

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Covid-19:** In July 2020, the MoH with support from WHO tested 3 695 suspected cases of COVID-19. There were 526 recoveries and 1 death associated with the virus. In recent months, there has been an increase in the number of cases tested, due to a scale-up of surveillance and testing capacity
- **Health facility-based surveillance:** 690 health facilities registered with EWARN (Early Warning Alert and Response Network) recorded 285 460 consultations in July, highlighting a 7% increase as compared to the previous month (266 872 consultations). Diseases causing the highest morbidity were respiratory infections (22 024 consultations) and diarrhoeal diseases (15 086 consultations).
- **ALERTS:** A total of 911 alerts were detected through EWARN, of which 446 were verified. WHO-trained rapid response teams carried out verifications, investigations and referred patients to health facilities as required



WHO PHEO is providing support supervision to Banadir Mother and child General Hospital in July 2020

### KEY HEALTH INDICATORS – JULY 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
- 0.23 consultations per person per year (as compared to OCHA standard of 1 new visit/person per year)

### DISEASE BURDEN INDICATORS

- 911 alerts of epidemic prone diseases detected by 690 health facilities registered with EWARN
- MCV1 coverage rate was 69% (171 061 out of 247 915 infants under the age of 1)
- OPV-3 coverage rate was 71% (181 922 out of 256 228 infants under the age of 1)

### FUNDING (US\$)

8.3 million	Required for WHO's health emergency programme
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### DISEASE SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

- 911 alerts of epidemic-prone diseases were reported through the EWARN system in July 2020. The top three leading alerts were malaria (44%), suspected AWD/cholera (40%) and measles (8%) – with most cases located in the drought and flood affected districts
- In July 2020, the following cases were reported through EWARN:
  - 1 093 cases of AWD/cholera, representing a 41% increase as compared to the same period last year (776 cases reported in July 2019)
  - 15 086 cases of acute diarrhoea, which represents a 25% decrease as compared to the cases (31 436 cases) reported same period in July 2019
  - 431 cases of measles, representing a 27% decrease as compared to the same period last year (593 cases reported in July 2019)
  - 1 525 cases of malaria, which constitutes a 40% decrease as compared to the same period last year (2536 cases reported in July 2019).

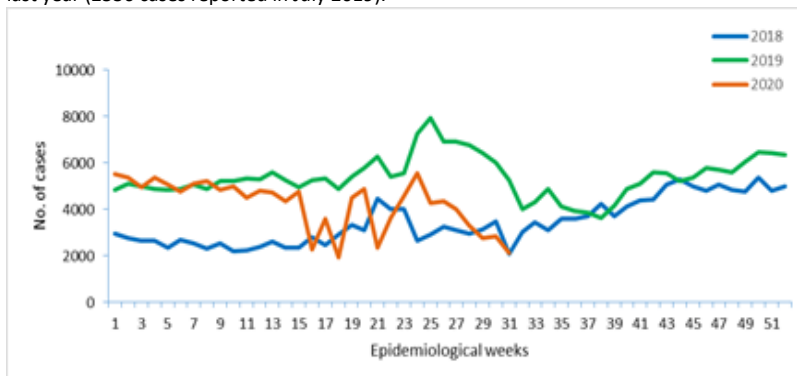


Fig. 1. Trends of acute diarrhoea cases in Somalia, 2018, 2019 and 2020

### WHO EMERGENCY HEALTH ACTIVITIES

In July 2020, WHO's WHE programme in Somalia focused on:

- Participation in the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, through surveillance, case management and RCCE activities
- Support to the MoH investigation and response to the measles outbreak in Jubbaland
- Monitoring of the impact of heavy rains in the Lower Shabelle region of Southwest state, which caused flooding across Afgoye and surrounding areas affecting more than 70 000 people in Afgoye and Wanla-Weyne districts.
- Training of 57 doctors (15 female and 42 male) working in Banadir private health facilities and isolation facilities on EWARN; organization of a one-day refreshment training for 150 health care workers (42 male and 103 female) on COVID-19 case definition contact listing and tracing, and collection of data through Mobile technology using ODK (Open Data Kit).

## RESPONSE OPERATIONS TO COVID-19

### Coordination

- Dr Khalid from the WHO Eastern and Mediterranean Region presented a webinar on Psychological First Aid (PFA) to the National Health Cluster. Partners were encouraged to identify opportunities in which they can provide PFA for the COVID-19 affected vulnerable people including frontline health care providers who were affected by COVID-19. Dr Khalid took partners through the key principles to observe so as to be able to provide PSA. Partners were also reminded that frontline healthcare workers are at high risk of psychological stress. WHO EMRO is looking to carry out a survey targeting IDPs migrants and Refugees to find out how COVID-19 is affecting them. This survey will be shared through the cluster in order to reach beneficiaries in Somalia.
- In July, the cluster also discussed how the Humanitarian Need Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response (HRP) planning is beginning with the REACH Joint Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (JMNCNA) survey. There are some changes on how the surveys will be done – and these will be communicated. The Global Health Cluster has developed a standardized People in Need (PiN) methodology and calculator to be used across all countries with HNO/HRPs; this will as well be applied to Somalia. Partners are encouraged to participate by presenting priorities for the HRP in the upcoming cluster meetings.

