

Highlights

- Cholera cases continue to be reported in Somalia since December 2017. Active transmission is currently reported in Banadir region only. A total of 3,754 cases including 46 associated deaths (CFR 0.6%) have been reported in Banadir region since the start of the outbreak.
- Owing to the drought conditions, the total number of acute diarrhoea cases increased from 20,832 in April to 22,290 cases in May due to limited access to safe water and poor sanitation among affected populations.
- A total of 423,073 consultations were reported across health facilities covered by the EWARN system. Acute Respiratory Tract Infections and Diarrhoeal diseases were reported as the two leading causes of morbidity during the month.



WHO Country Representative and the Deputy Minister of Health & Human Services of Federal Government of Somalia visiting a health center in an IDP camp in Baidoa during assessment of IDP

Key figures

HEALTH SECTOR

105	Health Cluster Partners
3 million	People in need of health services
2.4 million	Targeted for health services

HEALTH FACILITIES

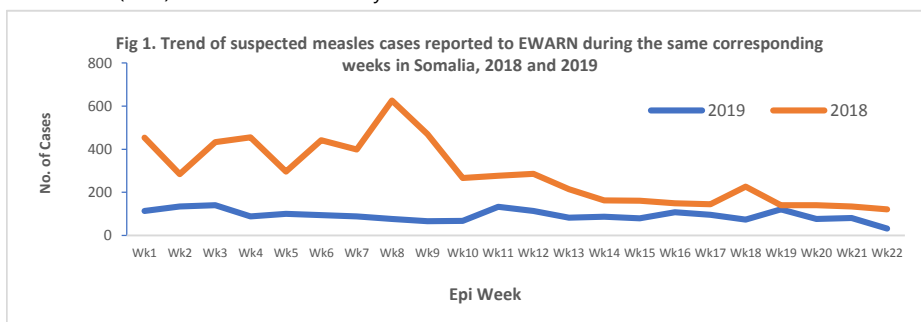
1,421	Number health facilities
453	EWARN reporting sites

FUNDING in US \$

8.3m	Required for WHO's health emergency programme in 2019
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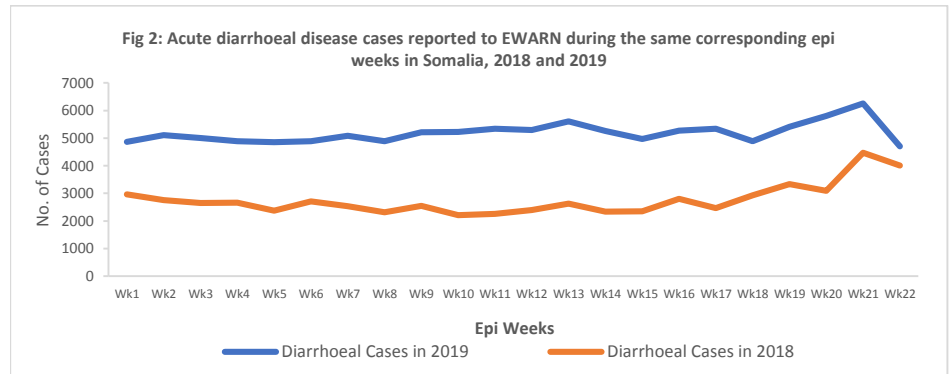
Overall Situation

- Lower than expected rainfall specially in the northern part of Somalia has led to an increase in the number of people, facing hardship, from 1.7 million to 2.2 million, including 540,000 people who have been internally displaced.
- Current dry and hot conditions have led to drying up of water sources leading to increase in water prices and reduced access to safe water, poor hygiene and sanitation by displaced communities. These conditions have led to increase in new cases of diarrhoea and measles. In addition to severe acute malnutrition, these health conditions can increase morbidity and mortality levels amongst the drought affected populations.
- There has been an overall reduction in the number of suspected measles cases reported in all states of Somalia following a measles vaccination campaign that was conducted in 2018. Since the start of the year, a total of 2 055 suspected cases have been reported (*figure- 1*). Majority of the cases (83%) are children below 5 years.



- There has been an increase of diarrhoea cases reported across Somalia. This may be linked to the drought conditions which led to shortage of water and thereby affecting hygiene and sanitation measures. The drought and frequent conflicts have led to internally displaced persons living in camps with limited access to water, hygiene and sanitation services. Owing to water shortage and poor hygiene resulting from dry weather conditions, the number of acute diarrhoea cases increased significantly in 2019 compared to same period in 2018 (Fig 2). Since January 2019, a total of 27,046 cases of acute diarrhoea were reported from sentinel sites reporting to the EWARN.
- Active transmission of cholera cases is still on going in Banadir. Since the start of the outbreak, a total of 3,754 cases including 24 associated deaths were reported in Banadir region
- In Puntland and Juba land states, alerts of suspected cholera cases were investigated in Karkar and Afmadow region respectively. The alert verification was conducted by the district based Rapid Response Team and stool samples were collected from suspected cases and sent to the National Public Health Laboratory in Mogadishu for analysis.

