

August 2020

Health Emergency Programme Update – Somalia



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KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – August 2020.

130 Health cluster partners
3.15 million People in need of health care

HEALTH NEEDS AND PROVISION

- **2.4 million** people internally displaced of which 1.8 million require humanitarian assistance
- **681 000** drought-affected people in six states and Banadir in July 2020
- **0.97** consultations per person per year (as compared to OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person per year)

DISEASE BURDEN INDICATORS

- **688** alerts of epidemic prone diseases detected by 690 health facilities registered with EWARN in August 2020
- MCV1 coverage rate of **67%** (34,425 out of 51,688 infants under the age of 1) as of 2020
- OPV-3 coverage rate of **69%** (35,680 out of 51,688 infants under the age of 1) as of 2020

FUNDING (US\$)

8.3 million Required for WHO's health emergency programme in 2020

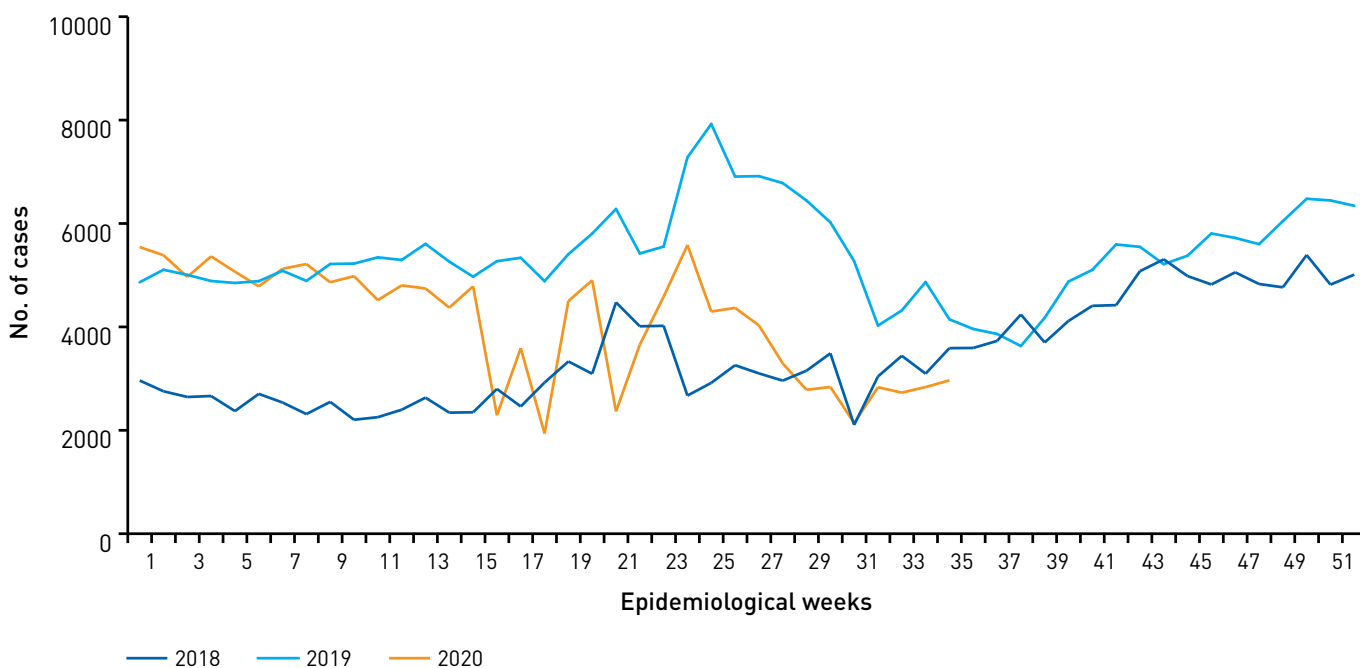
HIGHLIGHTS.

- **ALERTS:** 688 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases were reported through the EWARN system in August 2020. The top three leading alerts were for **malaria** (46%), **suspected AWD/cholera** (21%) and **measles** (3%) – with most cases located in the drought and flood affected districts
- **COVID-19:** In August 2020, the MoH with support from WHO tested **7065** suspected cases of COVID-19 and recorded **3011** recoveries and **1** death associated with the virus. Since the onset of the outbreak in Somalia, there have been **3745** laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 including **99** associated deaths. The median age amongst confirmed cases is **32** years and 73% of the cases have been male.
- **Vaccination campaign:** Between 30 August and 3 September, the FMOH with support from WHO and UNICEF launched an integrated measles, polio, vitamin A and deworming campaign in all 17 districts of Banadir region, targeting **491 643** children under 5 years with the bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV), and **442 479** children from 6 months to 5 years with the measles vaccine and vitamin A supplementation.

Disease surveillance update

- In August 2020, the EWARN system reported the following:
 - 688 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases, with the top three leading alerts being for malaria (46%), suspected AWD/cholera (21%) and measles (3%)
 - 471 cases of AWD/cholera, representing a 21% increase as compared to August 2019 (371 cases)
 - 11 365 cases of acute diarrhoea, which represents a 58% decrease as compared to August 2019 (17 971 cases)
 - 331 cases of measles, representing a 18% decrease as compared to August 2019 (390 cases)
 - 974 cases of malaria, which constitutes a 45% decrease as compared to August 2019 (1416 cases)

Fig. 1. Trends of acute diarrhoea cases in Somalia, 2018, 2019 and 2020



WHO emergency health activities

- Between 30 August and 3 September, the FMOH, WHO and UNICEF launched an integrated measles, polio, vitamin A and deworming campaign in all 17 districts of Banadir region, targeting 491 643 children under 5 years with the bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV), and 442 479 children from 6 months to 5 years of age with the measles vaccine and vitamin A supplementation.

