

June 2021

Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



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IMMUNIZATION INDICATORS

- The MCV1 coverage rate during the month of May was **71%** (37 916 out of 53 239 infants under the age of 1 year were vaccinated against measles)
- The oral polio vaccine (OPV)-3 coverage rate during the month of May was **67%** (35 557 out of 53 239 infants under the age of 1 year were vaccinated)

HEALTH NEEDS AND PROVISIONS

- **2.4 million** people internally displaced of which 1.8 million require humanitarian assistance
- **681 000** drought-affected people in six states and Banadir
- < 1 consultation per person per year reported during the month (as compared to OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person per year)

KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – March 2021

- **130** Health Cluster partners
- **3.15 million** people in need of health care

Funding gaps

US\$ 8.3 million Required for WHO's health emergency programme in 2021

HIGHLIGHTS.

- **OUTBREAK ALERTS:** 516 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases were reported through the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) system in June 2021, 20% of which were investigated. The three main alerts were for acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/ cholera (45.5%), suspected measles (37%) and malaria (17.5%), with most of these alerts reported from the drought- and flood-affected districts.
- **COVID-19:** In June 2021, there were 2020 laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Somalia; 48 patients were admitted in treatment centres across the country; and 10 associated deaths were reported. Since the beginning of the outbreak in March 2020, a total of 1298 patients with COVID-19 were admitted in different treatment centres designated for COVID-19 in Somalia.
- **COVID-19 VACCINE:** In June 2021, 1946 people received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccines and 77 671 received the second dose in Somalia. The campaign is targeting high-risk priority groups, including frontline health workers, teachers, police, people above 50 years of age and people with medical conditions.

Coordination

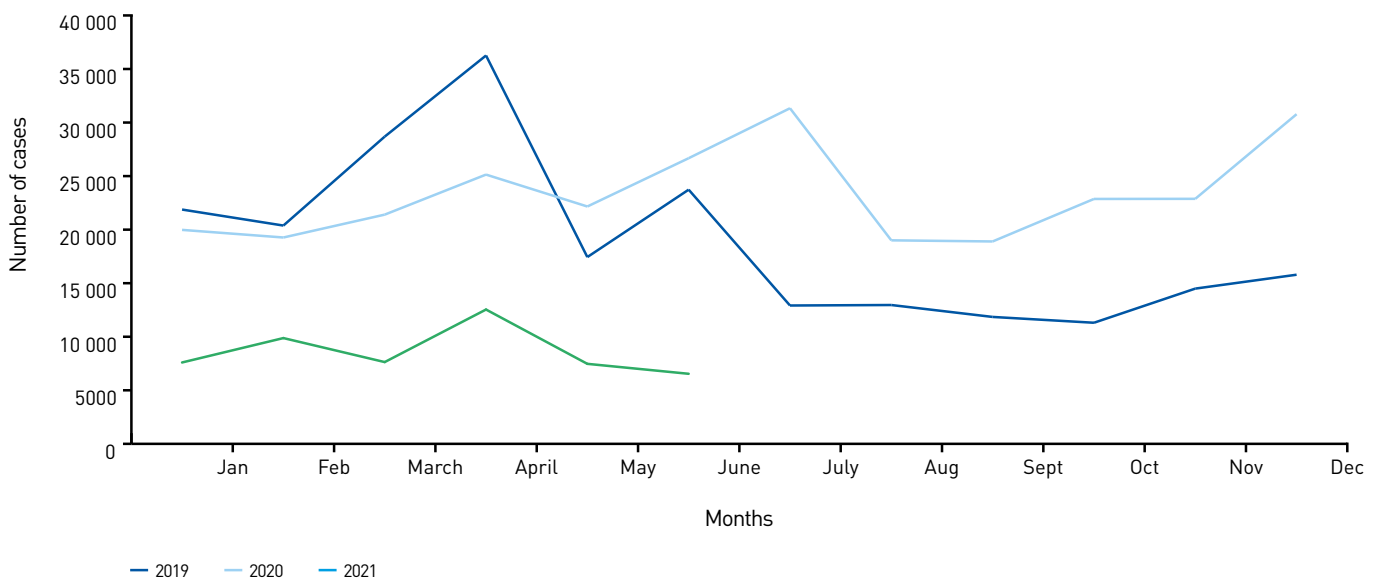
In June, the Puntland Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) convened a joint coordination meeting in Garowe to discuss the implementation of humanitarian response activities in Puntland. During the meeting, the partners agreed to develop a joint implementation plan for various health activities, with timelines for monitoring performance. A follow up meeting will be conducted in December 2021 to review the implementation of activities included in the joint workplan.

