

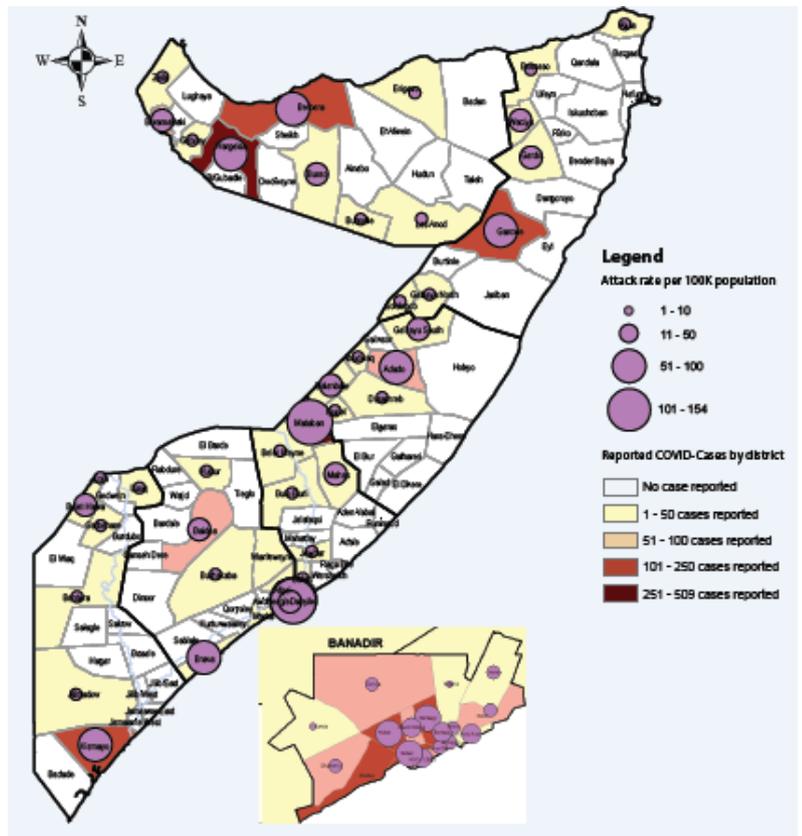
Highlights



Situation overview

The coronavirus pandemic has worsened Somalia's humanitarian and socioeconomic crises, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and hurting livelihoods, especially among low-income families. Analysis by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network and Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit¹, indicates that poor urban households, IDPs and pastoralists are likely to be most affected by an estimated 3 to 50 per cent decline in annual external remittances, an anticipated 25 to 35 per cent decline in annual livestock exports, lower labour demand, and above average imported staple food prices.

Daily confirmed COVID-19 cases have declined in recent weeks, but overall numbers remain high with 3,135 cases and 93 deaths recorded as of 22 July. Humanitarian partners are continuing to expand COVID-19 responses to mitigate the further spread and impact of the pandemic. Testing capacity has been expanded with Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) laboratories operating in Mogadishu, Garowe and Hargeysa. With WHO support, GeneXpert machines are now being used for COVID-19 as well as TB testing at the following centers: Kismayo, Belet Xaawo, Baidoa, Johwar and Martini hospital in Mogadishu, which has two machines. The Belet Weyne TB centre is being prepared. In addition, six other GeneXpert machines in Mogadishu TB centers are ready to start testing but the available test kits are being reserved for the states until some more kits are brought in.



Map of Somalia showing COVID-19 cases by district. Source: OCHA

To fund the scale up, US\$37 million (16.4 per cent of total funding required) has been received to implement the Somalia component of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, but \$186.2 million is still needed to meet the immediate health and humanitarian needs of people affected by COVID-19 in Somalia.

¹ Somalia Food Security Outlook. June 2020 to January 2021. FEWSnet/FSNAU.

Almost half of the funding so far received has been provided for distribution across multiple clusters including health, protection, nutrition and WASH. The remaining funds have been allocated primarily for food security and protection, with smaller contributions for CCCM, Enabling Programmes and WASH. Protection is the best covered cluster, with a quarter of its funding needs met. Five clusters have not yet received any funding, including education which has the third largest budgetary needs following food security and health.

