



HEALTH CLUSTER SOMALIA

HEALTH CLUSTER BULLETIN
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024



Midwives and Reproductive Health Managers at a MISP training in Mogadishu

Emergency type: Conflict, Drought, Floods, and Diseases outbreak (Acute watery diarrhea (AWD), Cholera, Measles, Dengue, Diphtheria) Reporting period: NOV/DEC 2024

18.7M POPULATION	6.6M PEOPLE IN NEED	1.9M IDPs	3.8M PEOPLE TARGETED	122.4M US\$ REQUESTED
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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ The UNOCHA Somalia Releases the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
- ◇ Health and Nutrition Clusters hold a joint meeting on integration of service provision
- ◇ Feature on Awdagle in Southwest and Hawaadley in Hirshabelle States : Multisectoral needs assessment points to increased need for health services
- ◇ Deteriorating health conditions reported in Middle Shabelle region have rapidly deteriorated Since Alight’s withdrawal.

HEALTH SECTOR



48

REPORTING HEALTH PARTNERS

INGO 18
NNGO 26
UN AGENCY 4

HEALTH ACTION



CONSULTATIONS

194,715

NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS IN DECEMBER 2024

10,550

NUMBER OF DELIVERIES ASSISTED DECEMBER 2024

VACCINATION



29,140

NUMBER OF ROUTINE VACCINATION AGAINST MEASLES IN DECEMBER 2024

FUNDING US \$ – FTS



122.4M

HRP Requested

37.2%

Funded

62.8%

Gap

For further funding information,
<https://fts.unocha.org/plans/1180/summary>

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

The Health Cluster participated in the Humanitarian Needs and Response cycle for 2025. Working with other clusters, the cluster presented a needs analysis with an overall people in need figure of 5.4 million and a target of 3.8 million, representing 70% of the presented people in need figures. Out of these, 51% are female and 60% children, while 15% are people living with disabilities. The cluster, working with other clusters, is jointly targeting 10 high need districts of Daynile, Kahda, Baidoa, Jamame, Jowhar, Kismayo, Galkayo, Beletwyne and Lascanood.

WHO, with support from ECHO, provided essential medical supplies to health cluster partners in Banadir, including Concern Worldwide, Action Against Hunger, and SOS Children's Villages through the Cafimad Plus Consortium. The supplies included Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment kits, Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), and medications for managing measles and pneumonia. These provisions aim to strengthen healthcare delivery and enhance partners' capacity to provide timely and effective medical care to vulnerable communities in Deynile and other parts of the region.



National NGO partners taking part in the assessment

During the month of December 2024, the cluster facilitated a joint meeting with the Nutrition Cluster. This meeting was aimed at updating partners and sharing information on joint activities carried out throughout the year, with a focus on information management, centred around joint mapping of health and nutrition services. The objective of this exercise is to ensure that health and nutrition services are provided within health facilities, to increase coverage of services including immunization services.