Joint inter-cluster meetings were also convened in Mogadishu and Puntland to discuss the progress of response activities in districts affected by floods, drought, locusts, and the ongoing cholera outbreak; and the integrated response to epidemic-prone diseases, especially cholera and measles in flood-affected districts.

Acute diarrhoea cases

In June 2021, a total of 6530 cases of acute diarrhoea were reported from drought-affected districts through the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN). The worst-affected districts were Baidoa (792) in SouthWest State, Daynile (1159) and Heliwa (721) in Banadir region. The number of cases reported in June 2021 is 72% lower than in June 2020 (23 723). This reduction is attributed to improved access to safe water and sanitation and hygiene among displaced communities in flood-affected districts.

Fig.1. Acute diarrhoea cases reported to EWARN, Somalia, 2019-2021

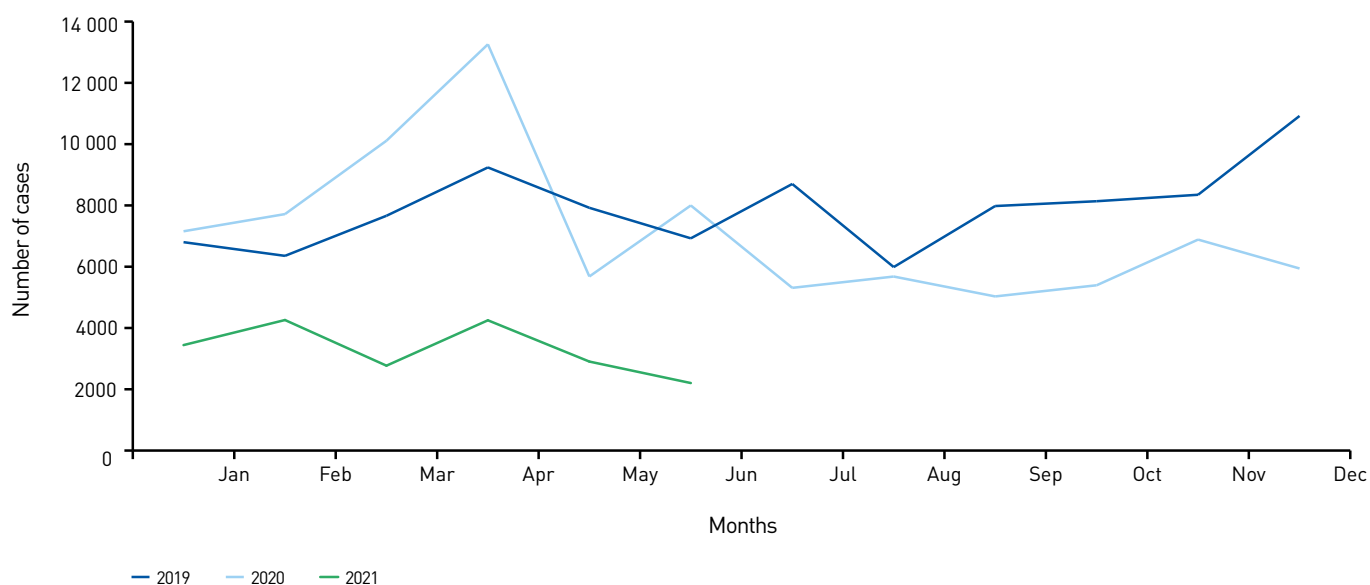


The heavy *Gu* rains that affected Adale district in Hirshabelle State led to flash floods contaminating water sources in villages located by the banks of the flooded River Shabelle. In June, 422 cholera cases and 4 deaths (CFR 0.94%) were reported from 21 districts. Of the 3183 cases, 1690 (53%) were children aged below 5 years and 1006 (31.5%) were female. The most affected districts include 17 districts in Banadir region, Baidoa, Marka, Afgoe and Qoryoley in SouthWest state. Since January 2021, a total of 498 stool samples have been tested, of which 123 were positive for *Vibrio cholerae* serotype Ogawa. WHO, and the Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster partners are implementing response activities to contain the transmission of cholera.

Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) and Influenza Like Illness (ILI)

Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) are the most common causes of morbidity reported in the EWARN. In June 2021, the EWARN recorded 2203 SARI cases from the health facilities across the country. This is around half the number reported in June 2020 (7999). The districts most affected by SARI and ILI, caused by floods and drought, include Galkayo South (588), Baidoa (322), and Galgadud (721).

Fig.2. SARI/ILI cases reported through the EWARN, Somalia, 2019-2021

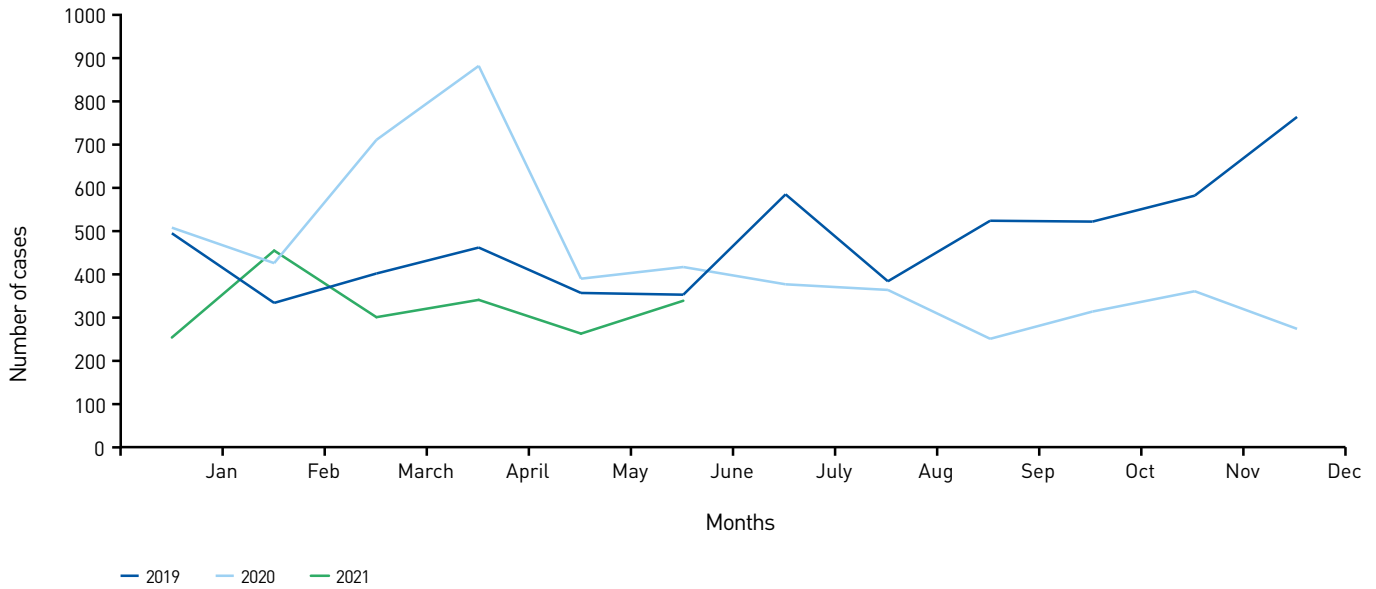


The Ministry of Health in Puntland and WHO conducted a technical meeting aimed at health strengthening and collaboration, 9 July 2021 @ WHO

Suspected measles cases

As a result of the mass measles vaccination campaign conducted in Somalia in 2020, there has been a continuous decrease in trend of suspected measles cases reported through the EWARN in recent months. In June 2021, a total of 339 suspected cases of measles were reported, mainly from Bay (167), and Banadir (121) regions. There was an 18.7% decrease of measles cases reported, from 417 in June 2020 to 339 in June 2021.

