



COVID-19 Situation Report

Fast Facts



Key Population Groups



1. Overview

- The Somali population faces yet another crisis; tropical cyclone Gati made landfall on the coastline of Puntland State of Somalia on 22 November, leaving physical and economic damage especially in Bari region. The cyclone has affected nearly 180,000 people including fishermen, pastoralists, farmers, traders and other vulnerable groups, such as refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to reports compiled by Puntland authorities. Forty-two thousand people have been displaced and there have been eight fatalities.
- The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is gradually increasing in Somalia due to the multiple fronts of humanitarian crises including protracted conflict, floods, desert locusts, the coronavirus pandemic and the tropical cyclone. The coping mechanisms of the communities are weakened, and women and girls are the most vulnerable. The cumulative positive testing rate has declined gradually, according to the Federal Ministry of Health. A total of 4,445 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Somalia as of 28 November, with 3,412 recoveries and 113 fatalities. Loss of

livelihoods and food insecurity among female-headed households and other vulnerable women and adolescent girls has worsened the dependency of food aid and humanitarian assistance. Harmful coping mechanisms such as early marriage, and sex in exchange for favours could be common among women and adolescent girls to assure themselves of food security.

- UNFPA is currently responding to the needs of the communities affected by the tropical cyclone Gati in the Puntland State Somalia. UNFPA is ensuring the needs of women and girls, are addressed timely by prepositioning emergency supplies, including dignity kits, reproductive health kits and COVID-19 supplies. UNFPA Somalia and its partners continue to provide lifesaving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) services in most affected locations in the country to support the priority needs for vulnerable women and girls. The UN agency and its partners also support data in humanitarian action and engagement of youth in the COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement, provides personal protective equipment

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(PPE) and supports the safety of patients and health workers through strengthening infection, prevention and control

- UNFPA Somalia has updated and activated its business continuity plan to ensure time-critical activities and functions related to managing the safety and security of staff despite the COVID-19 crisis and restrictions on physical movement in Somalia. The UNFPA country office has established systems and tools, including e-signatures and e-filing system, required to continue signing work plans and disbursing cash in a paperless fashion



2. UNFPA Supported Services and Beneficiaries (28 October – 28 November 2020)

Women benefitting from SRH services (including antenatal and postnatal care, emergency obstetric and newborn care services)	People benefitting from birth spacing services, information, and counseling	People reached with services related to gender-based violence (prevention, risk mitigation, and response)	People benefitting from SRH and GBV awareness-raising and information campaign including coronavirus prevention	Health care providers and midwives benefitting from the training on coronavirus prevention guidelines
10,563 including 6,986 of normal deliveries assisted by Skilled Birth Attendants	398	3,671	95,223	41

3. UNFPA Response Summary

Coordination

- UNFPA Somalia is closely working with the Federal Government and the Federal Member States, UN agencies, and other partners to ensure the 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 leads the national and sub-national GBV sub-cluster under the protection cluster and the reproductive health working group under the health cluster



- UNFPA continues to ensure that the supply of emergency reproductive health commodities is maintained, and that midwives and other health personnel have the PPE they need to stay safe amidst COVID-19 response and floods situation in Somalia
- UNFPA Somalia produces COVID-19 vulnerability mapping by risk factor and related indicators from the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) for the major towns in the country including Benadir Region, Baidoa, Garowe, Kismayo and Galkayo. The products are designed to guide the humanitarian partners for targeted COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities.

Continuity of SRH interventions, including protection of health workforce

- UNFPA continues to prioritize and support the continuity of and access to quality lifesaving essential SRH information and services for women, adolescents and youth during the COVID-19 pandemic and those affected by the tropical cyclone Gati
- UNFPA and its partners continue to provide support towards the prevention and mitigation efforts of the spread and transmission of COVID-19 in Emergency Obstetric Care and Neonatal Care facilities across the country and supporting the procurement of PPE for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for health care workers, including midwives
- UNFPA and its partners continue 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 training of health care workers including midwives on COVID19 IPC and case management using WHO guidelines for service providers



- With funding from Canada, UNFPA's midwifery program have seen the admission of a new batch of midwifery students to a 2-year program. Thirty young women from rural settings surrounding Borama have been enrolled at Amoud University, 50 midwives to Hargeisa Institute of Health, 25 students at Haji Abdi Institute for Health Science in Garowe. Midwives are the backbone of maternal health systems; delivering babies & much more, including during pandemics like the COVID19 and humanitarian settings.

