



**Weekly Cholera Situation Report**  
*Epidemiological Week 36 (31<sup>st</sup> August -06<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020)*

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- A total of 69 new suspected cases of cholera were reported in week 36 from Bay (20) and Banadir (49 cases) regions
- No death was reported in the past three weeks
- A cumulative total of 5,691 cases including 30 deaths were reported from January 2020 in 5 regions
- All cholera cases reported during this outbreak have never received Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV)

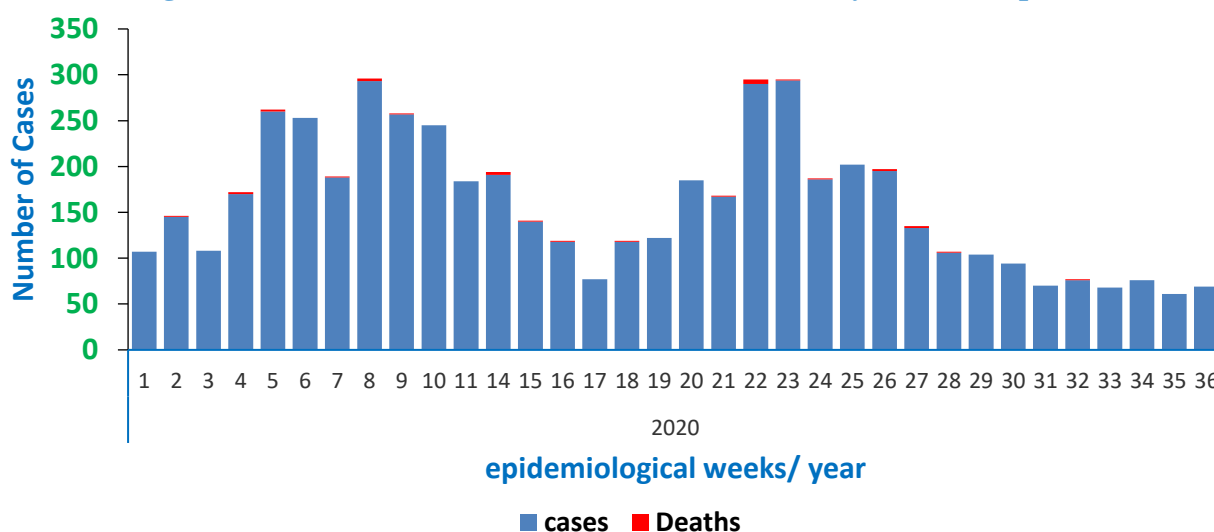
**CUMMULATIVE FIGURES**

- 69 new suspected cases with no death
- 48% of the new cases are female
- 43% of the cases are aged  $\leq 2$  years
- 57% cholera deaths are  $\leq 2$  years
- 29 flood affected districts affected by cholera outbreak
- Cumulatively; 5,691 cases and 30 deaths (CFR 0.5%) reported since January 2020

**Cholera situation in Somalia as of August 2020**

The current cholera outbreak in Somalia is a continuation of the previous outbreak that started in Banadir and continued throughout 2019 to date region. Flash floods caused by heavy *Gu* rains in April 2020 led to contamination of water sources and displacement of over 400,000 people in 23 districts in the country. However, reports indicate that water levels receded due to reduction in *Gu* rains in June<sup>1</sup>. Hagaa rains that started in June has also contributed to the negative consequences of the *Gu* rains especially in town located along river Shabelle<sup>2</sup>. Contamination of water sources and poor sanitation has contributed to increase in the number of cholera cases in flood affected districts including Banadir region. Since January 2020, a total of 5,691 cases including 30 deaths (CFR 0.5%) have been reported in 29 flood affected districts. The cholera cases that peaked between week 5-9 and weeks 22 and 24 have gradually decreased over time as a result of implementation of control measures. (Fig: 1). Of the 5,691 cases reported since the week 1, 2,662 (47%) are aged  $\leq 2$  years. Of the 30 deaths registered, 17 (57%) aged  $\leq 2$  years.

**Fig 1.trends of cholera cases in Somalia from January to 6th Sep. 2020**



<sup>1</sup> OCHA Flash update #7 as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

<sup>2</sup> OCHA Hagaa season flood update 3| August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020

During week 36, a total of 69 cases (no death) were reported from 11 districts of Banadir and Baidoa district of Bay region. No cholera cases have been reported in Jowhar district since week 16 while in Marka district the last cholera cases were reported in week 30. Since the start of the current outbreak, most cases are from Banadir (3,453 cases), Hiran (948 cases), Middle Shabelle (560 cases), Bay (621 cases) and Lower Shabelle (109). Of the 30 deaths reported since week 1 of 2020, 19 (63%) were reported in Banadir region (Table 1).

