

4,525
CONFIRMED CASES
As of 5 December

121
FATALITIES
As of 5 December

2.6 million
DISPLACED PERSONS¹

The humanitarian crisis in Somalia, characterized by both natural and man-made factors, is one of the most complex and longstanding emergencies in the world.

Somalia is currently facing a desert locust crisis, affecting mainly northern and central regions with potential further expansion to southern Somalia, and categorized at the highest threat level, “dangerous”. Moreover, over 100,000 people in Bari region are in need of humanitarian assistance as they were affected by the Cyclone Gati. With 2.6 million individuals still displaced in Somalia, COVID-19 continues to pose an additional challenge in already fragile context where it may further hinder access to basic services, leaving the population highly vulnerable. Moreover, the communities living in the riverine areas along Juba and Shabelle rivers are at high risk of flooding.

As a key source, transit and, to some extent, destination country for migration, Somalia continues to have an influx of migrants from neighboring countries, especially from Ethiopia. Though restriction of mobility has been mostly lifted across the migration route, the economic impact of COVID-19 is becoming apparent. Some migrants have been reported to stay longer in transit, as there are less opportunities for employment to make sufficient funds to continue their journey. In addition to continued mitigation efforts, IOM and other partners are assessing the overall socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and working towards addressing the impact through various programmes and projects.

Somalia confirmed its first case of COVID-19 in Mogadishu on 16 March 2020. As of 5 December, Somalia has 4,525 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country, 121 reported fatalities and 3,529 recovered cases.



IOM SOMALIA COVID-19 APPEAL



11 March 2020

WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic

16 March 2020

First confirmed case in Somalia and suspension of all international flights

3 August 2020

Resumption of international flights

5 December 2020

4,525 cases confirmed

¹ Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan 2020.



584 RADIO MESSAGES aired with COVID-19 information



1,232 HANDWASHING POINTS installed



Over **70,920 PEOPLE** reached with hygiene kits



Over **53,900 PEOPLE** reached with COVID-19 information at



7 FLOW MONITORING POINTS (FMP)

*All figures are cumulative

PROGRAMME UPDATES

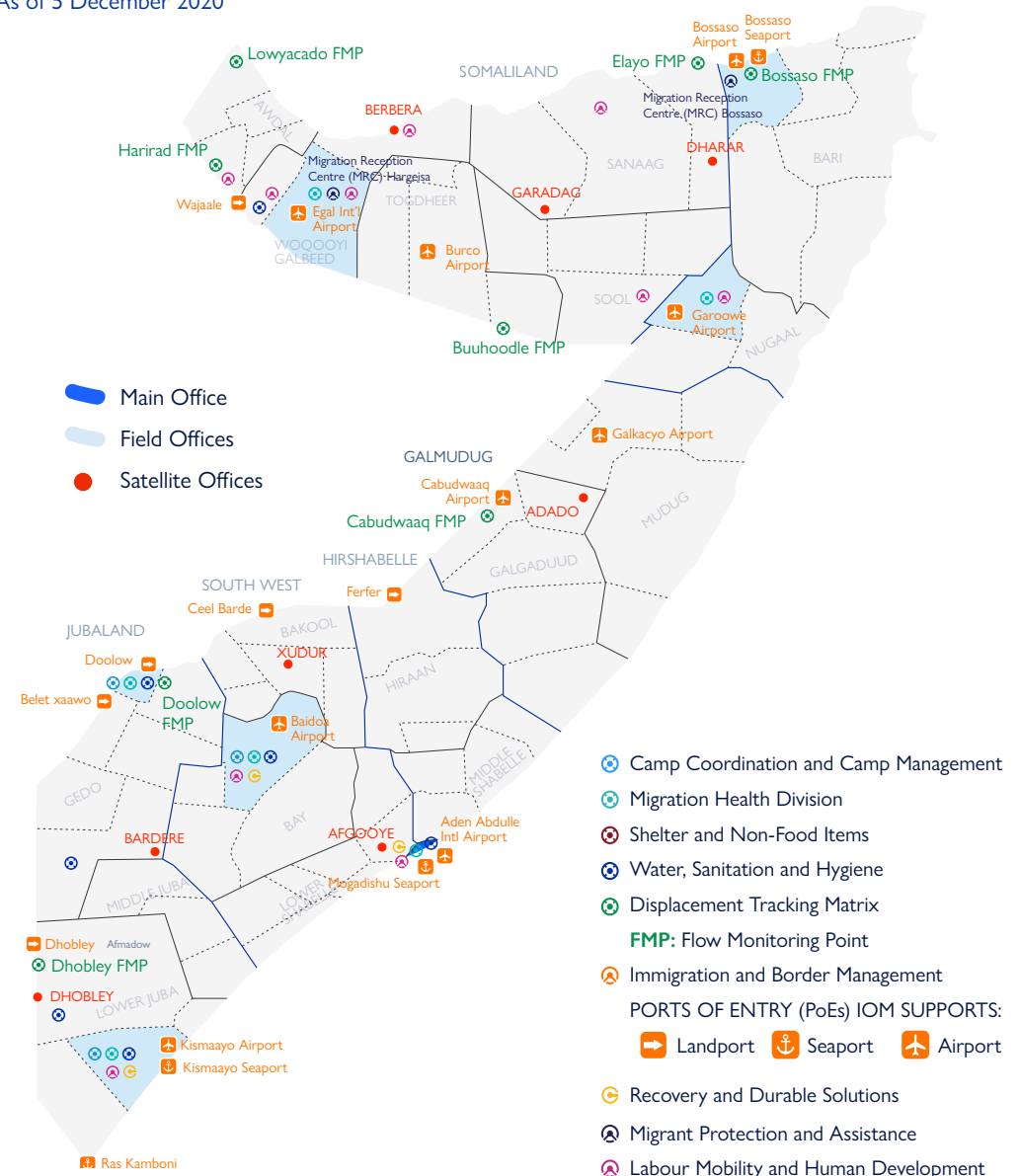
In coordination and partnership with relevant actors at the national, regional and global levels, IOM continues to contribute to the overall objective of the National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19, the UN COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP), and the IOM and WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plans to halt further transmission of COVID-19 and address the impact of the outbreak, including the socio-economic impact. To ensure that Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), migrants, communities in hard to reach locations, returnees and vulnerable populations are assisted, IOM builds its response on existing partnerships with relevant actors at global, regional, national and sub-national levels. IOM continues to address cross-cutting humanitarian and development needs through expansion of its programmes designed to engage directly with communities.

