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# UNFPA RESPONSE IN SOMALIA

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## Situation report

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# FASTFACTS



Total people  
in need of  
humanitarian  
assistance in 2022

5.9M



Internally Displaced  
Persons

2.9M



Women of  
Reproductive Age  
(age 15-49, estimated)

1.8M



Pregnant  
Women (estimated)

380,983



Adolescents and  
Youth (Age 10-24)

2.0M

# GENERAL OVERVIEW

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The number of people affected by the severe drought has increased from 3.2 million people in December 2021 to about 4.3 million people in February 2022. Consequently, the number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) has more than doubled from 245,000 to 554,000 people. A total of 7.7 million Somali women, men, and children are estimated to require humanitarian assistance in 2022, including around 2 million women of reproductive age. The negative impact of the drought on Somali women and girls has been reported across several platforms and is already visible.

The drought has similarly led to an increase in clan conflict and internal displacements across the country. According to UNHCR, some 132,400 population movements occurred in the Galgaduud region between January and February 2022, with nearly 117,800 people displaced due to the drought and over 14,000 due to clan conflicts. Families, mostly women and girls, were reportedly sleeping in open spaces without privacy, dignity, or physical protection. Immediate humanitarian response is urgently needed, including the referral of vulnerable cases to specialized service providers, such as child protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Psychosocial Support (PS). In addition, there is an immediate need for local authorities to address the issue of clan conflicts.



UNFPA Somalia prioritizes the continuity of essential and life-saving health and GBV services, targeting vulnerable women and girls, IDPs and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). During February 2022, UNFPA and its partners reached **56,492** persons with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and **22,832** persons with prevention and response to GBV, including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for women and girls. In addition, UNFPA reached **1,095** young people through youth-related activities.



## COVID-19 UPDATES

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The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge the already ill-equipped health service delivery in Somalia. As of 2 March 2022, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Somalia had reached **25,258**, with **1,350** fatalities. The COVID-19 testing capacity across the country remains extremely limited, resulting in the true number of infections likely being underreported. The steady increase in number of infections reveals that the epidemiological situation in the country is continuously evolving and remains volatile, particularly in areas with high numbers of IDPs and limited access to health services.

# FUNDING NEEDS

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- Despite being a key humanitarian agency, UNFPA Somalia received only US\$3 million in 2021, out of the \$16.4 million requested to address urgent needs. In 2022, and in the light of worsening developments, the needs have increased to \$19.5 million. To date, UNFPA has not been successful in securing necessary resources from ECHO in Somalia.
- The 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Somalia witnessed major funding shortfalls compared with previous years. Due to the increasingly severe humanitarian crises in Somalia, vulnerable women, children and men are at risk of losing access to some, or all, of the lifesaving and protection services they desperately need. UNFPA and its partners are committed to scaling-up the response, but a lack of funds continues to challenge efforts. Urgent and more sustainable mid- to longer-term investment in reducing risk and vulnerability is required.
- UNFPA continues to expand the number of its Implementing Partners (IPs) across the country, including in hard-to-reach and insecure areas, for further programme implementation. More than half of UNFPA's partnerships are with local (national) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with access to communities in need, including the ability to provide much-needed health care and GBV services in some conflict-prone areas. UNFPA is represented in the humanitarian coordination forums, such as the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the UN Country Team (UNCT), and other cluster-based platforms, such as health and protection, that support the identification of needs and response coordination.

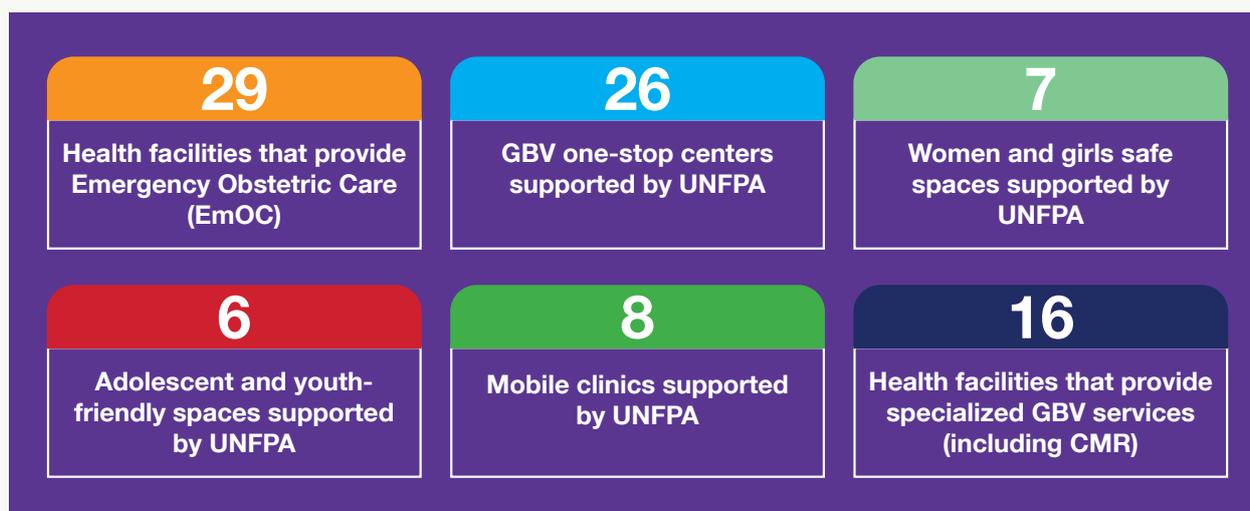
## UNFPA RESPONSE

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UNFPA works closely with the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States, other UN agencies, and partners to ensure access to and the continuity of SRH and GBV services. UNFPA is engaged in the various coordination mechanisms, including the UNCT and HCT and supports the national COVID-19 preparedness and response plans, ensuring integration of SRH and GBV concerns.

