



**HEALTH
CLUSTER
SOMALIA**

HEALTH CLUSTER BULLETIN
February 2021



Somalia

Emergency type: Protracted; Covid-19, Floods, AWD/Cholera, Measles

 12.3M
POPULATION

 5.9 M
P'LE IN NEED

 2.6 M
IDPS

 6.3M
FOOD INSECURE

 1.09B US\$
REQUESTED

HIGHLIGHTS

- COVID-19 Vaccination Plans
- Enhanced humanitarian response to drought
- Trauma Care and Mass Casualty Management

HEALTH CLUSTER

119 HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS

**4 UN; 31 INGOS; 82 NNGOS AND
4 OBSERVERS**

2.8 M TARGETED POPULATION

3.9 M PEOPLE IN NEED

HEALTH ACTION

CONSULTATIONS

223,696 Consultations provided in Feb.

461,347 Total # of consultations
(Jan – Feb)

FUNDING (US \$) – FTS (FINANCIAL TRACKING SYSTEM)

2021 HRP

Health requested: **91.7 M**

Funded: **2.6 M (3 %)**



COVID-19 Update

In February, COVID-19 infections were on a downward trend nationwide. However, higher cases were reported in Hargeisa and Banadir associated with higher population density and movement of people in these areas. More males were affected than females. Efforts are ongoing to establish a Severe Acute Respiratory Illness/Influenza Like Illness (SARI/ILI) surveillance system. High numbers of SARI and ILI cases were reported on a weekly basis by the Early Warning and Response Network (EWARN), but there are no diagnostic tests conducted on EWARN to ascertain the cause of the SARI and ILI. It is therefore worthwhile to invest in capacity to test for these types of illness to ensure a targeted public health response. Sentinel surveillance sites have been identified by MOH in three regions to include: Banadir, Puntland, and Somaliland. A training of trainers (TOT) was [carried out – or delete mention] in February; to be followed by cascade training. In February, the National Deployment Vaccination Plan

(NDVP) was in its final stages of development by the FMoH with support of WHO and UNICEF to carry out the COVID-19 vaccination roll out. This plan aims to facilitate equitable access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The initial target is to target 20% of the total population using a phased approach; with a first target of 3% of the population to include health care workers and those above 50 years of age. Vaccination is planned to take place beginning in March, and extend into the second quarter of the year. Some of the expected challenges include logistics, finding data of people with co-morbidities and consequently, pre-registration and follow up for the 2nd dose.

Drought update

Persistent dry conditions continue in Somalia, with the worst affected districts in Somaliland and Puntland; as well as Galmudug, Hirshabelle and Jubaland. The unusually dry period is attributed to the poor Deyr rains in 2020. The Juba and Shabelle river levels are very low for this time of the year. Erratic weather patterns are expected to continue. There are 34 districts that are directly affected; with over 83,000 people displaced due to water shortages since Nov 2020 across the country.

Limited access to safe water and poor sanitation for IDPs and populations in hard hit area pose significant risk for waterborne diseases outbreaks. Sub-national cluster focal points and partners are working across sectors to scale-up mitigating actions and monitor the situation as well as to identify disease outbreaks early. A measurable health impact is often delayed, so early action and heightened sensitivity to changes is key to reducing onward effects of the drought.

Trauma care & MCM training

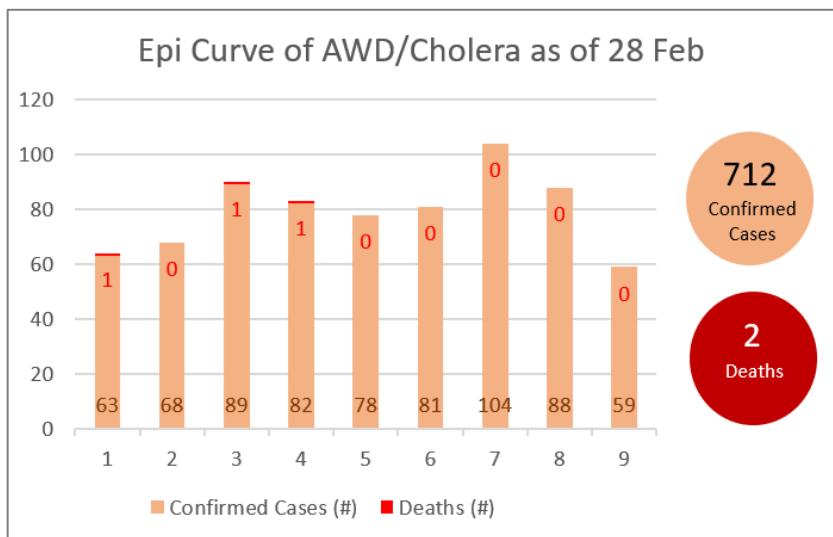
Mass casualty events, and subsequent trauma, is an increasing burden on the health system in Somalia. In January 2021, WHO deployed a regional trauma team to Somalia, and their assessment confirmed that trauma imposes a heavy burden on the health system and the community at large in Somalia. A survey across twenty-one regional hospitals in Somalia, indicated an excess of 42,000 civilian trauma cases in 2020. Notably, there is a disproportionate impact on children; with over a quarter of the victims of violence, under the age of fifteen. The Somali health system has neither the trained health care workforce, nor the resources to adequately treat a pediatric trauma.