“Addressing the impact of COVID-19 on Somalia’s economy is imperative to reduce push factors for migration that can put at further risk individuals in vulnerable situations, especially women and children,”

IOM is supporting women business owners to recover from the impact of COVID-19. For more information, please read more on page 4.

IOM SOMALIA COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OPERATIONS

As of 5 December 2020



CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM continued to disseminate information to ensure IDPs are aware of the risks, signs and symptoms and mode of transmissions of COVID-19 and know the appropriate mitigation measures to reduce the risks. Awareness raising sessions were conducted at the information centres, marketplaces or during community meetings, with a highlight on how to practice physical distancing.

1,394 IDPs reached with COVID-19 information:

450 INDIVIDUALS reached in **Baidoa** through 45 awareness raising sessions
Indirect beneficiaries: 20,435

774 INDIVIDUALS reached in **Doolow** through 12 awareness raising sessions, including **11** IDP leaders
Indirect beneficiaries: 1,324

170 INDIVIDUALS reached in **Kismayo** through 26 awareness raising sessions
Indirect beneficiaries: 14,397

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM continued its community mobilization and sensitization sessions on good community hygiene and sanitation practices to IDP communities.

54,669 INDIVIDUALS reached with **HYGIENE PROMOTION** activities in Baidoa, Bossaso, Belethawa, Bardere, Doolow, Diif, Tulo Barwaqo, Dhobley, Hargeisa and Kismayo

33 AWARENESS RAISING POSTERS distributed in Bossaso

112 RADIO MESSAGES aired on local radio stations in Bossaso

349 HYGIENE PROMOTERS and **COMMUNITY HYGIENE WORKERS** RECRUITED in Belethawa, Baidoa, Luuq and Bossaso

31,272 INDIVIDUALS received **SOAP & HYGIENE KITS** in Dhobley, Kismayo, Belethawa, Bardere and Bossaso

HEALTH

IOM and the Ministry of Health (MoH) continued to screen for COVID-19 symptoms and to conduct awareness sessions about COVID-19 preventive measures in 38 facilities.

IOM is supporting the Ministry of Health to conduct screenings at Points of Entry (PoEs) in Doolow (5,912), Xudur (3,889), Dhobley (5,657), Kismayo (7,579). Baidoa (10,382) and Hargeisa (no data available).

