World Health Organization
Somalia

Weekly
EPI Watch
Epidemiological bulletin
For epidemic prone diseases in Somalia for week 6, 03-09 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

230 Reporting health facilities in EWARN

79% Completeness of reporting

64% Timeliness of reporting

HEALTH SITUATION

03-09 February 2020

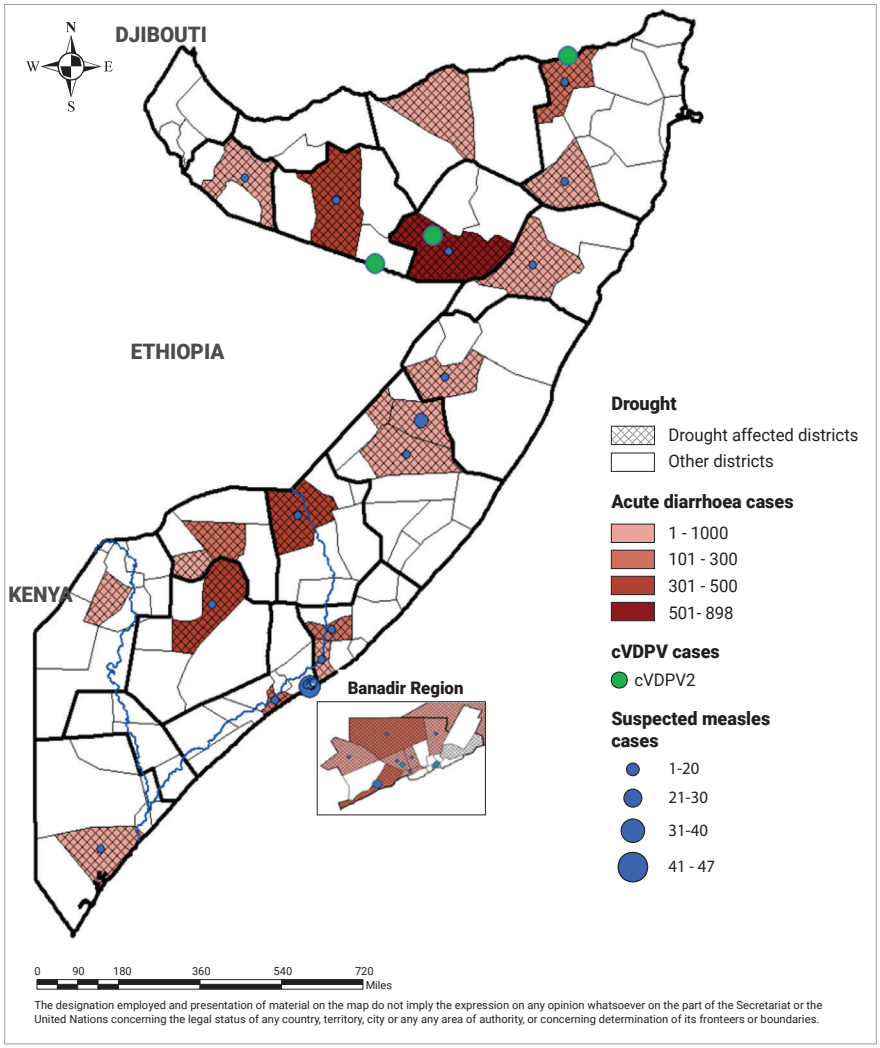
224[1] new cholera cases

58 suspected measles cases

16 530 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 728 cholera cases were reported from Beletweyne district and eight districts of Banadir affected by drought between epidemiological weeks 1 and 6, 2020 (Table 1). During week 6, 2020, a total of 124 new cases were reported from drought-affected districts. Of the 1 212 stool samples tested since December 2017, 294 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 16 530 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 419 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 161 486 (75%) children under 1 year of age out of the targeted 214 250 received measles 1 vaccine (MCV1) in drought-affected districts from March to December 2019 (Fig. 3). During the drought monitoring period, March to December 2019, the vaccination coverage was ranging between 61% and 88% per month against a monthly target of 21 425 children under 1 year of age.

POLIO UPDATES

No new cases of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus type 2 (cVDPV2) were confirmed between epidemiological weeks 1 and 5 of 2020. All the three confirmed cases of cVDPV2 were reported in 2019. The most recent case of cVDPV2 was confirmed on 8 May 2019.

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

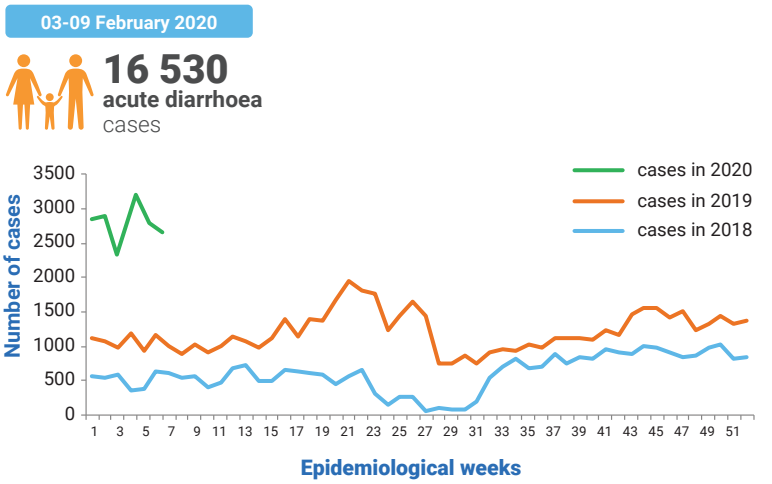


Fig. 2. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected districts of Somalia, 2017–2020

