



Reporting Period: 23 September 2020 – 24 October 2020 Photo by UNICEF

Somalia

COVID-19

Situation Report No. 10

unicef 
for every child

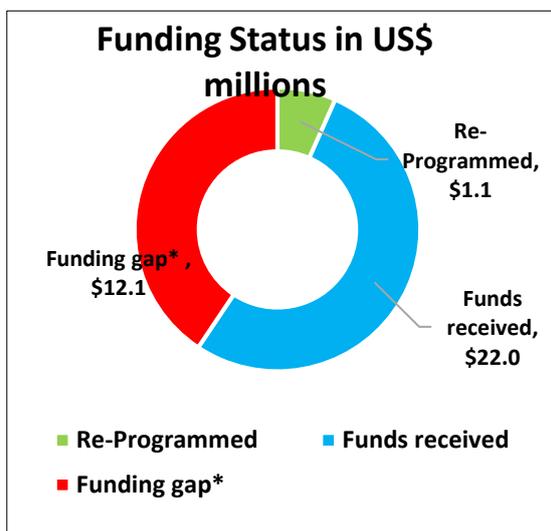
Highlights

- As of 24 October, 3,941 COVID-19 cases were reported in Somalia with 104 fatalities and 3,166 recoveries (352 new cases since last month).
- While the overall number of cases in UNICEF health facilities decreased since the previous reporting period, supported health centres in Somaliland documented a 55 percent increase in suspected COVID-19 cases.
- According to the COVID-19 data released by WHO, 191 health care workers tested positive and two died of COVID-19, as of 30 September in Somalia.
- Delivery of lifesaving essential health services across Somalia remains UNICEF's priority; with 77,920 children and women receiving essential healthcare services and 27,689 mothers and care givers provided with IYCF counseling services in the reporting period.
- During the reporting period, 101,231 people were reached with WASH services, including 41,626 people reached with hygiene kits in Mudug, Middle Shabelle, Hiraan and Bay regions.
- Since the start of the response in March, more than 141,800 children have been reached with alternative learning through radio, TV and online learning platform.

Situation in Numbers

3,941 Confirmed cases in Somalia

104 Deaths
(Ministry of Health, 24 October 2020)



Funding Overview

UNICEF's COVID-19 appeal is US\$ 35 million with US\$ 22 million in funding received to date. In addition to the resources mobilized, UNICEF has reprogrammed US\$1.1 million from existing funds. UNICEF Somalia faces a funding gap of US\$12.1 million (35 per cent of the funding requirement) - as needs continue to grow, UNICEF Somalia welcomes predictable and flexible funding to respond effectively and efficiently to the COVID-19 crisis and to the continuation of essential lifesaving services for women and children in the country.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Need

On 24 October, the Ministry of Health reported that the total confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 3,941 with 104 deaths. Though children account for below 4.7 percent of the total confirmed cases in Somalia, the overall ARI/pneumonia cases in UNICEF supported health facilities increased marginally from 8,499 (Aug/Sept) to 8,655 (Sept/Oct) and Somaliland health facilities also saw a 99 percent surge in cases with unclassified fever.

This is consistent with the observed increase in COVID-19 positive cases within the Somaliland regions and it is timely that Somaliland MoH-led COVID-19 trainings have now commenced.

WHO reported that as of 30 September, 191 health care workers were tested positive while two died of COVID-19 in Somalia. Considering the high underreporting rate in the country due to the weak surveillance systems in hospital settings to report infections in health care workers, stigma associated with testing and other associated factors, WHO's report indicated that the actual number of health workers infected with COVID-19 might be higher than what has been reported. The impact of the COVID-19 infection among the health workers on the health system needs further assessment.

UNICEF in collaboration with the Government and other humanitarian actors continued to support the continuity of the health services in the country. During the reporting period, UNICEF partners trained 504 frontline health workers on COVID-19 related issues, 440 health facility staff on IPC protocols and 192 community health workers on COVID-19 awareness, protection and case detection across the country. UNICEF and partners continued their efforts to ensure patient and staff safety and to sensitize communities, including equipping 658 health personnel with masks and gloves, 239 frontline health workers with gowns and face shields, and social mobilizers sensitized 36,032 care givers, conducted 11,757 hand-washing demonstrations and held 1,330 community meetings.

