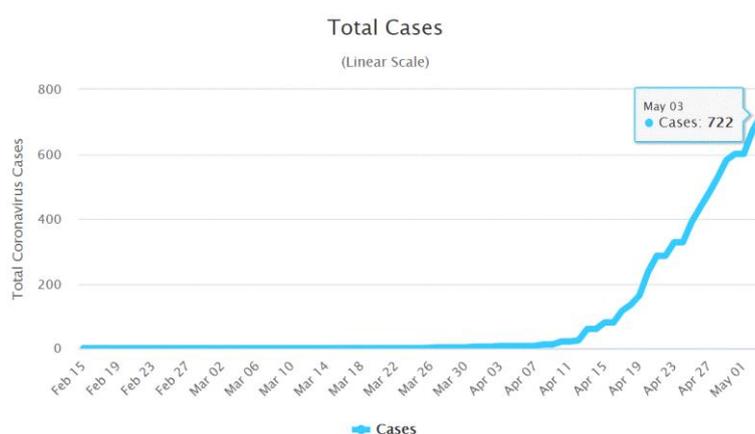


Highlights

722	606	32	44	741	14
Confirmed cases	Active cases	Reported Fatalities	Recovered cases	Tests done in Somalia	Isolation Facilities

Situation Overview

The exponential rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Somalia continues. From 26 April to 3 May, confirmed cases rose from 390 to 722, with 32 deaths and 44 recoveries. The new cases are largely due to community transmission. On 23 April, WHO¹ warned that if the virus transmission is not slowed down rapidly, the patient surge and increasing demand for health care will overwhelm the country's fragile health system. Somalia will need to make difficult decisions to balance the overwhelming demands of responding to COVID-19, while maintaining essential health service delivery to prevent health systems from collapse.



COVID-19 impact

The measures announced by authorities to contain the spread of COVID-19 have had a significant impact on livelihoods. In March, Somalia saw slight price increases of imported food items due to the partial disruption of the supply chain and panic buying due to the pandemic. On 19 April, Saudi Arabia announced plans to temporarily lift the ban on importing livestock as well as import at least 600,000 sheep and 100,000 camels from Somalia in the next 30 days; a move that offers some economic respite. The measures taken by individual agencies have also impacted on humanitarian activities and development programmes. An OCHA survey of NGO partners in South West State found that 36 per cent reported they were unable to conduct field activities, 40 per cent had reduced field presence to focus on immediate life saving activities and 66 per cent were adapting primary activities to COVID-19 directives.

With the addition of COVID-19, Somalia faces increased threats with looming floods and an ongoing, historic desert locust infestation in various parts of the country. According to African Development², the pandemic will affect ongoing efforts to contain the locusts, particularly given limitations on movements of people and flights, and disruptions in supply chains.

Government efforts to contain COVID-19

The Federal Government of Somalia and member states have announced **48 necessary measures** to mitigate the spread and impact of COVID-19, although two have been retracted. The measures range from closing schools to banning domestic and international flights, screening people at all points of entry still in use, community awareness activities, training health workers and enhanced disease surveillance. The latest directive, issued on 30 April in South West State, suspends evictions in Baidoa town during the COVID-19 period.

¹ WHO statement. 23 April 2020.

² African Development Bank. Interview. 28 April 2020.

In total, more than 4,130 travelers³ have been screened at points on entry. In addition, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO deployed integrated rapid response teams to states – 750 during the week of 18 April - to assist in active case detection and contact. The ministry also trained 357 surveillance officers in Mogadishu.

Humanitarian responses to COVID-19

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

A Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) task force led by the Federal Ministry of Health and Human Services, and comprising NGOs, UN agencies, Government entities, media partners (Radio ergo, Africa's Voices Foundation) and AMISOM, was launched on 7 April. With UNICEF as the technical lead, the task force is working with over 50 partners to disseminate COVID-19 messages across Somalia. As of 24 April, radio spots had been broadcast on 26 stations targeting eight million people.

In addition, over 10,000 posters and flyers were disseminated; 30 billboards displayed; TV spots and scrolling messages broadcast and sound trucks deployed in urban and rural areas. In total, 118,300 SMS messages have been sent. Through 200 trained community mobilisers, over 111,000 people were reached through house-to-house visits and community meetings.