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- UNFPA has supported 29 health workers in Somaliland receiving clinical training on Family Planning & Values Clarification & Attitude Transformation aimed at support, acceptance, advocacy & provision of reproductive health care & rights. Access to safe, voluntary family planning is a human right.
- UNFPA have officially handed over COVID19 supplies including Personal Protective Equipment to its partners in Somaliland as we support frontline health workers in responding to the pandemic & preventing its spread.
- UNFPA has conducted a second-phase 12 day Birth Spacing Training for health service providers in Banadir region. This is to ensure that health workers have the right knowledge, attitude and practice to provide both long-acting and short-acting methods of birth-spacing. The initiative is being done to reduce the high unmet need for birth spacing and to reduce the high maternal mortality rate in Somalia



Addressing Gender Based Violence

- UNFPA focuses on 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 for women, adolescents and youth
- UNFPA and partners continue to conduct capacity strengthening workshops for service providers in providing basic psychosocial support for survivors of GBV amidst COVID-19 response
- UNFPA and its partners are ensuring the continuous provision of psychosocial support to survivors of GBV amidst COVID-19 response. UNFPA and its partners also supported the training of psychosocial first aid responders across Somaliland and the production of training manuals
- UNFPA continues to strengthen GBV One Stop Centres across the country. The centres integrate care for survivors of GBV with reproductive health services

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- UNFPA and its partners have conducted a training for 47 journalists in Puntland on reporting sexual & gender-based violence effectively to bolster the capacity of journalists in fighting GBV in all settings
- UNFPA and its partners have provided life skills training to 30 underprivileged girls in Gabiley Youth Center. Vulnerable communities from low-income and humanitarian settings are suffering more challenges, including economic hardships caused by the pandemic
- UNFPA and its partners continue to support the development of GBV COVID-19 messages, including guidelines. These are disseminated using service sites and during the distribution of dignity and hygiene kits

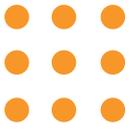
Risk communication and community engagement

- UNFPA Somalia continues to support and engage with the government and partners in the risk communication and community engagement
- UNFPA continues to participate in the risk communication and community engagement working groups at the national and sub-national levels in the COVID-19 taskforce pillars
- UNFPA Somalia in partnership with the Ministry of Planning of the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States has been



preparing population density maps that show hotspots and areas that present vulnerability to COVID-19 by various risk factors. The maps are providing better visualization, understanding, and targeting of the population and situation. The information and maps strengthen an appropriate response plan for the Ministry of Health and other local and international agencies in Somalia

- The maps produced integrate population densities with the locations of various social amenities, including markets, hospitals, places of worship and information on critical risk factors, such as levels of chronic diseases, disability, aged population and sites for internally displaced person (IDP). These maps provide a standard frame of reference for COVID-19 risk factors, thereby serving as tools in identifying where critical resources are needed and in prioritizing interventions. This is helping the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to slow the spread of COVID-19



- UNFPA continues to support the joint awareness-raising on the risks of FGM, GBV, SRH education, and activism with a wide range of partners, including communities targeting women of reproductive age, youth, older men and women, female health workers and IDPs
- UNFPA and its partners continue to support and guide young people's engagement in Somalia through mobile caravans. Communities are informed on the significance of staying at home and social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19

4. Resource Mobilization

- With tropical Cyclone Gati hitting Somalia recently, the humanitarian threats continue to aggravate challenges in Somalia, and more specifically, women and girls face the worst consequences. UNFPA and its partners continue to advocate for resources to address the needs of vulnerable women and girls. However, concerns exist over the overall declining trend for funds for GBV service provision due to reprioritization within the existing resource mobilization forums
- UNFPA Somalia continues to reach out to bilateral donors to mobilize the required funding for UNFPA Somalia's COVID-19 response plan for SRH and GBV activities including services, supplies, information and coordination



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