Around 600 teams were deployed in the field to implement the integrated campaign, with 224 district field assistants supervising and monitoring the campaign, as well as MoH, UNICEF and WHO staff. Vaccination teams and supervisors were trained on infection prevention and control practices, as well as on standard operating procedures of vaccination during COVID-19. They have been provided with masks and gloves to protect themselves and the community from COVID-19. This is the first campaign to take place during the COVID-19 pandemic in Somalia. Around 50% of measles cases in Somalia in 2020 have been reported from Banadir.

- In the South West state, 76 new suspected AWD/Cholera cases were reported in Sabiid, Anoole and Mareerey villages in the Afgooye district of Lower Shabelle region between 17 and 23 August 2020. The 3 villages are among the flash flood-affected Hagaa. According to the flood impact assessment up to 2450 families (14 700 people) have been affected by flash floods and 875 families have been displaced (5250 people) since 5 July 2020 in these three villages.

Coordination

- Throughout August, coordination meetings in response to COVID-19 have taken place at national, state, regional and district levels between the ministries of health, UN agencies and health partners. These have included national and state level health cluster meetings, inter cluster coordination meetings and the UN task force technical meetings.
- Key topics discussed have included how to scale-down resources in certain isolation facilities in Galmudug where patient admissions are extremely low, strategies to increase surveillance activities at the community level in Somaliland, and how to continue with efforts to reach 'silent' districts in particular in Jubaland where a measles outbreak is also ongoing.
- WHO and health authorities also carried out joint supervision visits to the field. In South West state, a visit was organized to Hudur district. In Somaliland, a joint visit to the isolation centre and the laboratory in Berbera was carried out. Berbera has the second highest COVID-19 prevalence in Somaliland.



Surveillance and laboratory

- In August 2020, the MoH with support from WHO tested 7065 suspected cases of COVID-19 and recorded 3011 recoveries and 1 death associated with the virus. Since the onset of the outbreak in Somalia, there have been 3745 laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 99 associated deaths. The median age amongst confirmed cases is 32 years and 73% of the cases have been male. During the reporting period:
 - 23 alerts of COVID-19 were notified by integrated community surveillance teams
 - 7 530 suspected cases of COVID-19 were investigated by the integrated community surveillance teams
 - 656 samples were transported from a silent districts
 - 73 rapid response teams deployed for field investigation and sample collection.
- Furthermore, 981 health facilities were visited by district rapid response teams to strengthen health workers sensitization, carry out case searches and provide supportive supervision to EWARNS surveillance activities.

Case management

- In August 2020, 13 patients were admitted in isolation facilities in Somalia. It is important to note that most suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 self-isolate at home rather than go to designated isolation facilities.
- WHO, UNICEF, ACF and IMC conducted an infection prevention and control training in Kismayo, Galmudug and Banadir region. A total of 177 health care providers (111 female and 66 male) were trained so as to strengthen the capacity of frontline workers and prevent the further spread on COVID-19 in the community.

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- The rapid response teams have continued to provide key messages to the community focusing on COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and testing and community engagement in limiting the spread of the outbreak.
- In August, the teams reached 569 166 households, where a total of 2 879 641 people were reached with risk communication messages through house-to-house as well as group communication. In the same period, 1231 calls were made to COVID-19 helplines in Jubaland and Puntland. The callers showed no symptoms of COVID-19. Since 19 July, 112 253 calls have been received on hotlines in Jubaland, Puntland and Somaliland.

Emergency medical supplies

- In August 2020, WHO, delivered personal protective equipment to Doble district in Jubaland. A total of 4 753 PPEs including 5 400 masks and other items were distributed. The supplies were handed over to partners supporting isolation centres and other health facilities in the state and will aim to protect health workers treating COVID-19 patients as well as those providing essential health services in the region. An additional 1450 sample collection kits were distributed to different districts in Hirshabelle and Jubaland states, in order to facilitate the collection of samples from silent' districts.

Nutrition updates

- WHO provides support to state health ministries with regards to cases of severe acute malnutrition with medical complications in the drought, flood and conflict affected districts in Somalia. This is done notably through the provision of supplies to nutritional stabilization centers in the country, including the distribution of SAM Kits to the state health ministries on a quarterly basis.
- There were 658 new admissions in stabilization centres this week. 20 stabilization centres sent their report this past month (3 stabilization centres in Banadir region, 10 in Jubaland, 5 in Galmudug, and 2 in Hirshabelle), down from 35 centres in July 2020.
- A total of 20 (2.5%) deaths, 745 (92.8%) cures, 37 (5%) defaulters, 11 (1.4%) medical referrals and 803 (82 %) total discharges were reported in August 2020.

Monitoring of trauma cases

- WHO is closely monitoring the number of weapon-related and non-weapon-related injuries in the country and responding accordingly. As of August there were 4206 injuries reported, of which 80% were weapon-related, a 8% increase as compared to July 2020.
- WHO provides quarterly distributions of emergency medical supplies, including Trauma Kit A and B. The supplies are adapted to patients with life-threatening conditions. In August WHO has distributed 11 trauma kits A and 6 trauma kits B sufficient to manage 1200 severely injured patient for 3 months.

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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 Reports:

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



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