UNDP has broadcast TV and radio spots targeting around seven million people and run social media campaigns with celebrities and religious figures reaching a further 750,000. UNDP is also running a nationwide COVID-19 video competition, printing 700 posters with art from Somalia's most famous cartoonist for distribution to all states and have produced a COVID safety booklet for the Somali National Police. UNDP is supporting the Office of the Prime Minister to maintain a [Somali-language COVID-19 website](#) to provide accessible and engaging information to the general public and have produced a website for the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs to host a fundraising and advocacy campaign that provides information and advice from respected religious leaders, including guidelines for safe burials.

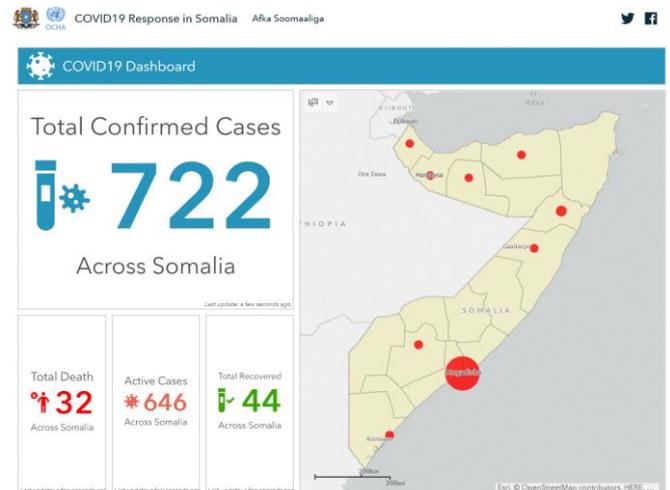
Somalia Humanitarian Fund

In support of national efforts to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Humanitarian Coordinator provisionally allocated funds from [Somalia Humanitarian Fund](#) (SHF) to IOM to purchase ventilators, bring in specialist staff to operate the ventilators, and for UNDP to procure generators for Martini Hospital in Mogadishu – the main COVID-19 treatment centre in the capital.

In line with global guidance issued by the Emergency Relief Coordinator to country-based pooled funds, the SHF has developed Somalia-specific guidelines that outline the fund's flexibility measures to support its partners to respond while remaining accountable for the use of funds. The guidelines will be distributed to partners once formal approval by the SHF Advisory Board is obtained, which is imminent.

Globally, [CERF](#) allocated US\$75 million to UN agencies to allocate to country-level programmes to strengthen COVID-19-related responses in various sectors – namely health, protection, and water and sanitation. Agencies that have dedicated funds in Somalia for COVID-19-related responses include WHO which allocated \$1 million, UNICEF \$1.145 million and IOM \$0.45 million, totalling \$2.6 million; with a focus on WHO's global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan pillars.

However, the funding towards the HRP remains woefully underfunded. Currently, the [2020 Humanitarian Response Plan](#) is only 18 per cent funded (\$186.6 million out of \$1.045 billion).



³ WHO situation report. 27 April 2020.

Sector responses to COVID-19



Health

- UNHCR will provide hygiene kits and Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) to seven hospitals in Berbera, Bosaso, Garowe, Hargeisa and Mogadishu for medical staff who are providing health care services to 30,000 refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Staff and students at the medical faculty of Puntland State University invented low-cost hand sanitizers. In addition, a local mechanical engineer in Garowe invented a pedal-operated hand-washing sink, which has been replicated by other workshops and endorsed by health officials for COVID-19 prevention.
- The first 11 COVID-19 test results were announced in Garowe, Puntland, on 26 April, after the UNFPA, WHO and the Ministry for Health worked to set up laboratory capacity. Somalia now has testing capacity in Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Garowe. Plans are underway to establish capacity in Baidoa in coming weeks.
- WHO and UNICEF trained four state ministries of health in Jubaland, Hirshabelle, South-West and Galmudug on COVID-19 case management. Twenty participants were trained virtually on how to conduct training of trainers courses. An online webinar was provided to 53 NGO partners on COVID-19.
- PPE, medical, infection prevention and control supplies and tents for triage and isolation to enable future service provision and COVID-19 case management were ordered. UNICEF also provided Jowhar Regional Hospital (Middle Shabelle) with tents and Deva Hospital (Mogadishu) with two pre-fabs for isolation, and essential medicines for case management to Martini Hospital (Mogadishu).
- Three isolation facilities have been established in Baidoa, Xuddur, and Afgooye in South West State by authorities, supported by WHO.



