

# UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Somalia

Situation Report No. 3

29 March 2021



## Fast Facts



Total people  
in need of  
humanitarian  
assistance in 2021

**5.9M**



Pregnant  
Women (estimated)

**380,983**



Internally  
Displaced Persons

**2.9M**



Adolescents and  
Youth (Age 10-24)

**2.0M**



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

**1.8M**

## COVID-19 in Somalia



Confirmed  
COVID-19 cases  
In Somalia

**10,369**



Recovered  
cases

**4,564**



Reported  
Fatalities

**453**





## OVERVIEW & NEEDS

Somalia is facing pre-drought conditions due to alarming water scarcity reported in some 34 districts in Puntland, Galmudug, Jubbaland, Hirshabelle and Somaliland. An estimated 3.4 million people are projected to be affected by drought-like conditions in 2021, of whom about 380,000 are expected to be displaced due to extreme erratic weather and dry conditions. The situation is already challenging for women and children, especially girls, because scarcity increases the care burden required to collect water and the risk of abuse and gender-based violence. Besides, water scarcity and rising food prices have compelled low-income families to use up all their income for meeting basic food needs leaving little or no possibilities for meeting the basic health needs, including the sexual and reproductive health needs of the affected populations.

The second wave of COVID-19 continues to rise in Somalia, with a significant increase since February 2021. As of 28 March, COVID-19 cases in Somalia had reached 10,369 with 4,564 recoveries and 453 fatalities. On 15 March, the Federal Ministry of Health Somalia received 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX initiative to vaccinate at least 20 percent of the population. On 16 March, the Ministry of Health officially launched the vaccination roll out at De Martino Hospital in Mogadishu. Since then, the vaccination program has also been conducted at several hospitals across the Federal Member States.

UNFPA Somalia continues to provide lifesaving and integrated services for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, and mental health and psychosocial support response to women and adolescent girls as well as men and adolescent

boys affected by crises. UNFPA partners' capacity is strengthened to support GBV survivors, who typically contend with both mental and physical repercussions. Responding to these issues requires health facilities and mobile clinics to provide discreet services to support

maternal and newborn health, birth-spacing options and the clinical management of rape. Safe spaces for women, girls and young people, and one-stop centres for survivors of GBV offer mental health and psychosocial services.

Furthermore, UNFPA Somalia continues to update its continuity plan to address the COVID-19 related restrictions and

ensure time-critical activities and functions related to managing staff safety and security despite the crisis and restrictions on physical movement in Somalia. The UNFPA country office has established systems and tools, including e-signatures and an e-filing system required to continue signing work plans and disbursing cash in a paperless fashion.





## Summary of UNFPA Response

UNFPA Somalia supports the delivery of lifesaving sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence 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 is engaged in the various coordination mechanisms, including the UN Country Team and Humanitarian Coordination Team 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 the environment where services are delivered are adequately 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. UNFPA also continues to engage young people as partners and key agents of change and has been 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 February 2021)

Sexual/Reproductive Health	
# People reached with sexual/reproductive health services	19,415
# People reached with family planning services, information and counseling	3,621
# Normal / assisted deliveries	2,176
# C-Sections assisted	184
# People reached with ante-natal care consultations	11,695
# People reached with post-natal care consultations	1,902
# People reached with SRH information and community awareness activities	33,653
Gender-Based Violence	
# People reached with GBV programming / services	796
# People reached with Dignity Kits	230
# People provided with GBV case management	39
# People reached with GBV information and community awareness activities	26,231
Youth Services	
# Adolescents and young people reached with youth programming	1,367
Capacity Strengthening	
# Personnel trained on SRH, including the Minimum Initial Service Package	55
# Personnel trained on GBV, in areas such as clinical management of rape	45
# Personnel trained on COVID-19 prevention and control	25
# Youth facilitators, peers and volunteers trained on SRH and GBV	632



**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). Also, 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 protective equipment they need to stay safe amidst COVID-19 response and the drought-like situation in Somalia.

**COVID-19 Prevention and Control Interventions****SRH interventions, including protection of health workforce**

- UNFPA strengthened the continuity of and access to quality lifesaving essentials, SRH information and services for women, adolescents and youth during the COVID-19 pandemic
- UNFPA continues to provide support to the De Martino Hospital in Mogadishu, which is currently serving as the government-designated national referral centre for COVID-19 case management and isolation for the entire country
- UNFPA 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 and supports the procurement of PPE for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for health care workers, including midwives
- UNFPA 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 and its partners have concluded a trainer of trainers training for health workers under the SHINE project. The trainers will enable other health to be able to provide family planning clients with informed choices regarding their needs following context-specific guidelines for family planning counselling

**Gender Based Violence**

- UNFPA 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 women, adolescents and youth
- UNFPA Somalia continues to strengthen GBV one-stop centres across the country, which integrate care for survivors of GBV with reproductive health services
- UNFPA and its partners held phase three graduation for young people in the Galmudug region who were trained under the Dalbile Youth Initiative, a socio-economic initiative to empower Somalia youth with skills and resources to unlock their full potentials.
- The graduates have received incubation and financial grants to boost their business ideas and to scale up their start-ups.
- UNFPA and its partners concluded a six-month training for 120 young people from Buhoodle Youth Centre. The youth were trained in computer skills, tie and dye designs, beauty salon and electronics



- UNFPA and its partners provide GBV response services to girls and women in Hafun, Bari region affected by cyclone Gati which made landfall in November 2020, leaving behind a trail of destruction. During emergencies, the risk of violence is heightened, particularly for women and girls
- The EndFGM campaign continues as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNFPA Somalia is supporting Bahnano midwifery-led centre to carry out community outreach campaigns to raise awareness on the life-long health consequences and complications of female genital mutilation
- UNFPA, through its partners, has awarded financial grants to 16 youth start-ups in the Banadir region after a mentorship and coaching exercise. This socio-economic initiative is to empower Somalia youth with skills and resources to unlock their full potentials
- UNFPA has supported digital literacy training for young girls in high schools to enhance their use of information and communications technology

## Risk communication and community engagement

- UNFPA is supporting 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 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 is actively engaged in the risk communication and community engagement working groups at the national and sub-national levels in the COVID-19 taskforce pillars

## Funding and Partnership

- Funding challenges remain in Somalia, especially for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services in Somalia. With the country's humanitarian crises expected to worsen in 2021, women and girls will face the direct and worst consequences. UNFPA Somalia and its partners continue to advocate for sustained resources to address the needs of vulnerable women and girls
- UNFPA Somalia has Implementing Partner Agreements with approximately 50 partners, which provide broad geographic coverage for programme implementation, including in hard-to-reach and insecure areas. Over half of the partnerships are with local (national) NGOs with access to communities in need, including providing much-needed health care and GBV services in some conflict-prone areas. The agency 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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