World Health Organization
Somalia

Weekly
EPI Watch
Epidemiological bulletin
For epidemic prone diseases in Somalia for week 8, 17-23 February, 2020

OVERALL SITUATION

Adverse climatic conditions shifting from severe drought to heavy *Deyr rains* (October-December, 2019) causing floods, continued across Somalia. This coupled with other drivers of humanitarian crisis, such as armed conflict and evictions have led to 643 000 internal displaced persons in 28 drought-affected districts.

Shortage of safe water, and poor hygiene and sanitation have left communities in drought-affected districts and IDP camps vulnerable to infectious disease outbreaks such as measles and diarrhoea.

DROUGHT KEY FACTS

1.8 Million people including

643 000 IDPs

28 Districts affected by drought

253 Reporting health facilities in EWARN

85% Completeness of reporting

75% Timeliness of reporting

HEALTH SITUATION

17-23 February 2020

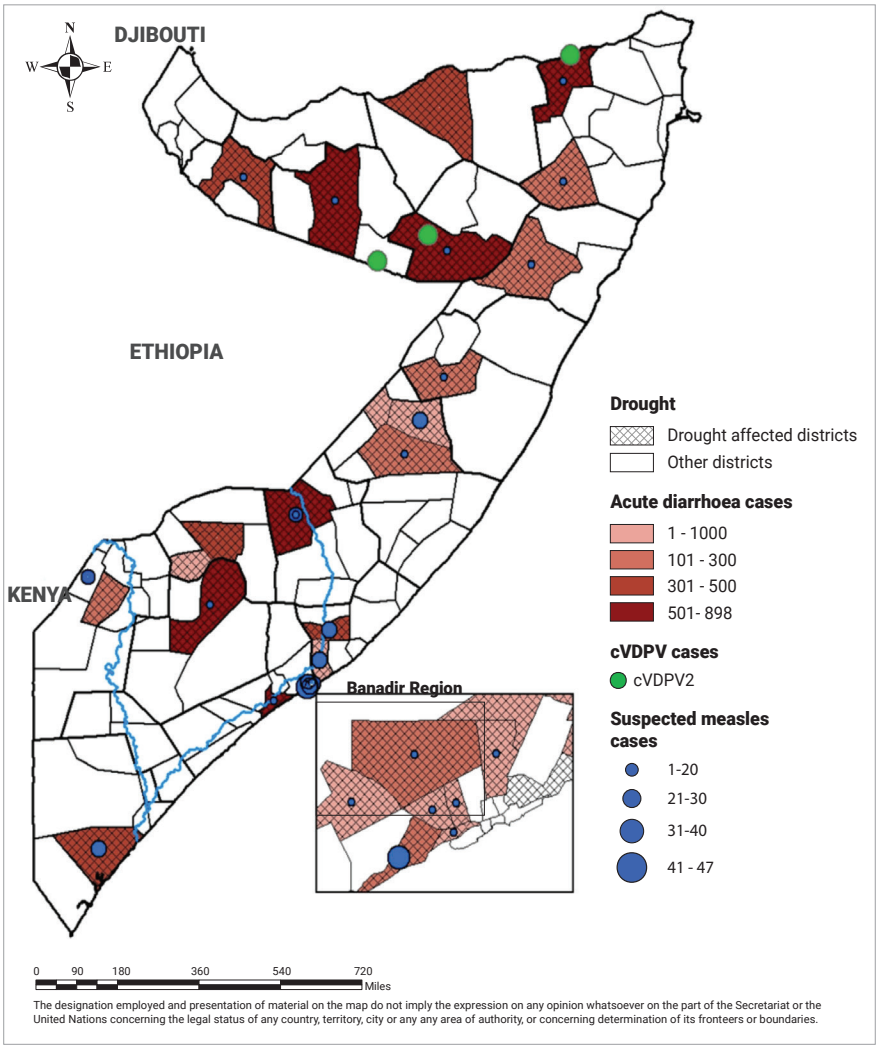
231[1] new cholera cases

73 suspected measles cases

2 732 acute diarrhoea cases

[1] This data is from drought affected districts only

Map showing drought-affected areas of Somalia, and locations of cases of diarrhoea, circulating vaccine-derived polio virus (cVDPV) type 2 and measles



CHOLERA IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS

Since December 2017, cholera cases have continued to be reported in Somalia. A total of 1062 cholera cases were reported from ten districts of Banadir, Middle Shabelle and Hiran regions affected by drought between epidemiological weeks 1 and 8, 2020 (Table 1). During week 8, 2020, new outbreak of cholera reported from Jowhar district of Middle Shabelle region where 119 new cases and two deaths reported. Stool specimen collected from these districts confirmed that 5 out of 10 stool samples to be positive by National public health laboratory. Since December 2017, a total of 1 297 stool samples tested for cholera, of which 341 samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* serotype Ogawa and Inaba. Culture and sensitivity studies performed at the National Public Health Laboratory show that the *V. cholerae* serotype Ogawa isolated is sensitive to chloramphenicol and tetracycline but resistant to ampicillin and nalidixic acid.

