



Technical Programme Update

January-April 2023

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS



4 715 572

people affected by drought and displacement reached with essential health care



2 396 654

children vaccinated with the trivalent oral polio vaccine as part of subnational immunization days in response to a new case of circulating vaccine derived poliovirus



905 229

(90% of the target population) people aged 1 year and older vaccinated against cholera to prevent outbreaks caused by the drought



641 920

children younger than 1 year given their first dose of measles vaccine in an accelerated campaign



511 560

children younger than 5 years given routine vaccination under "The Big Catch-Up"



813 641

COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in areas with low vaccination coverage

Foreword

Message from WR



This is the first issue of this quarterly update for 2023. I take this opportunity to wish all our friends, colleagues, partners and donors a very happy and prosperous 2023.

This year, WHO marks the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1948. Since that time, ensuring the health and well-being for everyone, everywhere has been the main mandate of the Organization. WHO's core principles and values are aptly reflected in the work of the Organization in Somalia: a country with a low universal health services coverage index and one of the highest infant mortality rates and maternal mortality ratios in the world. Against this backdrop, it was a huge undertaking for WHO, working with the government and partners, to make the fragile health system work for everyone, make the interventions effective in saving lives, prevent avoidable diseases, and make the health services accessible and available to everyone. On 6 April 2023, in an event organized by the WHO country office on the occasion of World Health Day and attended by the Minister, Deputy Minister and State Ministers of Health, all the heads of UN agencies, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, ambassadors and heads of missions, this determination to

improve the health and lives of the Somali people was reiterated and acknowledged.

While the country started to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme drought and hunger plagued the country further resulting in devastating the health outcomes. Half of the population are in need of humanitarian assistance, about 2.9 million people are internally displaced and more than 4.9 million people are facing crisis or the consequences of acute food insecurity. WHO's mortality estimates show that 43 000 excess deaths might have occurred in 2022 as a direct impact of drought and extreme hunger, with half of them being children younger than 5 years. This number was not high enough to declare a famine, but is heart-breaking as every death and every life that could be saved counts for WHO. The fragile health system, fragmentation and non-availability of services, large distances and security concerns rendering health services inaccessible, and provision of adequate health care close to people have always been a challenge. WHO has taken up this challenge by deploying community health workers and outreach health teams to provide essential and life-saving health care and immunization services to these vulnerable people who are trapped in the pervasive and perpetual cycle of displacement, drought and disease. The fact that famine, which was expected to occur at some point last year, has been pushed back speaks to the value and strength of the work of WHO in Somalia in accessing these hard-to-reach people and delivering the essential health care they need during this time of crisis.

At the same time, WHO has continued its normative work uninterrupted and to the maximum. This quarterly update provides a summary of these works which WHO does every day to ensure health for all.

Dr Mamunur Rahman Malik
WHO Representative in Somalia

Strategic priority 1 – Advance universal health coverage by accelerating the primary health care-led recovery with a view to supporting the goals of integrated health services



Scaled up integrated health services delivery in drought-affected districts

Somalia continues to face a serious climate crisis because of failed rainy seasons for a fifth consecutive season. This drought has resulted in prolonged drought affecting 8.3 million people, including 1.8 million children who face severe acute malnutrition and more than 2 million newly displaced people. The WHO country office continued to support delivery of integrated health services in the hard-to-reach and underserved areas using a primary health care approach. Through this effort, 4 715 572 people (62% of the targeted 7.6 million people affected by the drought) have been reached by WHO with essential health care during January–April 2023. This was achieved by implementing a number of high-quality, life-saving, community-based health and nutrition interventions. In particular, health and nutrition interventions involving community health workers (CHWs) and community

outreach teams were scaled up to provide outpatient consultations and accelerated immunization activities. WHO deployed more than 2190 CHWs and 250 community outreach teams in 28 severely affected districts of Somalia to deliver these integrated health and nutrition services close to the drought-affected communities. This model of integrated health services will transform to community-based care and will help build a strong foundation for primary health care in the hard-to-reach areas as the health system recovers from the triple crisis of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), climate change and conflict.

