts of Puntland state

- In Puntland state, WHO supported the district and state based rapid response teams to investigate alerts of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) case reported among displaced communities in Qardo and Rako districts. The rapid response teams composed of epidemiologists, laboratory technicians and environmental officers. The teams conducted field visits where they reviewed surveillance records of health facilities, identified 519 cases of AWD, and recorded them in standard line list. The team collected eight stool samples from suspected cases that were tested negative for *Vibrio cholera* in the Garowe laboratory. The affected communities were educated on the use of treated water and safe waste disposal to control the outbreak of acute diarrhea. The WASH cluster has scaled up implementation of WASH interventions in these districts. WHO technical team will conduct a follow up visit and collect additional samples to identify the potential cause of this AWD

## Integrated primary health care outreaches conducted in drought affected districts

WHO supported state ministries of health to deploy 48 integrated outreach teams to drought-affected districts and hard-to-reach areas to provide basic health services including outpatient consultation, treatment of acute diarrhoeal diseases, childhood vaccination, nutrition screening, micronutrient supplements and deworming as well as referral to health facilities. The outreach teams reached the following categories of people;

- Vaccinated 17 289 children (including 3149 zero-dose children who had never been vaccinated before) aged 6-59 months against measles and other vaccine preventable diseases,
- Vaccinated 1746 pregnant women against tetanus,
- 10 772 children aged 6-59 months received vitamin A supplements,
- Treated 2888 children with acute diarrheal diseases using ORS and Zinc
- Provided 26 216 drought affected persons with outpatient consultation services including psychosocial counselling to patients identified with psychosocial disorders
- Educated an estimated one million people with health promotion messages in 28 drought affected districts.

## Investigation of suspected outbreak of Dengue/Chikungunya in Banadir region

- WHO supported the National Institute of Health to investigate suspected outbreak of Dengue/Chikungunya among the displaced populations in Banadir region. The MoH established a technical unit that conducted field visits to identify suspected cases admitted in different health facilities, recorded the suspected cases using standard cases definition. The team collected 10 blood samples of which 6 were tested positive for Dengue fever using a standard kit that is useful to test five different types of Arbo viral infections.
- WHO provided standard education information and communication (EIC) materials that were translated in Somali language to the UN managed radio Ergo to be used for community sensitization.
- WHO developed a plan to scale up surveillance for Dengue fever cases, vector control, case management and risk communication and community engagement.

## Establishment of measles laboratory in Baidoa districts

- WHO supported the ministry of health in South West state to establish and build capacity of the laboratory technicians in the diagnosis of suspected cases of fever and rash among drought affected communities. The technical team from WHO donated equipment and reagents that are used for the diagnosis of cases of fever and rash, trained seven laboratory technicians on the diagnosis of measles and submitting epidemiological and virologic reports using standard tools.

## Nutrition update in drought affected districts

- WHO supports 53 stabilization centres in drought-affected districts to provide care and treatment for severe cases of malnutrition with medical complications in drought-affected districts in collaboration with the nutrition cluster. Of the 53 stabilization facilities supported by WHO 41 (77%) of them submitted monthly report during the reporting period two of which are in Banadir region, eight located in Jubaland, six in Galmudug, 17 in South West state and eight in Puntland state
- Of the 3627 total admissions recorded in the 53 stabilization facilities in all regions, 2176 (60%) were cured, 111 (4.6%) were referred to hospitals with medical complications for advanced treatment while 62 (2.5%) died and 73 (3%) defaulted.
- To support the treatment of severe cases of malnutrition with medical complications in drought affected districts, WHO donated pediatric kits for the management of these cases in addition to oxygen concentrators and assorted medical supplies to five drought affected districts which included Kismayo, Dolow, Belethawo, Luug and Bardere in Jubaland states. These supplies are adequate to manage 300 cases of malnutrition with medical complications for three months.

## 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 October 2022, 7302 trauma-related injuries were reported from health facilities in all states through the district health information system (DHIS-2). Of these, the majority (33%) were non-weapon-related injuries, which included burns, snake bites, and road accidents. These injuries represent a 22.3% year-on-year increase (1629) when compared to 5673 injuries reported during the same period in



WHO implementing nutrition screening in the drought-affected districts in Galmudug state © WHO Somalia

- October 2021. The reported cases of injuries were managed in different hospitals in all the states. Most of the injuries were reported from Banadir (1023 cases), Hiran (802), Southwest state (612), and Galgaduud (586 cases).

- WHO built capacity for 46 health workers including nurses and doctors on the management of trauma using non-invasive techniques. The participants were trained in the conservative management of simple fractures, dislocation of joints, and basic care and management for critically injured patients. After the training, the participants received reference materials that they will use at their health facilities. A follow-up plan to offer on-job training and supervision was developed and shared with the state-based ministries of health.

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#### 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>
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