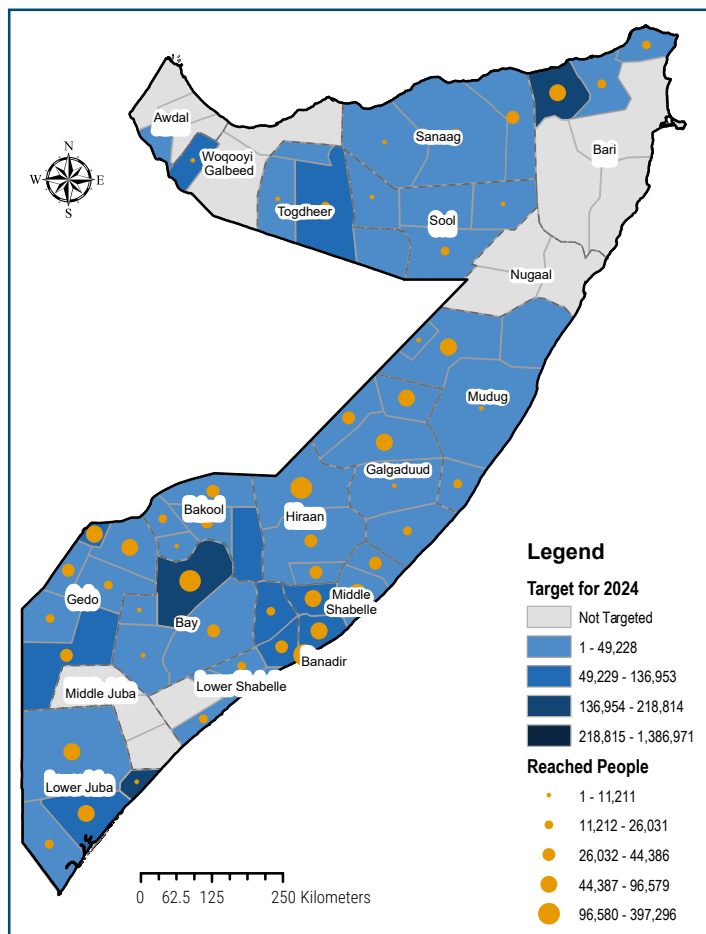
The Cluster is also working with UNFPA and WHO to boost supplies for prenatal care, by distributing folic acid supplements to UNFPA partners running mother and child health clinics. In addition, UNFPA stood with the rest of the world in advocating for a future where women and girls, especially those in Somalia, live free from violence, fear, and discrimination during the 16 Days of Activism. UNFPA, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Health Cluster, and with the generous support from the Government and people of Canada and Korea, conducted a 5-day training for 50 midwives and reproductive health managers on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), equipping these frontline healthcare providers to respond effectively to the urgent needs of women and girls in crisis settings.

The Health Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working group welcomed a new team member, who is a mental Health Specialist. This new addition will boost the work of the MHPSS working group, to ensure.



Joint Health and Nutrition Clusters meeting in December 2024

During the month of December 2024, Health Cluster partners have provided essential health services to 234,405 individuals through 48 implementing partners. These efforts included outpatient care, routine immunizations, and safe deliveries. Additionally, services such as, child health and nutrition support, mental health, and psychosocial assistance, as well as clinical management of rape and trauma cases, were addressed as part of the response.



SUB-NATIONAL UPDATES

Banadir Regional Administration (BRA)

Between November 19 and 26, the second round of the Big Catch-Up Program was launched in the Banadir region, led by the BRA Health Directorate.

The campaign underscored the critical role of partnerships and resource mobilization. With support from WHO, UNICEF, and Save the Children International (SCI), the second round applied lessons learned from the previous phase, ensuring the availability of vaccines, cold chain infrastructure, and skilled personnel for a high-impact implementation.

The initiative prioritized expanding vaccine coverage, particularly targeting zero-dose children aged 1 to 5 years. As a result, significant coverage targets were achieved across various antigens: 51% for BCG, 71% for OPV, 70% for Penta, 60% for IPV, and 76% for MCV. Save the Children, in collaboration with the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA) and with support from the Gates Foundation, successfully conducted a three-day community mobilization and awareness program in the Dayniile, Dharkiinley, and Hamar Jajab districts. The initiative focused on raising awareness about disease outbreaks such as Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) and measles, promoting routine immunization, and distributing IEC materials to strengthen community health knowledge.

Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC), in partnership with CARE, has launched the Multi-Sectoral Humanitarian Response Project, a 20-month initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC). Running from September 2024 to May 2026, the project aims to deliver essential health, nutrition, and protection services to vulnerable populations in the Kahda and Daynile districts of Banadir, with a focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in nearby IDP camps. In addition, Physicians Across Continents (PAC), in collaboration with UNFPA and the Ministry of Health Somalia, successfully launched an Obstetric Fistula Repair Campaign at the National Fistula Center in Deynile Hospital. The campaign, held from November 23 to December 3, aimed to enhance access to quality maternal healthcare services for displaced and vulnerable women and girls in Somalia.

Public Health Risks, Needs, Gaps, and Priorities

Current diseases outbreak Situation in Somalia

21,945
cholera cases and 138 deaths from week 1-52, 2024

12,593
Suspected measles cases reported from January -December 2024.

838
Suspected diphtheria cases reported from January - December 2024.

451 cases of AFP reported in 2024, with 186 females and 265 males.

During the campaign, 55 women were screened, and 42 underwent life-changing fistula repair surgeries, addressing a critical health need and contributing to improved maternal health outcomes among women.

