

# Impact of COVID19 on Women & Children in Somalia

## A Multi Sector Study

September 2020

### BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has put an entire generation of children at risk. **Measures that have been implemented** to contain the spread of the virus, including nationwide lockdowns and school closures, have caused many disruptions to children's lives. This, coupled with the wider **social and economic impact of the pandemic**, will have a significant impact on children's right to survive, learn and be protected. An estimated 99% of children worldwide – or **more than 2.3 billion children** – live in one of the 186 countries that have implemented some form of restrictions due to COVID19<sup>1</sup>.

### 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. Phone based quantitative and qualitative interviews were conducted.

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. The results presented in the global report focus on quantitative data from a representative sample of 17,565 parents/caregivers and 8,069 children from 37 countries.

Study was conducted using data from

**1569 Adults**

**456 Children**

aged 12 to 17 years

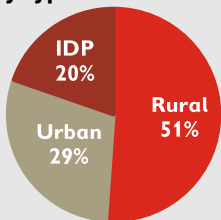
**235 boys**

**221 girls**

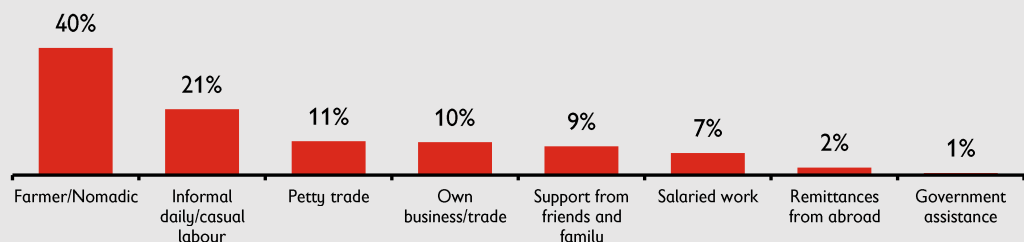
**17 Regions in Somalia**  
**41 Districts**

### SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Distribution of respondents by type of residence



What is your major occupation ?



**78%**  
Female

**70%**  
No Schooling

**24%**  
Primary Schooling

**6.8**  
Household Size

**1.8%**  
Under 5

**1.1%**  
12 to 17 Years

### FINDINGS

#### Partner Violence



**43%** of the respondents mentioned they are worried that COVID19 outbreak may lead to increased incidents of **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)**. Respondents living in **IDP centers** were 5% and 13% more likely to be worried about increased Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) than urban and rural residents. Global findings show that one third (32%) of households had a child, parent or caregiver who said that there had been **physical or emotional violence** in their home since the start of the pandemic.

#### Access to Health Services

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, (2020). Don't Let Children be the Hidden Victims of COVID-19 pandemic <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/dont-let-children-be-hidden-victims-covid-19-pandemic>



**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. **49% respondents reporting insufficient family budget** to access healthcare. According to the global findings, **89%** of respondents to the survey reported that COVID-19 has impacted their access to healthcare, medicine and medical supplies.

## Infant & Young Child Feeding

**In Somalia, 53% faced barriers in accessing food for Infant & Young Children**

**77%** reported there was no donation of Infant Formula or Breast milk substitutes

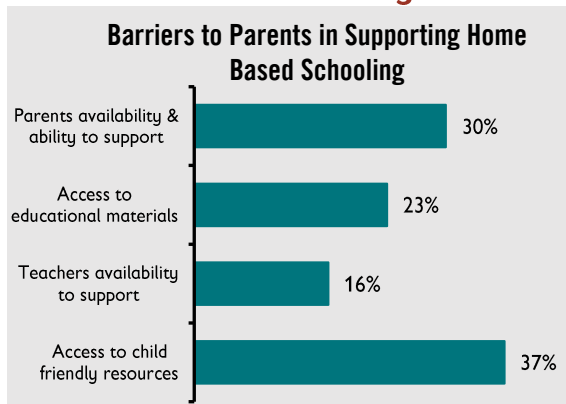
**53%** couldn't acquire food & food supplements for infants and young children

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 month<sup>2</sup>.**

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**36% believe that the water is not enough to wash hands frequently** and for drinking purposes. Moreover, **56% reported they don't have functioning solid waste management system** in the community. 34% of the respondents indicated that females in their households have issues in **accessing menstrual hygiene materials**.

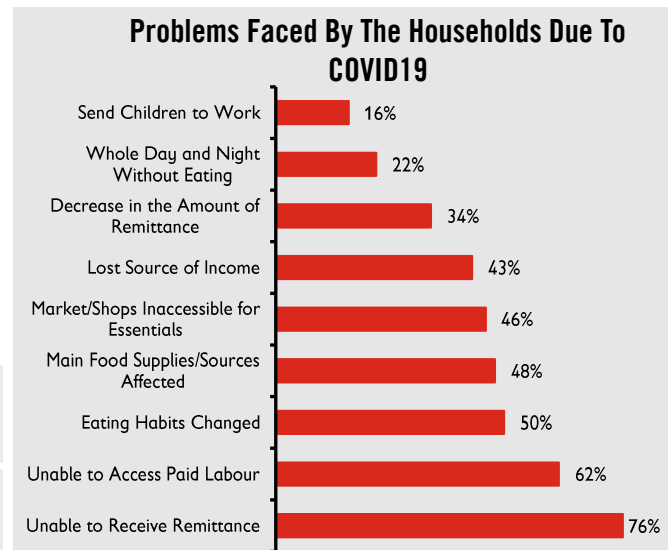
## Barriers in Homeschooling



Parents who were not able to support their children's home-based learning because of lack of educational materials emphasized the importance of support through provision of **reading books (75%), picture books (13%), textbooks (about 10%), printed material (6%), toys or play materials (4%)**. **More than half of the respondents preferred Radio** as a means of learning platform. Since access to computers and phone is limited in the study area, very few preferred tablets-based app. Global Findings indicate that **more than 8 in 10 children** surveyed felt that they were **learning little or nothing at all**.

## Food Security and Livelihoods

**50% of the families reported changes in food eating habits**. Of those who reported food consumption pattern has changed, 75% indicated food consumption reduced in quantity and quality due to COVID19 outbreak. Global findings indicate that **more than 3 in 4 households (77%) reported an income loss**.



## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



**Provide cash-transfer support and in-kind support** for food and medicines to meet the basic health and medication requirements.



**Provide education materials support** such as text books, reading materials, and radio-education to support children's home-based school and its continuity.



**Increase investment and support for strong, resilient and equitable health and nutrition systems**, towards universal health coverage, including the removal of barriers to access.



Prioritize and support **well-resourced and inclusive, gender-sensitive child protection** and gender-based violence and mental health services.



**Design concerted and coordinated intervention** to provide specific support to fill the gap in access to health service, education, and food and livelihood activities.

For more on this factsheet, please contact [Temesgen.Bocher@savethechildren.org](mailto:Temesgen.Bocher@savethechildren.org)

<sup>2</sup> 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#>