



## Fast Facts

 Total people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021  
**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**

## COVID-19 in Somalia

 Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Somalia  
**13,670**

 Recovered cases  
**5,539**

 Reported Fatalities  
**698**



## OVERVIEW & NEEDS



**D**rought conditions in Somalia are threatening the life of vulnerable populations, including women and girls. The Federal Government of Somalia and the humanitarian community declared a drought situation in the country on 25 April 2021. More than 80 percent of Somalia is experiencing drought conditions. Forecasts indicate below-average rainfall, although the Gu rains started in some parts of the country. About 3.4 million people are projected to be affected by drought conditions by the end of 2021, of whom around 380,000 are expected to be displaced. The worst affected areas include parts of Somaliland and Puntland, central regions and the Gedo region. The COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Somalia; as of 29 April, the cases had reached 13,670 with 5,539 recoveries and 698 fatalities.

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 to meet 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.

UNFPA prioritizes the provision of 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 adolescent girls as well as men and adolescent boys affected by crises. The capacity of UNFPA

partners 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.

The environment where services are delivered is 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 March 2021)**

<b>Data from UNFPA Supported Services (Since March 2021)</b>	
<b>Sexual/Reproductive Health</b>	
# People reached with sexual/reproductive health services	19,110
# People reached with family planning services, information and counseling	2,231
# Normal / assisted deliveries	2,476
# C-Sections assisted	162
# People reached with ante-natal care consultations	10,986
# People reached with post-natal care consultations	945
# People reached with SRH information and community awareness activities	32,103
<b>Gender-Based Violence</b>	
# People reached with GBV programming / services	686
# People reached with Dignity Kits	1,100
# People provided with GBV case management	42
# People reached with GBV information and community awareness activities	25,567
<b>Youth Services</b>	
# Adolescents and young people reached with youth programming	575
<b>Capacity Strengthening</b>	
# Personnel trained on SRH, including the Minimum Initial Service Package	45
# Personnel trained on GBV, in areas such as clinical management of rape	32
# Personnel trained on COVID-19 prevention and control	20
# Youth facilitators, peers and volunteers trained on SRH and GBV	521



## 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 Somali Health and Nutrition Programme (SHINE) project. The trainers will enable other health workers 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 has supported a focus group discussion for 15 adolescent girls and 15 adolescent boys to develop strategies for the provision of GBV services and to build on existing community-based protection mechanisms
- UNFPA has supported the establishment of a safe space in Bossaso as part of its humanitarian response. A safe space for women and girls is a place where they can go at any time to feel safer and empowered and have access to information, education, recreation, GBV support and services
- UNFPA has distributed 800 dignity kits to vulnerable women and girls in drought-affected areas in Somaliland. During the most desperate situations, such as the aftermath of a natural disaster, UNFPA distributes basic supplies to maintain the health & dignity of women and girls
- The EndFGM campaign continues as UNFPA responds 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 has distributed menstrual hygiene kits to 2000 girls in communities for Internally Displaced Persons, orphanages and youth centres in Mogadishu amidst its response to COVID-19. Menstrual Health Management is often overlooked in emergency response, including pandemics





- UNFPA has trained 20 leaders of youth-led organizations in Barawe in leadership, management and advocacy skills. The impacts of COVID-19 are felt most harshly by young people already living in difficult and disadvantaged circumstances
- UNFPA has supported focus group discussions for community-level assessment in Banadir, Lower Shabelle and Kismayo to ensure that communities, including women and girls, are engaged as active partners to end GBV and promote survivors' access to services
- 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 task force pillars

### Funding and Partnership

- The loss of livelihoods forces families to rely on increasingly severe coping mechanisms, worsened by political instability, armed conflict and forced displacement. Funding shortfalls remain a significant challenge in scaling up the response. Only 15 percent of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan was funded as of 25 April 2021. Without immediate mitigative assistance, drought conditions will be a key driver of displacement, communicable diseases and protection violations in the country.
- The UNFPA Somalia humanitarian preparedness and response plan in the context of drought and COVID-19 requires USD 16.4 million. UNFPA and its partners continue to advocate for sustained resources to address the needs of vulnerable women and girls, with particular focus on funding 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.



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