UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Somalia

Situation Report No. 6
30 June 2021

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: 14,946
- Recovered cases: 7,246
- Reported Fatalities: 775
The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains a real concern. A double climate disaster has aggravated the situation; drought in some parts of the country and flooding in others. The country is also facing the impact of political tensions, the COVID-19 pandemic and the worst desert locust infestation in years. It is estimated that almost half of the population needs humanitarian assistance. About 2.9 million people remain displaced from their homes across the country, while 2.8 million will need urgent food assistance by September 2021. An estimated 1.8 million women of reproductive age require urgent sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services. Meanwhile, COVID-19 cases in Somalia had reached 14,776 with 7,246 recoveries and 775 fatalities as of 30 June 2021.

Supporting the continuity of essential and lifesaving services for health and GBV remains UNFPA’s key priority in 2021. During the reporting period, UNFPA Somalia supported sexual and reproductive health services, prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), mental health and psychosocial support response for women, adolescent girls, and 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.

Overview & Needs

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.

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.
### Data from UNFPA Supported Services (Since May 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual/Reproductive Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># People reached with sexual/reproductive health services</td>
<td>21,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># People reached with family planning services, information and counseling</td>
<td>1,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Normal / assisted deliveries</td>
<td>2,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># C-Sections assisted</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># People reached with ante-natal care consultations</td>
<td>10,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># People reached with post-natal care consultations</td>
<td>658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># People reached with SRH information and community awareness activities</td>
<td>29,127</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Gender-Based Violence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># People reached with GBV programming / services</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># People reached with Dignity Kits</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># People provided with GBV case management</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># People reached with GBV information and community awareness activities</td>
<td>23,146</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Youth Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Adolescents and young people reached with youth programming</td>
<td>657</td>
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<tr>
<th>Capacity Strengthening</th>
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<tr>
<td># Personnel trained on SRH, including the Minimum Initial Service Package</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Personnel trained on GBV, in areas such as clinical management of rape</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Personnel trained on COVID-19 prevention and control</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Youth facilitators, peers and volunteers trained on SRH and GBV</td>
<td>657</td>
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### 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 closely works with the Federal Government and the Federal Member States, other UN agencies and other partners to ensure access to and continuity of lifesaving SRH and GBV services. UNFPA is actively 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 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 workers to provide family planning clients with informed choices regarding their needs following context-specific guidelines for family planning counselling.

- UNFPA has supported a Midwifery Curriculum Review Workshop in Hargeisa together with partners and policymakers to strengthen competency-based midwifery training to help build a competent, well-trained and well-supported midwifery workforce.
UNFPA and its partners have conducted a Logistics Management Information System workshop in Mogadishu to facilitate the flow of reliable data on family planning and reproductive health commodities in the country. UNFPA is committed to ensuring that essential supplies reach where they are needed at the right time.

The UNFPA Supplies Partnership delivers reproductive health supplies to the last mile and into the hands of women and adolescent girls who need them most while building more robust, more sustainable national health systems and services. Somalia has joined the partnership this year.

UNFPA has completed a week-long training in Mogadishu on Family Planning, Contraceptives Logistics Management Information System and Value Clarification and Attitude Transformation for Health Service Providers from the Federal Government of Somalia and federal member states.

**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 distributed menstrual hygiene packs to 1,000 girls from internally displaced communities while also participating in sessions on menstrual hygiene.
- UNFPA and its partners have supported an orientation session for health workers on the severe implications of Female Genital Mutilation on the sexual and reproductive health of girls and women.
- 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 and its partners have distributed cash vouchers to survivors of gender-based violence, including those living with disabilities. The survivors were selected from those registered within GBV one-stop centers and safe spaces for women and girls.
Youth Program Activities

- UNFPA and its partners have imparted soft skills, financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills to 60 young people in Puntland. Young people are at the forefront of UNFPA’s actions to build more equitable, resilient societies where all share prosperity.
- UNFPA has concluded a life-skills, coaching and mentorship program for secondary schools students in Garowe. The peer-to-peer engagement has been widely recognized as one of the best practices for facilitating positive youth development as they move through adolescence.
- UNFPA has concluded a five-day training on life skills and citizenship for young people in Mogadishu. The training was aimed at equipping young people with skills in self-awareness, leadership, decision-making and effective communication.

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

- Alarming funding gaps exist in this year’s humanitarian response plan for Somalia. The funding crisis is threatening 5.9 million vulnerable women, children and men at risk of losing access to some or all of the lifesaving and protection services they desperately need. UNFPA Somalia joins the humanitarian partners to appeal for urgent funding for the Somalia humanitarian response plan. UNFPA Somalia and its partners continue to advocate for sustained resources to address the needs of vulnerable women and girls.

- UNFPA Somalia continues to expand its implementing partners across the country, including in hard-to-reach and insecure areas, for programme implementation. 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.