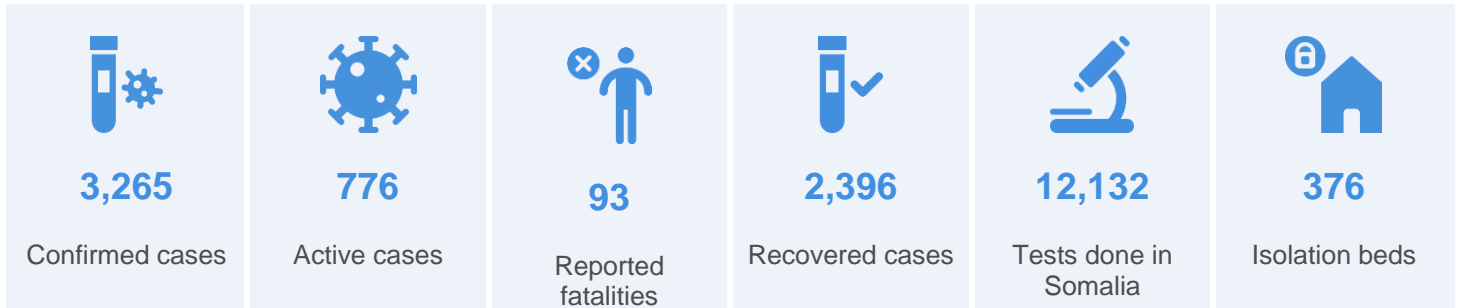


Highlights

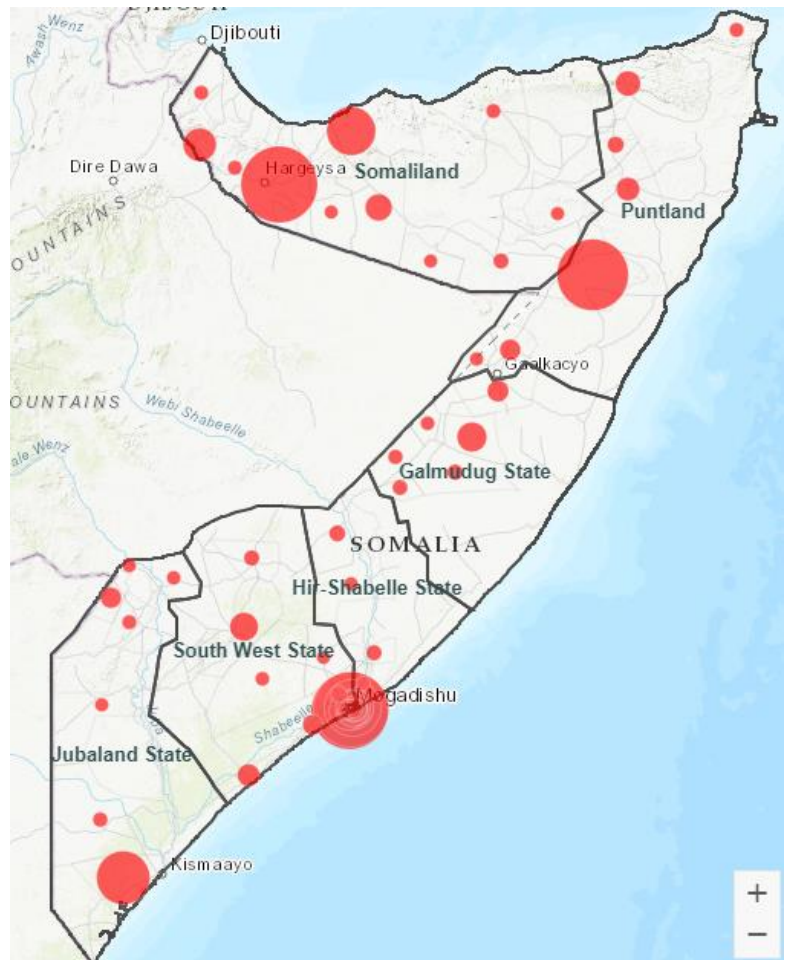


Situation overview

Confirmed daily COVID-19 cases declined during the reporting period. Somalia has confirmed 3,265 with 2,396 recoveries as of 21 August but the number of deaths has remained at 93 for several weeks. Most cases are 20 to 60 years old, and 74 per cent are male. According to WHO¹, the cumulative positive testing rate, has declined gradually and as of the week of 2-8 August, stood at 26 per cent. Across the country, health facility and community-based surveillance activities are focused on early detection, testing, tracking and tracing of cases.

The Federal Government of Somalia has allowed international flights to resume, which should ease the movement of aid workers and delivery of supplies, and schools to reopen. Guidelines have been developed to minimize the risk at airports and passengers will need a medical certificate showing they are free of COVID-19. Students returning to school are required to follow Ministry of Health guidelines including social distancing, wearing face masks and gloves. School compounds have been cleaned, disinfected, and hand washing facilities installed.

UN agencies and partners have ramped up responses to the pandemic, as detailed below. To support ongoing activities, the Logistics Cluster facilitated dedicated cargo airlifts on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Health the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), WHO and key health partners upon request. As of 6 August, over 34 MT of COVID-19 related cargo has been transported to Dhusamarreeb, Kismayo, Baidoa, Jowar, Hargeisa, Belet Weyne, Garowe, Guriel and Barawe. The Cluster is installing a Mobile Storage Unit at Mogadishu international airport to facilitate the storage of partners' cargo for both COVID-19 and flood responses.



Map of Somalia showing areas where cases have been reported. Source: WHO

¹ Federal Ministry of Health and WHO. COVID-19 Situation Report - Somalia Issue 22 (2-8 AUGUST 2020).

