



Delivering Health & Nutrition Factsheet

Impact of COVID19 on Health & Nutrition on Women & Children in Somalia

September 2020

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 is putting an unprecedented burden on health systems around the world and causing **disruptions to essential routine health and nutrition services**, which could result in children, particularly the most marginalised, missing out on life-saving services. Further, rising economic insecurity and food shortages due to the pandemic are **preventing families from providing their children with the nutrition** that is needed for their physical and mental development. Before the pandemic, at least half of the global population lacked access to basic health services, and around 100 million people globally have been pushed into extreme poverty due to healthcare costs¹.

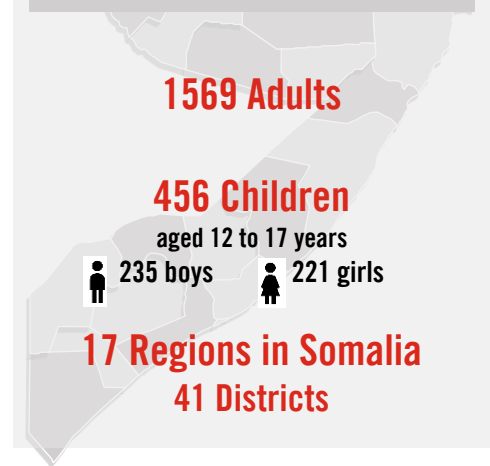
METHODOLOGY



To better understand the impact of COVID19 on child protection, livelihoods, health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, gender and Gender Based Violence (GBV), Save the Children Somalia conducted a **comprehensive cross-sectional study**. The general objective of the research is to better understand the impact of COVID19 and quantify the impact of the outbreak on each sector.

Globally, Save the Children also identified a need to consult with children and caregivers worldwide, to generate evidence on the impact that COVID-19 has had on children and to **hear children’s messages for leaders** about their response to the pandemic.

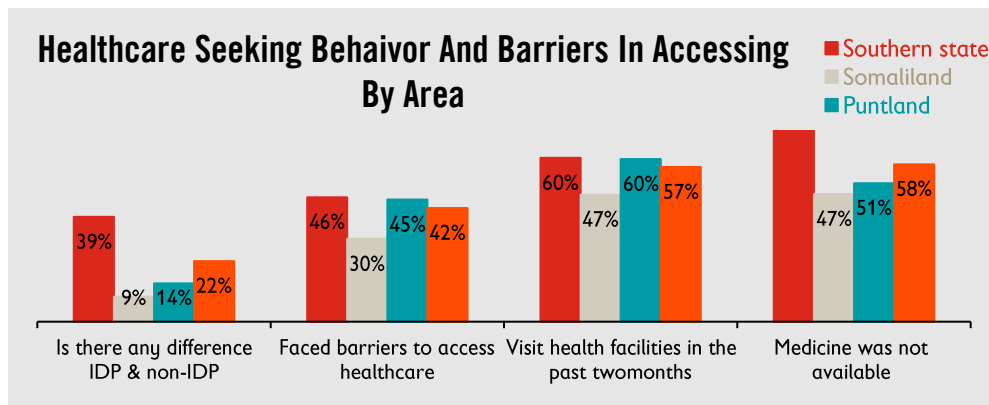
Study was conducted using data from



FINDINGS

Households Faced Barriers in Accessing Health Services

57% of the respondents indicated they have visited health facilities during the past two months (since the outbreak). Two-in-five patients indicated **lack of availability of medicine** at the health center at the time they visited the health center indicating that COVID-19 impacted medical supply chain process. 43% further indicated they **faced barriers to accessing healthcare** or medication due to COVID19. Moreover, 22% believe there is **difference in accessing healthcare and medication between host community and displaced people/refugees**.