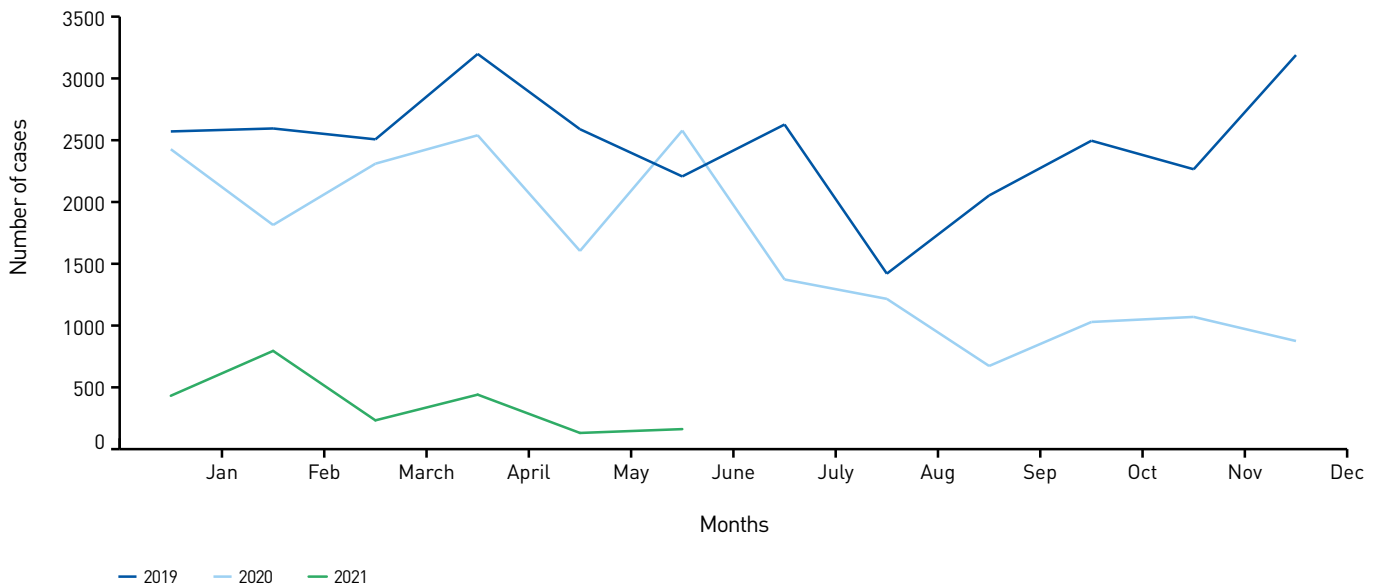
Fig.3. Suspected measles cases reported through the EWARN, Somalia, 2019-2021



Suspected malaria cases

The burden of malaria in Somalia is considered a major public health issue. The dominant malaria species in the country is the Plasmodium falciparum, accounting for more than 95% of cases. However, an increased number of Plasmodium vivax cases have been reported from Somaliland and Puntland. In general, the population that is most vulnerable to malaria is children under five years and pregnant women. In June 2021, 162 suspected malaria cases were reported through the EWARN, more than half of which were from Baidoa (97) and Banadir (35) regions. The cases reported in June 2021 are 10 times lower than those reported in the same period in June 2020.

