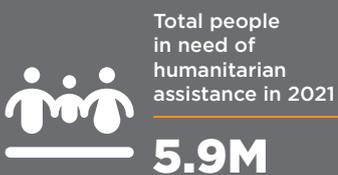




Fast Facts



COVID-19 in Somalia





OVERVIEW & NEEDS

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia is expected to rise to 7.7 million, due to the increased conflict, climatic related shocks (drought), displacement and COVID-19. Currently, around 2.9 million people are internally displaced across the country. About 3.5 million people face significant food consumption gaps and protection crises, while some 1.8 million women of reproductive age face challenges and gaps related to sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge the already ill-equipped health service delivery in Somalia. As of 31 October 2021, COVID-19 cases in Somalia had reached **20,526** with **1,158** fatalities.

UNFPA Somalia prioritizes supporting 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. In October, UNFPA Somalia and its partners reached **58,169** persons with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, **20,947** persons with prevention and response to GBV, including mental health and psychosocial support for women and girls. UNFPA also reached **2,601** young people through youth-related activities.

Furthermore, the capacity of UNFPA partners is strengthened to support the delivery of SRH and GBV services. Health facilities and mobile clinics are providing services to support maternal and newborn health, birth-spacing options and the clinical management of rape (CMR), responding to the increased needs required. 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



UNFPA Somalia continues to support the delivery of life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) services to vulnerable communities across Somalia. The UN agency closely works with the Federal Government and the Federal Member States, other UN agencies, and other partners to ensure access to and continuity of SRH and GBV services. UNFPA Somalia is engaged in the various coordination mechanisms, including the UN Country Team (UNCT) and Humanitarian Coordination 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 gloves and masks. 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 Somalia response includes

providing maternal and reproductive health (RH) 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 Somalia 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 September 2021**

Sexual/Reproductive Health	
# People reached with sexual/reproductive health services	19,231
# People reached with family planning services, information and counselling	876
# Normal / assisted deliveries	2,245
# C-Sections assisted	103
# People reached with ante-natal care consultations	10,865
# People reached with post-natal care consultations	607
# People reached with SRH information and community awareness activities	24,190
# People with disabilities reached through SRH services and information	52
Gender-Based Violence	
# People reached with GBV programming/services	521
# People provided with GBV case management	43
# People reached with GBV information and community awareness activities	20,346
# People with disabilities reached through GBV services and information	37
Youth Services	
# Adolescents and young people reached with youth programming	2,528
Capacity Strengthening	
# Personnel trained on SRH, including the Minimum Initial Service Package	30
# Personnel trained on GBV in areas such as clinical management of rape	10
# Personnel trained on COVID-19 prevention and control	41
# Youth facilitators, peers and volunteers trained on SRH and GBV	73

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 Somalia continues to co-lead the national and sub-national GBV sub-cluster and the reproductive health working group (RH-WG). Additionally, the UN agency is leading the efforts to ensure that the supply of reproductive health commodities is maintained and that midwives and other health personnel have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to stay safe amidst the COVID-19 response and the drought-like situation in Somalia.
- UNFPA Somalia 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 (RH) services and protection and response to gender-based violence (GBV).

COVID-19 Prevention and Control Interventions

SRH interventions, including protection of health workforce

- UNFPA Somalia is strengthening the continuity of and access to quality life-saving essentials, SRH information and services for women, adolescents and youth during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Together with its partner, Physicians Across Continent (PAC), UNFPA Somalia concluded the 9th fistula repair campaign in Mogadishu. The campaign provided life-changing assistance to over 150 vulnerable women. The closing ceremony was attended by the Federal Minister for Health and the Minister for Women and Human Rights Development and UNFPA Somalia Representative.
- In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), UNFPA Somalia supported a two-day workshop on midwifery curriculum review in Mogadishu. The workshop brought together midwifery stakeholders, including FMOH, Somali Midwifery Association (SOMA), Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM), experts from University of British Columbia (UBC) and UN agencies.



Women camping outside of the DayNile Hospital in Mogadishu, waiting to receive treatment, on 25 October, 2021. Photo by PAC

- UNFPA Somalia supports the prevention and mitigation efforts of the spread and transmission of COVID-19 in Emergency Obstetric Care and Neonatal Care (EmONC) facilities across the country, as well as the procurement of PPE for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for health care workers, including midwives.
- UNFPA Somalia continues to strengthen the knowledge and skills of health care workers, including midwives, on IPC and case management using WHO guidelines for service providers.
- UNFPA Somalia continues to support the capacity of national partners, particularly with regards to family planning knowledge, through the training of health care providers across the country. UNFPA Somalia is the lead agency for providing family planning commodities in Somalia.



Gender Based Violence

- UNFPA Somalia remains committed to ensure 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 women, adolescents and youth.
- UNFPA Somalia focuses on enhancing the capacity of partners for the implementation of Cash and Voucher Assistance through GBV case management. Female beneficiaries testified to improved self-esteem and autonomy levels for personal and family needs, as a result of this modality.



GBV Hotline Centre in Hargeisa

- UNFPA Somalia continues to strengthen GBV one-stop centers across the country, that integrate care for survivors of GBV with reproductive health services.
- UNFPA Somalia and its partners conducted several 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.

Youth Program Activities

- UNFPA Somalia and its partners supported life skills training for 110 youth and adolescent girls and boys. The youth were trained on employability and entrepreneurship for youth seeking jobs, as well as communication skills, SRH and family planning.
- UNFPA Somalia, through its national partners, conducted awareness campaigns on HIV Prevention, SRH, zero tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and COVID-19 prevention. Some 1,300 IEC materials distributed to sensitize communities in Eyl and Mohamed Moge IDP camp in Somaliland.



- UNFPA Somalia supported an entrepreneurship summit in Kismayo Jubaland State of Somalia, targeting 150 youth with entrepreneurial mindsets to pitch their ideas and initiatives.
- An estimated 2,882 young women, men, boys and girls were reached through an outreach campaign on peacebuilding and democratization on inclusive electoral process in Kismayo and Dhobley of Jubaland.



Risk communication and community engagement

- UNFPA Somalia 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 Somalia continues to support joint awareness-raising efforts on the risks of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and GBV. The UN agency 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 Somalia is 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

- While the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan for Somalia witnessed a great increase in funding compared with previous years, the escalation of humanitarian crises has similarly led to an increase in vulnerable women, children and men at risk of losing access to some or all of their life-saving and protection services. UNFPA Somalia and its partners are committed to scaling up the response, however, the overall lack of funds continues to challenge the efforts. Urgent and more sustainable mid- to longer-term investment is required to reduce risk and vulnerability.
- UNFPA Somalia continues to expand the number of its implementing partners across the country, including in hard-to-reach and insecure areas, for further programme implementation. Over half of the partnerships are with local (national) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), with access to communities in need, including providing much-needed health care and GBV services in some conflict-prone areas. UNFPA Somalia is represented in the humanitarian coordination forums, such as the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the UN Country Team (UNCT), and other cluster-based platforms (health and protection), which support the identification of needs and response coordination.



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