COVID-19 directives impact

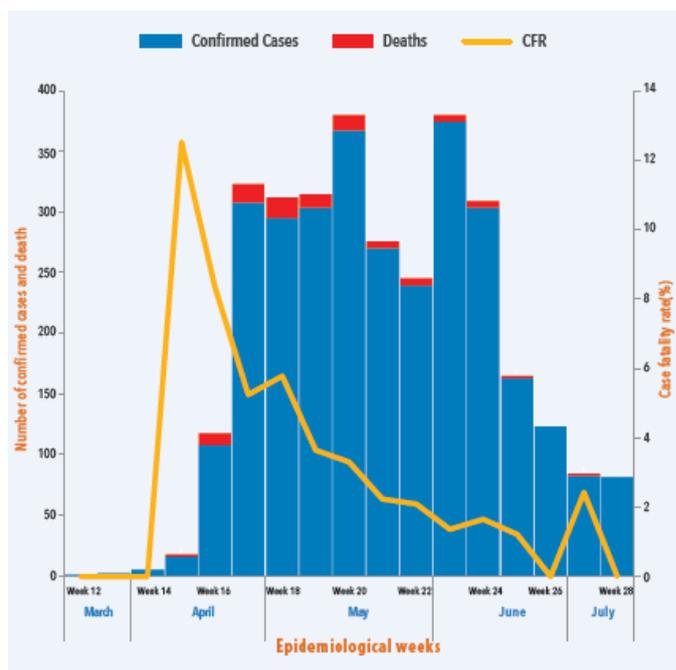
As of 22 July, 50 of the 67 COVID-19 directives issued since 16 March are in place whilst 17 have been rescinded. On 30 June, Somaliland lifted all COVID-19 directives, allowing international flights such as Air Djibouti and Ethiopian Airlines to gradually resume their flights. Additionally, on 5 July, domestic flights have resumed operations across Somalia after they were suspended by the Federal Government of Somalia on 18 March. Meanwhile, mosques and religious centers that never fully applied the closure measures have now fully resumed their operations.

Some states have partially re-opened schools and grade eight examinations have started this week. In Somaliland, national examinations were held in the week of 27 June for high school students while practicing COVID-19 preventive measures. All schools are expected to re-start on 1 August after the semester break. In Banadir region, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland and South West States, national examinations started on 11 July for 40,700 grade eight students, with COVID-19 preventative measures in place. The UN supported the transportation of examinations materials to Merka, South West State. In Galmudug, schools were partially re-opened on 15 June to allow 2,555 grade eight students to prepare for examinations. In Puntland, final year examinations started on 4 July for 16,500 students. The Puntland Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has put in place protocols to mitigate possible COVID-19 spread among the candidates.

Cross border trade

According to WFP², trade days on the Ethiopia/Somalia border have been reduced from two (Saturday and Sunday) to only Sundays. In Belet Xaawo district in Gedo region, cross border trade via the Ethiopia/Somalia border remains closed for movement of both goods and passengers. These restrictions have led to increased food prices in Luuq, Doolow and Belet Xaawo districts of Jubaland for food items such as potatoes and tomatoes which are mainly imported from Ethiopia.

However, cross border trade between Ethiopia and Somalia is active in Galmudug and Somaliland with traders receiving potatoes, onion and cement, and exporting salt to Ethiopia³. Trade across all other borders is continuing with no disruptions. In Doolow, cross border trade through the Kenyan/Somalia border is on condition that all drivers are screened for COVID-19, but food items are also being smuggled through porous points in donkey carts.



Somalia COVID-19 epidemic curve, March-July 2020.
Source: WHO



COVID-19 tests are now done in several locations in Somalia. Photo: WHO

² Somalia: Joint Market and Supply Chain Update, 5-12 July 2020.

