World Health Organization
Somalia

Weekly
EPI Watch
Epidemiological bulletin

For epidemic prone diseases in Somalia for week 39, 23-29, October, 2019

OVERALL SITUATION

Poor recovery from the drought that affected Somalia in 2016/2017 as well as the negative impact of low *Gu* rains (April–June 2019) and low *Deyr* rains (October–December 2018) have led to the 2.2 million in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

Adverse climatic conditions combined with other drivers of humanitarian crisis, such as armed conflict, have led to internal displacement and weakening of the fragile health system which is contributing to the increased number of cases of measles and diarrhoea.

DROUGHT KEY FACTS

2.2 Million people including

400 000 IDPs

28 Districts affected by drought

230 Reporting health facilities in EWARN

71% Completeness of reporting

50% Timeliness of reporting

HEALTH SITUATION

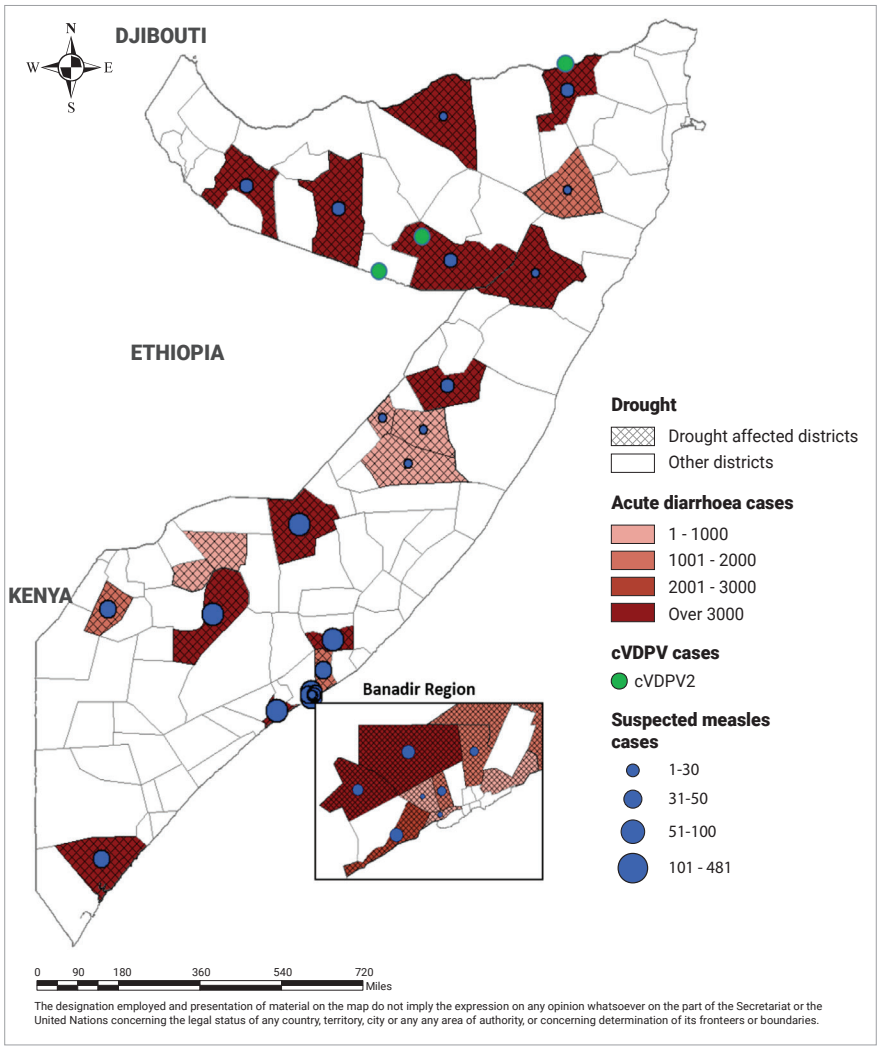
07-13 October 2019

17 new cholera cases

51 suspected measles cases

2 296 acute diarrhoea cases

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. Among the drought-affected districts, active transmission of cholera has only been reported in Banadir region. A total of 1 418 cholera cases were reported from eight districts of Banadir affected by drought during epidemiological weeks 1 to 39, 2019 (Table 1). Of the 813 stool samples tested since December 2017, 161 samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* serotype Ogawa. Culture and sensitivity studies 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 have increased in 2019 compared with previous years; this is linked to the shortage of safe water, and poor hygiene and sanitation (Fig. 1). Since epidemiological week 1, a total of 100 411 cases of acute diarrhoea have been reported from drought-affected districts through EWARN. The most affected districts are Baidoa, Lasanood, Marka, Beletweyne and Burco. (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 has decreased in 2019 compared with previous years (Fig. 3). Since epidemiological week 1, 2019, a total of 1 790 suspected cases of measles have been reported in drought-affected districts. Madina, Jowhar, Marka, Beletweyne and Baidoa are the most affected districts. (See Table 1 and Fig. 2). The number of suspected cases of measles has increased in the last two weeks compared to previous weeks and the same period in 2018. This may be because of the gradual reduction in the vaccination coverage by month against measles and the presence of risk factors such as malnutrition in drought-affected districts (Fig. 3).

A total of 153 565 (79.6%) children under 1 year of age out of the targeted 192 825 received Measles 1 vaccine (MCV1) in drought-affected districts from January to September 2019 (Fig. 3).

POLIO UPDATES

No new cases of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus type 2 (cVDPV2) were confirmed this week. Between epidemiological weeks 1 and 39, three new cVDPV2 cases were confirmed in Somalia (Map). 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 in 2019. The last case of cVDPV3 in Somalia was confirmed on 7 September 2018.