In addition to the ongoing crisis of the pandemic, Somalia continues to deal with a complex evolving situation in managing already scarce and overstretched resources. It is expected that the desert locusts, the upcoming below average rainfall, compounded by COVID, will contribute towards the deterioration of production outputs, increasing vulnerabilities of households and will further aggravate the already poor malnutrition status of children. According to FSNAU report, 2.1 million people across Somalia are expected to face Crisis level or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) outcomes between now and December without sustained humanitarian assistance.

Coordination and Partnerships

UNICEF continues to contribute to the overall UN leadership in the COVID-19 response through existing platforms such as the UN Country Management Team, Humanitarian Country Team and Security Management Team. UNICEF is also using its cluster leadership role as a platform to enhance coordination in key intervention areas relevant to both COVID-19 preparedness and response. UNICEF is actively participating in the coordination meetings led by MoH with support from WHO, such as the UN COVID-19 Taskforce, while co-leading the RCCE Taskforce.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

UNICEF is increasing its RCCE response, which represents one of the most integrated and systematic interventions in the country involving a wide array of partners, strategies, channels, medias and tools. During the reporting period, a total of 1,118,964 people reached through house-to-house visits, health facility awareness sessions, community meetings, SMS messages, mosque announcements, sound truck announcement.

In addition, radio spots highlighting COVID-19 prevention measures continued to be aired throughout Somalia reaching an estimated 10 million people. Besides radio spots, IEC materials for mass media engagement, social media channels were also used to convey similar messaging.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WASH

UNICEF's response with critical WASH services continues to reach vulnerable people in Somalia. During the reporting period, 101,231 people were reached with WASH services. These included 41,626 people reached with hygiene kits in Mudug, Middle Shabelle, Hiraan and Bay regions. An additional 1,984 women and adolescent girls received Menstrual Hygiene Management kits.

UNICEF continued to support water infrastructure in IDP settlements in Kaxda and Daynile districts in Banadir region; providing an additional 34,242 people access to water through pipe extension and water points. An

additional eight shallow wells rehabilitated in Adaado, Dhusamareeb, and Abudwaq districts in Galgadud region reached 3,200 people. In total 37,442 people have access to safe water.

To improve sanitation in institutions and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, 20,179 people in three health facilities and five schools in Middle Shabelle and Lower Shabelle respectively have access to better sanitation through latrines rehabilitations and handwashing stations. As part of UNICEF's WASH response, 54 healthcare workers were trained on IPC in Banadir region.

Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services

UNICEF COVID-19 supported health facilities recorded 446 suspected COVID-19 patients and community health workers reported 226 suspected cases. Whereas, the overall health facility cases decreased by 19 and the community cases by 20 percent compared to the previous reporting period, supported health centres in Somaliland documented a 55 percent increase in suspected adult COVID-19 cases.

Emergency Nutrition Programme also continues to focus on ensuring most fragile areas of the country are covered with programmes critical to accelerate the reduction and prevention of excessive morbidities and mortalities related to malnutrition. Over 180,000 children with Sever Acute Malnutrition (SAM) (44 percent of whom are boys) were admitted into the SAM treatment programme between January and mid- October. The highest admissions are registered from some districts in Lower/Middle Shabelle, Bay, Bakool and parts of Banadir region denoting the impact of the floods that have significantly affected riverine cropping areas of Middle and Lower Shabelle, and Lower Juba, and other IDP areas.

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to provide a range of nutrition preventive and promotive services that 34,134 mothers and caretaker were reached with infant and young child feeding counselling across the country.

Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services

Since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted regular learning in March, 114,816 (59,387 girls) children have benefited from alternative learning methods through UNICEF supported radio, TV and other digital learning platforms.

Between September and October, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Puntland has been working on the development of alternative learning contents for all grades. The MoE embarked on undertaking quality assurance and standards for the developed content for grade 6, 7 and 8. With the initial development of the grade 6,7 and 8 learning materials, the MoE has developed learning materials for lower grade subjects. It is also expected that once completed, this will complement the learning processes as schools re-open.

Since schools reopened in mid-August, five percent of children have not re-enrolled in UNICEF supported schools. In last five months due to school closures, there is a reported 16.3 percent increase in child labor and 14.7 percent increase of children forced to do hard work. These are the factors affecting the re-enrolment of children as schools reopen. CECs, teachers and child to child clubs have conducted back to school campaigns to re-enroll these children into schools. UNICEF is also developing a multisectoral safe school re-opening support plan to complement the ongoing efforts of the government and other partners to safely open schools.