Southwest State (SWS)

As part of the ongoing cholera response efforts, cholera investigation kits including 6 cartoons of RDTs have been delivered to all active CTCs in SWS. During the reporting period, the state public health laboratory tested fifteen (15) stool samples for cholera of which, all samples were negative for vibrio Cholerae. On the other hand seven days of the “Big Catch Up” (BCU) campaign was conducted by the State Ministry of Health, aimed at ensuring the efficiency of EPI campaigns that implements all antigens of EPI services over 15 districts across the state, due to reach children who missed vaccination during the period of the campaign and restore vaccination coverage rates for the current birth cohort in 2024 & 2025.

In addition, a virtual training for diphtheria case management session was conducted for Baidoa and Burhakaba district healthcare providers and volunteers for timely and rapid response. The objective of the training was to review the recent epidemiological update on the suspected diphtheria outbreak cases and to improve awareness and knowledge in detecting and managing Diphtheria outbreak.

Also, a joint rapid needs assessment was carried out in Wajid, in November. The objective of the assessment was to investigate the ongoing humanitarian situation, following a new influx of IDPs from Luuq district. The assessment revealed that an estimated 1,200 people have moved to Wajid district and surrounding villages. The total displaced, 680 HHs, have reached Wajid district with the majority being hosted by eleven IDPs in Wajid while the remaining 520 HHs are in surrounding villages such as Yurkud and Ceelboon and more arrivals are expected at any time. About 90% of these individuals were displaced from October 10 while the remaining 10 percent were displaced earlier in the month. 78% individuals now lack access to food, including women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. 90% of households report limited or no food supplies.

Feature on Awdhegle

A brief rapid Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment of populations affected by Deyr flooding Awdhegle Village, Afgooye District, Somalia, November 2024. An estimated 750 families were displaced due to floods according to local authorities. The displaced families arrived in Awdhegle town. As of November 2024, the local authorities in Awdhegle appealed to humanitarian partners to provide lifesaving assistance to the displaced families who did not receive assistance and had not yet returned to the home before displacement. Awdhegle is located 30 kilo metres north of Afgooye in the Lower Shabelle region of Southern Somalia.

The region has faced challenges due to ongoing conflict, but recent efforts have aimed at stabilization and rebuilding. Awdhegle benefits from its proximity to Afgooye for commercial and logistical support while maintaining a more rural environment. Historically, the area has encountered environmental challenges. including floods, drought, and conflict. 46% of the sites reported the absence of health facilities or medical outreach teams at the relocation, evacuation sites, or within the affected communities impacted by the flooding. 89% of the sites reported an increased need for health services in the community since the flooding. 100% of the sites reported an increase in cases of acute diarrhea, measles, and respiratory illnesses following the flooding.



National NGO partners taking part in the assessment

Hirshabelle State

Health conditions in the Middle Shabelle region have rapidly deteriorated since September 11, 2024, owing to Alight's withdrawal from providing health services in Hirshabelle. Alight, the implementing partner of the Damal Caafimaad project, provided essential health services across the middle Shabeelle region. With their suspension, 61 health facilities (1 regional hospital, 31 health centers, 24 primary healthcare units, and 5 district hospitals) have been forced to close. This also led to the termination of 755 health workers. The suspension has also affected other critical services provided by Alight, including WASH and nutrition programs. OCHA and the Health Cluster have been actively advocating for humanitarian donors and partners to reprioritize support for Middle Shabelle to mitigate escalating health risks.

The anticipated La Niña drought further exacerbates the situation, especially across Hirshabelle State. Moreover, seasonal flooding, including riverine and flash floods, has affected people living in riverine areas, restricted humanitarian assistance, displaced people, destroyed crops, and reduced household food supplies. This has led to rising food insecurity, malnutrition, and disease outbreaks, with cases of AWD, cholera, and malaria reported across the region.

Feature on Hawaadley:

Hawaadley, a small agricultural village near Balcad District, Middle Shabelle Region, Somalia, faces a severe humanitarian crisis due to conflict and flooding. Located 30 km southeast of Jowhar and 20 km northeast of Balcad, the village has seen significant displacement, resulting in critical health and nutrition challenges. On November 19, 2024, a joint field mission led by UNOCHA and representatives from the Hirshabelle health cluster visited Xawaadley to assess the situation of health and nutrition and found that 16.1% of children 6–59 months suffer from SAM, 53.9% from MAM, and 40% of PLWs are critically malnourished. High morbidity among children under five and reported fatalities in the past three months highlights the urgent need for intervention.