Furthermore, the capacity of UNFPA partners is strengthened to support the delivery of SRH and GBV services, and respond to increasing needs. Health facilities and mobile clinics are providing services to support maternal and newborn health, birth-spacing options and the Clinical Management of Rape (CMR). Safe spaces for women, girls and young people and one-stop centers for survivors of GBV are providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services.

## Services Delivered



### Data from UNFPA Supported Services Since February 2022

Sexual/Reproductive Health	
# People reached with sexual/reproductive health services	21,854
# People reached with family planning services, information and counselling	832
# Normal / assisted deliveries	2,654
# C-Sections assisted	123
# People reached with ante-natal care consultations	7,287
# People reached with post-natal care consultations	601
# People reached with SRH information and community awareness activities	23,102
# People with disabilities reached through SRH services and information	39
Gender-Based Violence	
# People reached with GBV programming/services	698
# People provided with GBV case management	42
# People reached with GBV information and community awareness activities	22,058
# People with disabilities reached through GBV services and information	34
Youth Services	
# Adolescents and young people reached with youth programming	1,095
Capacity Strengthening	
# Personnel trained on SRH, including the Minimum Initial Service Package	20
# Personnel trained on GBV in areas such as clinical management of rape	7
# Personnel trained on COVID-19 prevention and control	25
# Youth facilitators, peers and volunteers trained on SRH and GBV	35

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF UNFPA ACTIVITIES

## SRH interventions, including protection of health workforce

- UNFPA Somalia remains committed to ensuring the continuity of and access to lifesaving SRH services and information during the COVID-19 pandemic. Such services include the provision of safe delivery, management of pregnancy related complications, referral, birth-spacing counseling and assistance for pregnant mothers, and psychosocial support.
- Through CERF resources, UNFPA has scaled-up the SRH and GBV response services for people affected by the drought in Jubaland and South-West and Galmudug states.



## Response and Prevention to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- In all states, regions and areas in which UNFPA Somalia operates, the organization remains committed to ensuring the continuity of and access to lifesaving GBV prevention and response services, such as the provision of clinical care, psychosocial support, legal aid and material support to survivors of GBV, especially for women, adolescents and youth.
- UNFPA has provided resources to strengthen GBV one-stop centers across the country, integrating care for survivors of GBV with reproductive health services.

## Youth Program Activities

- UNFPA through its partner supported a participatory theater methodology workshop to end harmful practices, such as FGM and child marriage, with the objective to support communities in sharing experiences and breaking the cycle of silence. The forum was attended by more than 30 community leaders and young people from the Benadir region.
- UNFPA in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs supported the national employment conference in Mogadishu. The conference brought together more than 150 participants, including government officials, business leaders and young people from all regions in Somalia to address the rampant unemployment rate among youth.
- UNFPA organized a capacity building workshop for 65 youth on electoral and civic engagement. The workshop aimed to enhance leadership and advocacy skills, which are instrumental in creating space for young people to influence development and decision-making processes.
- Through the EU funded Dalbile project, UNFPA provided bootcamp training on entrepreneurship skills for young people in Merka. A total of 75 young men and women were trained on entrepreneurship to develop their capacity to start their own businesses.
- UNFPA is implementing life-skills and digital literacy training for 50 young men and women in Merka. The training aims to support young people in gaining the digital skills necessary to engage in a digital economy and improve their livelihoods.

- Together with local partners, UNFPA organized an inter-generational dialogue on youth-led peacebuilding initiatives in Kismayo. The forum is organized in response to the need to reaffirm young people as key stakeholders in building sustainable peace across Somalia. A total of 100 youth participated in the forum, which comes at a time when the electoral process continues to drag and create uncertainties potentially impacting the already fragile peace.
- Through local partnership, UNFPA organized public campaigns on emerging public health issues, such as drug abuse, in Dhusamareb. An estimated 300 youth were reached in Galmudug region through awareness campaign on the harmful effects of substance abuse.



## COORDINATION LEADERSHIP

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UNFPA continues to co-lead the national and sub-national GBV sub-cluster and the Reproductive Health Working Group (RH-WG). UNFPA is leading the efforts to ensure that the supply of reproductive health commodities is maintained and that midwives and other health personnel have the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) needed to stay safe amidst the COVID-19 response and the ongoing drought in Somalia.

Through the GBV AoR, UNFPA strongly advocates for funds and resources to respond to the ongoing drought. UNFPA is working with UN agencies, NGOs, clusters and the Federal Government to ensure that GBV response and risk mitigation activities are prioritized.



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