Catch-up on routine immunizations

The adverse effects of COVID-19 and drought on essential immunization services resulted in a reversion of the gains that had been made in routine childhood immunization. Despite this, WHO supported the Somali Government to accelerate immunization activities in the country, especially in areas where essential immunization services had been halted or were not accessible to people because of security concerns.

In 2023, “The Big Catch-up” was announced which is a year-long push for countries to catch up on and restore routine immunization after the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, WHO worked with its partners – UNICEF, Government of Somalia and local nongovernmental organizations – to drive accelerated immunization activities to reach zero-dose and under-immunized children, whose families missed out on access to routine immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic. These activities helped vaccinate 511 560 children younger than 5 years across the country during January–April 2023. The vaccinations delivered were pentavalent 1 and pentavalent 3 vaccines, inactivated polio vaccines, and measles containing vaccines. Additionally, the WHO-supported outreach immunization teams also helped to vaccinate 38 137 pregnant women with tetanus-diphtheria toxoid vaccines across all the states.

Delivering zero malaria

The theme of World Malaria Day 2023 is “Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement”. With this goal in mind, WHO continues to support Somalia’s national malaria control programme in standardizing case management, improving diagnostics for case detection and effectively implementing the available strategies to prevent, diagnose and treat malaria, particularly among marginalized populations. To that end, WHO organized a malaria case management workshop for 25 health officials in Mogadishu to broaden their understanding of the various prevention, control and treatment methods. At the same time, WHO conducted a malaria refresher training course for 24 qualified laboratory technicians from public and private health facilities in Banadir and South West state of Somalia. The aim of this training was to improve the accuracy of diagnosis based on standard operating procedures in their respective health facilities and laboratories. WHO also supported the federal and state ministries of health to carry out laboratory testing of 52 004 suspected malaria cases during January–April 2023, out of which 1890 were confirmed as positive. No deaths from malaria have been reported in Somalia since 2022. Because of the efforts of the malaria elimination and control programme, malaria cases are steadily declining in the country.

Launch of vision for maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response

On 8 March 2023, the Federal Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO and partners, commemorated International Women's Day under the theme of “DigitALL: innovation and technology for gender equality” by calling on all partners to collaborate in accelerating progress towards equitable universal health coverage (UHC) by using technological, social and economic resources to ensure that all Somali women and girls can have a good quality of life and health. On this occasion, the WHO country office launched the vision for maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response and initiated the collection and

analysis of data related to maternal and perinatal deaths. The goal of this initiative is to reduce preventable maternal mortality in Somalia, which remains one of the highest in the world. The Federal Ministry of Health, with technical support from the WHO country office, will be rolling out various activities under its reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health strategy which aims to harmonize the efforts of partners and stakeholders. WHO has helped the Ministry to finalize four national guidelines on antenatal care, labour, postnatal care and post-abortion care. WHO has also supported the Ministry to finalize the country’s essential medicines list for reproductive health.

Improved coordination for health sector development

WHO is promoting and assisting the establishment of technical working groups required under the health sector coordination mechanism. The technical working group for health information systems is finalizing the national health information systems strategy – developed with technical assistance from the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean – which will be a coherent system to inform decision-making and action. The human resources for health technical working group is working to strengthen institutional leadership. The public–private dialogue group was launched in February 2023 to foster collaboration and synergies in health care delivery. The technical working group for the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) is being formalized and will be inclusive and efficient, with the legitimacy and capacity to drive service delivery towards UHC. The group will be formally launched in May 2023.



Strategic priority 2 – Enhance health security by promoting emergency preparedness, surveillance and response using an all-hazard and one-health approach



Scaled up humanitarian response to drought

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Humanitarian System-Wide Scale-Up Activation has been extended for Somalia up to July 2023 in view of the worsening humanitarian situation related to the drought in the country. As a response to this scaled-up activation, WHO continued to deliver integrated health and nutrition care and essential immunization services to the people displaced and severely affected by the drought. With the help of the CHWs deployed by WHO to deliver health services to these people, a community-based surveillance system for epidemic alert and detection has been established in the drought-affected districts. This system supplements the early warning system for disease surveillance in the country. The CHWs visited 754 166 households and delivered preventive messages about epidemic-prone diseases, including COVID-19, to 3 110 494 people during January–April 2023. The CHWs continued to detect and report epidemic alerts to the district-based rapid response teams for verification purposes, screened children

for malnutrition, referred the severely malnourished children to the outpatient therapeutic programme, treated children with severe diarrhoea, dewormed children and distributed micronutrient supplements to children and women of reproductive age in their homes. WHO's work continues to help reduce avoidable deaths from drought and extreme food hunger as indicated by the latest mortality estimates published by WHO that showed that death rates did not exceed the thresholds used for declaration of famine.

