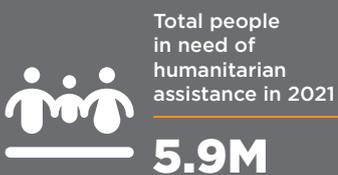




## Fast Facts



## COVID-19 in Somalia





## OVERVIEW & NEEDS

While Somalia is growing drier as the drought worsens, the forecast predicts a fourth consecutively failed rainy season in 2022. The number of people displaced has doubled in the last two weeks of December, reaching 169,000, and is projected to further increase to over one million people in the next few months. The negative impact of the drought on women and girls has been reported across several platforms and is already visible. Regular updates report an increased number of mothers and children arriving unaccompanied by their male family members to peri-urban and urban areas. Currently, a total of 2.9 million people are internally displaced across the country, a majority of whom are women, girls and children. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge the already ill-equipped health service delivery in Somalia. As of 25 December 2021, COVID-19 cases in Somalia had reached **23,532** with **1,333** fatalities.

UNFPA Somalia prioritizes the continuity of essential and life-saving health and gender-based violence (GBV) services, targeting vulnerable women and girls, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and persons with disabilities. During December 2021, UNFPA and its partners reached **53,850** persons with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and **23,223** persons with prevention and response to GBV, including mental health and psychosocial support for women and girls. In addition, UNFPA reached **2,811** young people through youth-related activities.

Furthermore, the capacity of UNFPA partners is strengthened to support the delivery of SRH and GBV services, and responding to increased 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 offering mental health and psychosocial support services.

## Summary of UNFPA Response

Through UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) resources, UNFPA Somalia has scaled-up the SRH and GBV response for the people affected by drought in Somalia. The response activities target pregnant women, adolescent girls, men and boys in IDP camps and in hard-to-reach areas, by providing quality life-saving and age-appropriate SRH services through Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) and integrated SRH/GBV outreach. The 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 UN Country Team (UNCT) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and supports the national COVID-19 preparedness and response plans, ensuring integration of SRH and GBV concerns.

UNFPA Somalia ensures that implementing partners (IPs) adhere to precautionary and preventive measures against COVID-19, by using personal protection equipment (PPE), including hand gloves and masks, and that the environment where services are delivered is adequately protected and sanitized. UNFPA continues



coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other key line ministries and actively advocates for efforts to provide SRH services during the COVID-19 pandemic. UNFPA response includes providing maternal and reproductive health services for pregnant and lactating women; support to GBV one-stop centers; operation of safe spaces for women and girls; distribution of SRH and dignity kits; community awareness-raising; and referrals to both RH and GBV services. In addition, UNFPA engages young people as partners and key agents of change and is working hand-in-hand with IPs to support young people, aiming to empower them to play vital roles in their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Data from UNFPA Supported Services Since December 2021**

<b>Sexual/Reproductive Health</b>	
# People reached with sexual/reproductive health services	19,423
# People reached with family planning services, information and counselling	675
# Normal / assisted deliveries	2,351
# C-Sections assisted	110
# People reached with ante-natal care consultations	8,497
# People reached with post-natal care consultations	654
# People reached with SRH information and community awareness activities	22,102
# People with disabilities reached through SRH services and information	38
<b>Gender-Based Violence</b>	
# People reached with GBV programming/services	795
# People provided with GBV case management	37
# People reached with GBV information and community awareness activities	22,362
# People with disabilities reached through GBV services and information	29
<b>Youth Services</b>	
# Adolescents and young people reached with youth programming	2,753
<b>Capacity Strengthening</b>	
# Personnel trained on SRH, including the Minimum Initial Service Package	25
# Personnel trained on GBV in areas such as clinical management of rape	6
# Personnel trained on COVID-19 prevention and control	28
# Youth facilitators, peers and volunteers trained on SRH and GBV	58

**Services Delivered****29**

Health facilities that provide  
Emergency Obstetric Care  
(EmOC)

