

COVID-19 Response



A community member washing her hands during COVID-19 awareness campaign in Baidoa.

ADRA Boosts COVID-19 Response in its Programming

ADRA Somalia has distributed thousands of soap and hand sanitizers to internally displaced people living in Jubbaland and Puntland states of Somalia, health facilities and government ministries.

As the country, communities and individuals strive to adjust to the new realities of the coronavirus pandemic, ADRA has also prioritized preparedness and promotion of preventive measures in support to government's efforts through the Ministry of Health.

Through the SIDA funded Somalia WASH Service Delivery Improvement (SOWASDIP) project, ADRA reached an estimated **4,600** households (27,600 people) living in Kismayo and Garowe IDP camps, health facilities and government institutions with soap and hand sanitizers. **28,000** pieces of soap and 200 litres of hand sanitizers were distributed.

These efforts will go towards enhancing hygiene and safety practices such as handwashing to prevent or minimize the

spread of COVID-19. According to WHO recommendations, washing hands with soap and water for approximately 20 seconds and as frequently as possible, is one of the preventive measure against the spread of COVID-19.



Distribution of soap and hand sanitizers to the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water in Jubbaland State.

ADRA has also been in partnership with Somali Broadcasting Corporation in Puntland to air COVID-19 awareness and preventive messages three times a day. The messages that began in April were run through to the first week of May, targeting an estimated 1.2 million people across Nugal and Bari regions of Puntland. [Listen here.](#)

Other Key Achievements

Baidoa

- In collaboration with the South West State Ministry of Health, we conducted outreach campaigns and distribution of soaps and sanitizers targeting **12,000** people in internally displaced persons camps and host community.
- In partnership with Baidoa Media Cooperation, we are airing awareness and prevention messages through the radio three times a day, targeting approximately 1.5 million people in eight districts in Bay, Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions. [Listen here](#)

Somaliland

- Handed over **100** cartons of soap (114 pieces of soap each) to the Ministry of Health, targeting **2,300** households. The hand over was aired on SAABTV. [Watch here](#)
- Mounted three billboards in the big cities in Somaliland.
- Airing of COVID-19 awareness and prevention messages through the National TV: [Watch here](#) and Radio: [Listen here](#)

Mogadishu

- Reached **2,000** households with hygiene kits (soaps and hand sanitizers) in four internally displaced persons camps.
- Airing of COVID-19 messages on Radio Shabelle.

Planned interventions are underway in Kismayo to air awareness messages on radio.

ADRA will continue to work with the Federal Government of Somalia, the states and other partners to limit the spread of the virus by scaling up of preventive measures through awareness raising.



Distribution of soap and hand sanitizers to IDP camps in Baidoa during an awareness campaign for COVID-19

Education Cannot Wait Project Ensures Continuity of Learning in Somalia During and After COVID-19 Emergency



Pupils in class in Somalia-FILE/ADRA.

It has been weeks since the Federal Government of Somalia made a deliberate decision to close all learning institutions after Somalia reported its first COVID-19 case in March 2020. This was part of measures put in place to slow down the spread of the coronavirus disease.

As the situation prevails, ADRA with funding from Education Cannot Wait (ECW) will ensure continuity of learning in Somalia through implementation of key activities aimed at maintaining quality learning and well-being of learners, teachers and school communities during the COVID-19 emergency.

The intervention will directly benefit **23,000** learners in internally displaced settlements, vulnerable hosts and rural communities in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubbaland, Banadir and South West States of Somalia.

The six-months COVID-19 response project will support the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MOECHE) in providing continued access to education through distance learning

opportunities and support schools to implement prevention measures to minimize transmission of the virus upon re-opening of schools.

Some of the activities that will be undertaken to ensure increased and continued access to education, will include development and implementation of alternative education options like radio and online education programming. There will also be provision of psycho-social support through headteacher networks and teacher incentives.

The intervention has also been designed to further strengthen inclusion and accountability to the most vulnerable children by ensuring their education needs during the pandemic will be met.

In collaboration with the MoECHE and Federal Member States, the project will ensure safe re-opening of schools in the targeted regions through facilitation of safe return to quality learning for learners, teachers and school communities. Different stakeholders at school, community and government

level will be engaged to ensure schools are safer, child friendly and provide a better environment for the learners.

The actions put in place for the safe re-opening of schools include, mobilization and sensitization of school community and stakeholders; development and dissemination of appropriate messages on safe re-opening of schools through radio messaging; development and implementation of accelerated learning or remedial programs to make up for the lost learning and teaching; provision of psycho-social support and provision of safe and adequate WASH facilities.

The response project is holistic and the activities undertaken will help minimize and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on learners, teachers and communities

while working with the education sector to build back better and safer school environments.

ADRA has an on-going multi-year programme with Education Cannot Wait and the Federal Government of Somalia to boost education opportunities for children and youth impacted by on-going crises in Somalia through increased access to quality, inclusive, gender-sensitive, child-friendly and sustainable education.

Education Cannot Wait is a global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises. Working with a wide range of partners – governments, UN agencies, private sector and philanthropic foundations and civil society.

ADRA Responds to COVID-19 in Somaliland



Fatima washing her hands in one of the installed hand wash facilities in her village.

The basic act of washing hands has always been an important factor in preventing the spread of diseases. As the coronavirus spreads, washing our hands in the right way and regularly is one of the most effective ways to prevent its spread.

For Fatima Ali, washing hands properly is now an important aspect of her life.

“I never knew that washing hands in the right way could kill germs. Right now, I have learned the proper way to wash my hands and keep them clean,” she says.

Fatima is from Dhumay village in Lascanod District, Somaliland where ADRA through the RESTORE project funded by European Union and in collaboration with SIDA under the SomReP consortium, coordinated activities for COVID-19 prevention and awareness response. The response will reach approximately **186,000** people from **31,000** households in Lascanod targeting IDPS, pastoralists and communities in 12 villages.

The project installed hand washing facilities with soap and water at strategic market and health centres in the targeted villages. The hand wash facilities were fabricated to have three taps, hence



A boy washing his hands during an awareness campaign in Hargaga Village, Lascanod.

three people can use it at the same time while ensuring that social distancing is maintained.

To ensure that communities receive the right information, ADRA employed 13 health professional workers recommended by the Ministry of Health at regional level to spread key awareness and prevention messages on COVID-19. The health workers were each equipped with megaphones.

For Fatima, not having the right information meant that she did not know what COVID-19 was all about. But through the health promoters, she knows something about the virus.

“I had heard so many things about this disease. The health promoter who talked about the disease made us understand about the disease and what I need to do to protect myself, my family and community.”

Billboards were also put up at the town centre in Lascanod with awareness and prevention messages. Ahmed, a taxi driver at the town commended the installation of the billboard and how the message has

changed the way he now does things.

“Since the day the billboard was installed, the message is a constant reminder of the disease to me and what I am expected to do, to ensure I stay safe.”

As the coronavirus continues to spread, ADRA is coordinating response activities for COVID-19 prevention and awareness through its programming and is working diligently to ensure that we all play our part in fighting the pandemic.



Some of the health promoters to help in the awareness campaign. Each health promoter received a megaphone for the campaign.