Food Security

- WFP deployed e-shop throughout the country. With the e-shop smartphone app, beneficiaries can redeem their entitlements online and get their orders delivered by a local retailer. A home delivery feature has been added in five locations and is now a critical part of WFP Somalia's operation with 47,000 registered users and 1,233 retailers on-board.
- WFP has also signed an agreement with a mobile money operator which will reduce travel distance for beneficiaries to claim their entitlement. It will also provide a contact-less transfer delivery to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission.



Education

- UNICEF scaled up its engagement in education, using interactive distance learning that reached 23,500 children since April. Activities include supporting the ministries of education at federal and state levels to develop and disseminate Radio, TV and online pre-recorded lessons to ensure continuous remote/distance learning. Between 70-90 per cent of households are estimated to have access to a working radio set.
- The Puntland Ministry of Education has launched e-learning programmes. With UNICEF support, initial testing and recording of lessons for Grade 8 and 12 have been successfully completed and uploaded provisionally to the ministry's education learning site to support Grade 8 and 12 students to access the remaining lessons this term. The online learning program is being piloted: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZOMmVpLBfoeQz4zzCohrnQ>
- In Somaliland, besides disseminating recorded lessons through radio, TV and online platforms; UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education, to disseminate lessons for Grade 8 and 12. Students or parents can call a dedicated number and then choose the lessons they wish to listen to.

WASH

- UNHCR distributed hygiene kits consisting of soap and sanitary products to 41,000 persons and plans to distribute another 54,000 kits to persons of concern to mitigate spread COVID-19.
- Somaliland authorities, in collaboration with Save the Children delivered 124 truckloads of water to nine IDP settlements. As part of COVID-19 response, IOM donated PPE kits to authorities working in IDP sites.
- On 21 April, the WASH Cluster reported that an awareness campaign of daily broadcasts with key hygiene messages is ongoing and aims to reach 30,000 people in Bossaso IDP settlements. On 17 April, the cluster reported the completion of the construction of WASH facilities for 10 schools in Xarfo and Galdogob to benefit 4,000 students with access to water and sanitation.
- UNICEF reports that 142,900 people were reached with critical WASH supplies, services including hygiene items and trucked safe water from 10 to 24 April. Of these, over 48,000 people in Banadir and Lower Shabelle were reached with water trucking in addition to 44,000 in Baidoa who continue to receive emergency water since March.
- In Kismayo, the regional WASH Cluster has distributed 9,000 hygiene kits, hand washing facilities. The Cluster is also engaged in risk communication activities, distribution of food vouchers and non-food items.

Protection

- In Hargeisa, 4,700 asylum-seekers and refugees received four-months cash assistance to meet their basic needs during COVID-19. In addition, UNHCR plans to provide cash assistance to 13,000 vulnerable persons.
- The Protection cluster is reinforcing its monitoring in the context of COVID-19, with a questionnaire covering risks which may be triggered or aggravated by COVID 19.

CCCM

- UNHCR is reaching 150,000 persons with a COVID-19 awareness raising campaign and has capacity built 170 IDP settlement leaders to raise awareness in their settlements.

The CCCM cluster is raising awareness on prevention and response to COVID-19, targeting 556,000 IDPs; has reached 95,000 IDPs through site maintenance activities and improved referral pathways to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- UNHCR started procuring PPEs for 780 IDP leaders to raise awareness on COVID-19 in IDP settlements. In Baidoa, IDPs, refugee returnees and the members of host community started sewing non-surgical face masks for sale.



Useful information on the COVID-19 pandemic is available at: <https://covid19som-ochasom.hub.arcgis.com/>

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