Fig.4. Suspected malaria cases reported through the EWARN, Somalia, 2019-2021



Other emergency updates and response operations

- **Investigation of undiagnosed illness in Rabdure district of SouthWest state of Somalia:** The regional office notified the WHO country office of an undiagnosed illness among camels in Rabdure district of SouthWest state, bordering the Somali region of Ethiopia. The public health event was reported to affect camels and humans who had consumed meat from infected animals. As next steps, the focal person for the International Health Regulation (IHR) in Somalia was notified of this event to initiate investigation into the possible cause of this event and establish the mode and patterns of transmission of the disease from animals to humans. However, inaccessibility due to insecurity in the Rabdure district has negatively affected the investigation of this event.
- **Investigation of measles outbreak in North Galkacyo:** WHO supported the state- and district-based Rapid Response Team in North Galkacyo, Puntland, to investigate a suspected outbreak of measles in the district. The response team, headed by the Puntland Ministry of Health's Emergency Coordinator, conducted a meeting with health workers in Galkacyo Hospital, reviewed clinical documents to record the suspected cases in a standard line list and collected blood samples that were analyzed in the laboratory in Garowe. Of the 15 samples collected, three of them were tested positive for IgM. The response team trained health workers in the hospital to use standard case definitions; and blood sample collection, processing, and shipment to the Garowe laboratory; as well as data analysis to characterize the illness. With support from the Central Emergency Response (CERF) funds, an additional 50 frontline health workers and virologists will be trained on the management and surveillance of water borne diseases in Garowe in July 2021.
- **Investigation of diarrhoea outbreak in Somaliland:** In June, WHO conducted a joint investigation with the Somaliland Ministry of Health Development to identify factors associated with the increasing number of cases of acute diarrhoea in Burco and Berbera districts. During this investigation, health workers in the Burco Hospital and Berbera Hospital were trained on how to apply the standard case definition for cholera and acute watery diarrhoea, recording suspected cases using a standard line list and management of suspected cases of diarrhoea. The response team collected stool samples from the two hospitals to establish the cause of acute diarrhoea in Somaliland. An additional 124 frontline health workers will be trained in Hargeisa with support from the CERF.
- **Assessment of WASH situation in health facilities:** WHO conducted a joint assessment of the situation of WASH with health cluster partners in ten high-volume health facilities in Jubaland, Galmudug, SouthWest state and Hirshabelle. The major gaps identified included: (i) health workers are not vaccinated against Hepatitis B; (ii) there is no committee to implement infection prevention and control procedures; (iii) there is a lack of water quality-testing equipment; and (iv) the lack of protocols, tools and training of health workers for the management of dead bodies.
- **Donation of essential medical supplies:** In June, WHO donated essential medical supplies, including malaria kits, Integrated Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), kits adequate for the management of malaria, diarrhoea and trauma for an estimated 1200 people in need of humanitarian assistance for three months in Hudur, Afgoye, Marka and Baidoa districts.



On 10 June 2021, the FMOH, with support from WHO, recorded a training video for teams conducting the sero survey for COVID-19 @ WHO

Nutrition update

- WHO provides support to state health ministries for the management of cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications in the districts affected by drought, floods, locusts and conflict in Somalia. This is provided through technical support, training, and the provision of supplies to nutritional stabilization centres in the country, including the distribution of SAM kits to the state health ministries on a quarterly basis.
- In June 2021, there were 1604 new SAM cases with medical complications admitted to 34 stabilization centres in Somalia (three in Banadir region, eight in Jubaland, six in Galmudug, six in Puntland, nine in SouthWest and two in Hirshabelle). During this month, there were 1428 (92%) recoveries, 58 (3.7%) defaulters, 43 (2.8%) medical referrals and 30 (1.9%) deaths reported.

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 the conflicts in the country and responding appropriately. According to a report by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) published in June 2021, an estimated 1551 families, comprising an estimated 9306 individuals, were displaced from their homes. Additionally, 90 injuries were reported among displaced people in Hudur district, SouthWest state. The displaced communities are in urgent need of food, non-food items, emergency shelter, community latrines, safe drinking water and long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets. A total of 2408 people had injuries, as reported by the District Health Information System 2 (DHIS-2) and health facilities in Somalia in June 2021, which represents a 51% (2516) decrease as compared to the same period in 2020 (4924 injuries in June 2020).
- WHO distributed quarterly emergency medical supplies to support the management of patients with different kinds of injuries. In June 2021, WHO donated essential medical supplies, including 23 Interagency Health Kits (IEHK), two trauma A and B kits, ten boxes of surgical face masks and ten boxes of examination gloves which will support the treatment of approximately 27 400 patients. The supplies were distributed to health facilities Banadir region, Jubaland and Hirshabelle states.

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Our weekly and monthly information products

Weekly cholera infographic:

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

Monthly COVID-19 reports:

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



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