

COVID-19 Situation Report

Fast Facts



Confirmed
COVID-19 cases
In Somalia

4,690



Recovered
cases

3,605



Reported
Fatalities

127

Key Population Groups



Internally
Displaced Persons

2.6M



Women of
Reproductive Age

3.5M



Pregnant
Women

0.4M

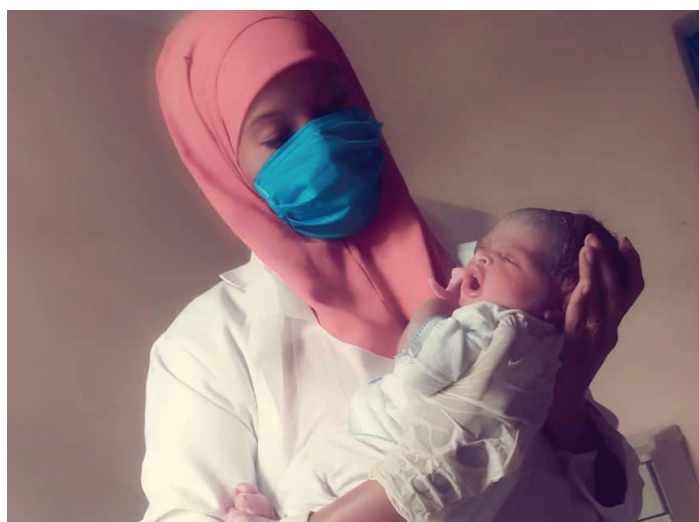


Adolescents and
Youth (Age 10-24)

2.7M

1. Overview

- As the year 2020 comes to an end, Somalia continues to face multiple crises including the coronavirus pandemic, floods, desert locust, conflict and protracted situation affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs). A total of 5.9 million people are projected to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021 across Somalia, including 2.6 million IDPs. As of 29 December 2020, Somalia has confirmed a total of 4,690 COVID-19 cases with 3,605 recoveries and 127 fatalities. Women and girls face the worst consequences of all. Vulnerable pregnant mothers and women at reproductive age in communities for IDPs and hard-to-reach locations continue to have access problems to sexual and reproductive health services. Loss of livelihoods and food insecurity among female-headed households and other vulnerable women and adolescent girls has worsened the dependency on food aid and humanitarian assistance. Harmful coping mechanisms such as early marriage and sex in exchange for favors could be common among women and adolescent girls to assure themselves of food security.
- UNFPA Somalia has used flexible financing thanks to its core donors and the Humanitarian Thematic Fund to expand access to life-saving integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services, including the provision of COVID-19-adapted dignity kits and psychosocial support services, as well as risk communication activities.



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UNFPA Somalia also used flexible resources to train frontline health care workers, midwives and social workers on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Case Management, Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health in crisis situations, referral mechanisms, and coordination between different actors involved in the management of SRH and GBV services during crises. 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 (PPE) and supports the safety of patients and health workers through strengthening infection, prevention and control.

- Since the coronavirus pandemic restrictions were introduced, 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 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.

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

Women benefitting from Sexual and Reproductive Health (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 (GBV); 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
10,321 including 6,234 normal deliveries assisted by Skilled birth attendants	385	4,542	98,687	38

3. UNFPA Response Summary

Coordination

- UNFPA Somalia is working closely with the Federal Government and the Federal Member States, 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.



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- UNFPA co-leads the national and sub-national GBV sub-cluster and the reproductive health working group (RH-WG).
- 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 floods situation in Somalia.
- UNFPA Somalia has produced COVID-19 vulnerability mapping by risk factor and related indicators derived from the Somali Health and Demographic Survey (SHDS) data for the major towns in the country including Benadir, 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 Somalia continues to prioritize and support the continuity of and access to quality lifesaving essentials, SRH information and services for women, adolescents and youth during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNFPA Somalia 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 Somalia 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 (EmONC) facilities across the country and supporting the procurement of PPE for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for health care workers, including midwives.



- UNFPA Somalia and its partners continue to support the training of health care workers including midwives on IPC and case management using WHO guidelines for service providers.
- UNFPA Somalia and its partners have carried out advocacy meetings for community birth spacing services in Banadir region and Somaliland. Access to safe, voluntary family planning is a human right. Family planning is central to gender equality and women's empowerment and it is a key factor in reducing poverty.

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- UNFPA Somalia and its partners have completed a five-day training on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health in crisis situations for 50 reproductive health services providers in Puntland and Somaliland, respectively. MISP is a series of crucial, life-saving activities required to respond to the reproductive health needs at the onset of a humanitarian crisis.
- UNFPA Somalia has supported the training of health care providers from Banadir region and Federal Member States on the provision of youth-friendly services.
- Twenty midwives have graduated from Haji Abdi Institute of Midwifery Education. UNFPA and some of its donors graced the occasion with Puntland Ministry of Health. Midwives are the backbone of maternal health systems; delivering babies and much more including during pandemics like the COVID-19.



Addressing Gender Based Violence

- UNFPA Somalia is 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 for women, adolescents and youth.
- UNFPA Somalia and its partners continue to conduct capacity strengthening workshops for service providers in providing basic psychosocial support for survivors of GBV amidst COVID-19 response.
- UNFPA Somalia 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 Somalia continues to strengthen GBV One Stop Centres across the country which integrate care for survivors of GBV with reproductive health service.

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- UNFPA Somalia and its partners have concluded a three-month long electrical skills training for young people, and the 20 young men trainees from marginalized communities in Galkacyo have been provided with a complete set of working tools.
- UNFPA Somalia has supported a dialogue in Burao of Somaliland on the role of youth in peace promotion in which groups of women and traditional leaders have participated.
- UNFPA Somalia and its partners conducted a three-day refresher training for GBV service providers based in Puntland. The efforts are aimed at preventing GBV and addressing the physical and emotional consequences of GBV.
- UNFPA Somalia 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 Ministries 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. Maps are providing better visualization, understanding, and targeting of the population and situation. The information and maps strengthen an appropriate response plan for the Ministries and 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 IDPs. 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 Somalia continues to support the 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 and women, female health workers and IDPs.





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- UNFPA Somalia and its partners continue to support and guide young people's engagement 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

- The year 2020 has seen huge funding challenges for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services in Somalia. With the humanitarian crises in the country expected to worsen in 2021, women and girls will face the direct and worst consequences. UNFPA Somalia and its partners continue to advocate for sustained resources to address the needs of vulnerable women and girls.
- UNFPA Somalia has Implementing Partner Agreements with approximately 50 partners which gives a broad geographic coverage for programme implementation, including in hard-to-reach and insecure areas. Over half of the partnerships are with local (national) NGOs that have access to communities in need, including provision of 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 forums (health and protection) which support the identification of needs and response coordination.



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