The Subnational Health Cluster in Hirshabelle coordinated partners to respond urgently to the crisis in Hawaadley,

focusing on referring Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases with complications to Jowhar. IMC facilitated the referral of 20 severely malnourished children to Jowhar General Hospital. Tragically, one child passed away before reaching the hospital, but the remaining 19 children received treatment at the Stabilization Center in Jowhar General Hospital, managed by IMC, and have fully recovered.



Malnutrition screening exercise in Hawaadley. Photo Courtesy OCHA/IDAA

Galmudug State

In Galmudug state, five (5) new case of diphtheria were reported in November, 2 out of these 5 cases died. A total 158 diphtheria cases have been reported in Galmudug since last year. Round two BIG catch-up vaccination was conducted on 19-25 November to reach unimmunized children. During the month of December, the Health Cluster participated in the High-Level Country Humanitarian Forum (CHF) meeting, held in Dhusamareb, Galmudug State, Somalia.



Country Humanitarian Forum in Dusamareb

The forum, hosted by the State Deputy president and attended by the government officials, representatives from Federal Member States (FMS), donors, UN Agencies, international and national NGOs, diplomatic representatives, and civil society organizations, the forum was convened by the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Galmudug State. The forum aimed to enhance partnership and coordination among humanitarian actors, strengthen preparedness for La Niña, refine the Humanitarian Needs Response Plan (HNRP), and build resilience in Somalia.

Jubaland State

During the epidemiological week 48, 6 new suspected measles cases were reported from Kismayo district, Dhobley and Luuq District with no deaths. As part of response activities, community hygiene promotion, IEC and risk communication efforts continue, for the prevention of an AWD/cholera outbreak. Line listing and case management are ongoing at the Cholera Treatment Units (CTUs) in Kismayo district. Contact tracing of cases is continuing in all districts.

The second-round orientation exercise for the “big catch up” was done together on 7th November 2024 by Health Cluster, MoH, WHO, UNICEF. In November, Trocaire started implementation of a three-month emergency response project aimed at providing lifesaving emergency health services to displaced vulnerable populations affected by the inter-clan conflict in Luuq. The project involves integrated mobile clinic services covering both Yurkut and Luuq locations. Outreach teams are focusing on IDP camps in Luuq, including Bilcin Barako, Madina/Hillaac, Kaheyne, and Dogob, as well as high-displacement areas in Yurkut such as Bashiiro, Garas Americo, and Barbaara Ciise. Also in November, Trocaire started health service delivery in two health centers in Kismayo funded by ECHO. The supported facilities are Howlaha Makaiibta and Gulwada Health Centers. This project also supports one outreach team in Kismayo. Additionally, Trocaire have successfully secured funding from FCDO to support the Qansaxley Health Centre, Dollow through to next year in response to La Nina effects.



Health service provision in Luuq. Photo Courtesy: Trocaire

Puntland State

During the month of November, 20 suspected AWD cases were reported from Qow town near Bosasso with one death with a negative for Cholera. The Bossaso community development committee handed over oxygen plants and cylinders procured by the Bossaso community to the Minister of Health Puntland in Bossaso. Also, treated LLIN and IEC Materials distribution campaigns were conducted in Bossaso as part of the prevention of increased malaria cases in Bossaso town. In addition, Integrated Management of Neonatal Childhood Illness cascade training for health workers in health facilities from Bari and Sanaag regions, which was conducted for one week by UNICEF and MOH.

PSI also conducted Essential Newborn care training for health workers from Nugaal region. The 2025 Humanitarian Program Cycle (HPC) Consultation was conducted by OCHA and attended by cluster focal points in Puntland. The “Big catch-up” vaccination review meeting was conducted in Garowe and attended by health cluster partners and MOH. WHO and ICRC sent emergency medical supplies that include Trauma kits and some antibiotics to Buhoodle hospital to respond and manage trauma cases due to Buhoodle conflict.

