

Health Systems Strengthening in Somalia

Concern Worldwide



Location

Mogadishu, Banadir, and Gedo Regions, Somalia



Target group

Regional health management teams, information officers and healthcare workers in 12 health facilities across 6 districts



Budget

\$50,000 (2023, pilot) and \$100,000 a year (2024-2026)



SDGs

SDG 3 (targets 3.2 and 3.8) and SDG 13 (target 13.1)

Synopsis

Capacity building to provide a timely, effective response to surges in acute child malnutrition cases in Somalia.

Program description

Somalia continues to face one of the most severe humanitarian crises with 4.4 million people experiencing crisis-level food insecurity driven by conflict and a prolonged drought, further exacerbated by climate change. As drought intensifies, the number of children suffering from malnutrition continues to rise. Healthcare facilities are facing surges driven by many complex and overlapping factors, such as the pre-harvest hunger gap and increased incidence of malaria and diarrhea during the rainy season. It is during these caseload surges that the potential to save lives is greatest, yet government health systems are often not able to provide a timely, effective response.

Concern Worldwide works together with the Somali Ministry of Health to improve the capture of quality data, enabling healthcare workers to track cases and respond to fluctuations without compromising service. Based at the Banadir Hospital Stabilization Centre, the project builds on the successful 2023 pilot to scale up data improvement and management through the CMAM Surge Approach (Community Management of Acute Malnutrition). This innovative methodology, now in its third year, ensures timely and accurate information sharing and coordination between communities, health facilities and district health teams in 12 facilities across 6 districts of the Banadir and Gedo regions in Somalia.



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Goals

- Improve data management and utilization through capacity building of health managers.
- Scale up the CMAM Surge Approach results achieved during the pilot by training healthcare workers in outbreak detection, prevention, and control, enhancing their ability to manage and respond to infectious disease threats.

Activities and milestones

- 18 frontline health workers, including nurses and nutrition staff, received training on Outbreak Prevention and Control enhancing their ability to detect early warning signs, implement infection prevention measures, and coordinate rapid responses during public health emergencies.
- 25 District Health Management Team (DHMT) members participated in Health System Strengthening and Public Health Disease Control training, improving oversight, resource management, service quality, and coordination with local authorities and partners.
- Supported surge responses during peak periods, including +200 severe acute malnutrition admissions at Banadir Health Centre in June 2025 and +400 admissions at Banadir Hospital Stabilization Centre in July 2025.
- Provided refresher training and ongoing mentorship on CMAM Surge implementation, including threshold monitoring and contextual analysis.
- Convened district-level coordination meetings to review progress, address operational challenges, and align with Somalia's Ministry of Health priorities.

Looking ahead

Our partnership will extend through 2026 to expand the gains made during the pilot and expansion phases by scaling up and strengthening the CMAM Surge approach across supported health facilities, with additional health facilities to be added.



Impact at a glance



214,438

children under five screened for malnutrition across supported facilities.



297,903

outpatient consultations conducted.



2,942

children with Severe Acute Malnutrition admitted for lifesaving treatment at Banadir Hospital Stabilization Centre.



18

healthcare workers trained in outbreak prevention and control.



25

DHMT members strengthened in oversight, governance and quality monitoring.

“Since adopting digital health management information tools, the quality and timeliness of our data have improved dramatically. We can now record complete and accurate information for every child, generate reports on time, and make informed decisions quickly. This ensures that malnutrition cases are addressed promptly, and resources are allocated where they are most needed.”

Khadra Abdirahman

MCH Nurse, Supported Facility