Launch of cholera vaccination campaign despite security concerns

One of the worst effects of the ongoing drought has been the rise in the number of cholera cases in the country. The drought and the failed rainy seasons have badly affected people who have limited access to safe water and sanitation services. During January–March 2023, cholera cases surged because of substantial internal displacement and depleted water sources. To minimize morbidity and mortality from cholera, WHO supported the health ministry in implementing a single-dose 5-day oral cholera vaccination campaign in 10 drought-affected districts that reported the highest number of cholera cases in 2022. Despite serious security concerns that limited movement of people, the campaign targeted people who were displaced by drought and had not been vaccinated in 2022. The campaign succeeded in vaccinating 90% of the target population with a single dose of oral cholera vaccine, that is 905 229 people aged 1 year and older. This house-to-house campaign was conducted by 1328 vaccination teams comprising four health workers per team and supervised by 260 technical officers from the Ministry of Health and health partners.

Deployment of emergency medical team for strengthened trauma care

The WHO country office deployed an emergency medical team in Mogadishu during November–December last year to support trauma care and help build the capacities of local doctors, nurses and paramedics in trauma care services,

especially in the areas of reconstructive surgery, nursing management of traumatic brain injury, initial assessment, and triage in emergency and thoracic trauma injury. The team was deployed following the twin explosions in Mogadishu which rocked the city in October 2022. The team included an orthopaedic/neurovascular surgeon, emergency doctor, anaesthetist, infection prevention and control specialist and nurses. The team came from UK-Med, a British frontline medical aid charity. During the team's 6-week assignment in Madina hospital, members of the team conducted seven surgical procedures and 14 training sessions for 21 doctors and 82 nursing staff working in the intensive care units, emergency units, and infection prevention and control units.

Training of frontline health workers on emergency triage assessment and treatment

The WHO country office, in January 2023, supported the Federal Ministry of Health to build the capacity of 64 frontline health workers from Banadir and Beletweyne hospitals on emergency management of trauma and screening of critically injured patients. The participants were trained on the airway, breathing and circulation (ABC) approach, identification of danger signs, control of bleeding, airway management for critically injured patients and management of fractures. At the end of the training, the participants were provided with reference materials which they will use at their respective units for the management of trauma cases.

Training of paramedics on preventing deaths in mass causality events

The WHO country office organized a 3-day community first aid responders training for 22 paramedics, including 15 women, from seven regional hospitals in March 2023 to help them reduce preventable deaths in the so-called golden hour (first hour of response) in any mass causality event. The training helped participants learn about basic

skills to control haemorrhage, airway management, application of a tourniquet, immobilization of fractures, and basic management of spinal cord injury, head trauma and trauma in pregnant women.

Scaled up oxygen availability at primary health care centres

During January-April 2023, WHO provided 209 oxygen concentrators, with consumables such as digital fingertips, pulse oximeters and multiparametric patient monitors, for management of critically ill patients at primary health care centres. These supplies will enhance the availability of high-grade medical oxygen at the primary health care level for the treatment and care of acute respiratory infections in patients and children in need of oxygen therapy. The oxygen concentrators were supplied to Banadir, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Puntland and South West states. These supplies are part of WHO's continued investment to sustain the health system's response and readiness for long-term integrated care for respiratory disease management and improve access to medical oxygen for critical care. As of 31 March 2023, 10 910 patients with acute respiratory infections, including 7290 children younger than 5 years, received life-saving medical oxygen at these primary health care facilities.