COVID-19 awareness raising sessions in health facilities reached:

640 IN AFGOYE **1,037** IN BARDHERE **1,630** IN DOLOW
2,979 IN XUDUR **3,872** IN KISMAYO **131** IN SANAG
2,607 IN DHOBLEY **2,727** IN BAIDOA **135** IN HARGEISA

Activities are closely coordinated with the Ministries of Health at Federal and Member State level and with local authorities.

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

IOM continues to raise awareness among migrants crossing the border at seven Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs). During the reporting period, 8,527 people, entering and exiting Somalia were monitored. COVID-19 information was shared with 3,931 individuals (49% of individuals reached) who reported to be unaware of the COVID-19 situation.

FMP	INCOMING	OUTGOING	TOTAL
Bossaso	1,358	205	1,563
Buuhoodle	576	239	815
Abduwaq	984	0	984
Harirad	1,262	0	1,262
Lowyacado	232	180	412
Dhobley	684	587	1,272
Doolow	1,079	656	1,735
GRAND TOTAL	6,176	1,867	8,043

IOM Empowers Women Business Owners in Somalia to Recover from COVID-19 Impact



A woman sells fruits in a market in Mogadishu © Raagsan 2020

Mogadishu – The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted lives—and economies—across continents, sparing neither high-income countries, nor the low-income ones whose citizens often seek jobs abroad to escape economic distress. Few countries are as migration-dependent as Somalia. And few have been treated as harshly by the global downturn.

Somalia’s informal economy—based largely on remittances, imports, and agriculture—has been heavily impacted by COVID-19. It is estimated that 40 per cent of households in Somalia are heavily dependent on remittances, and pandemic-related travel restrictions have cut remittance flows sharply.

An IOM study on remittances this past August reported Somalia’s Department of Diaspora Affairs had noted a decline in remittances. IOM research indicated a decrease of remittances by over 60 per cent.

Woman-owned businesses have been especially hard-hit, with disruptions in supply chains and reductions of cashflow. The flow of customers also has been disrupted as curfews and social distancing put many customers off.

A recent study, conducted in Mogadishu by IOM and the local research firm Raagsan Consulting, found that, of 320 women-led businesses surveyed, over 300 reported reduced revenue and sales. About half reported having to put their operation on hold with about the same number saying they faced difficulty paying back loans or rent. Almost 60 per cent said they had been forced to shut down during the pandemic, with about one third of that group closing permanently.

Nimco Yusuf, 45, is one businesswoman feeling the pain. She started her kitchen utensils business in Mogadishu ten years ago hoping to address new market demand after years of conflict. She started by offering cooking utensils.

“When I started my business, Somalia was coming out of many years of conflict,” she said “Families started returning, and there was a need to restart their homes, including kitchen items.”

By the start of 2020, Nimco was doing well enough to support 15 children. She was even able to hire outside help, putting two full-time employees to work in her shop.

Then, in March, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Somalia. A government-imposed curfew and other mobility measures impacted her business, along with thousands of others. “I experienced a 62 per cent decrease in sales and a shortage of supplies,” she said.

Today, Nimco is one of 185 Somali women being supported by the IOM to deal with the financial impact that the COVID-19 had on their businesses.

IOM Somalia, with funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), partnered with Somalia’s Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) to support women-led micro and small enterprises (MSEs) impacted by COVID-19 in Mogadishu.

Cash assistance is the key component of this support, and are designed to help these entrepreneurs restock supplies and may address other needs, such as paying rent, electricity, or loans.

IOM estimates that the grants to 185 beneficiaries will directly improve the lives of 1,122 family members. The financial stimulus that supports these small businesses will also positively impact the local economy.

The women also receive five days of training in business continuity, including basic financial literacy. Most of the women receiving this support present high vulnerabilities, including having a high number of dependents, living in rented places or informal settlements, being displaced, having members of the family with disabilities, being unable to write or read, or having children at risk of child labor.

The support of IOM and the national government comes at a crucial time. With remittance flows declining since the start of the pandemic, many families have been pushed deeper into poverty. This risks reversing decades of progress on development and poverty alleviation.

“Addressing the impact of COVID-19 on Somalia’s economy is imperative to reduce push factors for migration that can put at further risk individuals in vulnerable situations, especially women and children,” says Richard Danziger, IOM Somalia’s Chief of Mission.

This kind of support in Somalia addresses not only the most urgent needs of the women, but also empowers them to be agents of change in their communities and an inspiration for future generations.

“Please continue to support us, not with money, but with skills training,” said Nimco.