

Health Emergency Situation Report: Somalia

April 2019



Highlights

- Since December 2017, cholera cases continue to be reported in Somalia. Currently active transmission is reported from Banadir region only. A total of 3,440 cases and 24 deaths have been reported from Banadir CTC since the start of the outbreak in December 2017.
- Linked to the dry condition that led to severe water shortage and poor hygiene and sanitation, the number of diarrheal diseases cases have increased. In April, 25,689 cases of diarrheal diseases were reported, giving a cumulative total 91,952 in 2019. Compared to the same period in 2018, the reported cases are higher in 2019.
- A total of 454,029 consultations were reported across the health facilities covered by the EWARN system in April, 2019. Acute respiratory tract infection, diarrheal diseases and malaria were the leading causes of morbidity.



WHO Public Health Officer conducting field visit to a rural village of Galmudug State in Somalia

Key Figures

HEALTH SECTOR

105	Health Cluster Partners
3 million	People in need of health services
2.4 million	Target population for healthcare

HEALTH FACILITIES

1,421	Number of health facilities
453	EWARN reporting sites

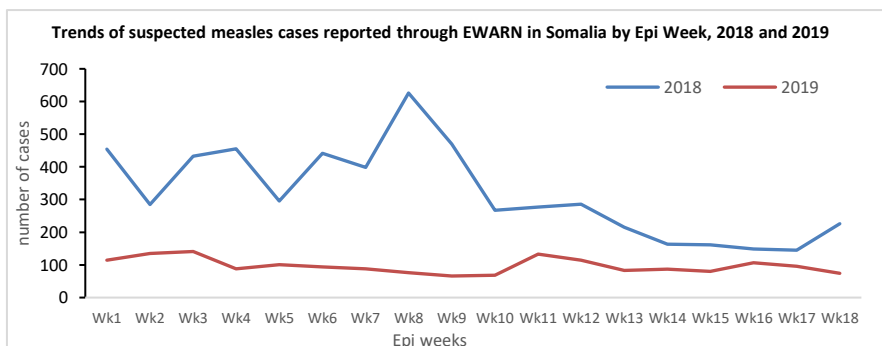
FUNDING US \$

8.3million	Required for WHO's health emergency programme in 2019
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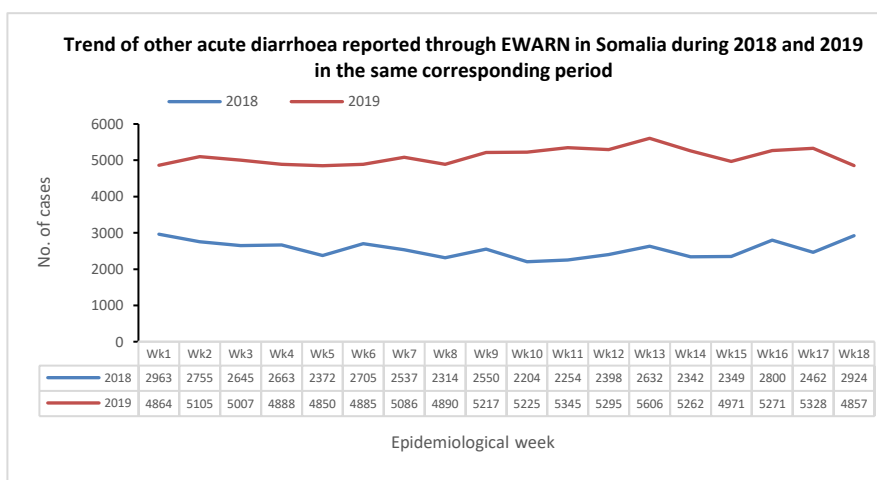
Epidemiological/Surveillance Update

Overall Situation

- The delayed and poor rainfall in most of the countries, specially in the northern part of the country has increased the number of people facing drought or drought-like situation. In the event of a drought, an estimated 1.7 million people may face extreme hardships
- The current dry weather condition has led to shortage of water across most parts of the country with an increased water price that affects access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation. This has contributed to increased number of diarrheal diseases across the country. The risk of water-borne disease outbreak (including cholera), increased cases of severe acute malnutrition and measles outbreak are potential negative health consequences of the situation that could lead to higher morbidity and mortality. Nutrition situation is expected to further deteriorate if the drought situation remains the same or worsens.
- There has been an overall reduction in the number of new measles cases reported from all Somalia states following the measles vaccination campaign that was done in 2018 (fig 2). However, a localized confirmed measles outbreak and alerts of suspected measles cases were reported from many regions across the country. Since the start of the year, a total of 1,500 suspected measles cases were reported across the country, mainly from Banadir, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Galgaduud regions. Majority of the suspected cases (81%) were among children under the age of five years.



- In Puntland state, measles case-based surveillance training was conducted in Garowe. Health workers from 40 health facilities attended the training. The training which was aimed at improving measles surveillance, alert verification and investigation as well as case management, was conducted from 27 to 28 April, 2019.
- Linked to the drought condition that caused serious water shortage and poor hygiene and sanitation, acute diarrheal diseases cases have increased significantly in 2019 when compared during the same corresponding period in 2018. Since January 2019, a total of 87,106 acute diarrhoeal disease cases were reported through the EWARN surveillance system. In addition, active cholera transmission is ongoing in Banadir region. A total of 3,440 cases and 24 deaths have been reported from Banadir Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC) this year so far.



- A total of 396 out of 453 health facilities across the country submitted the weekly surveillance data to the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) during the month of April 2019. The reporting completeness varied across the country with an average of 87% from all EWARN reporting sites. Delayed reporting due to poor communication network and use of paper-based surveillance report in the southern states is still the biggest challenge faced by the health facilities.
- A total of 454,029 consultations were reported from all health facilities reporting surveillance data to EWARN between weeks 14 and 18 of 2019. Acute Respiratory tract infections (SARI and ILI) with 33,843 cases, diarrheal cases with 25,689 cases and malaria cases with 2,972 were the leading causes of morbidity.
- A total of 1,526 alerts of epidemic prone diseases were reported through the EWARN system across the 396 health facilities during the month of April 2019. Limited funding for deployment of district Rapid Response Teams to investigate all reported alerts remains a challenge of the surveillance system.

Health Cluster

- Health cluster coordination meetings at national and sub national levels were conducted during the month. At state level, subnational meetings were coordinated by state based WHO public health officers in close collaboration with the state ministry of health and the NGO focal points for the cluster.
- Health partners shared their programme updates, information and challenges related to programme implementation as well as response to health emergencies.
- Health partners reported shortage of funding to respond to the negative health consequence of the drought, particularly diarrheal diseases, measles and malaria among the vulnerable IDPs and hard to reach communities.