Despite progress, humanitarian partners report gaps in response. Partners have raised a concern about gaps in geographic coverage of testing. There are some districts with no confirmed cases due to lack of testing capacity. In Somaliland, around 200 out of 838 schools need support to implement protocols and measures to mitigate the pandemic risk. Puntland partners are concerned that the public has largely relaxed adherence to COVID-19 protocols and safety measures, despite cases reaching 400 in the state. In Jubaland, partners report lack of enough ventilators and oxygen machines, lack of a regional laboratory as well as inadequate funding to support Ceel Waaq and Dhobley isolation centres.

Humanitarian responses to COVID-19

Risk communication and Community Engagement

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) has been strengthened. During the month of July, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster partners completed or were engaged in COVID-19 risk communication and awareness raising activities in 921 out of 2,344 IDP sites nationally, covering over 1 million people (42 per cent of 2.6 million IDPs). The CCCM partners collaborated with Radio Ergo to air COVID-19 messages to the IDPs. On the other hand, UNICEF reports that 234,995 people were reached across Somalia through house-to-house visits, health facility awareness sessions, community meetings, mosque announcements and distribution of 17,976 information, education and communication materials between 1-23 July. Some 2,857 posters and 25,000 stickers were distributed, and radio-spots broadcast daily on 15 radio stations, reaching about 6.5 million people.



Washing hands with soap reduces the risk of coronavirus. Photo: UNICEF

Through the Clerics vs. COVID-19 campaign, led by OPM, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Benadir Regional Administration (BRA), focal point mosques have been established in all 17 districts of Mogadishu, and COVID-19 messages disseminated by 104 sheikhs, imams, madrassa teachers, and district officials. In addition, the UNDP social media campaigns with religious leaders, comedians and celebrities reached 1.3 million people on Twitter and Facebook. Posters, videos, and radio spots were disseminated in markets, clinics and crowded areas in Somaliland, Puntland and Jubaland. UNDP provided support for staffing, transport and equipment to the national 449 helpline that provides advice and medical referrals to more than 30,000 people a month.