### Surveillance and laboratory

- In July 2020, the MoH with support from WHO tested 3695 suspected cases of COVID-19. There were 526 recoveries and 1 death associated with the virus that month.
- Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak in Somalia, there have been 3212 laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 93 associated deaths. The median age amongst confirmed cases is 32 years and 73% of the cases have been male.
- In July 2020, 2 413 188 individuals in 478 865 households across 49 priority districts were visited by 3327 integrated community surveillance teams. Through this activity:
  - 107 alerts of COVID-19 were notified by integrated community teams
  - 733 confirmed and suspected cases who were either in home isolation or quarantine were followed up by the integrated community surveillance teams.
  - 792 contacts were provided with daily support from community health workers in order to monitor possible symptoms and ensure proper infection prevention and control measures at household level.
- Furthermore, 721 health facilities were visited by the district rapid response team to strengthen surveillance, health workers sensitization, carrying out case searches and providing supportive supervision to EWARNS surveillance activities.

### Case management

- In July 2020, 49 patients were admitted in isolation facilities in Somalia, bringing the total number of admissions since the beginning of the outbreak to 1263 patients. 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.
- On 8 July 2020, with the support from IOM, the State MoH and WHO provided basic training on case management of COVID-19 training to 22 health care workers (14 male and 8 female) and immigration officials in the Points of Entry of Hudur and Baidoa. In Galmudug, the State MOH with support from Save the children conducted case management training for 20 health workers (10 female and 10 male) in Adado isolation facility. WHO prepositioned PPE supplies in Galkacyo south, which will be handed over to Galkayo isolation center, supported by IMC.

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- In order to increase awareness regarding COVID-19, the WHO supported federal member states in reaching 25 792 individuals with COVID-19 risk messages. In addition, some Federal member states have set up a free HOTLINE number for enquiries related to the virus. During the month of July, hotlines in Puntland and Hirshabelle received 22 317 calls. Furthermore, 25 radio stations aired COVID-19-related messages on cough etiquette, hand-shaking and physical distancing in order to keep people safe during COVID-19.
- From 4-6 July 2020, the Federal Ministry of Health with the support of the World Bank trained 200 female health workers on COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement. As part of the training, health workers were also trained on basic principles of infection prevention and control measures
- In Southwest State, the Ministry of Health, WHO and partners have engaged community health promoters throughout the state to provide messages on COVID-19, as well as on acute watery diarrhoea/cholera. Messages have also been aired on radios and on billboards. Sensitization activities on hand washing practice among the internally displaced communities in Beledweyne and Baidoa was jointly conducted by the MOH and WHO teams. In Baidoa, hygiene kits were distributed in order to facilitate hygiene and sanitation practice among the IDP community.
- In Banadir, a meeting of the RCCE technical advisory group discussed how to tackle COVID-19 risk awareness gaps in IDP sites. Furthermore, TV stations and 30 radio stations have continued airing messages on COVID-19 prevention, focusing this week on how the community is dealing with rumors and misinformation about COVID-19. The Ministry of Health also posted a short standalone video promoting right hand hygiene practices.
- In Somaliland, RRTs have continued doing house-to-house sensitization on COVID-19. Since the lifting of the lockdown, there has been growing resistance from the community regarding the wearing of the face mask and social distancing. Telecommunication companies have also stopped pre-dialled COVID-19 messages, as have all TV and radio stations.

### Emergency medical supplies

- In July, 9 975 overall personal protective equipment (PPE) were distributed to the federal member states including Dusamareeb, Jowhar and Baidoa in Somalia. The PPE distributed included 10 850 masks, 2000 gloves, 1867 gowns and 196 goggles. The districts received the supplies include Garowe, Kismayo, Hudur, Beledweyne, Dusamareeb and Hargeisa. These protective masks, together with other preventive measures,

## 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.
- The total number of new admissions in July 2020 is 1069 cases from 35 stabilization centres (3 SC in Banadir region, 10 SC in Jubaland, 5 SC in Galmudug, 2 SC in Hirshabelle, 4 SC in South west and 11 SC in Puntland)
- A total of 19 (1.8%) deaths, 981 (95%) cures, 33 (3.2%) defaulters, 15 (1.4%) medical referrals, and 1036 (97 %) total discharges were reported in July 2020 and the overall completeness of reporting in July 2020 was 66% (35 out of 53).

## 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 July there were 3 893 injuries reported of which 80% of the injuries were weapon-related, a 10% decrease compared to June 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 and include antibiotics, anti-pain drugs, dressing materials, resuscitation solution and surgical equipment that can serve for a period of three months. In July WHO has planned to distribute 11 trauma kits A and 9 trauma kits B, sufficient to manage 1000 severely injured patient for 3 months.



WHO providing PPEs and sample collection kits to Baidoa, Afgoye, Marka, Baraawe, Elberde and Hudur district on 28 July 2020.



DFAs and social mobilizers training on COVID-19 awareness and prevention in Hudur District on 7 July 2020

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### Our weekly and monthly information products

Weekly Cholera infographic: <a href="http://www.emro.who.int/somalia/information-resources/acute-watery-diarrhoeacholera-situation-reports.html">-http://www.emro.who.int/somalia/information-resources/acute-watery-diarrhoeacholera-situation-reports.html</a>	Monthly Reports: - <a href="http://www.emro.who.int/countries/somalia/index.html">http://www.emro.who.int/countries/somalia/index.html</a> - <a href="#">COVID-19 Dashboard-Somalia</a>
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