COVID-19 vaccination campaign in low performing districts

During January–April 2023, the WHO country office helped the federal and state ministries of health to launch a special coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination campaign in the four southern states (Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Puntland and South West) where COVID-19 vaccination coverage was low because of areas of inaccessibility, insecurity and low demand, among other factors. A total of 813 641 doses of COVID-19 vaccines were administered out of which 73.9% were used to fully vaccinate some people and 26.1% to partially vaccinate others. As of 31 March 2023, Somalia has fully vaccinated 44% of the eligible population across the country and 8.2% have been partially vaccinated. The number includes 52% of internally displaced persons and 19% of nomadic populations who are now fully vaccinated. Special attention was paid to recruit local female vaccinators for the COVID-19 vaccination campaigns; as a result, 45% of those fully vaccinated in the country are females. The country is set to fully vaccinate 70% of the total population by the end of 2023.

Swift response to case of acute flaccid paralysis in Mogadishu

A new case of circulating vaccine derived poliovirus (cVDPV) was reported in January 2023 from Daynile district of Mogadishu. In response to this outbreak, vaccination with the trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV2) was undertaken in both the districts during January–February 2023. The vaccination campaign helped to vaccinate 70 668 individuals including 317 zero-dose children (95.5% of the target population). Additionally, WHO helped the state ministries of health to conduct a round of sub-national immunization days in February 2023 in 81 districts in south and central parts of Somalia, using tOPV2. The campaign vaccinated 94% of the target population, with 2 396 654 children vaccinated during this round. In 2023, two cases of cVDPV2 have been reported so far.

Establishment of laboratory testing facility for SARS-CoV-2, cholera and measles

The WHO country office helped to equip the newly established public health laboratory of Galmudug State with a facility for testing for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) using polymerase chain reaction and for measles and rubella testing using an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay machine. Two national laboratory experts provided on-the-job training and technical support to four laboratory technicians in Galmudug State who included two female laboratory technicians. With this new laboratory, the country now has five testing centres for *Vibrio cholerae* available at the public health laboratories in Galmudug, Garowe, Hargeisa, Kismayo and Mogadishu, and seven serological testing laboratory for measles and rubella in Baidoa (South West), Baletwayene (Hirshabelle), Garowe (Puntland), Hargeisa (Somaliland), Jowhar (Hirshabelle), Kismayo (Jubaland) and Mogadishu. To enhance epidemic response, WHO provided necessary medical supplies to all these laboratories, including cholera kits, COVID-19 antigen rapid diagnostic kits, viral transport media and filter tips, mpox and filovirus reagents. Through the establishment of these new functioning laboratories, the country has improved access to diagnostics, especially for people living in marginalized settings. This support by WHO will enhance early detection of outbreaks, particularly in remote areas of the country.



On-track roll out of Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System

WHO continued to support the Federal Government of Somalia to roll out the Integrated Diseases Surveillance and Response System (IDSRS). In January 2023, the first training of 52 master trainers from the national and state levels was held in Mogadishu. The training was based on 10 modules covering detection, reporting, analysis, outbreak investigation, preparedness, response, risk communication, monitoring, supervision and evaluation. These master trainers will cascade the training to regional and district levels to help streamline data collection across the country. An objective of the IDSRS is to monitor and report on 42 priority conditions, with immediate, weekly and monthly reporting. A total of 307 health facilities are already reporting on COVID-19 cases through the IDSRS using a paper-based report filled by health facilities and submitted to the officers of the district health management information system, who then submit the data to the District Health Information System 2. An IDSRS online application is being developed and tested for use by health facilities to provide immediate alerts and submit weekly data on COVID-19 and other reportable health conditions.

Launch of fourth cohort for the Field Epidemiology Training Program

The National Institute of Health of the Federal Government of Somalia, with support from the WHO country office, launched the fourth cohort of the field epidemiology training program in March 2023 which enrolled 26 resident trainees, including 8 women participants. The trainees are health care workers who are employed by the federal and state ministries of health. They will receive 6 months residential training at the National Institute of Health. Since this training programme was launched in the country in August 2021, 71 students including 20 women have graduated. These graduates are at the frontline to detect, respond to and prevent any IHR events at the community level before they become a national public health problem of concern.

