

SOMALIA

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

17 MAY 2020



CURBING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

The Covid-19 pandemic is both a public health emergency and a humanitarian crisis. For those already suffering from the effects of violence and climatic shocks, Covid-19 is one more threat to their lives, health and livelihoods. The Somali people's needs for assistance and protection remain overwhelming. The ICRC, in close collaboration with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), has immediately adapted its humanitarian operation to respond to the situation, complementing the response of Somali authorities and other international organisations, and in keeping with the fundamental principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. They also mobilised to protect their staff members' health and allow them to continue their humanitarian work, while minimising any risks of contributing to further spreading the virus.

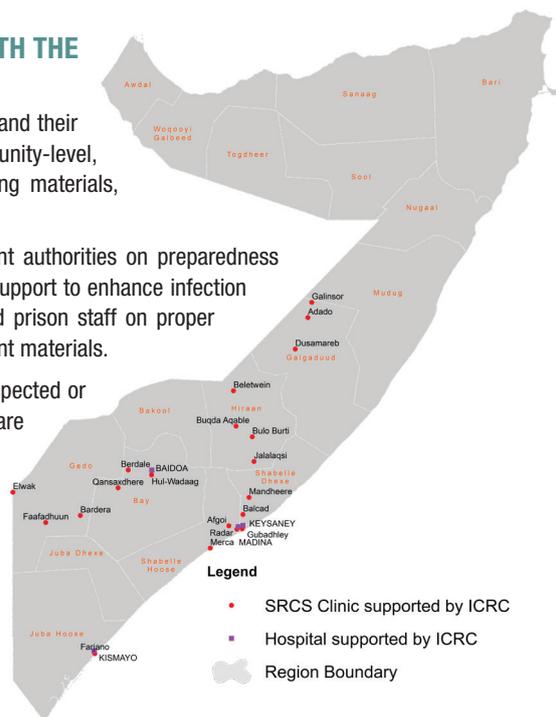
The ICRC adapted its response both by adjusting existing programs to respond to the emergency and by developing new programmes to tackle the specific needs that emerge with the pandemic. ICRC's humanitarian activities to address and mitigate the consequences of conflict and

natural disaster continue to be implemented wherever possible. Many of these activities, such as micro-economic initiatives, livelihood support, or access to water and health in remote areas remain an integral part of supporting the Somali population through the crisis.

FACTS AND FIGURES

SINCE THE ONSET OF THE CRISIS, THE ICRC HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE SRCS:

- To share accurate information on COVID-19 and how people can protect themselves and their families from the disease. This includes radio spots, small group sessions at community-level, including in IDP settlements, information posters, as well as providing handwashing materials, hygiene items and protective equipment to curb the spread of the virus.
- To monitor the situation in central prisons and engage in dialogue with the relevant authorities on preparedness and response measures to potential outbreaks; to give them technical and material support to enhance infection prevention and control measures; to provide adequate information to detainees and prison staff on proper hygiene practices, as well as soap and other hygiene items, and cleaning or disinfectant materials.
- To establish basic screening procedures at clinic and hospital levels to ensure no suspected or confirmed case enters the facilities and that normal consultations and operations are maintained; to assist in the surveillance and contact tracing of suspected cases; to support the establishment of isolation areas in health facilities for moderate to severe cases (not the 5% that will need ventilators); to provide guidance with recommendations for authorities and forensic institutions for the dignified management of the dead.
- To assist in the maintenance of family links for migrants, IDPs and detainees no longer benefitting from family visits.
- To provide economic support through cash distribution to the most vulnerable communities in our areas of operations.



