

Current major event

Cholera upsurge in Somalia

The Federal Ministry of Health in Somalia reported an upsurge in cholera cases in drought affected areas, mainly in the districts of Daynile, Baydhabo and Afgoye. WHO is supporting the Ministry to respond to the upsurge along with other partners.

Editorial note

As of week 7, a total of 826 suspected cases of cholera with no associated deaths were reported from 66 drought-affected districts. This shows a 30% increase compared to reported cases in the past two weeks. Most of the reported cases (73%) are children below five years of age. The districts reporting most of the cases are Daynile (177), Baydhabo (122) and Afgoye (110). None of the new cholera cases received oral cholera vaccines.

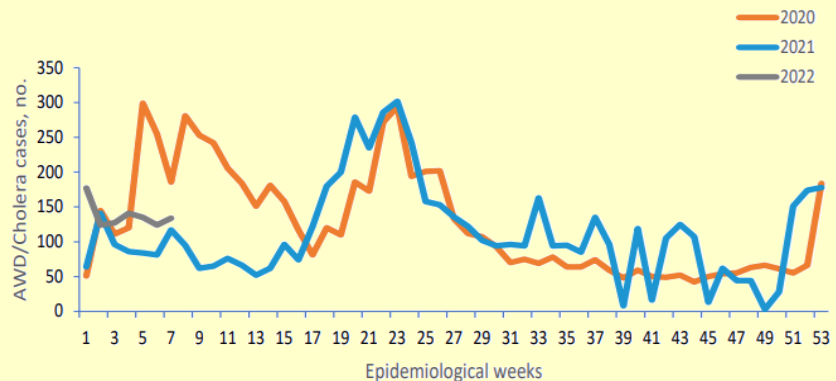
Of the 83 stool samples collected and analysed in 2022, 12 samples tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* O1 serotype Ogawa. Culture and sensitivity studies conducted in the National Public Health Reference Laboratory in Mogadishu showed that the *V. cholerae* serotype Ogawa isolate is sensitive to chloramphenicol and tetracycline but resistant to ampicillin and nalidixic acid.

Somalia is witnessing a worsening drought as a consequence of consecutive seasons of poor rainfall and low river water levels. These have resulted in a shortage of safe drinking water, poor hygiene and sanitation, and displacement among the affected populations, leading to more people being vulnerable to epidemic-prone diseases, particularly acute diarrheal disease and measles. It was estimated that 4.5 million people in 66 out of the 74 districts in the country are food insecure, 671 000 of whom have abandoned their homes in search of water and food as per figures from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

Since 2017, cholera has been reported without interruption of transmission in drought affected districts especially Banadir region. During the first few weeks of 2022, the number of new suspected cholera cases has increased compared to previous years due to an increasing number of people with limited access to safe drinking water and effective sanitation services.

The Federal Ministry of Health with support from WHO and other partners has implemented several control and prevention measures through the established incidence

Trend of reported cholera cases in Somalia, 2020–2022



Cholera cases in drought-affected districts of Somalia in 2022

Region	District	Cases
Banadir	Daynile	177
	Hawal Wadag	12
	Hodan	93
	Kaxda	36
	Dharkenley	54
	Madina	68
	Waberi	20
Galgadud	Yaqshid	21
Gedo	Jowhar	43
Lower Juba	Baaydhawa	122
Lower Shabelle	Afgooue	110
	Maraka	70

management team. The team meets on weekly bases to coordinate response activities such as enhanced early warning, alert and response network (EWARN) for early detection, case investigation and laboratory confirmation. Cholera case management capacity has been improved and all cholera patients received prompt treatment services through four cholera treatment centres that cover the drought-affected areas.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities including hygiene promotion, household disinfection, household water treatment and chlorination are widely implemented. Risk communication and community engagement activities were strengthened, and more local partners are involved in the health education campaigns. The Ministry intends to implement reactive an oral cholera vaccination campaign in the nine drought-affected districts targeting people aged one year and above.

WHO has been providing technical and financial support to the Ministry and partners to scale up response interventions and contain the current upsurge of cholera cases in high-risk districts.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries

Current public health events of concern

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

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019-2022

Afghanistan	[173 395 (7593), 4.4%]
Bahrain	[512 306 (1453), 0.3%]
Djibouti	[15 547 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[482 248 (24 040), 5%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[7 040 467 (136 631) 1.9%]
Iraq	[2 301 590 (24 975), 1.1%]
Jordan	[1 623 474 (13 814), 0.9%]
Kuwait	[619 310 (2537), 0.4%]
Lebanon	[1 066 840 (10 079), 0.9%]
Libya	[493 548 (6250), 1.3%]
Morocco	[1 160 892 (15 978), 1.4%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[645 947 (5501), 0.9%]
Oman	[381 381 (4242), 1.1%]
Pakistan	[1 508 504 (30 173), 2.0%]
Qatar	[356 671 (668), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[744 374 (8996) 1.2%]
Somalia	[26 313 (1348), 5.1%]
Sudan	[61 458 (3908), 6.4%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[54 480 (3071), 5.6%]
Tunisia	[997 754 (27 773), 2.8%]
United Arab Emirates	[879 368 (2301), 0.3%]
Yemen	[11 769 (2134), 18.1%]