

# Child Poverty & Social Protection Factsheet

## Economic Impact of COVID19 on Children in Somalia

September 2020

### BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many economies around the world, with lockdowns and restrictions on the movement of people resulting in many people losing their source of income. Save the Children predicts that the **number of children living in poor households could increase by as many as 117 million in 2020** alone with the largest increases in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>1</sup> As well as being a key factor in undermining the economic growth and social capital of a country, child poverty stops children from having access to vital services including health and education, and can result in them being at a higher risk of violence, including child labour and child marriage.

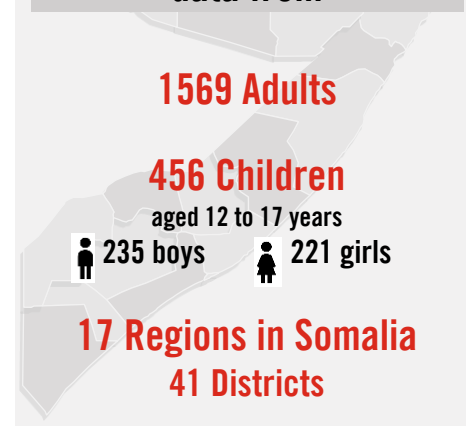
### METHODOLOGY



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.

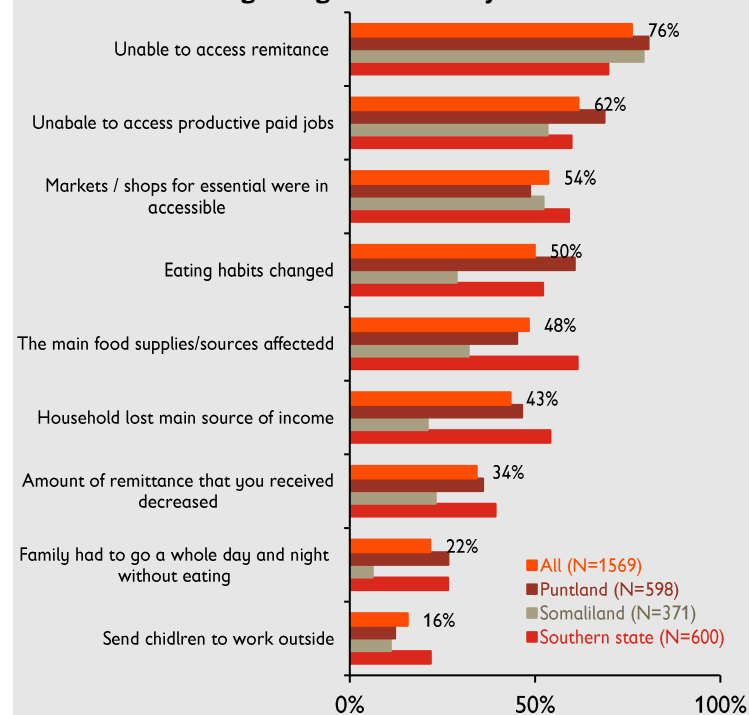
### Study was conducted using data from



### FINDINGS

#### COVID19 has resulted in changes in food eating habits of families

#### Major Problems Faced By Households Due To COVID19 Regarding Food Security And Livelihood



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. Families living in **IDPs centers are 54%, and 31%, respectively, more likely to face changes** in food eating habit compared to Urban and Rural families.

22% respondents indicated their family had to go a whole day and night **without eating** anything because there was not enough food as a result of COVID19. About 50% reported the main source of food supplies has changed.

62% reported people in the community were not able to access paid productive and income generating activities, **76% were not able to receive remittance**, 66% indicated the amount of remittance that they received decreased compared to normal times. In addition, about, four-in-ten (43%) of household **lost major source of income** and 47% didn't get markets or shops for essential food and non-food items that are in an acceptable distance.

Due to COVID19, 25% of the respondents respectively, send one or more minors to live elsewhere because they don't have enough food-stock or money to meet basic needs. Thirty percent and 47% of the respondents indicated that

the responsibility for boys and girls respectively, has increased as the result of COVID19 outbreak.

<sup>1</sup> Save the Children UK, (2020). Coronavirus' Invisible Victims: Children in Monetary Poor Households <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/blogs/2020/coronavirus-invisible-victims-children-in-monetary-poor-househol>



Faced Barriers in Accessing Food



Preferred Cash Transfer



Preferred in Kind Food Support

## Global Survey Findings

More than **3 in 4 households (77%)** reported an income loss.

Of these, 20% said they had lost all of their income, a further 30% had lost most of their income (more than 75%), and a further **had lost between half and three quarters of their income (56-75%)**.

**96% had trouble paying for an essential item or service.** One third struggling to pay for nutrition supplements, 35% struggling to pay for healthcare, 8 in 10 having trouble paying for food and for poor households this increased to 85%.

**70% who suffered economic losses had not received government support.** 75% of respondents that said they had lost all of their income said they had not received government support, compared with 68% of people who lost most (more than 75%) of their income.



Photo: Mustafa Saeed / Save the Children  
Hassan\*, 12, and Aluna\*, AllaAmin IDP, Somaliland

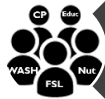
## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Most of the **parents preferred cash-transfer support** and in-kind support for food and medicines to meet their basic health and medication requirement for the women and children.



Key government and development partner stakeholders should work together to **develop government-led, shock-responsive social protection systems** that will be more effective in building the long-term resilience of households and protect them for future shocks.



Key stakeholders must ensure **humanitarian assistance is designed to align with and complement government-led social protection pilots**, with a view to strengthening them over time.



Government stakeholders, donors and development partners should **put financing measures in place through a combination of debt cancellation** and by giving support to a global fund for social protection.



Key government and development partner stakeholders should ensure that **lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic are learned, and design social protection programmes and systems to be more shock-responsive**. This will encompass a wide range of actions, including measures such as:

- Strengthening and keeping more **up-to-date social registries** that can quickly identify and reach households in need in the event of a shock.
- Putting **forecast-based action systems** in place that can **scale-up support in anticipation of future shocks** in order to help prevent households from needing to engage in harmful, negative coping mechanisms.
- **Ensuring there are preparedness plans** with agreed procedures for all programmes to flex and respond in the event of different shocks.
- Strengthening the **digitisation of payment mechanisms** to not only increase financial inclusion of households, but to also ensure that they can be reached even in the event of large shocks.