



Reporting Period: 1 – 23 July 2020

Photo by UNICEF

Somalia

COVID-19

Situation Report No. 7

Highlights

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Somalia has risen to 3,161 with 93 deaths as of 23 July 2020. Children accounted for less than 4.8% of the total confirmed cases.
- COVID-19 restrictions are slowly being relaxed across Somalia: domestic flights resumed as of 5 July 2020, mosques and religious centers have fully resumed their services, national school exams were held over the week of 27 June.
- UNICEF continues working with partners for the provision distance learning lessons disseminated through TV, radio and online platforms for 116,612 children. Of these, 48,218 were adolescent girls.
- Delivery of lifesaving essential health services remains UNICEF's priority. During the reporting period, 101,374 children and women received essential healthcare services.
- UNICEF also supported the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for 494 healthcare facilities staff and community health workers.

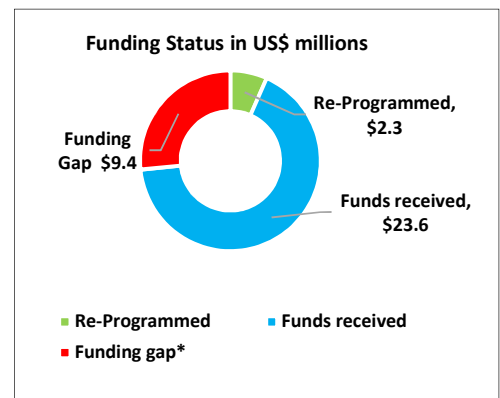
Situation in Numbers

3,161 Confirmed cases in Somalia

93 Deaths

(Ministry of Health, 23 July 2020)

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



Funding Overview

As of 23 July 2020, 68 percent of UNICEF's COVID-19 appeal has been funded from the required \$ 35 Million. Existing funds have been reprogrammed, addressing 6.6% of the funding gap. 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

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Somalia has risen to 3,161 as of 23 July 2020. Male (73 per cent) are more affected than females (27 per cent). The most affected are the age group from 20 to 30 years (32 per cent); only 12.2 per cent of the affected population are over 60 years of age. To date, children accounted for less than 4.5 percent of the total reported COVID-19 cases in Somalia.

Some COVID-19 restrictions slowly being relaxed across Somalia: domestic flights resumed as of 5 July 2020, mosques and religious centers have fully resumed their services, and national school exams were held over the week of 27 June. Though the number of reported COVID-19 cases has shown a slight reduction over the past few weeks, relaxing COVID-19 restriction can increase caseloads to uncontrollable levels very rapidly unless situations are closely monitored, and responsive measures are taken timely.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic is further weakening the country's capacity to respond to a flood emergency that has displaced half a million people. Somalia is also facing the worst locust outbreak in 25 years, which is posing a considerable food security risk to the already vulnerable population. This is the culmination of the triple threat.

UNICEF has scaled up its COVID-19 response to support the efforts of the Government and other partners as poor access to health care and education services, limited access to water and sanitation and high rates of malnutrition, weak child protection services are all additional complicating factors for Somalia.

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

UNICEF continued supporting the country's COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) interventions through combination of media and interpersonal communication channels focusing on COVID-19 prevention messaging.

During the reporting period, 234,995 people were reached through RCCE strategies including house to house visits, health facility awareness sessions, community meetings, mosque announcements as well as through distribution of 17,976 IEC materials. 7,159 people (44 per cent female) were directly engaged through community meetings and health facility awareness sessions and contributed to the dissemination of key messages to their peers and neighbors.

Radio spots highlighting COVID-19 prevention continue to be aired throughout the country, reaching an estimated 10 million people. In addition to radio spots and IEC materials for mass media engagement, social media channels were also used to convey similar messaging.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WASH

UNICEF with its partners continues to provide WASH services amidst the COVID-19 pandemic through the provision of critical WASH supplies and water. During the reporting period, 11,190 people were reached with WASH services that included 5,496 receiving hygiene kits in Marka, Janale, Barawe districts in Lower Shabelle region and 5,694 in Garowe, Qardho, Galkaiyo, Burtinle, Bossaso and Galdogob districts in Puntland who were reached with construction of handwashing stations in 22 health facilities and water connection in one of the isolation unit. UNICEF supported the provision of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training in 57 health facilities attended by 525 staff and volunteers.