Mass casualty events are a frequent occurrence throughout Somalia, particularly so in southern regions, a situation which security analyses suggests that it is unlikely to change in the near future. WHO findings revealed that across the twenty-one Regional Hospitals, they had collectively responded 164 times to a mass casualty event in 2020.



In January and February this year, WHO conducted mass casualty management training in Mogadishu and Hargeisa for 52 participants from 21 different hospitals including 34 doctors, 12 nurses and 6 MoH representatives. This is the start of a series of trainings as part of the newly established WHO trauma care initiative in Somalia.

AWD/Cholera



Cholera, endemic in Somalia continues in 2021. In February, 332 cases were reported (229 from Banadir, 61 from Bay and 42 from Lower Shabelle region). In Lower Shabelle a new outbreak started in week 7 (8-14 February) in which 32 cases reported in Afgoye and 10 from Marka district.

The current dry season with limited access to safe water and poor sanitation is likely to lead to a further increase in waterborne diseases outbreaks especially in IDPs settings.

Partners in Marka and Afgoye are responding; and WHO has delivered supplies to State MoH in Lower Shabelle to support control and management of cholera cases.

Item name	Unit	Distribute to Lower Shabelle
Cholera periphery Drug module kit 2.1	kit	2
Cholera periphery kit 2.2	kit	2
Cholera investigation kit	kit	2
Carry blair	tubes	10

Information Management Update

As of February, 46 organizations out of 110+ partners completed their 2020 3Ws submission. Mapping indicates that 23 districts that have no health partner presence.

Among the 46 HRP participating organizations only 30 have provided their February 4W monthly activity in ReportHub. Currently there are 57 active projects in ReportHub, 33 of them new in 2021, the remaining carried over from 2020.

SUB-NATIONAL Updates

The sub-national health cluster coordination highlighted their concern over increasing COVID-19 cases in their locations, and indicated key gaps including: inadequate isolation capacity in hospitals and lack PPE for health care workers

Hirshabele

Save the Children has constructed and set up a new health center in Beletweyne district. The center will serve around 15,000 households in El Jale. SCI in partnership with Ministry of Health Hirshabele will support this facility under Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) grant

Lower Juba

It has been officially communicated that as a result of limited funding available to IOM, seven (7) health care facilities out of 9 facilities they support will be dropped from IOM programming in Lower Juba by end of March 2021. The affected facilities include five (5) in Kismayo (Waberi Health Centre, Allanlay Health Centre, Gulwade Health Centre, Dalhiska Health Centre, Gobweyn Health Centre,) and two (2) in Afmadow (Degelema and Tulla Barwaqo).

South West State

Over the past few months, desert locust infestation spread in the southern parts of Somalia. In South West State, swarms of locusts have been reported in Lower Shabelle and in the Bay region. An estimated 200 hectares of farmland are reported to have been destroyed in Afgooye-Marka. It is projected that the locusts will start moving to areas with vegetation in search of food. This is likely to worsen the existing drought conditions and render the populations affected vulnerable to diseases.

Galmudug

The Government of Galmudug declared a state of emergency as a result of the locust infestation in all areas of Galmudug State, which posed a serious threat to the food security situation in this State.

Partners in Galmudug have enhanced efforts respond to the situation and strive to maintain food security, nutrition and health. As much as humanitarian efforts have been scaled up, the situation remains critical. Areas most affected are the rural areas, affecting pasture and agriculture. Adequate support is needed to control locusts including environmental exploration and reporting on the areas most affected. While there are other major challenges such as the Covid-19 emergency and other humanitarian events, the locust invasion is an additional challenge that threatened the health and wellbeing of the population in this state.

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