

UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Somalia

Situation Report No. 8

31 August 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

17,399



Recovered
cases

8,460



Reported
Fatalities

969



OVERVIEW & NEEDS

Somalia faces the combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate disaster, which has led to reduced household access to food and income. Many people face significant food consumption gaps and protection crises. 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 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 **17,399**, with **8,460** recovered and **969** fatalities as of 1 September 2021.

UNFPA continues to prioritize supporting the continuity of essential and life-saving health and gender-based violence (GBV) services. In August, UNFPA Somalia and

its partners reached **61,256** persons with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, **21,716** persons with prevention and response to GBV, including mental health and psychosocial support for women and girls. UNFPA also reached **563** 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 discreet services to support maternal and newborn health, birth-spacing options and the clinical management of rape, responding to the increased needs required. Safe spaces for women, girls and young people and one-stop centres for survivors of GBV are offering mental health and psychosocial services.

Summary of UNFPA Response

UNFPA Somalia supports the delivery of life-saving 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 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 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 July 2021

Sexual/Reproductive Health	
# People reached with sexual/reproductive health services	19,241
# People reached with family planning services, information and counselling	907
# Normal / assisted deliveries	2,157
# C-Sections assisted	123
# People reached with ante-natal care consultations	9,652
# People reached with post-natal care consultations	609
# People reached with SRH information and community awareness activities	28,528
# People with disabilities reached through SRH services and information	39
Gender-Based Violence	
# People reached with GBV programming/services	732
# People reached with Dignity Kits	560
# People provided with GBV case management	57
# People reached with GBV information and community awareness activities	20,342
# People with disabilities reached through GBV services and information	25
Youth Services	
# Adolescents and young people reached with youth programming	563
Capacity Strengthening	
# Personnel trained on SRH, including the Minimum Initial Service Package	24
# Personnel trained on GBV in areas such as clinical management of rape	15
# Personnel trained on COVID-19 prevention and control	36
# Youth facilitators, peers and volunteers trained on SRH and GBV	33

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 life-saving 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
- UNFPA Somalia Representative visited Barawe (Lower-Shabelle region of South West State) on an inter-agency mission to assess humanitarian needs, including challenges in accessing reproductive health services and protection and response to gender-based violence. UNFPA and its implementing partners in Barawe are stepping up efforts to reach out to more girls and women with essential services as the UN agency works towards ending unmet need for family planning, preventable maternal death, gender-based violence & harmful practices
- UNFPA joined inter-agency missions to 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 services and protection and response to gender-based violence

COVID-19 Prevention and Control Interventions

SRH interventions, including protection of health workforce

- UNFPA 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
- UNFPA continues to provide support to 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 has supported the establishment of a new maternity ward at Hargeisa Group Hospital dedicated to pregnant women and new mothers with COVID-19 symptoms. The isolation centre provides access to life-saving maternal and newborn care in a sensitized COVID-19 approach
- UNFPA and its partners have conducted a 10-day training on data collection, analysis and interpretation in Hargeisa. UNFPA is one of the world's largest supporters of data collection. Up-to-date and quality data offers decision-makers vital information on people's health and lives

Gender Based Violence

- UNFPA remains committed to ensuring 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 continues to strengthen GBV one-stop centres across the country, which integrate care for survivors of GBV with reproductive health services
- UNFPA and its partner have distributed 200 dignity kits to the vulnerable women and girls in the Farjano Camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs). This provision was part of the country office's emergency GBV response in Puntland
- The EndFGM campaign continues as UNFPA responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNFPA Somalia supports Bahnano Midwifery-Led Centre to carry out community outreach campaigns to raise awareness of the life-long health consequences and complications of female genital mutilation
- UNFPA Somalia has supported an advocacy and community mobilization campaign in Mogadishu to increase awareness and understanding of the harmful consequences of child marriage. UNFPA promotes policies, programmes and legislation designed to end child marriage
- UNFPA and its partners have handed over 560 dignity kits to the vulnerable women and girls in Togdher and Sool. The kits contain hygiene supplies and underclothes. When disaster strikes, UNFPA ensures that the reproductive health needs and protection concerns are integrated into emergency responses



Youth Program Activities

- UNFPA and its partners have concluded consultations in Kismayo to inform the national youth policy. The UN agency supports efforts to develop and implement policies and programs to secure the health, development and human rights of adolescents and youth
- UNFPA has supported an outreach campaign targeting the youth in Malowle Camp for Internally Displaced Persons in Hargeisa. The campaign is on preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS, ending FGM and eliminating early marriage



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 gaps continue to affect 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 life-saving and protection services they desperately need. UNFPA Somalia and its partners are committed to scaling up the response, but the lack of funds continues to challenge their efforts. Urgent and more sustainable mid to longer-term investment in reducing risk and vulnerability is required.
- 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) NGOs with access to communities in need, including providing the much-needed health care and GBV services in some conflict-prone areas. UNFPA 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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