



Reporting Period: 16 April – 31 May 2020

Photo by UNICEF

# Somalia

## COVID-19

### Situation Report No. 4

for every child

### Highlights

- In Somalia, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has reached to 1,828 with 72 deaths as of 28 May 2020. Banadir region reported 61.5 percent of the country’s confirmed cases with 43 deaths.
- To date, UNICEF has reached 617,200 people with essential WASH supplies across Somalia. During the last two weeks, 57,450 people were reached with WASH emergency kits while 75,500 people were provided with emergency water supply.
- UNICEF has also continued to ensure continuity of essential health and nutrition service provision amidst of the COVID 19 pandemic. In the second half of May, UNICEF through partners provided infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling to 10,672 mothers and caretakers and supported 47,159 children and women to access lifesaving health services.
- The Ministry of Education in Puntland and Somaliland have scaled up remote learning and 95,500 children (41% girls) have been reached through radio, TV and online learning platform.
- As part of a UN coordinated response, radio spots continued to air throughout Somalia. The spots highlighted COVID-19 prevention measures, targeting an estimated 10 million people. Billboards installed across the country, and social media channels conveyed the same messaging

### Situation in Numbers

**1,828** Confirmed cases in Somalia

**72** Deaths

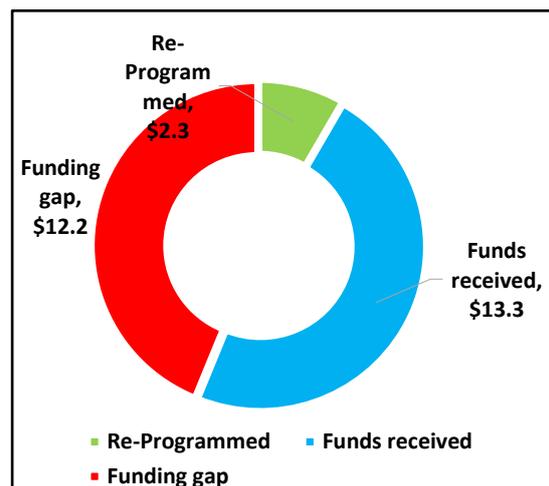
(Ministry of Health, 28 May 2020)

**US \$ 27.8 Million** needed to implement UNICEF’s response

### Funding Overview

UNICEF’s COVID-19 appeal is US\$ 27.8 million with US\$ 12.5 million as a gap, after funding was received from CERF Secretariat, OFDA, DFID and Global Affairs Canada. Existing funds have been reprogrammed, addressing 8.34 % of the funding gap. Discussions continue with ECHO, Japan and KFW (Germany) towards new contributions and/or reprogramming of existing grants.

As needs continue to grow, UNICEF Somalia welcomes predictable and flexible funding to respond effectively and efficiently to the COVID-19 crisis and ensure lifesaving programmes for the ongoing humanity’s needs.



## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Need

On 28 May, the Ministry of Health reported 97 new cases of COVID-19. Since the first case was detected on 16 March, 1,828 cases have been confirmed including 310 recoveries and 72 deaths. Banadir region reported 61.5 percent of the country's confirmed cases, with 43 deaths.

Though children account for only 4.4% of the total confirmed COVID-19 cases in Somalia, the existing humanitarian crisis, and the weak capacity to respond to the pandemic makes them highly vulnerable to both the primary and secondary impacts of COVID-19. Essential services and programmes are likely to be reduced as resources are redirected towards the COVID-19 response. UNICEF is currently working to generate evidences on the secondary impacts of COVID-19 on children to further inform its programming.

Somalia's COVID-19 prevention and response efforts are being challenged by the ongoing multiple humanitarian emergencies in the country. Currently, the flood emergency has affected more than one million people and desert locust swarms are posing a huge food insecurity threat in Somalia.

The current hostile security situation in Somalia is also affecting frontline health workers in addition to their risk of contracting COVID-19. On 29 May, the Ministry of Health declared the mass murder of health workers in Gololey, Balcad district, Middle Shebelle region. Some health facilities have also been closed due to shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Thus, UNICEF scales up its COVID-19 response to support the efforts of the Government and other partners as Somalia now faces a triple effect of Desert Locust, Gu flooding and COVID-19, while many struggle to recover from past shocks that affect children and women's access to health care, water and sanitation services and putting them at a higher risk for malnutrition.

## 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, 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 the Ministries of Health 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

During the reporting period, UNICEF supported the COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement interventions that aimed at increasing community awareness, participation and active engagement. During the reporting period, a total of 586 social mobilizers were trained and 189,238 people reached through house-to-house visits. Over 320 IEC materials (185 posters/144 fliers) were distributed, 162 public addresses were made through sound trucks, 86 community meetings were held, 45 were health facility mobilizations were done, 27 mosque announcements and 196 community leaders' orientation were conducted. A total of 3,961 community members (1,782 female) were actively engaged to reach their peers, and support community awareness in the COVID-19 prevention measures.

Furthermore, as part of a UN coordinated response, nearly 1,000 radio spots continued to air throughout Somalia. The spots highlighted COVID-19 prevention measures, targeting an estimated 10 million people. Billboards installed across the country, and social media channels conveyed the same messaging

### Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WASH

To date, approximately 617,200 people have been reached with essential WASH supplies across Somalia. Over the last two weeks, 57,450 people were reached with WASH emergency kits in Middle Shabelle and Gedo and Bay regions. UNICEF continued to provide emergency water to 75,500 people in Bay and Lower Shabelle regions who have been receiving water since the beginning of the pandemic to meet basic needs and practice hygiene practices.

## Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services

UNICEF has continued to ensure continuity of service provision amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, UNICEF supported the training of 116 frontline health workers (61 F / 55 M) on COVID-19 related topics, such as Basic COVID-19 Triage/Referral/Case Management and Essential Health Service Continuity. An additional 79 health staff (49 F / 30 M) were trained on Infection Prevention Protocols in order to limit the transmission of COVID-19. 116 Community Health Workers (63 female / 53 males) associated to UNICEF supported facilities were also trained on COVID-19 awareness, protection and case detection. UNICEF received part of its PPE consignment (432 plastic aprons & 92,264 gloves) and is beginning distributions.

During the second half of May, UNICEF, through partners, provided individual infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling to 10,672 mothers and caretakers. As part of the efforts to ensure compliance with infection prevention and control guidelines, a key COVID-19 nutrition intervention is strengthening the existing mother/family-led MUAC initiative that equips mothers/caretakers to screen children within their households and refer malnourished children for treatment. The plan to distribute MUAC tapes and train mothers is in its advanced stage, following receipt of the MUAC tapes' consignment in the country.

In addition, the cascading of wasting management and IYCF trainings in the context of COVID-19 is ongoing, with over 200 frontline service providers in Central South Region trained so far. In Puntland, all Implementing Partners have been fully trained. In Somaliland, the Ministry of Health, with UNICEF support, has reached 150 MoH staff with training, whilst UNICEF continues to support training sessions for implementing partners. Furthermore, UNICEF is developing job aids for community health workers (CHWs) to complement the ongoing broader risk communication messaging and plans to work with the government to roll out the CHW training. Also, the distribution of IEC materials for COVID-19 to health facilities is ongoing.

## Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services

The Ministries of Education, UNICEF and other partners have been exploring for alternative ways to support both offline and online continuous learning for children in the present crisis. The Federal Government Ministry of Education is developing online contents to ensure all children from grades 1 to 12 access distance learning until schools re-open.

The Ministry of Education in Puntland and Somaliland have scaled up remote learning and 95,500 children (41% girls) have been reached through radio, TV and online learning platforms. In Somaliland, radio lessons for grades 7 and 11 have recently been rolled out, in addition to the already ongoing lessons for grades 8 and 12. In Somaliland, sign language tools for children with hearing impairments has also been developed and will be adopted on TV lessons. Puntland leads the adoption of the Learning Passport in Africa, a tech platform to store and provide local, contextualized content to children online and offline.

To strengthen the child protection services, 40 trained social workers were assigned to 17 locations in Puntland to reinforce COVID-19 awareness, Child Protection and Gender Based Violence case management, service referrals, alternative care. A 24/7 helpline for Child Protection and Gender Based Violence referral and information sharing has been operationalized and supported with trained social workers. In Somaliland, community outreach activities were conducted reaching 60 persons (35 females and 15 males).

Orientation sessions were also conducted in Somaliland for partners on the recent Child Protection COVID-19 toolkit and related training materials and documents shared by UNICEF including; The Alliance COVID-19 Brief Version, Coronavirus-COVID-19 Update, and Basic Psychosocial Skill including PSEA.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

Social media activity continued to amplify UNICEF's work for children in Somalia and the crucial support of donors and partners. Messaging linked to key prevention measures for COVID-19 was highlighted and featured widely through all channels.

## Summary of Programme Results

Sector/COVID 19 Response Pillar	Overall needs	UNICEF and IPs		Cluster/AoR Response	
		2020 Target	Total Results	2020 Target	Total Results
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement including social science</b>					
Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services”		6 Million	10 Million		
<b>WASH</b>					
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services		300,000	57,451 (17810G  17235B  12065W  10341M)	1.2 M	115,152 (31289G 30634B  30574W 22656M)
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)		2,000	79 (49W/30M)	3,000	-
<b>Health</b>					
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)		720	-		
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases including among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women		370	116 (61W  55M)		
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.		478,899	47,159 (12,470G  11,796B  22,893 W)		
<b>Nutrition</b>					
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms.		97000	10,672		
<b>Education</b>					
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning		360,000	96,505 (39571G  56934B		
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (COVID-19 prevention and control)		450	-		
<b>Child Protection</b>					
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support		100,000	5806 (732G  742B  1764 W  2568M)		
Number of UNICEF personnel and partners that have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals for survivors, including for sexual exploitation and abuse		300	344 (115W/229M)		

## 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	8,610,000	6,008,316	2,054,656	547,028	6%
Objective 2 - Minimize Mortality and Morbidity	5,335,000	4,990,122	0	344,878	6%
Objective 3 - Prevent Secondary Impacts					
Health	3,855,528	0	0	3,855,528	100%
Nutrition	7,457,403	450,000	0	7,007,403	94%
Education	1,051,950	994,793	265,760	-	-
Child Protection	1,521,919	867,610	0	654,309	43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,831,800</b>	<b>13,310,841</b>	<b>2,320,416</b>	<b>12,200,543</b>	<b>44%</b>

Next SitRep: 15 June 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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