Region	week 35			week 36			Week1-36/2020		
	Cases	Deaths	CFR(%)	Cases	Deaths	CFR(%)	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
Banadir	37	0	0	49	0	0	3,453	19	0.6
Bay	24	0	0	20	0	0	621	3	0.5
Hiran	0	0	0	0	0	0	948	6	0.6
Lower Shabelle	0	0	0	0	0	0	109	0	0
Middle Shabelle	0	0	0	0	0	0	560	2	0.4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,691</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0.5</b>

Of the 489 stool samples collected from 5 regions, 165(33.7%) were positive for *V. Cholerae* (Table 2). Serotype *V. Cholerae Inaba* was isolated from stool samples collected from Baidoa. This strain is sensitive to Tetracycline, Chloramphenicol and ciprofloxacin

### Laboratory activities

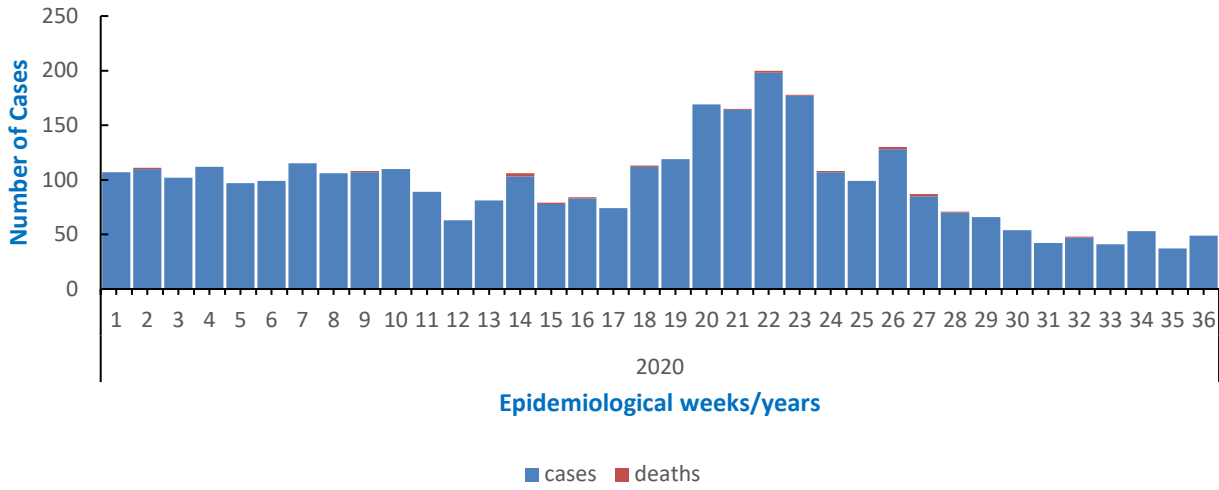
Region	Number of samples tested	Number of culture positive	Positivity rate (%)
Banadir	376	124	33.0
Bay	30	11	36.7
Hiran	38	13	34.2
Middle Shabelle	20	11	55.0
Lower Shabelle	25	6	24.0
Total	489	165	33.7

*NB. The table only summarizes laboratory results starting from epidemiological at week 1-36 of 2020*

### AWD/Cholera outbreak in Banadir region

The current cholera outbreak in Banadir region is a continuation of the outbreak that was reported in 2016/17. (Fig. 2). Since week 1 of 2020, a total of 3,453 cases including 19 deaths (CFR 0.6%) have been reported in 17 districts of Banadir, of which 1,718 (50%) are children  $\leq 2$  years. The most affected districts in Banadir are Daynile, Hamar Weyne and Wardegly. All the confirmed cases in Banadir in 2020 did not receive Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV). Over 760,000 people aged 1 year and above have received at least one dose of OCV since 2017 in 7 districts of Banadir.

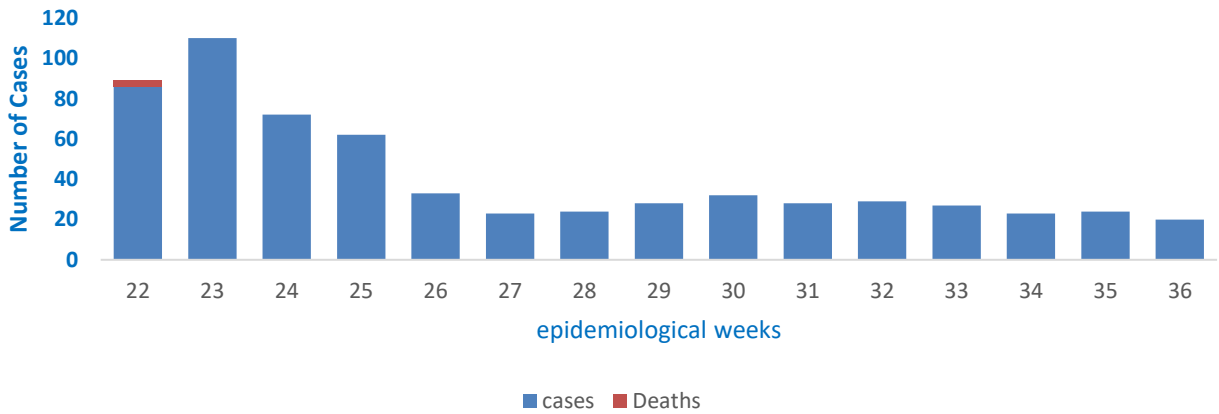
**Fig 2. AWD/Cholera trends in Banadir region 2020**