³ Ibid

Logistics Cluster update

- All ports remain operational (Mogadishu, Kismayo, Berbera, and Bossaso). Key airports remain open for cargo but are closed to passenger flights; Hargeysa airport is open for passengers flying with Ethiopian Airlines to Addis Ababa.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to facilitate dedicated cargo airlifts on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), Office of the Prime Minister, WHO and key health partners upon request. As of 16 July, over 25 MT of COVID-19 related cargo has been transported to Dhusamarreeb, Kismayo, Baidoa, Jowar, Hargeysa, Belet Weyne, Garowe, Guriel and Barawe.
- The Cluster is also facilitating the movement of an oxygen plant from Nairobi, Kenya, to Mogadishu on behalf of the FMoH.
- The Logistics Cluster, jointly with UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), has been supporting the transport of FMoH medical teams and COVID-19 supplies to key locations across Somalia; facilitating the delivery of GeneXpert cartridges and expert operators to deep field locations. On 2 July, seven passengers and 287 kg were flown to Kismayo, Doolow and Baidoa.



A mother and child look on as their temperatures are taken. Photo: Mercy USA.

Socio-economic responses to COVID-19

1. Health first: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis

IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP

Support to 38 health facilities in five states through the hybrid model of IOM-seconded staff to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) providing clinical services and IOM staff providing daily technical and operational support for service delivery; capacity building, direct supervision and mentorship of the FMoH health workers; and robust clinical quality assurance and monitoring. Somali diaspora experts (27) deployed in 12 districts in health facilities. [IOM]

COVID-19 awareness training provided by Somali National Army (SNA) medics across five districts in Banadir. Medical testing carried out at IDP camps. Two generators provided to Martini hospital [UNDP]. Awareness campaign conducted in 12 out of 17 districts in Mogadishu, five IDP camps and three market centres. Twenty SNA doctors and nurses, SNA band trained as community facilitators. The 20 SNA personnel reached out to 1,200 persons in the community. On social media 250,000 viewers watched the SNA campaign from 4-13 May. Three television channels also aired the campaign. During the five-day community engagement, the SNA doctors and nurses conducted testing and examinations and referred infected persons to Martini hospital.

2. Protecting people: Social protection and basic services

Social protection systems - IOM, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, WFP

303,000 people benefitting from monthly assistance (in kind food and vouchers) since April through social protection safety nets and resilience building-interventions to help households and communities suffering from chronic food insecurity throughout the country. Of these people, 150,600 engage in creation of community productive assets where Government COVID-19 mitigation measures could be adhered; the others received unconditional safety net transfers in rural and urban areas. [WFP]