Epidemiological/Surveillance Update

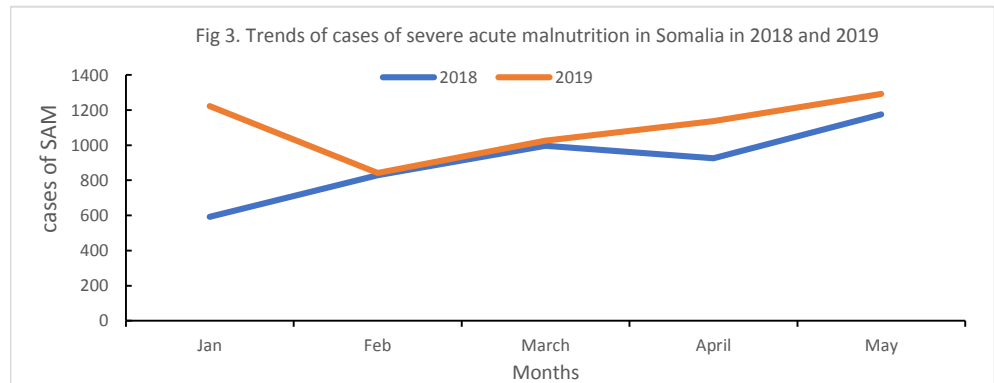


- A total of 402 out of the 453 health facilities across the country submitted weekly surveillance data to the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) during May. Reporting completeness varied across the country with an average completeness rate of 87%. Poor communication network and use of paper based surveillance in the South West State and Jubba land state are the main challenges for achieving a higher reporting completeness.
 - A total of 423,073 consultations were reported from all health facilities reporting surveillance data to in the EWARN between January and May 2019. Acute Respiratory Tract Infections (ARI) with 144 125 cases, and diarrhoea with 27, 046 cases were the leading causes of morbidity
 - A total of 1,394 alerts of epidemic prone diseases were reported through the EWARN across 402 health facilities of which 88 alerts were investigated in May. Limited funding for the deployment of Rapid Response Teams to investigate and verify these alerts remains the biggest challenge to the surveillance system.
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- Following dry weather conditions in different states, WHO conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) in all states to identify the acute health needs required to mitigate the negative consequences of drought on health. A total 21 health facilities were assessed by state based Public Health Officers and major findings from the assessment include; increased cases of diarrheal diseases and malaria, shortage of medical supplies and limited health services coverage in the affected areas due to funding gap.
 - On the job training of health workers was conducted in the drought affected districts of Somalia. A total of 70 health workers were trained on the use of standard case definitions for Acute Watery Diarrhoea and suspected measles as well as steps of alert verification. Lack of standard case definition charts, understaffing and high staff turnover in health facilities were identified as the major challenges in these health facilities.
 - Joint assessment missions between WHO and other agencies were also conducted in drought affected districts focusing on IDPs. In Hirshabelle state, the joint assessment was conducted in Jowhar airport IDP while in South west state the mission was conducted in Magor IDP camp in Baidoa town. These IDP camps have a total population of over 12, 000. During the joint visit, the team observed increased cases of diarrhea; diseases, increased admission of severely acute malnourished children to the stabilization centers and need for scaling up response activities to mitigate the likely negative consequences of drought on health of the affected population

Drought Monitoring

Nutrition Updates

- The prevailing dry weather conditions in Somalia have led to more than 55,000 children below 5 years at high risk of suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM)
- There has been an increase in the numbers of new cases of SAM in Somalia in 2019 compared to 2018. A total of 1,292 cases of SAM were reported from all states in May 2019 compared to 1,175 cases during the same period in 2018 (figure-3). WHO provided 7 nutrition kits to the 3 stabilization Centers in Puntland and 2 Stabilization Centers in Banadir that will support the treatment of 350 cases of SAM with co-morbidities for 3 months. The major challenge facing the Stabilization centers is limited medical supplies to manage increasing cases of SAM due to drought.



Health Cluster and Coordination

- Health cluster coordination meetings at national and subnational level were held during the month. The meeting was coordinated by the WHO supported Public Health Emergency Officers based in all states. Limited funding to respond to drought related health consequences was the major challenge faced by health cluster partners.
- WHO conducted a drought assessment exercise in Baidoa districts of South West state. The mission identified increased cases of diarrhea resulting from limited access to safe water by communities in IDPs.
- WHO also conducted a field visit to monitor the progress of implementation of Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) activities in Somaliland and Puntland. Underfunding of key priority intervention was identified as the major challenge to scale up of operation of activities in drought affected districts.



Joint team from FSC/Nutrition/Health and WASH Cluster conducted a visit to DMO horsed Health facility in Baidoa