**AWD/Cholera outbreak in Baidoa (Bay region)**

The new cholera outbreak in Baidoa started at the beginning of May 2020 among IDPs that were displaced following flash floods that displaced 50,000 people. The last cholera outbreak in Baidoa was reported during the drought of 2016/17. A total of 621 cholera cases including 3 deaths (*CFR 0.5%*) have been reported between week 22 and 36 of which 301 (48%) are aged 2 years and below. All confirmed cases are managed in treatment facilities located in Baidoa and Bayhow hospitals. None of the cholera cases was vaccinated against cholera in 2017. Of the 30 stool samples collected from Baidoa CTC, 11 of tested positive for *Vibrio Cholera Inaba* serotype. A reactive Oral cholera vaccination campaign was conducted 2017 in which 212,000 people aged  $\geq 1$  year were vaccinated.

**Fig 3- AWD/Cholera cases in Bay region for week 22 to 36, 2020**



## Distribution of Cholera cases in different districts

A total of 5,691 cases including 30 deaths (CFR 0.5%) in 29 districts of three states and Banadir have been reported since January 2020 (Table 3). Majority of the deaths have been reported in Banadir with Daynile (7) and Madina (5) being the most affected. In Hirshabelle, 5 of the 8 deaths were reported in Beletweyne and 2 cases in Jowhar. Only 3 of the 23 districts i.e. Wartanabada (1.9%), Baidoa (1%) and Beletweyne (1%) recorded CFR of more than 1% which is above the WHO threshold levels for emergency settings.

**Suspected cholera cases, attack rate, deaths and case fatality rate by district (January to 05th Sept. 2020)**

SN	State/region	District	Cases	Population	Deaths	CFR (%)	Attack Rate (per 100,000 population)
1	Banadir	Abdul Aziz	15	47,332	0	0.0	32
2		Bondere	34	109,840	0	0.0	31
3		Dharkenly	526	163,855	1	0.2	321
4		Danyile	727	93,977	7	1.0	774
5		Hamar Jabjab	156	95,296	0	0.0	164
6		Hamar Weyn	32	100,088	1	3.1	32
7		Hawl Wadag	141	118,585	1	0.7	119
8		Heliwa	29	131,341	0	0.0	22
9		Hodan	581	251,045	1	0.2	231
10		Kahda	215	112,130	1	0.5	192
11		Karan	67	253,106	0	0.0	26
12		Madina	625	173,573	5	0.8	360
13		Shangani	8	43,775	0	0.0	18
14		Shibis	13	172,842	0	0.0	8
15		Waberi	110	100,540	0	0.0	109
16		Wardegly	105	128,159	2	1.9	82
17		Yaqshid	69	314,160	0	0.0	22
18	Hirshabelle	Belet Weyne	569	222,251	5	0.9	256
19		Bulo Burti	160	95,403	0	0.0	168
20		Jalalaqsi	219	73861	1	0.5	297
21		Jowhar	560	291,189	2	0.4	192
28	Soth west state	Merka	109	511,031	0	0.0	21
29		Baidoa	621	360041	3	0.5	172
Total			5,691	3,603,379	30	0.5	158

## Response activities implemented during the week

FMOH with support from Health and Wash clusters have implemented the following activities:

- Trends of AWD/Cholera are monitored using the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) that was established in affected regions
- District based Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) that have been deployed to investigate COVID-19 alerts have been useful to investigate cholera alerts in some regions
- Community engagement and education with targeted messaging is done using local radio and community leaders.
- Different agencies have provided medical supplies for the management of cholera cases in different treatment facilities
- Wash partners have provided additional 5,000 hygienic kits to displaced populations in Baidoa and Marka.
- Health Cluster conducted periodic chlorination of 99 shallow wells and 18 bore holes in camps located in Baidoa Water tracking to 110,000 displaced persons in Baidoa
- Ad hoc inter-cluster coordination meetings with state level authorities are held in affected states.

## Gaps in response

- The current floods and cholera outbreak occurred at the time when COVID-19 cases are increasing in all regions of Somalia stretching the already limited capacity to respond to the cholera alerts.