	350,000 households registered for large scale cash assistance programme through the Mobile Money Platform. Locations are being prioritised. Beneficiaries will receive monthly support, including productive safety net assistance. In the agriculture sector, existing project funds being re-purposed to mitigate adverse socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. Cash and livelihood assistance is being provided to 6,880 pastoral households on a monthly basis classified under IPC 3 and 4, with an additional 8,520 households planned for inclusion during the remainder of 2020. Unconditional cash transfers to 1,300 households in newly recovered areas of Janaale and Merca; delivery expected to commence in late July. [FAO]
	Social safety net scheme commenced with 500 households in Mogadishu in June; will be expanded to further 1,800 households (EU-Reinteg Mogadishu). Training delivered and manual developed on pro-poor land policies. Draft policy brief on land issues finalised promoting protection of urban poor and IDPs. (Dhulka Nabaada project). [UN-HABITAT]
<i>Food and nutrition - UNICEF, WFP</i>	
	1.55 million women, men and children received food assistance in April 2020. Of these people, 519,000 pregnant and lactating women, and children aged 6-59 months benefited from preventative and curative nutrition assistance throughout the country. [WFP]. In Somaliland, WFP assisted 40,000 primary school children with take-home rations as an alternative to school feeding. 266 primary schools in rural area, as well as IDPs schools, were supported.
<i>Water, sanitation, and hygiene - UNICEF</i>	
	Handwashing facilities constructed in 25 locations in Abudwaq and 20 in Jowhar for members of the community. Enhanced social ties through 100 trained women, 20 religious leaders to raise awareness on COVID-19 and to reduce stigmatisation. [IOM]
	Wash facilities for the community hospital in Balcad are in final stage of construction. Under EU-Reinteg project in Mogadishu, 200 handwashing stations in implementation stage. [UN HABITAT]
	Boreholes rehabilitated, solarised and extended in Galmudug State capitalising on a Public-Private Partnership, improving the value for money to reach 11,500 households [IOM]
	Rehabilitation and construction of water reservoirs with messaging on better hygiene to reduce risks from COVID-19. Water tanks and kits purchased and installed for all 14 prisons by Ministry of Justice in Somaliland through UNDP funding.
<i>Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Services - UNHCR, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and UNDP</i>	
	Support for hotline management: Hotlines established for Alternative Dispute Resolution Centers (10 supported by UNDP and seven by IDLO)
	Six short videos/radio clips produced by Somali Storytellers targeting the prevention and responses to SGBV (SST contracted – story lines endorsed by the Ministry of Women, Human Rights and Development (MOWHRD). Production will be finalised in July.
	Funding for monitoring and evaluation framework to support MOWHRD with measuring impact of COVID-19 on women, girls, and most vulnerable populations secured. Roll out of the monitoring and evaluation framework set for July.
	Guidance note on SGBV drafted. Roll out in July.
3. Economic Response & Recovery: Protecting jobs, small and medium sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers	
<i>Critical food value chains - FAO</i>	
	14.5 million goats vaccinated and 3.5 million animals received treatment in Somaliland and Puntland. By increasing herd immunity and ensuring healthy animals, vaccination played a critical role in maintaining the livestock export trade throughout the Ramadan and Hajj seasons. [FAO]

Fisheries: Discussions with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) underway to re-purpose existing project funds to raise awareness of COVID-19 and keep the fisheries supply chain open. Fuel subsidies will be provided to ensure that fishing vessels continue to operate at a time when revenues and profit are dwindling for fishing companies and 'day fishers.'

Up to 12,000 litres of diesel will be supplied to support around 60 fishing trips. This will help to prevent increased unemployment in coastal communities and reduce vulnerability to organised maritime crime.

Supporting fish capture will also create benefits further down the fish supply chain, ensuring the continued operation of landings, fish traders and processors – many of whom are women. [FAO].

Employment intensive programming UNIDO/ILO/FAO

On 17 June, the Productive Sectors Development Programme (PSDP-JP) had its first Steering committee meeting, chaired by the FGS Minister of Commerce and Industry and attended by UNIDO, FAO and ILO, Italy and the Ministers of Agriculture, Labour and Fishery. The PSC formally approved the Programme Workplans, in particular by endorsing the workplans of UNIDO, FAO and ILO regarding activities that, in the short term, could help mitigate COVID-19 impact over the fragile Somali economic ecosystem. Substantial funding for these particular activities (employment intensive programming) under the PSDP-JP is yet to be identified.

MSMEs - IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, UNIDO, PSDP (FAO, ILO, UNIDO), WHO

Recalibrated agrotechnology assistance provided through three Enterprise Development Units (EDUs) in Kismayo, Baidoa and Mogadishu to support Somali businesses in starting, rehabilitating and upgrading agro-industrial operations. The units support businesses to access new technologies, markets and financing facilities, while also coping with the disruption resulting from COVID-19 national lockdown, and reduction of overall business activity.

Since early April, over 138 hours of Entrepreneurship Development training and over 80 hours of Business Counselling support provided. A credit line to support business operations for EDU-supported SMEs launched in early June. An enterprise survey to review the impact of COVID19 on MSMEs launched in June in collaboration with WB and IFC. EDU to be established in Belet Weyne in July. (UNIDO).