In Somaliland, the social mobilization campaigns to raise awareness on the COVID-19 outbreak, improving WASH services, prevention messages delivery, as well as supporting the safe school operation guidelines are ongoing. Social mobilization materials on the risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic were developed for and disseminated through mass media (TV, radio, SMS and online platforms). In addition, 687 posters on COVID-19 prevention and transmission prevention protocol were also printed and disseminated to schools across Somaliland.

A total of 600 (32 per cent female) Community Education Committee (CEC) members and teachers were trained on preventive measures in order to run safe operations in schools during the COVID-19 pandemic in Somaliland. The CEC members and teachers were also trained on psychosocial care to support children who might have faced challenging experiences during the school closure and related COVID-19 pandemic crises.

To enhance child protection services in Somalia, UNICEF through its partners delivered psychological first aid, group and phone counselling, home visits and play therapy to 2,888 people, including 1,602 children (748 girls 854 boys) and 1,286 caregivers (767 women and 519 men). During the reporting period, people accessing psychosocial support services increased by 42 percent compared to the previous period. This may be attributed to the gradual opening of schools and acceptance of limited public gatherings by the authorities in Somaliland, Puntland and the South West Zone.

Trained social workers from selected universities played a critical role in filling the human resource gap created by COVID-19. As a COVID-19 mitigating measure, activities were delivered using social distancing, hand washing and wearing of masks in all public gatherings and service points. Training and awareness raising on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors reached a total of 383 people (222 women), showing a significant increase of 175 percent when compared to the last reporting period.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Disseminated [COVID-19 prevention messages](#) and continued to feature [UNICEF Somalia's response](#) through social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)). Social media activity also continued to showcase the crucial support of donors and partners.

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector/COVID 19 Response Pillar	Overall needs	UNICEF and IPs		Cluster/AoR Response	
		2020 Target	Results achieved during the reporting period	2020 Target	Total Results
Risk Communication and Community Engagement including social science					
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services		10 Million	10 Million		
WASH					
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services		1.2 million	101,231 (30,066G 1,270B 21,193W 18,702M)		
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)		3,000	54 (33W 21M)		
Health					
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)		720	897 (486W 411M)		
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases including among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women		600	504 (306W 198M)		
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal and postnatal care, HIV care and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response care in UNICEF supported facilities.		750,000	77,920 (19,929G 20,395B 37,596W)		
Nutrition					
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms.		97,500	27,689		

Education					
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning		150,000	114,816 (59,387G 82,429B)		
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)		250	-		
Child Protection					
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support		100,000	2,888 (748G 854B 767W 519M)		
Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors, including for sexual exploitation and abuse		500	383 (222W/161M)		

Annex B Funding Status

COVID-19 UNICEF Somalia Appeal Specific Requirements and Funding Levels					
Appeal Sector	Requirements*	Funds available		Funding gap*	
		Funds Received Current Year	Reprogrammed	US\$	%
Objective 1 - Limit Transmission (integrated health, WASH, C4D prevention)	11,994,472	9,267,161	806,001	1,921,310	16%
Objective 2 - Minimize Mortality and Morbidity (Health Response)	3,761,400	2,357,608	0	1,403,792	37%
Objective 3 - Prevent Secondary Impacts					
Health	10,444,128	5,818,347	0	4,625,781	44%
Nutrition	600,000	824,169	0	-	-
Education	6,400,000	2,385,793	265,760	3,748,447	59%
Child Protection	1,800,000	1,371,418	0	428,582	24%
Total	35,000,000	22,024,496	1,071,761	12,127,912	35%

*The Funding gap corresponds to the sectors where initial requirements for the Somalia UNICEF COVID-19 appeal remain un-covered. In the sectors where initial requirements have been met, UNICEF is not attributing the exceeding funds to the total HAC allocation, as they are earmarked to specific sectors. UNICEF is reviewing the extent of needs per sector and extending its appeal until December 2020.

Next SitRep: 24 November 2020

UNICEF Somalia Crisis: <https://www.unicef.org/somalia/>

UNICEF Somalia Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <http://www.unicef.org/appeals/somalia.html>

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