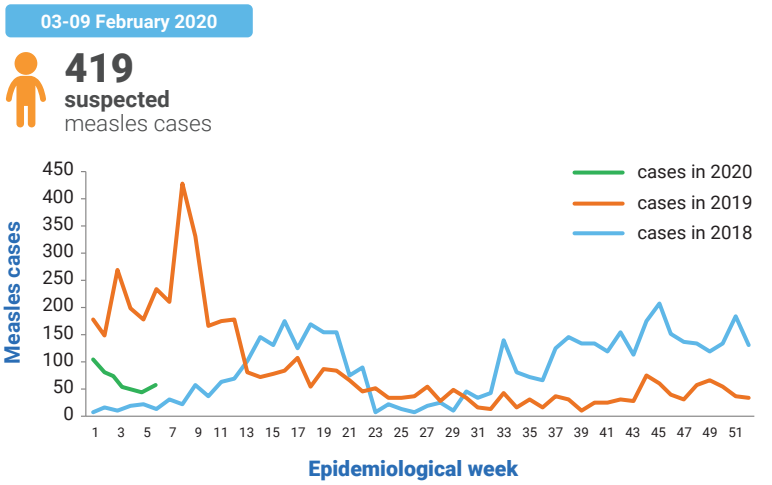
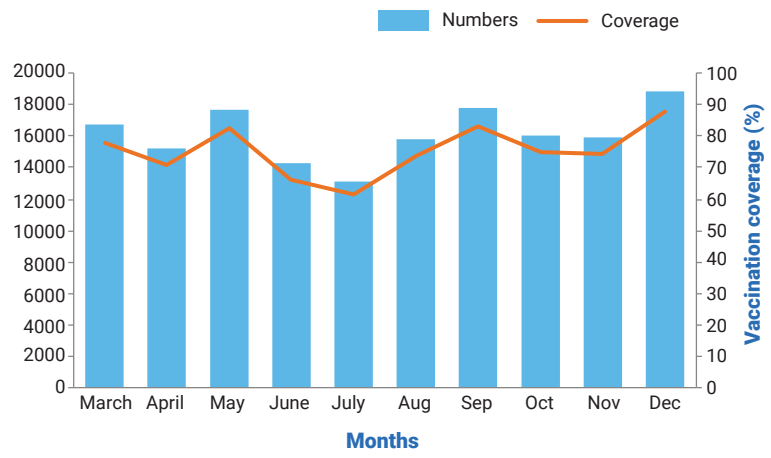


Fig. 3. Number of children under 1 year of age vaccinated against measles by month, 2019



Two (2) new environmental samples were positive for cVDPV2 in this week. Total ES Samples positive for cVDPV2 are three in 2020. Date of collection of these two (2) recent positive environmental samples was 19 January 2020.

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Table 1. Cumulative numbers of diarrhoea, measles and cholera cases in drought-affected districts of Somalia (epidemiological weeks 6, 2020)[a]

State/region	Districts	acute diarrhoea cases	Suspected measles cases	Suspected cholera cases
Banadir[b]	Daynile	642	36	135
	Hawal Wadag	149	4	17
	Hodan	36	3	116
	Kahda	311	8	31
	Karan	0	0	7
	Madina/Wadajir	547	147	132
	Waberi	179	22	15
	Yaqshid	111	1	9
Galmudug	Adado	64	74	0
	Dusamareeb	209	5	0
	Abudwaq	18	0	0
HirShabelle	Balad	113	13	0
	Jowhar	589	21	0
	Belet Weyne	1345	7	266
Juba land	Kismayo	389	15	0
	Garbahare	229	0	0
Puntland	Garowe	267	1	0
	Bossaso	922	13	0
	Qardho	337	12	0
	Galkayo	407	3	0
Somaliland	Erigavo	387	0	0
	Hargeisa	471	4	0
	Las Anod	4573	2	0
	Burao	1082	3	0
South West state	Wajid	13	0	0
	Hudur	516	0	0
	Baidoa	1660	19	0
	Marka	964	6	0
Total		**16 530**	**419**	**728**

[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 6, health facilities in flood and drought-affected districts reported alerts of: acute watery diarrhea (155 cases), malaria (179 cases), and measles (13 cases). The alerts were verified through field investigation by WHO deployed Rapid Response Teams (RRT). A total of 153 acute diarrhea cases, 13 measles cases and 109 malaria cases were verified as true. Most of the alerts were from Beletweyne, Madina, Berdale 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 1	Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)	109	10	0
	bloody diarrhoea	13	5	0
	Malaria	324	10	5
	Measles	64	50	39
Total week 1		**510**	**75**	**44**
Week 2	Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)	116	116	0
	bloody diarrhoea	10	10	0
	Malaria	147	148	2
	Measles	48	47	16
Total week 2		**321**	**321**	**18**
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**