

SOMALIA

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

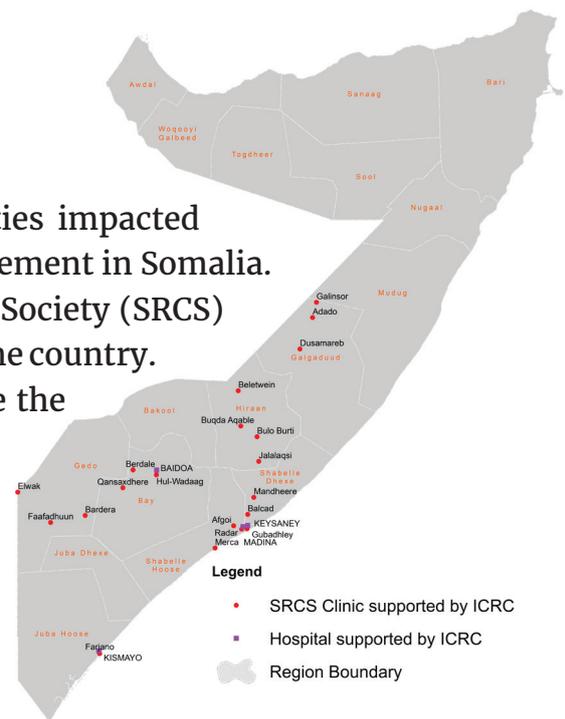
26 APRIL 2020



PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN SOMALIA

Coronavirus poses a health threat to communities impacted by war and violence, climatic shocks, and displacement in Somalia. The ICRC together with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) are taking immediate steps to fight COVID-19 in the country.

The ICRC is adapting existing programs to tackle the virus while continuing its work to support communities affected by armed conflict and violence. Together, the ICRC and SRCS have trained staff and SRCS volunteers with the aim of raising awareness about COVID-19 and steps that should be followed to prevent further spread of the virus.



IN COMMUNITIES

The ICRC and the SRCS reaches out to communities, including displaced people, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the areas served by the **29** SRCS Primary Health Care (PHC) clinics supported by the ICRC in Jubaland, South West State, Hirshabelle and Galmudug. In Somaliland and Puntland, the SRCS is implementing the same activities in another **35** PHC clinics supported by other members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



To carry prevention messages to the general public, radio spots are being broadcasted by **10** radio stations across the country.



- **604** volunteers and **378** health staff trained on Covid-19 prevention messages across south and central Somalia. **463** health staff working in **four** hospitals supported by the ICRC were trained as well.



- **19,470** health promotion sessions in groups of **10** organised through health workers and religious leaders have been held within areas served by PHC clinics; **186,004** people attended those sessions, notably in Banaadir, Lower Juba, Gedo, Hiiran, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Galgadud; **1,035** sessions to which **5,652** people attended were held at hospital level.



- In the **29** PHC clinics supported by the ICRC, **35** handwashing areas were established, while more than **10,000** litres of chlorine have been used for disinfection purposes and **38,710** pieces of soap distributed.
- **143,568** pieces of soaps were distributed to communities.



- **29** PHC clinics have established a basic triage area where beneficiaries are screened. SRCS staff and volunteers have been trained to support community surveillance and contact tracing. **49** health education sessions with **239** people in attendance were conducted. The ICRC is also supporting contact tracing through its Community Call Centre. **71** contacts linked to **31** suspected cases are currently being traced in Banadir, Baidoa, Kismayo, Bardhere and Ceel Wak.



- At Baidoa, Madina and Keysaney hospitals, tents will be erected to support moderate to severe cases of COVID-19 (but not the **5%** cases that will need ventilators). Human resources, as well as infection control, case management and use of PPE trainings are provided to the hospitals, along with medical materials, medication and PPE. Head nurses and teaching nurses were trained as well on dead body management..



- Screening/triage areas and isolation centers for **15** and **10** beds in Kismayo and Keysaney hospitals respectively, are being set up.



Through its community hygiene promotion activities, the ICRC and the SRCS, with its teams of volunteers undertakes household visits, handing out information on COVID-19, soap and chlorine tabs.



- **8.5** million chlorine tabs and **284,856** pieces of soap have been prepositioned in nine branches of the SRCS. The community hygiene promotion outreach campaigns are planned to cover over **156,000** households (over **930,000** people) in the riverine areas.



- **42** SRCS volunteers have been trained on dissemination of hygiene promotion and COVID-19 prevention messages in Baardheere, Ceel Wak and Dhobley.
- **8,055** households (**48,330** beneficiaries) in Bardhere district and **4,992** households (**29,952** beneficiaries) in Ceel Waq district have received soap and chlorine tabs alongside a COVID-19 prevention pamphlet.



IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SRCS/ICRC RESTORING FAMILY LINKS (RFL) PROGRAM



- All SRCS RFL volunteers have been briefed on prevention messages on COVID-19 to promote with beneficiaries. Health promotional material is distributed in **6** IDP settlements in Mogadishu and **3** in Baidoa. Hand washing facilities (**300l** water tank) in each camp were installed. **400** IDPs will benefit of basic hygiene and free RFL phone calls.



- Hand washing facilities have been installed in **3** SRCS offices along the Somaliland/Puntland migration route, as well as at entry points of returnees in Berbera and Bosaso sea ports. RFL teams are equipped with basic hygiene items to ensure continuity of providing free RFL phone services.



IN PLACES OF DETENTION

In over **20** places of detention, COVID-19 prevention information and hygiene items have been distributed. In the most populated sites, additional hygiene measures and handwashing stations are provided. Written recommendations to prevent the spread of the virus while respecting detainees' human dignity have been submitted to central and state-level detention authorities.



To cover their needs for the next **six** months, hygiene items were distributed to all detainees and prison staff in places of detention across Somalia, including the central prisons in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa, Garowe and Hargeisa:



- Information sessions on COVID-19 prevention, along with posters and other materials, is being given to all detainees, prison staff and managers. Over a **1,000** masks have been provided for prison staff.



- Pieces of soap have been distributed to over **4,045** detainees and **738** prison staff..
- More than **100** handwashing stations have been equipped to ensure that detainees and prison staff have access at all times.



- **36,000** laundry soaps, **9,000** kg washing powder, as well as other cleaning material and equipment have been provided.
- Phones and SIM cards are provided to allow detainees to maintain contact with their families in places of detention where family visits have been suspended.

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The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, doing everything it can to protect their dignity and relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing Universal humanitarian principles.

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