Provision of Healthcare and Nutrition Services

As part of UNICEF's Health program COVID-19 response, 44 per cent of UNICEF supported facilities (7 per cent Somaliland / 59 percent Punt Land / 59 per cent Central South Region) continued to provide cascading trainings on COVID-19 related issues to health facilities staff. A total of 359 frontline health care workers (177 F / 182 M) received trainings on COVID-19 management and health service continuity in the context of

COVID-19; 381 health facility staff (176 F / 205 M) were trained on infection prevention protocols. 339 Community Health Workers (201 F / 138 M) received trainings on COVID-19 awareness, protection and case detection.

UNICEF also continues supporting the health facilities with the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items. To date, 33 UNICEF supported Health Facilities have received and distributed gowns and face shields to 594 frontline health workers (249 F / 245 M).

Supporting the delivery of lifesaving essential health services across Somalia remains UNICEF's priority. During the reporting period, 101,374 children and women received essential healthcare services.

UNICEF and partners have sustained the momentum of the emergency nutrition response, ensuring that programmes duly detect cases of acute malnutrition, refer for appropriate care and treatment including provision of key preventive nutrition services. In the last two weeks, 8,008 children with SAM were reached with lifesaving SAM treatment through UNICEF supported partners. Additionally, efforts to screen children have continued at facilities supplemented by screening at households by mothers/caretakers through the mother led MUAC initiative while ensuring strict adherence to the recommended COVID Infection, Control and Prevention measures.

UNICEF, through its partners, has continued to provide basic nutrition services package which include individual infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling for caretakers, and in the past two weeks a total of 13,139 mothers and caretakers were reached. Furthermore, cascading the wasting management and IYCF trainings in the context of COVID 19 has continued with over 1,486 frontline health and nutrition providers cumulatively trained in the Central and Southern Regions; 43 per cent of those trained were male.

Access to Continuous Education and Child Protection Services

The education sector has been enormously impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that left approximately 814,000 school children out of school. UNICEF continues working with partners for the provision of distance education, ensuring that 116,612 children (41 per cent girls) continued benefitting from formal education or life skills distance learning lessons disseminated through TV, radio and online platforms.

At the same time, the Ministry of Education (MoE) of Puntland has been leading with the adoption of the Learning Passport in Africa. Government of Puntland in Somalia launched the Learning Passport on 20 July 2020, a digital remote learning platform where children can access educational content both online and offline from their homes. The online and offline platform stores and provides locally contextualized content for children to continue learning. Presently, 11,168 children (42 per cent girls) from grades 8 and 12 are benefitting from its content. UNICEF is also providing technical support to the MoE of the Federal Government of Somalia in recording of distance learning lessons for grades 1 to 12.

All MoEs are preparing for the reopening of schools and UNICEF is supporting in the development of safe school operation guidelines, to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmissions in schools. These guidelines will also integrate WASH, Health, Nutrition, PSS and Child Protection components. Currently the plan is for schools to reopen in August in Central South Somalia and Somaliland, and in September in Puntland.

In Central South Somalia, a total of 3,134 adolescent girl were provided with sanitary kits during the pandemic and educated about the prevention measure on COVID-19. A total of 578 teachers, head teachers and CEC members (22 per cent female) knowledge on prevention, transmission and mitigation protocols for COVID-19 was enhanced.

UNICEF also continues working on strengthening Child Protection service delivery in Somalia; during the reporting period, UNICEF supported the delivery of a community based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to children and adults in Puntland, Somaliland and Central South zones reaching a total of 2,328 people. Gender Based Violence training targeting child protection committee members, CP volunteers, police officers, prosecution officers and local authorities benefitted 214 men and women. Orientation was also provided on basics of Child Protection in Emergency, case management and referral services in South Central

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.

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	11,190 (3323G 3457B 2343W 2067M)	1.2 M	58,867 (17,660G 20,603B 10,596W 10,007M)
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)		3,000	525 (321W 204M)	3,000	-
Health					
Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)		720	494 (249W 245M)		
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases including among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women		600	359 (177W 182M)		
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	101,374 (27,996G 25,939B 47,439 W)		
Nutrition					
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms.		97,500	13,139		
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	2,328 (574G 598B 753W 403M)		
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	214 (112W/102M)		

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	8,046,861	2,054,656	1,892,955	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	7,249,713	0	3,194,415	31%
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	21,411,393	2,320,416	11,268,191	32%

Next SitRep: 24 August 2020

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

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

A joint MOH/UNICEF press release: <https://www.unicef.org/somalia/stories/frontlines-combating-covid-19>

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