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ACUTE DIARRHOEAL DISEASES

Cases of acute diarrhoea increased in the year 2020 compared with previous years. This is linked to the shortage of safe water, and poor hygiene and sanitation (Fig. 1) as a result of drought and floods which occurred towards the end of 2019. Since epidemiological week 1 of 2020, a total of 22 031 cases of acute diarrhoea have been reported from drought-affected districts through EWARN. The most affected districts were Lasanood, Baidoa, Beletweyne, Burco, Marka, Bossaso, Jowhar, Madina and Danyile (See Table 1).

MEASLES

As a result of the mass measles vaccination campaign conducted in Somalia in 2018, the number of suspected cases of measles decreased in 2019 compared with previous years (Fig. 2). Another measles campaign conducted in November 2019 is expected to further contribute to the reduction of measles cases. Since epidemiological week 1, 2020, a total of 562 suspected cases of measles have been reported in drought-affected districts. Adado and Madina are the most affected districts (See Table 1).

A total of 20416 (93%) children under 1 year of age out of the targeted received measles 1 vaccine (MCV1) in drought-affected districts from March 2019 to January 2020 (Fig. 3). During the drought monitoring period, March to December 2019, the vaccination coverage was ranging between 61% and 93% per month against a monthly target of 22 068 children under 1 year of age.

POLIO UPDATES

Two new cases of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus type 2 (cVDPV2) were confirmed this week. Between epidemiological weeks 1 and 6 of 2020, three new cVDPV2 cases were confirmed in Somalia (Map). The most recent case of cVDPV2 was confirmed of 7 February 2020.

No new cases of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus type 3 (cVDPV3) reported from acute flaccid paralysis cases from 2018 to date. The last case of cVDPV3 in Somalia was confirmed on 7 September 2018.

Fig. 1. Trends of acute diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected districts of Somalia, 2017–2020

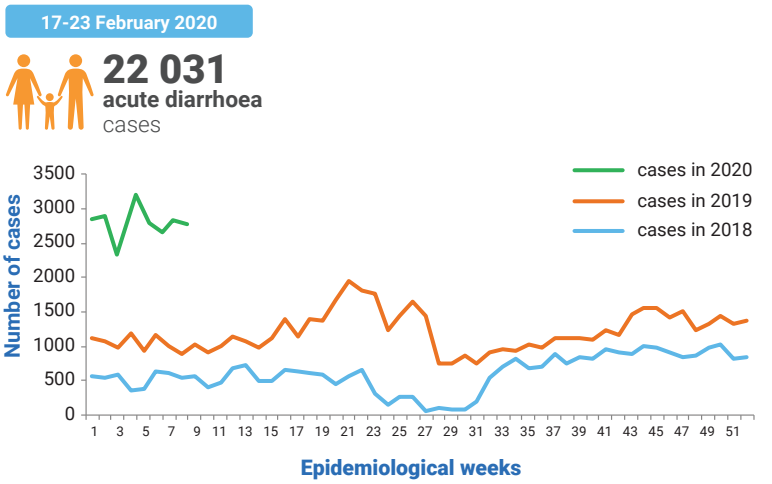


Fig. 2. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected districts of Somalia, 2017–2020

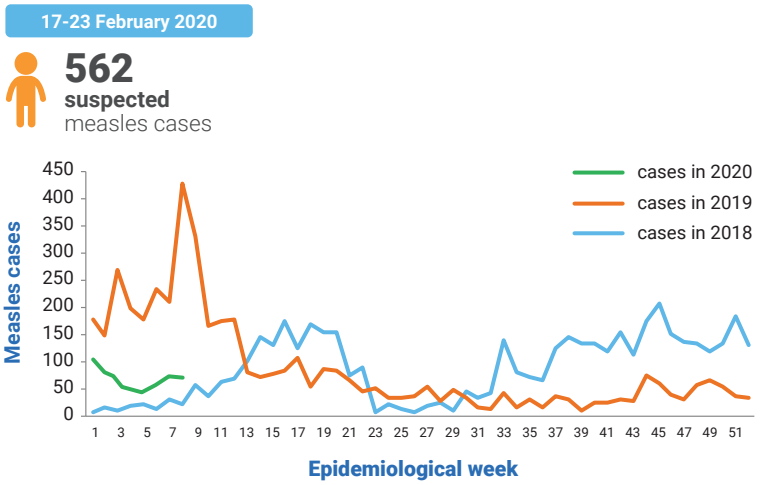
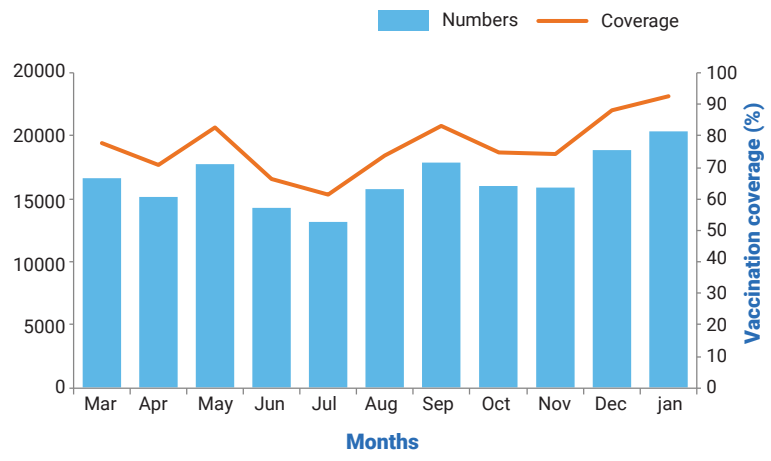