34%
Do not know where to access treatment for malnourished children

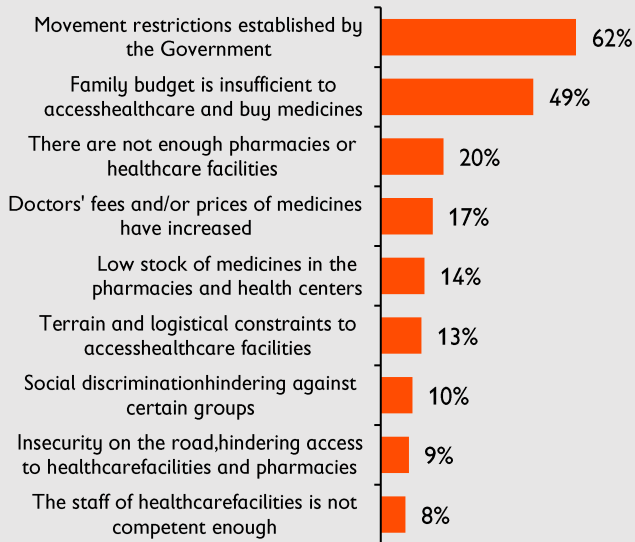
62%
Households faced barriers to access health care due to movement restrictions

49% respondents reporting insufficient family budget to access healthcare and buy medicines and increased Doctors' fees and prices of medicines was reported by 17% of respondents. In addition, 14% households faced barriers affecting availability health services such as insufficient stock of medicines in the pharmacies or in the primary healthcare facilities, 20%

¹ World Health Organization, (2017). World Bank and WHO: Half of world lacks access to essential health services, 100 million still pushed into extreme poverty because of health expenses <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/13-12-2017-world-bank-and-who-half-the-world-lacks-access-to-essential-health-services-100-million-still-pushed-into-extreme-poverty-because-of-health-expenses#:~:text=At%20least%20half%20of%20the,the%20World%20Bank%20and%20WHO,&text=Currently%2C%20800%20million%20people%20spend,child%20or%20other%20family%20member>

not having enough pharmacies or healthcare facilities serving the area and 8% facing quality related barriers including staff of healthcare facilities are not competent enough.

Have You Experienced The Following Because Of COVID-19



Cash is the type of assistance preferred to meet health services

	CSS	SL	PL	All
Which type of assistance do you need for healthcare				
In-kind distribution	20%	42%	41%	33%
Money	73%	57%	56%	63%
Voucher	6%	0%	4%	4%
Which type of assistance do you need for medication				
In-kind distribution	19%	29%	29%	25%
Money	74%	71%	65%	70%
Voucher	6%	0%	6%	5%
Assistance would need for infant and young child food and supplements.				
In-kind distribution	23%	31%	33%	29%
Money	72%	66%	62%	67%
Voucher	5%	3%	5%	4%

Infant and Young Children Feeding Practice



Global findings indicate that the number of children receiving essential care for severe malnutrition has dropped by 74% since March 2020, and it is predicted that 27,500 children will miss out on vital, life-saving treatment every month². 89% of respondents to the survey reported that COVID-19 has impacted their access to healthcare, medicine and medical supplies.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Children want decision-makers to **prioritise communication and community engagement about risks**, healthcare that is free and accessible, access to soap, masks and gloves, medication for all, and an acceleration in the response to COVID-19. They are also calling for **support with their mental health**.
- Increase **domestic public investment in strong and resilient health and nutrition systems**, which is critical in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies, as part of wider efforts to deliver quality, essential services for all, as part of universal health coverage.
- Ensure that **essential routine services**, such as maternal, newborn and child health, reproductive and sexual health, mental health support, immunisation and nutrition including counselling and support for infant and young child feeding, which are critical for child and maternal survival, are **maintained and strengthened during the COVID-19 outbreak**.
- Ensure that **safe and nutritious food is affordable and accessible** for all by financing and scaling up social protection schemes, alongside measures to address livelihoods and food system challenges
- Ensure sufficient **investment and support for the development of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19** with provisions to guarantee equitable and affordable access for low-income countries (LICs).



Nimo⁴, 4, is measured with a muac band by Saado, a health worker in Adi'Adays, Somaliland

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² Save the Children, (2020). Yemen: Tens of thousands of severely malnourished children are left without treatment since March <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/yemen-tens-thousands-severely-malnourished-children-are-left-without-treatment-march#>