Strategic priority 3 – Promote healthier populations and well-being using multisectoral approaches to address the social determinants of health and risk factors



Development of collaborative actions for prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting

WHO is actively participating with other UN agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP), to develop a multisectoral and collaborative action plan for joint interventions for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting. The aim is to avoid excess morbidity and mortality from the nutrition and food crisis. This work is part of the UN Global Action Plan on Child Wasting, which calls for developing a framework for action to accelerate progress in preventing and managing child wasting and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WHO's participation resulted in the incorporation of essential maternal and child nutrition interventions for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting, including: protection and promotion of and counselling on exclusive breastfeeding,

complementary feeding, micronutrient supplementation (including vitamin A) and deworming prophylaxis; vaccination and treatment of common childhood diseases; regular screening for the early detection of child wasting; and early referral and treatment of children with wasting in the community or in a facility in case of medical complications.

Assessment of WASH and health care waste management in health facilities

An assessment on water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), waste management and environmental cleaning was conducted during January-April 2023 by WHO and UNICEF in 307 selected health care facilities in different states (Banadir, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Puntland and South West). The assessment aimed to understand the condition of WASH services in health care facilities in Somalia. The results showed that only 56% of public hospitals had a piped water supply and 5% of the assessed health facilities in the public sector had no running water supply at all, meaning these health facilities are functioning without any water. In addition, only 45% of health care facilities in the public sector had some form of safe sanitation services, while 8% had limited sanitation services and 5% had no sanitation services at all.

WHO also supported a rapid assessment of health care waste management in 21 health care facilities. Both observation (site visitation) and interviews with the hospital management teams were undertaken. Most (62%) of the facilities did not have any system for the safe management of health care waste, while 52% did not have any plans for the safe management of health care waste.

Based on these assessments, a number of recommendations were made which are currently being considered for implementation.

Assessment of national infection prevention and control practices

WHO supported the federal and state ministries of health during January-March 2023 to conduct an assessment of infection prevention and control practices in Somalia using the WHO infection prevention and control assessment tool 2. The assessment included a nationally representative sample of 30% of the health care facilities in the country – a total of 307 primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities. Eight core components of infection prevention and control were examined. Infection prevention and control practices in the country were found to be inadequate (a score of 136.8 out of a maximum possible score of 800). After the assessment, the Federal Ministry of Health set up a 17-member advisory committee to help draft a national infection prevention and control policy which would lead on to the development of guidelines, a monitoring framework, and reporting and data collection tools for infection prevention and control practices in the country.

Scaled up water quality surveillance in eight drought-affected districts

WHO supported the ministries of health and ministries of water in the drought-affected states to conduct water quality surveillance. Of the eight water sources tested in March 2023, six were contaminated with coliform bacteria and none had free residual chlorine. The WASH cluster partners initiated the treatment process of these water sources.



Strategic priority 4 – Strengthen health governance using the Global Action Plan for Health and Well-being to support joint and collective actions to achieve health-related SDG goals.



Development of UHC country compact

Under the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (SDG3 GAP) recovery challenge, the WHO country office implemented a project during January-February 2023 called: Improved collaboration between GAP partners and the Federal Government of Somalia to maximize health outcome through delivery of quality essential health services across Somalia. This project is supported and funded by WHO headquarters under its SDG3 GAP. The development of a national UHC compact has begun under this project with the aim of enhancing and fostering greater collaboration between and accountability of the national health authority and SDG3 GAP agencies. This UHC country compact will be aligned with the UHC2030 Global Compact. A country dialogue was held in April 2023 to support the development of a joint action plan for the SDG3 GAP agencies to advance recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through primary health care and improvement in delivery of integrated health services.

Completion of the harmonized health facility assessment

The harmonized health facility assessment has been completed in April 2023. This assessment is a comprehensive and standardized health facility census survey that provides reliable and objective information on the availability and readiness of health facilities to provide services at the required standards of quality. The availability and quality of health services are crucial to achieving UHC and the health-related SDGs. Data from this assessment can support evidence-based decision-making and health sector reviews to strengthen the country's health services.

The harmonized health facility assessment tools are based on global service standards and use standardized indicators, questionnaires, data collection methods, and data analyses. The tools used in Somalia included four modules: (i) service availability; (ii) service readiness; (iii) quality and safety of care; and (iv) management and finance. More than 1200 health facilities in Somalia were covered by this assessment. Currently data analysis is being conducted using an online web application that automatically calculates the indicators of the harmonized health facility assessment and presents them in tables and graphs with a summary report.