All environmental samples were negative for both cVDPV2 and cVDPV3 in 2019.

The first round of the response campaign to the three cases of cVDPV2 was conducted from 24 to

Fig. 1. Trends of acute diarrhoea cases reported in drought-affected districts of Somalia, 2017–2019

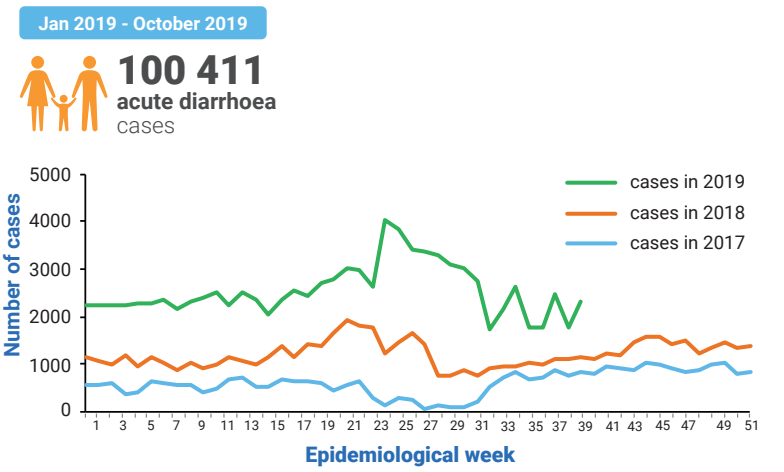


Fig. 2. Trends of measles cases reported in drought-affected districts of Somalia, 2017–2019

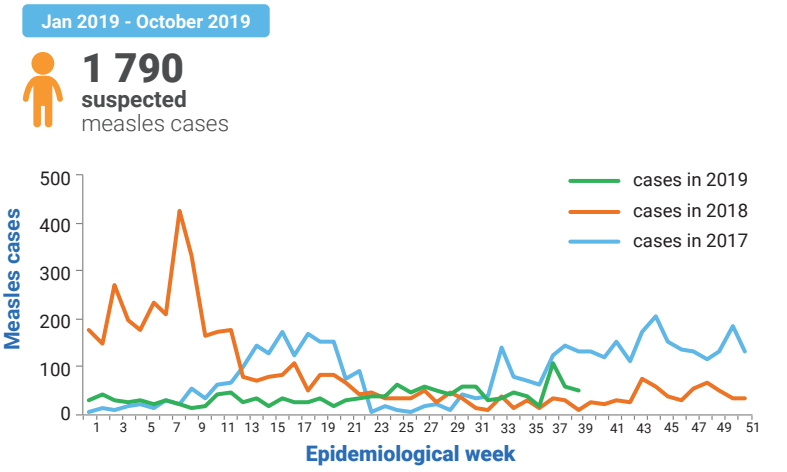
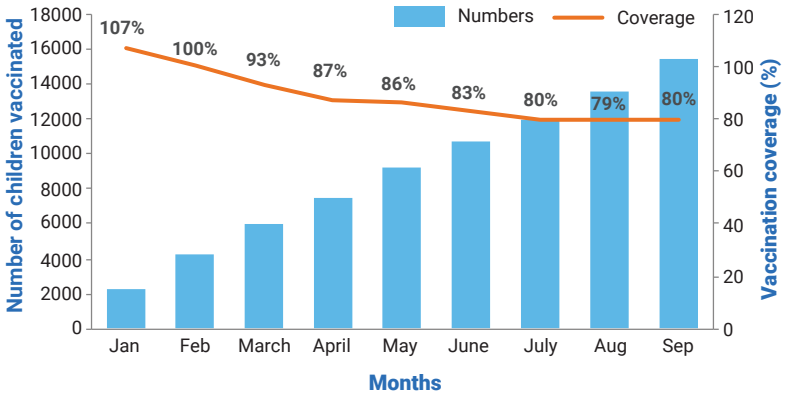


Fig. 3. Number of children under 1 year of age vaccinated against measles by month, 2019



27 June 2019 in 21 target districts of Somaliland and Puntland using the monovalent type 2 oral poliovirus vaccine (mOPV2).

A total of 170 072 (98%) under 5 years children were vaccinated using mOPV2 in the targeted 12 districts of Somaliland and Puntland.

A total of 1.59 million (97%) under 5 years children were vaccinated using bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) in 41 high risk districts from 23 to 26 September 2019 across Somalia.

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Table 1. Cumulative numbers of diarrhoea, measles and cholera cases in drought-affected districts of Somalia (epidemiological weeks 1–39, 2019)[a]

State/region	Districts	acute diarrhoea cases	Suspected measles cases	Suspected cholera cases
Banadir[b]	Daynile	4377	96	350
	Hawal Wadag	1359	36	70
	Hodan	217	9	412
	Kahda	3318	55	72
	Karan	45	0	34
	Madina/Wadajir	2600	499	401
	Waberi	539	30	45
	Yaqshid	1302	38	34
Galmudug	Adado	804	12	0
	Dusamareeb	547	7	0
	Abudwaq	229	2	0
HirShabelle	Balad	1965	66	0
	Jowhar	4297	184	0
	Belet Weyne	7386	129	0
Juba land	Kismayo	4465	87	0
	Garbahare	1106	9	0
Puntland	Garowe	4703	11	0
	Bossaso	4071	35	0
	Qardho	1739	4	0
	Galkayo	5557	35	0
Somaliland	Erigavo	3084	5	0
	Hargeisa	3422	31	0
	Las Anod	12446	31	0
	Burao	8299	44	0
South West state	Wajid	362	0	0
	Hudur	819	0	0
	Baidoa	13263	203	0
	Marka	8090	132	0
Total		**100 411**	**1 790**	**1 418**

[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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