Sector responses

Health

WHO reported during the week of 2-8 August that 534,964 individuals in 105,851 households across 49 priority districts were visited by 1,109 integrated community surveillance teams engaged in active case search, contact tracing and awareness-raising. Of the households visited, 46 per cent were in urban areas, 35 per cent in rural areas, 9 per cent were nomadic and 10 per cent from IDP settlements. Some 314 health facilities were visited by district rapid response teams to strengthen health surveillance, health worker sensitisation and case searches. In addition:

- Some 160 community health workers were trained on infection control and prevention by the Ministry of Health and Save the Children in Jubaland. Another 65 frontline health workers (including doctors, nurses, and midwives) were trained by the federal Ministry of Health in five health centres in Banadir.
- WHO delivered personal protective equipment to Jubaland and Hirshabelle states, with 8,550 PPEs including 2,400 masks, 1,600 gloves, 1,600 gowns, 200 protective goggles and other items provided to partners to protect health care workers.
- Some 44 per cent of UNICEF-supported facilities provided training on COVID-19 issues to health facilities staff: 359 frontline workers (177 females, 182 male) were trained on management and health service continuity while 381 health facility staff (176 female, 205 male) were trained on infection prevention protocols, and 339 community health workers (201 female, 138 male) on awareness, protection and case detection.
- In June and July, 418 suspected COVID-19 patients diagnosed and registered in UNICEF-supported health facilities were followed-up via telephone calls from health facility staff or home visits by community health workers. Social mobilisation teams visited 519,582 households between May and July, reaching over 1.5 million mothers,

caregivers and household members with health education relating to COVID-19. Social mobilisers conducted 708 community meetings in June and July, sensitising 1,863 community leaders and influencers on COVID-19.

- In July, UNICEF partners provided individual infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling to 30,130 mothers and caretakers. Child screening efforts continued at facilities supplemented by screening at households by mothers/caretakers through the mother-led MUAC initiative while ensuring adherence to COVID-19 IPC measures.
- In July, ICRC provided about 1,000 body bags and some 5,000 PPE sets including gloves, overalls, glasses, and masks, to health authorities in Somalia to help manage the dead in a safe and dignified way.
- In Jubaland, the administration received laboratory equipment from the Federal Ministry of Health, which was distributed to Kismayo and Belet Xaawo, Gedo region.

Food and nutrition

WFP provided 1,619,906 people with emergency life-saving food and nutrition assistance across Somalia through cash-based transfers (US\$6.15 million) and over 8,000 MT of assorted food commodities in July. Of those assisted, 652,338 were pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-59 months who received specialised nutritious foods for the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition. WFP has adapted COVID-19 prevention measures by enhancing social distancing and increased handwashing stations at distribution points, PPE provision to frontline staff, reducing exposure of beneficiaries by distributing 2-month rations, and training community and partner staff. Furthermore:

- Some 8,008 children with SAM were reached with lifesaving treatment through UNICEF supported partners in the last two weeks of July. Additionally, efforts to screen children continued at facilities supplemented by screening at households by mothers/caretakers.
- UNICEF, through its partners, provides basic nutrition services package including individual infant and young child feeding counselling (IYCF) for caretakers, reaching 13,139 mothers and caretakers in last two weeks of July.
- Wasting management and IYCF training in the context of COVID 19 continues; over 1,486 (43 per cent male) frontline health and nutrition providers cumulatively have been trained in central and southern regions.

WASH

The WASH Cluster in July reached 27,522 beneficiaries with access to sustainable safe water and 4,550 through sanitation. Furthermore, partners reached 90,568 beneficiaries with hygiene promotion activities particularly hygiene kits distributions; 4,500 beneficiaries accessed water through trucking and water source chlorination. Additionally:

- IOM reports that from 26 July-1 August, it reached 3,651 households with hygiene promotion activities in Mogadishu, Jubaland, South West State and Somaliland. Another 1,765 households received soap and hygiene kits in Afmadow, Baidoa and Mogadishu.
- IOM trained 19 hygiene promoters in Hargeysa and Baidoa and installed 50 handwashing points in Baidoa.
- In Jubaland, ICRC in collaboration with the Somali Red Crescent Society continued house-to-house health promotion campaigns and distributing soap, supporting 13 health facilities. It also started community-based surveillance at Dalhika IDP settlement in Kismayo for COVID-19 and AWD cases.
- In Hirshabelle, the NGO CESVI in mid-July distributed 250 hand washing stations to 10 villages. They also provided communication dissemination equipment e.g. sirens, speakers, community radios, funded by DFID.

