

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Factsheet

Impact of COVID19 on Water & Sanitation for Women & Children in Somalia

September 2020

BACKGROUND

Particularly in **displacement camps or densely populated urban areas**, sparse personal protective equipment and running water, in addition to limited ability to socially distance or perform **basic preventative hygiene measures**, expose populations to greater health risks. It is important to note that constraints on household income, and subsequent ability to pay for essential items, may lead to certain groups within households being prioritised over others. This could include a preference for certain genders and **diminished access for women and girls to menstrual hygiene** and sexual health services.

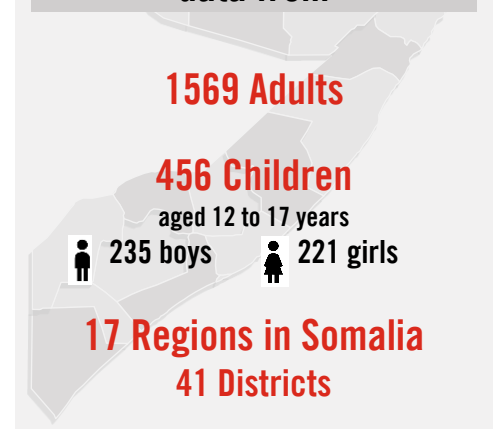
METHODOLOGY



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

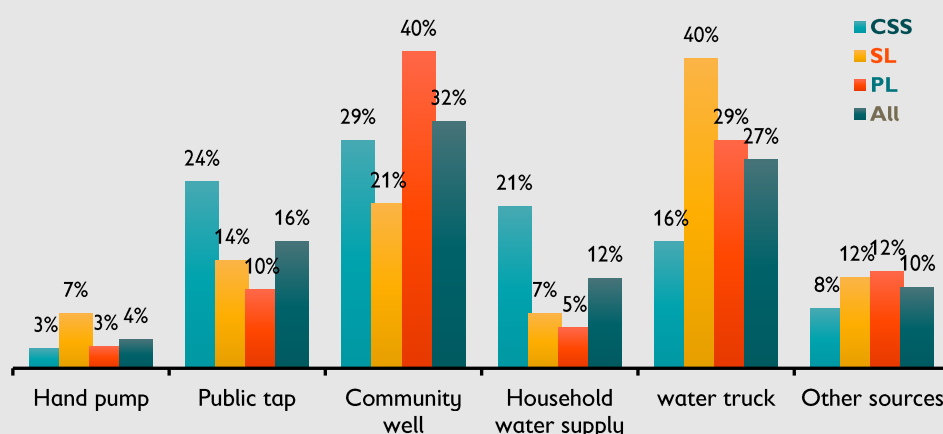


FINDINGS

Water is not enough to wash hands frequently

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. Households get water from different sources, about one-third, 32% acquire water through community well, more than a quarter, 27% get from water trucks, 16% from public tap, 12% from direct water supply at households, 10% from other sources.

Source Of Water For Household Use By Area



46% believe the local government authorities were putting in place adequate protective measures to stop the spread of the corona virus.

Out of children surveyed **70% (67% of girls and 74% of boys)** reported that their parents talk to them about **COVID19** including the symptoms (30%), how to protect yourself, importance of social distancing 10%, washing hands with soap and water frequently 18% and maintaining social distance 10%.

Females are having difficulties accessing hygiene materials

Accessing female hygiene materials is a serious problem in the community, **34% of the respondents indicated that females in their households have issues in accessing menstrual hygiene materials.** Specifically, 22% faced barrier to access soap and 50% believe people in their community were not practicing recommended prevention measures such as keeping safe distance, wearing face masks, washing hands with detergents and avoiding crowded places.

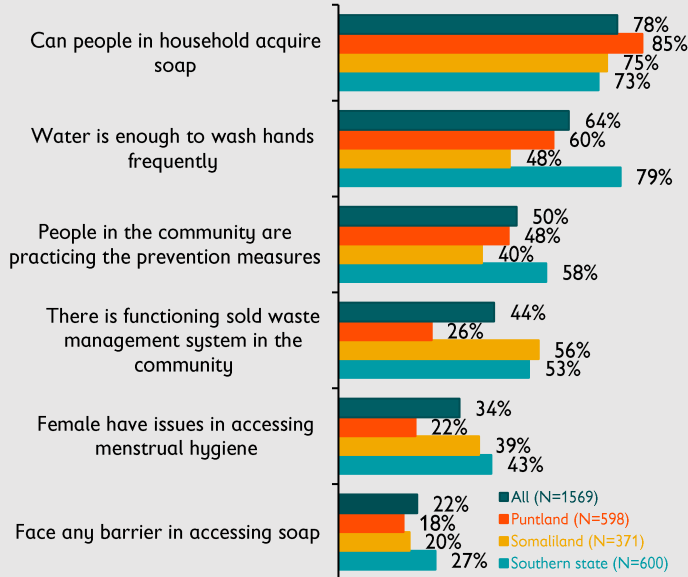
Challenges of Implementing COVID19 Preventative Measures

53% reported the house doesn't have enough space	52% reported self-isolation will be challenging
70% in IDP setting mentioned self-isolation as challenging	33% believe the house they are living in is not safe and adequate

GLOBAL FINDINGS

- **More than half (55%)** the households reported they had no sanitizer/soap.
- **One in five of parents/caregivers (20%)** indicated that they need access to water delivery
- The need for water delivery to stay healthy during COVID-19 was most commonly reported in East and Southern Africa (33%) and West and Central Africa (35%).
- **3 in 10 adults with disabilities (35%)** reported that they were dependent on water delivery to stay healthy.
- **Displaced populations felt they did not have the necessary items to stay healthy** in response to the pandemic, being less likely to have masks (57% of displaced populations did not have masks, versus 46% of non-displaced respondents), sanitizer (61% versus 41%) and water supply (26% versus 16%).

Barriers In Accessing Hygiene Materials During COVID19



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Children wanted their parents to take COVID-19 more seriously and follow health/social distancing guidelines.



Distributing items previously provided by schools to children who have lost access to them, including sanitary products, health advice and counselling services.



In programmes and policy responses, consider addressing women's reduced access to menstrual hygiene products when supply chains are disrupted.



Governments, donors and multilateral organisations should increase investment and support for strong, resilient and equitable health, nutrition and water delivery systems.



Governments should maintain and strengthen the delivery of essential health, nutrition, water services critical for child survival during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