## Standard case definitions used for cholera surveillance in Somalia

### ***Acute watery diarrhea (AWD)***

- Acute watery diarrhea is an illness characterized by 3 or more loose or watery (non-bloody) stools within a 24-hour period.

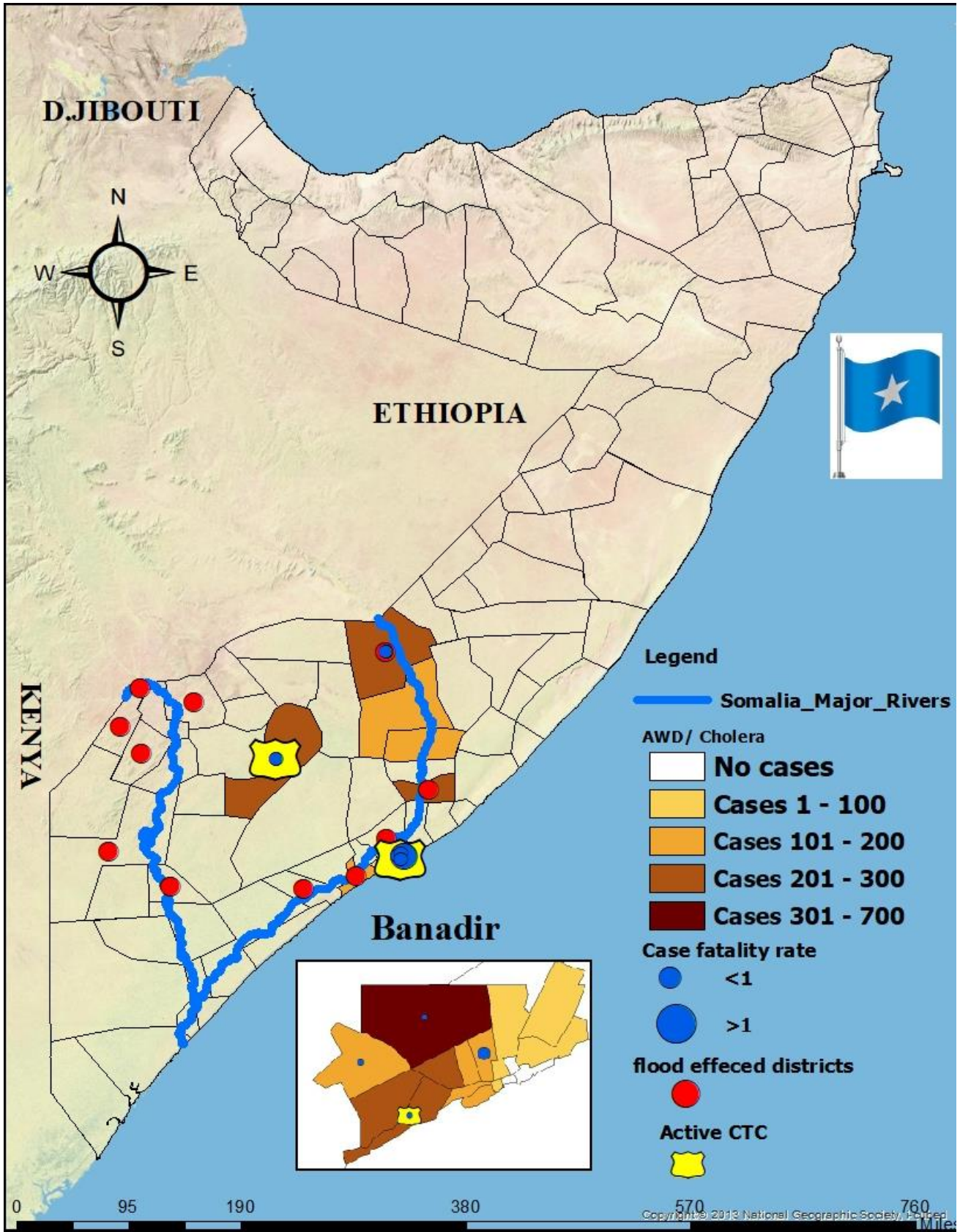
### ***Suspected cholera case***

In districts where a cholera outbreak has not been declared: Any patient aged 2 years and older presenting with acute watery diarrhea and severe dehydration or dying from acute watery diarrhea.

### ***Confirmed cholera case***

- A suspected case with *Vibrio cholerae* O1 or O139 confirmed by culture or PCR and, in countries where cholera is not present or has been eliminated, the *Vibrio cholerae* O1 or O139 strain is demonstrated to be toxigenic.

**Map: Distribution of cholera cases and Cholera Treatment Centres (CTCs) and flood affected districts in Somali as of 06<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020**



For inquires please contact the following:  
 Ahmed Moallim Mohamed, National Emergency & Surveillance Coordinator –FMoH [emergency@moh.gov.so](mailto:emergency@moh.gov.so)