Support for procurement of locally produced protective equipment: 20,000 masks procured locally and distributed to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, chambers of commerce in Jubaland and South West and the Federation of Trade Unions. Support will expand to Belet Weyne in July. [UNIDO]

Reintegration support through microbusiness to 230 vulnerable returning migrants in areas of return [IOM]

Procurement of locally produced protective equipment and materials, to support local enterprise and provide protective equipment (masks, soap, sanitizer) to vulnerable communities – 20,000 units. [UNIDO]

Remittances - IOM, UNDP

Through the Remittances Working Group, UNDP supports identifying scope of the challenge and possible response mechanisms. [UNDP]

4. Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration

Support to FGS macroeconomic policy crisis response UNIDO

Collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) in analysing impact of COVID-19 on the economy and articulating a government response. Policy paper drafted and adopted by MoCI examining possible interventions that will promote self-sufficiency. Ongoing discussion on potential advisory activities. [UNIDO] link: <https://medium.com/@unidosomalia>

5. Social cohesion and community resilience

Displacement affected communities – Integrated Office Durable Solutions Initiative, IOM, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF

	<p><i>IOM:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Male disengaged combatants (600 males) and women formerly associated with Al Shabab (350 females) receive socio-economic support to facilitate community reintegration in Kismayo and Baidoa directly while reaching out to 5,700 indirect beneficiaries. 2. Promoting waste management in Mogadishu while fostering social cohesion between migrant returnees and communities of return -Target 60 persons. 3. Sustainable Livelihood of returning migrants and their communities in Middle Shabelle -Target 50 persons. 4. Climate Adaptive Community Based Reintegration in Burao, Somaliland -Target 70 persons. 5. Psychosocial Community Based Reintegration in Hargeysa, Somalia -Target 600 persons.
	<p>Radio drama about IDPs will be recorded and broadcast three times a day to the broader community of Jowhar for one month focusing on the socioeconomic situation of IDPs. [IOM]</p>
	<p><i>Governance and fundamental freedoms Joint Programme for Local Governance (JPLG), IOM, UNDP, RMU</i></p>
	<p>Support to coordination arrangements in COVID-19 response, Monitoring and evaluation with specific attention to gender, statistics, awareness raising and communication. [UNDP]</p>
	<p>Support to the COVID-19 Task Force in Banadir.</p>
	<p>Assistance for virtual connectivity (e.g. Zoom subscriptions and ICT support) provided to the Office of the Prime Minister at the Federal Government, member state ministries and parliaments and other institutions; to continue functioning in line with the COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Based on a request from the Federal Parliament, UNDP in coordination with UNSOM and the World Bank, provided zoom subscriptions and VTC sets to both houses of parliament for virtual sessions and voting. In addition, UNDP and UNSOM technically supported the Federal Parliament to draft amendments to the Joint Rules of Procedures, enabling both houses to function in light of COVID-19.</p>
	<p>Training of staff in rule of Law: Two awareness posters for police officers in Banadir were developed; 1,000 posters and 500 booklets distributed detailing personal hygiene information and 'what not to do' during the COVID-19 period, such as to reduce the number of arrests. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has launched a webpage ahead of the next phase of awareness raising "CLERICS vs. COVID": www.mera.gov.so. Further mobilisation of religious leaders and their campaign in Banadir has led to Madrasas being closed.</p> <p>A Global Focal Point proposal has been approved by the Crisis Bureau for US\$150,000 to support the Monitoring Committee of the Attorney General's office to undertake monitoring of detention centres, prisons and police stations. The Federal Supreme Court, Attorney General's Office and Somali Police Force have approved the mechanisms for monitoring of the detention centres.</p>
	<p>Capacity development: The Somali Federal Government has the capacity to carry out direct implementation of Government-mandated activities to operationalise male and female rehabilitation of disengaged combatants and women formerly associated with Al Shabab. [IOM]</p>
<p>SOCIOECONOMIC – LOOK FORWARD</p>	
	<p>UNDP, with support from UNIDO and the World Bank, is leading the Somalia Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19. The research should be completed by September.</p>



Find more information on the COVID-19 pandemic in Somalia at: <https://covid19som-chasom.hub.arcgis.com/>

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