Fig. 3. Number of children under 1 year of age vaccinated against measles by month, 2019



Two (2) new environmental samples were positive for cVDPV2 in 2019. Date of collection of these two (2) recent positive environmental samples was 10 November 2019.

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Table 1. Cumulative numbers of diarrhoea, measles and cholera cases in drought-affected districts of Somalia (epidemiological weeks 8, 2020)[a]

State/region	Districts	acute diarrhoea cases	Suspected measles cases	Suspected cholera cases
Banadir[b]	Daynile	1068	46	173
	Hawal Wadag	181	4	37
	Hodan	42	3	149
	Kahda	432	9	41
	Karan	0	0	9
	Madina/Wadajir	688	179	187
	Waberi	224	37	21
	Yaqshid	153	1	15
Galmudug	Adado	73	89	0
	Dusamareeb	259	7	0
	Abudwaq	30	0	0
HirShabelle	Balad	162	28	0
	Jowhar	798	38	119
	Belet Weyne	1748	8	311
Juba land	Kismayo	592	36	0
	Garbahare	292	0	0
Puntland	Garowe	411	1	0
	Bossaso	1121	18	0
	Qardho	412	13	0
	Galkayo	428	3	0
Somaliland	Erigavo	539	0	0
	Hargeisa	637	6	0
	Las Anod	5891	2	0
	Burao	1286	4	0
South West state	Wajid	20	0	0
	Hudur	900	0	0
	Baidoa	2323	21	0
	Marka	1321	9	0
Total		**22 031**	**562**	**1 062**

[a] The total number of cases reported on EWARN may change after verification by surveillance teams.

[b] Banadir is a region not a state.

WHO and the Federal Ministry of Health continue to monitor trends of epidemic-prone diseases in drought-affected districts using the electronic EWARN. WHO and health cluster partners are implementing preparedness and response activities to prevent the negative effects of drought. WHO is also supporting different states to increase the number of health facilities submitting alerts of epidemic-prone diseases in EWARN. With support from Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), WHO in collaboration with state level health authorities are implementing activities to avert the negative consequence of drought in selected districts of Jubbaland, Southwest state and Hirshabelle.

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EPIDEMIC PRONE DISEASE ALERTS REPORTED IN FLOOD AND DROUGHT AFFECTED DISTRICTS

During epidemiological week 8, health facilities in flood and drought-affected districts reported alerts of: acute watery diarrhea (283 cases), malaria (152 cases), and measles (17 cases). The alerts were verified through field investigation by WHO deployed Rapid Response Teams (RRT). A total of 80 acute diarrhea cases, 17 Measles and 65 malaria cases were verified as true. Most of the alerts were from Beletweyne, Madina, Jowhar and Bossaso. All patients were treated and referred to the nearest health center for further management.

Reporting week	Alert description	No. Of alerts reported	No. Of alerts verified	No. Of true alerts
Week 3	Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)	164	148	16
	bloody diarrhoea	0	0	0
	Malaria	339	152	187
	Measles	26	26	16
	Total week 3	**529**	**326**	**203**
Week 4	Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)	114	114	113
	bloody diarrhoea	16	16	0
	Malaria	164	164	58
	Measles	164	164	58
	Total week 4	**458**	**458**	**229**
Week 5	Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)	294	294	169
	bloody diarrhoea	0	0	0
	Malaria	301	301	216
	Measles	21	21	21
	Total week 5	**616**	**616**	**406**
Week 6	Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)	155	155	153
	bloody diarrhoea	0	0	0
	Malaria	179	179	109
	Measles	13	13	13
	Total week 6	**347**	**347**	**275**
Week 7	Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)	155	155	24
	Malaria	150	150	119
	Measles	15	15	0
	Total week 7	**319**	**319**	**143**
Week 8	Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)	283	283	80
	Malaria	152	152	65
	Measles	17	17	17
	Total week 8	**452**	**452**	**163**

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