REINFORCING PREVENTION AND GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES WITHIN COMMUNITIES

The ICRC and the SRCS are reaching out to communities, including displaced people, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the areas served by the **29** PHC clinics supported by the ICRC in Banadir, Jubaland, South West State, Hirshabelle and Galmudug. In Somaliland and Puntland, the SRCS is implementing similar activities in another **42** PHC clinics supported by other members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- Radio spots broadcasted daily by **12** radio stations across the country to carry prevention messages to the public.
- **290** SRCS volunteers and **373** health staff of PHC clinics trained on Covid-19 prevention messages; **637** health staff working in Medina, Keysaney, Baidoa and Kismayo hospitals trained as well.
- **33,409** health promotion sessions reached **318,921** people in Banaadir, Lower Juba, Gedo, Hirran, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Galgaduud among other regions; **2,412** sessions held at hospital level, reaching **18,366** people.
- **243,460** pieces of soaps distributed to communities.

Through its community hygiene promotion activities, the ICRC and the SRCS, with its teams of volunteers, undertake household visits, handing out prevention information, soap and chlorine tabs. The community hygiene promotion outreach campaigns are planned to cover over **156,000** households (over **930,000** people) in the riverine areas.

- **56** SRCS volunteers have been trained on dissemination of hygiene promotion and COVID-19 prevention messages in Bardhere, Ceel Wak, Dhobley and Afgoye.
- **8,055** households (**48,330** beneficiaries) in Bardhere district, **4,992** households (**29,952** beneficiaries) in Ceel Waq district, **3,500** households (**21,000** beneficiaries) in Dhobley and **1,050** households (**6,300** beneficiaries) in Afgoye have received soap and chlorine tabs alongside a COVID-19 prevention pamphlet.
- In IDP camps across the country, **59** SRCS volunteers were trained, while **1,186** health promotion sessions have been held, reaching **11,930** people; **44** handwashing stations were established, while **11,474** pieces of soaps were distributed.
- SRCS RFL volunteers have also been briefed on prevention messages to promote with beneficiaries. Health promotional material has been distributed in **6** IDP settlements in Mogadishu and **3** in Baidoa. Handwashing facilities (**300** water tank) in each camp were installed. **400** IDPs benefit of basic hygiene facilities and free RFL phone calls.
- Handwashing 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.



PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE IN PLACES OF DETENTION

To cover their needs for **six** months, hygiene items were distributed to all detainees and prison staff in **24** 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, were given to detainees, prison staff and managers.
- Pieces of soap have been distributed to over **4,550** detainees and **1,000** prison staff.
- More than **100** handwashing stations have been equipped to ensure that detainees and prison staff have access at all times.
- **44,868** laundry soaps, **11,250** kg washing powder, as well as other cleaning material and equipment have been provided. Over **1,600** masks and **300** pair of gloves have been distributed as well. In addition, **700** locally-produced face masks and material for the making **200** improvised face shields were provided to Garowe Central Prison.
- 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.
- Written recommendations to prevent the spread of the virus while respecting detainees' human dignity have been submitted to central and state-level detention authorities.



SUPPORTING THE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- In **29** PHC clinics, **30** handwashing areas were established, while more than **20,000** litres of chlorine have been used for disinfection purposes and **64,055** pieces of soap distributed.
- Basic triage area where beneficiaries are screened were established in **29** PHC clinics, while SRCS staff and volunteers have been trained to support community surveillance and contact tracing. Screening/triage areas and isolation centers for **15** and **10** beds in Kismayo and Keysaney hospitals respectively, have been set up.
- Contact tracing is undertaken through ICRC's Community Call Centre. **186** contacts linked to **78** suspected cases are currently being traced in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo, Bardhere, Ceel Wak, Balad and Beletweyne.
- At Baidoa, Kismayo 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.



SUSTAINING ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE PEOPLE'S RESILIENCE

- Multipurpose cash grants have been distributed to the **16,935** vulnerable households in Garasbaley, Kaahda, Wanlaweyn, Hamarweyne, Bardhere, Daynile, Adado, Dinsoor, Hobiyo, Qandala and Lasquorey. An additional **3,000** households in those places will be assisted in the coming weeks..

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www.icrc.org
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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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