



Reporting Period: 24 July 2020 – 24 August 2020

Photo by UNICEF

Somalia

COVID-19

Situation Report No. 8



Highlights

- As of 24 August 2020, Somalia reported a total of 3,269 COVID-19 cases with an overall downward trend. The case fatality rate remains as low as 2.8 % with 93 fatalities and the recovery rate has reached to 2,443.
- Although the COVID-19 report is showing a decline in new infection rate across the country, there is no strong evidence to support the ongoing perception that the epidemiologic curve is bending in Somalia. The country's capacity to test COVID-19 is insufficient, some districts have no confirmed COVID-19 cases due to lack of access to COVID-19 testing.
- UNICEF continues to provide critical hygiene and water supplies. During the reporting period, 28,867 people received hygiene kits and emergency water supply through water trucking and rehabilitation of water points.
- UNICEF supports the distance learning of 116,612 children (48,218 girls) through radio, TV and online learning platforms since COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted regular learning.
- Preparatory work has been ongoing in readiness for school re-opening. UNICEF has been supporting the Ministry of Education to develop guidelines and messaging to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 resurgence.
- UNICEF continues supporting the continuity of essential health and nutrition services across Somalia that 93,683 children and women received essential healthcare services while an individual IYCF counseling was provided to 31,423 women.
- 2,629 children and primary caregivers were provided with community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.

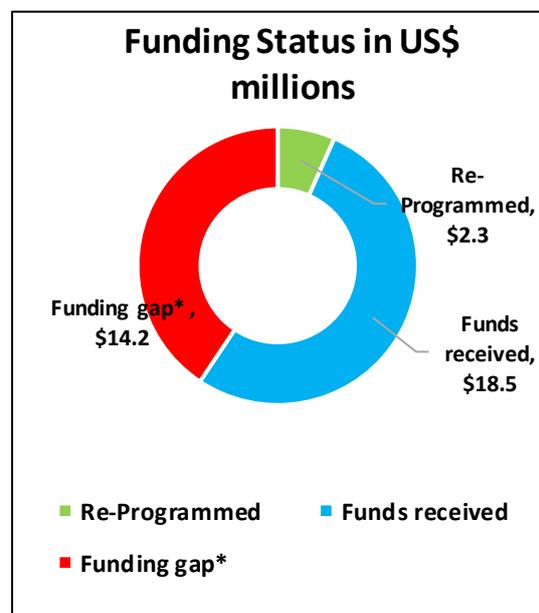
Situation in Numbers

3,269 Confirmed cases in Somalia

93 Deaths

(Ministry of Health, 24 August 2020)

US \$ 35 Million needed to implement UNICEF's response



Funding Overview

UNICEF's COVID-19 appeal is US\$ 35 million with US\$ 18.5 million in funding received to date. UNICEF wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all donors for their contributions and pledges, which make the COVID-19 response possible. In addition to the resources mobilized, UNICEF has reprogrammed \$2.3 million from existing funds, addressing 6.6 % of the need; nevertheless, UNICEF Somalia faces a funding gap of \$14.2 million (41 per cent of the funding requirements).

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Need

The Ministry of Health on 24 August 2020 reported that the total confirmed COVID-19 cases has reached to 3,269 with 93 deaths and 2,443 recoveries. Although there has been a decline in the number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases over the last few weeks, the limited geographic coverage of COVID-19 testing makes it difficult to support the widespread perception that the pandemic is slowing down in Somalia. There are districts that haven't reported a confirmed COVID-19 case due to lack of access to COVID-19 test.

As Somalia prepares to re-open schools, awareness-raising on proper hygiene has been an ongoing process to ensure preventive measures are implemented at schools in order to prevent the resurgence of the pandemic. This has been ongoing with the support of teachers, Community Education Committee (CECs), MOE and the partners targeting both the children and the larger community. However, shortage of PPEs has been identified as a challenge which needs a collaborative effort from all humanitarian actors to bridge the gap.

The ongoing flood emergency, AWD and Measles outbreak in some areas of Somalia is worsening the existing fragile condition. Some partners are also reporting reduction of service utilization amidst of COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF Humanitarian partners reported that health care visits of children under-five and women are decreasing by 10 percent and maternal services between 8 and 20 percent in April and May 2020 compared to the beginning of this year. WHO also reported that vaccination coverage for children against diphtheria, hepatitis B, tetanus and whooping cough declined from 77 percent in 2019 to 56 percent in the first half of 2020.

Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admission rate also surpassed the annual target in July 2020 but shows patterns of admissions virtually identical to 2019 admissions, though slightly lower. UNICEF continues to closely examine SAM admissions and other nutrition data for associations with floods/AWD - which appears to be slightly correlated, and with MAM admissions which shows a strong negative correlation. Detailed data audits for partners with high SAM admissions will be underway shortly.