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Reporting Partners

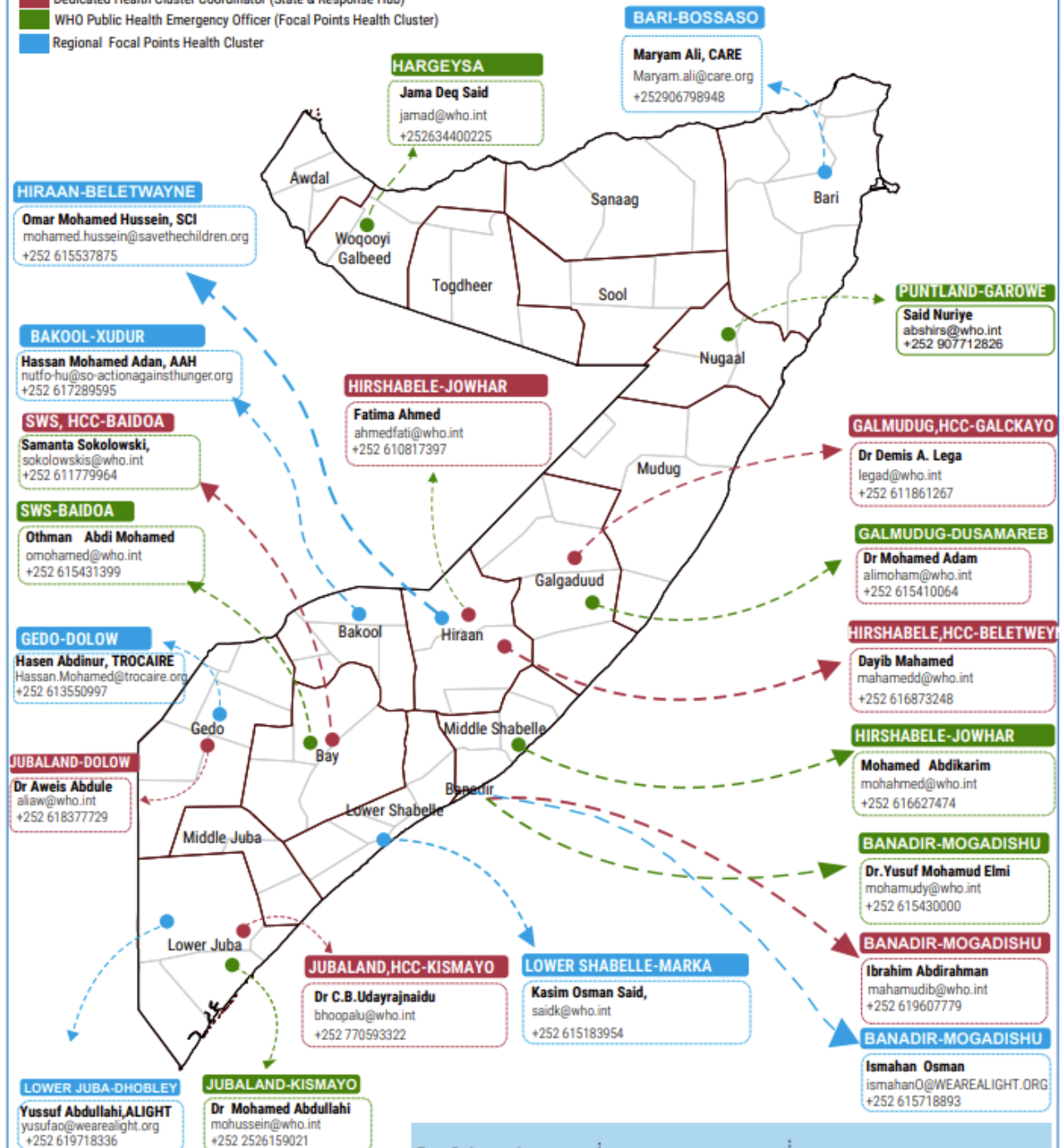
23 NGOs
18 INGOs
4 UN

16
Regions

74
Districts

Legend

- Dedicated Health Cluster Coordinator (State & Response Hub)
- WHO Public Health Emergency Officer (Focal Points Health Cluster)
- Regional Focal Points Health Cluster



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