

## Current major event

### OCV Campaign in Somalia 2019

As a part of the cholera preparedness and response plan in Somalia, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) of Somalia secured 1.3 million doses of the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) aiming to vaccinate about 650,000 people aged 1 year and above in 6 districts. With the support of EPI/Polio team, the first round of OCV campaign was conducted from 22 to 28 June 2019.

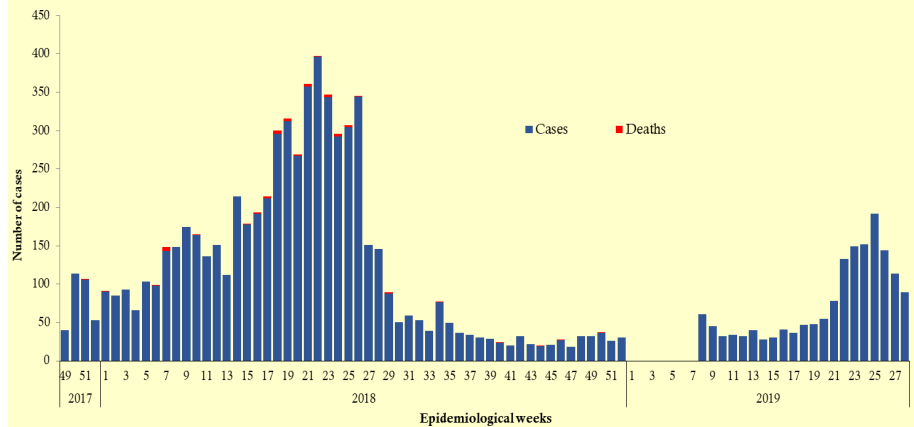
### Editorial note

Cholera is endemic in Somalia, however, in 2017 an upsurge of cases was reported following flash floods that affected districts located in the basins of rivers Jubba and Shabelle. From Nov 2017 to Jul 2019 (epi week 28), a total of 8,341 cases and 46 deaths (CFR 0.55%) (see figure), were reported from 3 states of Somalia (Hirshabelle, Jubbaland and Southwest state) and Banadir region. By the end of 2018, FMOH successfully contained the outbreak in all regions, except for Banadir and Gedo (Jubbaland state).

Somalia is currently developing a 5-year multi-sectoral cholera strategy plan, with an aim of reducing cholera related deaths by 90% by 2030. Although the national strategy will focus more on water and sanitation and other environmental health activities, OCV campaigns in high risk districts will be a major component of the plan to complement other interventions. In 2017 and 2018, a total of 1.2 million people in 13 cholera hotspot districts received 2 doses of OCV. In late 2018, a risk assessment was conducted after the heavy rains and flash floods hit some localities. It was recommended to scale up the use of cholera vaccines in the 6 newly mapped high risk districts, in addition to improving access to safe drinking water, sanitation and community knowledge and awareness of cholera prevention.

The 2019 OCV campaign aimed to prevent cholera outbreak in these high risk districts through administration of OCV to total of 642,913 vulnerable population. The first round of the OCV campaign was conducted in all 6 districts from 22 to 28 of June. A total of 621,875 (96.7%) of people aged 1 year and above received the first dose of the cholera vaccine. Almost half of those vaccinated were more than 15 years old and most of the vaccinated

### Suspected Cholera Cases reported from Somalia between Nov 2017 to Jul 2019



### 1st Round OCV Campaign Coverage

Districts	Target	Coverage (%)
Kismayo	70,389	99.6
Kahda	102,072	100
Heliwa	165,018	93.9
Hamarjabjab	101,710	96.9
Afgoye	132,275	95.7
Balad	71,449	97.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>642,913</b>	<b>96.7</b>

were women (57%). No adverse events were reported.

The OCV campaign was implemented using 629 vaccination teams, 126 supervisors, 12 cold chain assistants supported by 217 community social mobilisers. Different delivery strategies were used such as house-to-house that covered urban centers, IDPs camps and rural village; fixed sites in all health facilities in the target districts; and mobile team that covered rural villages, regular schools, religious schools (madrassas) and public gathering settings (markets). During the campaign, several water sanitation and hygiene activities were implemented such as distribution of 100,000 hygienic kits and 150,000 aqua tabs to all households in the IDP camps. Water samples were taken and tested and pit latrines were renovated. The second round of the campaign is planned to be held between 3-9 August, with an aim of vaccinating 650,000 people in 6 high risk districts.

Despite all challenges, especially difficult access to some of the target populations due to insecurity, the campaign successfully achieved its objectives. The FMOH and partners should sustain the collaborative efforts to prevent morbidity and mortality associated with cholera.

### Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

**MERS** in Saudi Arabia; **Cholera** in Somalia; **Cholera** in Yemen; **Multidrug-resistant typhoid fever** in Pakistan.

### Current public health events of concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

#### Avian influenza: 2006-2017

Egypt (A/H5N1) [359 (122), 33.98%]

Egypt (A/H9N2) [4 (0)]

#### Ebola virus disease (EVD): 2018-2019

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) [2 501 (1 665) 66.57%]

Uganda 3 (3), 100%

#### Cholera: 2017-2019

Somalia [8 341 (46), 0.55%]

Yemen [1 861 232 (3 571), 0.18%]

#### Diphtheria: 2018-2019

Yemen [3 846 (216), 5.61%]

Bangladesh [8 692 (45), 0.51%]

#### MERS: 2012-2019

Saudi Arabia [2 063 (769), 37.27%]

#### Multidrug-resistant typhoid fever: 2016-2019

Pakistan [9 047 (0)]