Education

In July, 116,612 children (41 per cent girls) benefitted from distance learning lessons disseminated through TV, radio and online platforms, supported by UNICEF and its partners. UNICEF is also providing technical support to the Federal Ministry of Education (MoE) in recording of distance learning lessons for grades 1 to 12. As all MoEs are preparing for school reopening, UNICEF is supporting the development of safe school operation guidelines, which will integrate WASH, health, nutrition, psychosocial support and child protection components. Some 3,134 adolescent girls received sanitary kits and were educated about COVID-19 prevention measures. A total of 578 teachers, head teachers and education officials (22 per cent female) received information on coronavirus prevention, transmission and mitigation protocols. In addition, refugee university students enrolled in the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund continued a distance learning programme supported by UNHCR. In preparation for the reopening of schools, UNHCR and partners targeted refugees and asylum seekers who have children of school-going age with “back to school” awareness raising messaging.

To mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread in the schools as they reopen, the Somaliland Ministry of Education and Science on 3 August announced stringent preventative measures including a reduction of student numbers per class, provision of remedial classes, submission of negative COVID-19 certificates by incoming teachers and deployment of health personnel at schools to test and screen for the virus.

Socio-economic responses to COVID-19

1. Health first: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis

Through Federal Member States (FMS) and local government grants, the Joint Programme for Local Governance (JPLG) has started supporting primary health centres in 33 districts through top-up payments for staff, basic sanitation equipment and community awareness activities.

UNFPA initiated Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) virtual training for midwifery school tutors and providers from hospitals and health centres in Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Puntland. Facility level frontline providers also received training on birth spacing, to ensure women can plan their families. Virtual learning platforms were provided to midwifery schools.

In July, 135,165 children and women (419,300 since March) received essential healthcare services with UNICEF's support. Between May-July, UNICEF implementing partners conducted cascading trainings on COVID-19 issues and service continuity for 1,314 frontline health workers (645 females, 669 male) in 13 regions. An additional 868 health facility staff (cleaners and security personnel) were trained on IPC protocols and 494 community health workers trained on COVID-19 awareness, protection, and case detection.

UNICEF's PPE consignment has now arrived in country and so far, 686 frontline health workers (346 females, 340 male) have been equipped with PPEs for case management (face shields and gowns) in 9 of the 13 priority regions. In addition, UNICEF advocated for the use of phones and other technologies for screening, triaging, and referring COVID-19 patients. Social mobilisers conducted 708 community meetings in June and July, sensitising 1,863 community leaders and influencers on COVID-19.

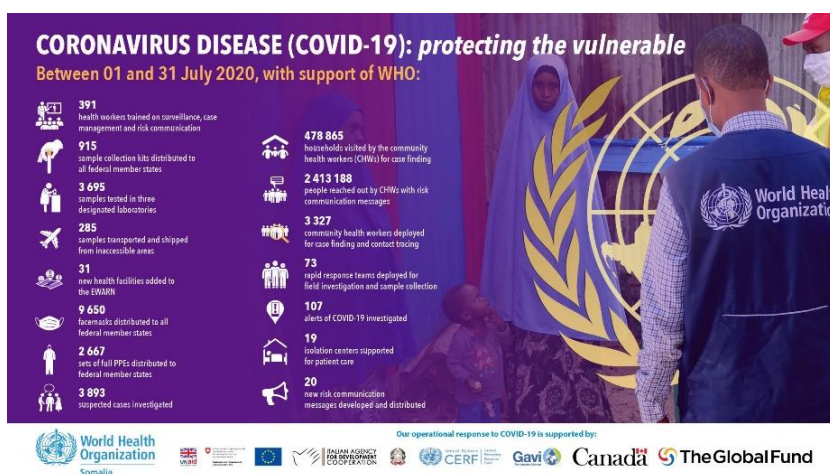
UN-Habitat has constructed support structures at Balcad hospital consisting of toilets divided by gender, a guard house, and a multifunctional open and covered space suitable for sheltering people while waiting to be treated as well as parking for future ambulances. The hospital management has requested for further support in terms of medical equipment which will be shared with IOM, WHO, OCHA and partners.