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 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

UNICEF supported the COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement interventions to ensure the continuity of COVID-19 preventive message delivery. During the reporting period, a total of 352,115 people were reached through house to house and health facility visits, community meetings, mosque announcements, SMS messages, and through IEC material distribution. UNICEF directly engaged 15,003 people from the community that supported the dissemination of the preventive messages.

Moreover, radio spots continued to air throughout Somalia. The spots highlighted COVID-19 prevention measures, targeting an estimated 10 million people. IEC materials for mass media engagement, social media channels were also used to convey similar messaging across the country.

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 28,867 people were reached with WASH services that included 27,510 people receiving hygiene kits in Bay, Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions and 1,357 people in Lower Juba and Bakool received emergency water through water trucking and rehabilitation of water points. An additional 266 health facility

staff and volunteers in Bay, Bakool, Lower Juba, Bari and Mudug regions were trained on infection prevention and control for COVID-19.

Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services

UNICEF supported health facilities to provide cascading trainings on COVID-19 related issues: 702 frontline health workers (419 F / 283 M) were trained on essential health service continuity and COVID-19 triage & basic case management, 513 health facility staff (298 F / 215 M) on IPC protocols and 418 Community Health Workers (245 F / 173 M) on COVID-19 awareness, protection & case detection.

UNICEF continued distributing Personal Protective Equipment to 683 health workers (349 F / 334 M) with face shields and gowns. 99 percent of UNICEF supported Health Facilities have established handwashing facility and 73 percent triage stations; an increase of 42 and 30 percent respectively in comparison to the previous reporting period. The number of ARI / pneumonia & unspecified fever cases in children increased by 42 percent. As only a minority are tested, this could be indicative of ongoing community transmission.

UNICEF is working with its partners to ensure the integrity of Nutrition supplies pipeline amidst the COVID 19 with about 90% of UNICEF partners having reported zero ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF) stock out since the beginning of the year. Furthermore, provision of a comprehensive package of services is ongoing, with 31,423 women provided individual IYCF counselling. Meanwhile integration of health and nutrition (H&N) services is gaining prominence in service delivery following the establishment of new Health and Nutrition partnerships in FMS and Somaliland. UNICEF partners have continued to print and distribute IEC materials for COVID- 19 covering social mobilization and orienting mothers/caretakers on the mother led MUAC at household level. The distribution of MUAC tapes is also underway.

Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services

Since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted regular learning in March, 116,612 (48,218 girls) children have benefited from alternative learning methods through radio, TV and other digital learning platforms.

The government announced re-opening of school in Central South Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland. In Puntland, where schools reopen in September, a taskforce was established and have conducted several rounds of technical and consultation meetings. The MoEs is currently undertaking a rapid assessment for schools focusing on WASH facilities to establish the conditions of the schools.

Class sizes have been reduced to implement social distancing measures. To address the challenges of inadequate classrooms, the re-opened schools have adopted multi-shift learning in morning and afternoon. In addition, some schools have PPE provided however due to high level of poverty most parents will not be able to provide the mask to these children.

To enhance the child protection services in Somalia, UNICEF reached 2,629 people (64% children, 745 girls) with community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MPSS) using child protection desks, hotlines, house to house visits and social work outreach in schools. 42 percent of the results were in Somaliland. 190 government social workers played a key role in delivering MHPSS services, COVID-19 prevention awareness, and distribution of protective materials (face masks & hand sanitizers).

In Puntland, 40 government social workers reached 20 children (13m and 7F) and 38 women with special abilities, while in Central South Somalia, Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development deployed 20 social workers in COVID-19 call centres and a psychiatrist to provide structured counseling in 17 districts. This reporting period saw more government engagement in COVID 19 prevention activities coupled with MHPSS delivery to children and communities.

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	Total Results	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	28,867 (8,775G 8,779B 60,53W 5,260M)		
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)		3,000	266 (160W 1064M)		
Health					
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)		720	683 (349W 334M)		
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases including among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women		600	702 (419W 283M)		
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	93,683 (25,088G 23,392B 45,392 W)		
Nutrition					
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms.		97,500	31,423		
Education					
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning		150,000	116,612 (48,218G 68,394B)		
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	2,629 (745G 949B 555W 380M)		
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	377 (299W/78M)		

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	8,071,861	2,054,656	1,867,955	16%
Objective 2 - Minimize Mortality and Morbidity (Health Response)	3,761,400	2,057,608	0	1,703,792	45%
Objective 3 - Prevent Secondary Impacts					
Health	10,444,128	4,268,347	0	6,175,781	59%
Nutrition	600,000	450,000	0	150,000	25%
Education	6,400,000	2,385,793	265,760	3,748,447	59%
Child Protection	1,800,000	1,221,418	0	578,582	32%
Total	35,000,000	18,455,027	2,320,416	14,224,557	41%

*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 September 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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