**26**

GBV one-stop centers  
supported by UNFPA

**7**

Women and girls safe  
spaces supported by  
UNFPA

**6**

Adolescent and youth-  
friendly spaces supported  
by UNFPA

**8**

Mobile clinics supported  
by UNFPA

**16**

Health facilities that provide  
specialized GBV services  
(including CMR)



## Humanitarian Coordination Leadership

- 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 needed to stay safe amidst COVID-19 response and the drought situation in Somalia.
- UNFPA actively participated in inter-agency missions to the Qansax-Dheere Bay region of South West State and Buurdhuubo Gedo region of Jubbaland State. The missions focused on assessing the overall humanitarian needs, including challenges faced by women and girls in accessing reproductive health services and protection and response to GBV.

## COVID-19 Prevention and Control Interventions

### SRH interventions, including protection of health workforce

- Through CERF resources, UNFPA has scaled-up the SRH and GBV response services for people affected by the drought in Jubaland and South-West states.
- UNFPA continues to strengthen the access to and continuity of quality life-saving essentials, SRH information and services for women, adolescents and youth during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNFPA and its partners have concluded a three-day Maternal Death review workshop in Garowe, aiming to establish facility-based Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) Committees in six facilities across Puntland.
- UNFPA and its partners have launched a comprehensive Family Planning training for 35 health care providers in Gardo, Puntland.



## Gender Based Violence

- Through the GBV AoR, UNFPA strongly advocates for funds and resources to respond to the current drought in Somalia. UNFPA is working with UN agencies, NGOs, clusters and the Federal Government to ensure that GBV response and risk mitigation activities are prioritized.
- UNFPA remains committed to ensuring the continuity of and access to life-saving 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 continues to strengthen GBV one-stop centers across the country, integrating care for survivors of GBV with reproductive health services.
- UNFPA and partners conducted gender empowerment sessions with beneficiaries and their relatives, using a developed schedule, consisting of topics relating to women's empowerment, decision making and shared parenting within families.



- UNFPA conducted the first South-South Cooperation on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) between religious leaders from Egypt and Somalia in Mogadishu. Experiences were exchanged and extensive dialogue was held on key Islamic Jurisprudences that are hindering the full abandonment of FGM in Somalia.
- UNFPA and Ifrah Foundation launched the Dear Daughter Campaign in Kismayo. The launching event was attended by the Jubaland Minister of Women and other frontline anti-FGM campaigners.

### Youth Program Activities

- UNFPA supported 250 young women and men in completing various TVET courses, including in handicraft, multimedia, tailoring and cooking at Hiraal Youth Center in Hargeisa.
- UNFPA and its partners have supported the graduation of 40 students at Inji Youth Center in Kismayo after a six-months Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skills training. The graduation ceremony was attended by the Jubaland Minister of Youth and Sports.
- UNFPA and its partners have conducted a two-day consultative National Youth Peace Conference in Mogadishu. The forum provides a framework that recognizes and creates opportunities for youth to meaningfully participate in state-building and peace-building processes.
- UNFPA supported a Girls Challenge Bootcamp for a group of young female activists from Mogadishu. The objectives of the bootcamp was to empower and support women to come up with innovative solutions for overcoming FGM in the Somali society.
- In partnership with FBA, UNFPA supported consultative discussions with young people on youth, elections and democratization in Mogadishu. The aim was to create better conditions for young people to increase their knowledge about democracy and democratic governance.





## Risk communication and community engagement

- UNFPA continues to support data collection and analysis to identify COVID-19 hot-spots, including disaggregated data on specific vulnerable groups, with a focus towards informing targeted interventions to address the pandemic.
- UNFPA continues to support joint awareness-raising efforts on the risks of FGM and GBV. UNFPA is providing SRH education and activism with a wide range of partners, including communities, targeting women of reproductive age, youth, elderly men, female health workers and IDPs.
- UNFPA is continuously engaged in the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) working groups at the national and sub-national levels in the COVID-19 taskforce pillars.

## Funding and Partnership

- 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 life-saving 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 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) 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 HCT, the UNCT, and other cluster-based platforms (health and protection), that support the identification of needs and response coordination.



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