Some 38 health facilities in five states are being supported through a hybrid model of IOM seconded staff (over 300) to ministries of health as well as IOM staff providing daily technical and operational support for service delivery, capacity building, direct supervision and mentorship of health workers and clinical quality assurance and monitoring. Furthermore, IOM has deployed 27 diaspora experts to health facilities in 12 districts in Somaliland, Puntland, and South West State.

Protecting people: Social protection and basic services

Social protection systems

WFP assisted 182,094 people with cash-based transfers in July (of approximately US\$2.77 million) under the urban and rural safety nets programmes. Of these, 169,878 people in Galmudug, Mogadishu and Doolow were supported under the rural safety nets programme that WFP is implementing on behalf of government; 12,216 people were supported under the urban safety nets programme in Mogadishu. The use of mobile money enables beneficiaries to receive transfers in remote areas where banking facilities are absent and provides contactless delivery.



UNICEF continued to roll out Rapidpro to cover all nutrition partners across Somalia, registering a significant increase in the number of partners responding to the short message service (SMS) broadcasts. The extension also entailed revision of the tool used to collect data, now covering a wider range of indicators than previously collected. The RapidPro provides bi-weekly monitoring of nutrition service utilisation which helps to trigger timely response.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene.

UN-Habitat produced Guidelines for Municipal Waste Management (solid, liquid and bio-medical), suggesting temporary changes in waste management operations using existing resources and quick-win solutions for maintaining continuity in operations as well as efficiency. The document was based on UN-Habitat's Solid Waste Management Response to COVID-19 and builds upon existing Solid Waste Management By-Laws in Somaliland, Puntland and BRA.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) services

UNICEF supported the delivery of community based mental health and psychosocial support to children and adults nationally, reaching 3,759 people in the month of July, and 19,122 people between March and July.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) training targeting child protection committee members, volunteers, police officers, prosecution officers and local authorities' staff benefitted 281 men and women in July. Some 40 trained social workers were assigned to 17 locations in Puntland to reinforce COVID-19 awareness, child protection, GBV case management, service referrals, and alternative care. A 24/7 helpline was operationalized. In Somaliland, community outreach activities reached 60 people (58 per cent female).



Partners have supported Somalia to establish COVID-19 testing capacity. Photo: WHO

UNFPA has mapped GBV service providers in Adado, Abudwaq, Baidoa and Guriceel and a GBV/FGM rapid assessment in FMS and Somaliland. An interim care centre was established at Xudur for GBV survivors. Two women's safe spaces were established in Somaliland. 1,053 persons received psycho-social support and counselling in South West State, Puntland and Somaliland. Some 120 persons received Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) support and 15 women and girls received treatment and care services for FGM; 30 prosecutors received information on the sexual offences law in Puntland; 29 nurses and midwives were trained and mobilised to prevent, manage and treat survivors who present complications due to FGM in Somaliland; and 50 journalists trained on SGBV reporting in Mogadishu.