The harmonized health facility assessment is designed to provide periodic, aggregate information from multiple facilities that shows whether systems and services are functioning as expected. It does not aim to provide frequent, regular information about individual health facilities for ongoing supervision or management purposes. The assessment collects information that is usually not systematically collected by other information systems. It is intended to complement other data sources, such as the routine health information system and supervision systems, by filling information gaps.

Excess drought-related deaths in Somalia

The WHO Somalia country office, UNICEF Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa and the Federal Ministry of Health jointly released a report in March 2023 (entitled *From insight to action: examining mortality in Somalia*) on mortality estimates associated with the drought in Somalia. The estimates cover the period from January to December 2022 and suggest that 43 000 excess deaths may have occurred in Somalia because of the worsening drought, a figure higher than that of the first year of the drought 2017–2018. Half of these excess deaths may have occurred in children younger than 5 years. These figures are derived from a statistical model developed by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The report forecasts that an estimated 135 people might die each day due to the crisis during January to June 2023, with total deaths projected to be between 18 100 and 34 200 during this period. These estimates suggest that, although famine has been averted for now, the crisis is far from over and is already more severe than the 2017–2018 drought.

Country dialogue on SDG3 GAP primary health care accelerator

Under the auspices of WHO SDG3 GAP secretariat, a country meeting on SDG 3 GAP primary health care accelerators was held in April 2023 to promote dialogue between the Somalia Government and SDG3 GAP agencies in order to enhance primary health care services in the country. The participating bodies were the Federal Government of Somalia, WHO, UNICEF, GAVI the Vaccine Alliance, Global Financing Facility, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), World Bank and Foreign, and the Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The dialogue was a follow-up to the meeting between the WHO Representative In Somalia, the Minister of Health of Federal Government of Somalia and the WHO Director-General in January 2023. The SDG3 GAP meeting emphasized that the biggest barriers to the delivery of EPHS

in a standardized and consistent manner across the country were: fragmentation of the health services in terms of interventions and resources; lack of alignment of donors; and poor intergovernmental coordination. The meeting concluded that a country UHC compact and a joint action plan and alignment among the 13 SDG3 GAP partner agencies at the country level could help strengthen primary health care services across the country through the EPHS.

Recognition of WHO country office and Federal Ministry of Health for contribution to innovation

The WHO country office and the Federal Minister of Health were invited to attend a ceremony in January 2023 hosted by the WHO Director-General in recognition of their innovative work in improving access to medical oxygen using solar power. This innovation saved thousands of lives and enhanced the effectiveness of primary health care services in a fragile setting. The WHO country office is currently supporting five health care facilities with solar-powered oxygen delivery systems in Somalia. More than 96% of patients with low oxygen saturation (less than 60%) who received high-grade medical oxygen in these facilities have been discharged without any disability after a few hours or up to a maximum of 3 days.



Roundtable discussion among the Somali Health Donor Group

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of WHO, an informal roundtable dialogue was organized with the Somali Health Donor Group in April 2023 and other partners to consider past health sector coordination initiatives in Somalia and discuss possible opportunities for strengthening coordination into the future. Given the need to improve health sector coordination to deliver results and ensure the effectiveness of the 2020 EPHS, the roundtable participants debated the options for collective and joint programming through one plan and pooled/consolidated funding to support the delivery of the EPHS in Somalia. Having one plan and one fund would: ensure more flexibility to support low-cost and high-impact interventions; ensure alignment with the EPHS; avoid duplications; drive forward a common goal; and establish a one accountability mechanism.



Support of health sector governance and coordination towards UHC

WHO continues to support coordination between the federal government and federal member states in the health sector with a view to improving governance and leadership. The first 2023 health sector coordination meeting, held in March, focused on the health system components of human resources and health information, and promoted dialogue on health sector governance. The WHO service package delivery and implementation tool was presented, which is tailored to the Somalia EPHS and provides technical support for the delivery of the package. The operationalization of critical technical working groups and a path towards better alignment and development of a UHC country compact were discussed. The meeting also discussed the health needs in newly liberated areas and opportunities to serve these populations.



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