2. Economic Response & Recovery: Protecting jobs, MSMEs, and informal sector workers

Critical food value chains

WFP provided cash vouchers to 3,010 households (18,060 people) in Doolow through its food assistance for assets programme in July. Using the vouchers, beneficiaries sustain themselves while rehabilitating and creating productive assets; mainly small farms where they grow vegetables and fruits, thereby contributing to improved household food security. Furthermore 194,490 people benefited from the WFP e-Shop, an online food ordering and home delivery marketplace, leveraging Somalia's expansive and affordable mobile network. The marketplace provides recipients of WFP's cash-based assistance more choice of products and price visibility across the WFP retailer network (879 active retailers). The marketplace is creating jobs for delivery service providers such as bike, tuk-tuk, small pick-up operators who fetch the orders from retailers (who receive orders via the app) and deliver to consumer households, who then pay on delivery.

Employment intensive programming

UNIDO and the MoCI inaugurated the rehabilitated Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which employs 61 young Somalis, of which 35 were young unemployed or under-employed people that had received construction trades training from UNIDO and other parts of the UN family.

Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Some 135 SMEs have received technical assistance from UNIDO-backed Enterprise Development Units in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa, on business operations, access to finance, and competitiveness as well as COVID response training modules. EDUs are offering guidance on operational continuity and recovery after the crisis (see [manual developed by UNIDO HQs](#)) and in operationalising occupational health and safety preventive measures based on [guidelines](#).

UNIDO has operationalised two credit facilities to support lending needs of SMEs in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa (total value of two facilities is EUR 1 million), in partnership with the International Bank of Somalia (IBS) and in collaboration with the MoCIs and Chambers of Commerce and Industry at state and federal levels. IBS will offer two lending products: *i*) SME loans from US\$5,000 to \$100,000 with a mark-up less than 8 per cent and a loan period of 6 to 30 months and *ii*) Micro-Credit loans from \$500 to \$5,000 with a mark-up less than 7 per cent, and a loan period up to 12 months. The product is based on Murabaha Islamic Banking principles.

Reintegration support through microbusinesses was provided to 230 vulnerable returning migrants in areas of return. IOM is adjusting to circumstances by providing Cash Based Interventions (CBI) to the microbusiness to ensure they can continue their businesses.

Some 55 women entrepreneurs (35 Hargeysa and 20 in Baidoa) previously trained by UNHCR are producing non-clinical masks. Those in Hargeysa produced 7,746 face masks and sold 3,224, while those in Baidoa produced 4,635 face masks but sold none. Furthermore, 676 persons received livelihood support from UNHCR. In Hargeysa 117 youths were enrolled for technical vocational training (TVET) and 104 youths trained on small scale business (SSB). In Baidoa, TVET training (tailoring, electricity and masonry) of 40 persons is ongoing. In Mogadishu, 100 people continued 2-month business development training. In Kismayo, 20 students continued advanced web programming training. In Doolow, 20 asylum seekers were trained in agricultural and integrated pest management; 150 people in Bossaso/Garowe and 115 people in Gaalkacyo continued vocational or SSB training.

3. Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration

Support to FGS macroeconomic policy crisis response

The Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development undertook [a rapid assessment](#) with support from UNDP on the impact of COVID-19 on women-led small-scale businesses in Somalia. With women currently providing 70 per cent of household income on average, the economic downturn threatens women's empowerment and the welfare of Somali households. 42 female small-business owners were surveyed in Mogadishu. The recommendations call for swift action to support women who earn a living for their families.

UNDP, with support from UNIDO, the World Bank, IOM several donor agencies and the FGS is leading the Somalia Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19. Completion expected by October.

UNIDO, World Bank and IFC have finalised the first wave of an enterprise survey assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the operation of 600 SMEs across Somalia. Results and analysis to be published in September.

UNIDO and MoCI are undertaking a review of Somalia's policy frameworks supporting SME development and the industrial sector. Consultations are to be scheduled in September to structure Somalia policy position on the two macroeconomic topics critical for sustainable economic development.

Under JPLG, UN-Habitat produced a quick assessment on the fiscal impacts of COVID-19 on local governments and immediate solution scenarios were put forward to sustain local government functionalities and service delivery.

4. Social cohesion and community resilience

Governance and fundamental freedoms

The first round of JPLG funding for COVID-19 benefitted community level responses in health, water, sanitation and coordination as well as management of public spaces. The grants have boosted local governments operational and financial resilience for enhanced social service provision primarily in public sanitation, awareness and primary health. The project involves distribution of PPE supplies, hygiene and sanitation supplies and renovation/construction of handwashing facilities and washrooms at health centers and primary schools. Outreach campaigns in hard-to-reach areas are ongoing in districts where there are no TVs and Radios with support from the MoH at the regional level.

Under JPLG, UN-Habitat created a dedicated COVID-19 manual for Local Leadership Management Training for local (municipal and state) government leaders. It will support local governments in creating awareness and sensitizing the community on COVID-19, including their roles in prevention.

To strengthen social cohesion, 600 male disengaged combatants and 350 women formerly associated with Al Shabab continue to receive socio-economic support to facilitate community reintegration in Kismayo and Baidoa directly, while reaching 5,700 indirect beneficiaries. Through IOM vocational training, the disengaged combatants are producing masks for the larger community.

The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) has been holding virtual meetings and encouraging staff to take online self-development courses supported by the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG). The IESG provided guidance to NIEC staff on 21 July on how to sharpen their facilitation skills through virtual platforms. Sixty NIEC HQ staff and 20 field-based staff enrolled in 9 courses; 36 staff have obtained certificates including 10 women.

UNDP is supporting coordination arrangements in COVID-19 response, monitoring and evaluation with specific attention to gender, statistics, awareness raising and communication. UNDP also supported the addition of a COVID-19 marker to the Aid Information Management System (AIMS), managed by MoPIED. In addition, federal and state disaster management authorities are being supported to coordinate with the health authorities and mobilise actions to strengthen surveillance, hygiene and social distancing norms at community level. The partnership is supporting COVID-19 responses in Mogadishu, Puntland, Somaliland, HirShabelle, and South West State.

The Office of the Puntland Human Rights Defender carried out an assessment on the impact of COVID-19 in detention centers, covering prisons and police stations in Bosaso, Qardo, Garowe and Gaalkacyo. The target population were

primarily inmates in the prisons and detention centers, to assess their knowledge of COVID-19, its symptoms and effects, and their level of vulnerability while in the custody. Others involved were prison and police staff, MoH and Ministry of Justice, Religious Affairs and Rehabilitation staff who were responsible and mandated for COVID-19 response in Puntland.

Displacement affected communities

The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, UNHCR/ Protection Cluster and other partners are continuing to advocate with federal and local authorities to institute a three-month moratorium on evictions for IDPs. Success was observed in Baidoa with a significant drop in evictions in May (overall monthly evictions in May: 2,000), but evictions were back on the rise in June (18,000). Large-scale reduction in evictions across the country will depend on the federal government's willingness to issue a nationwide moratorium on evictions for IDPs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The "Decongestion of IDP settlements as a prevention and control measure for COVID-19 pandemic in Somalia" guidelines were developed by UN-Habitat in close collaboration with Shelter and CCCM Clusters. [The document](#) was endorsed by humanitarian stakeholders through a virtual workshop held on 19 July 2020. [Standard Operating Procedures](#) related to decongestion of IDP settlements guidelines were developed and published by Shelter Cluster and CCCM Cluster.

Response challenges, gaps and outlook

Critical support is necessary to scale up support to productive sector SMEs operating in critical agro-industrial value chains. PSDP has identified funding gaps estimated at \$7 million to expand the technical assistance to cover the entire country and reinforce the operations in southern and central regions. Particular attention is necessary in matching financial assistance offered by microfinance institutions with more practical and grass-roots technical assistance offered to SMEs, which is still not able to fulfil the demand and requirement to sustain Somalia development needs.

JPLG intends to launch a recovery fund of up to 5 million USD. These funds will be designed against an ongoing Socio Economic Survey being conducted by ILO. The funds are likely to be deployed using the Local Development Fund model managed by UNCDF.

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