

BACKGROUND¹

The year 2010 will not only mark 18 years of conflict for Somalia, but will also herald the first generation of Somali children who come of age without ever having lived through a single year of peace. The effects of the prolonged fighting, combined with years of severe drought and famine, continue to have devastating consequences for the health and well-being of the Somali people. Fighting has killed hundreds of thousands of Somalis and driven more than a million more from their homes. In many parts of the country, social and health infrastructure and rule of law are non-existent.

The situation of women and young people is especially precarious. The rate of pregnancy and childbirth related deaths across Somalia is among the highest in the world. Many Somali women who die or are disabled during childbirth did not have the choice to postpone pregnancy due to lack of access to family planning services. Poor antenatal and postnatal care, with the almost complete lack of emergency obstetric referral care for birth complications, further contribute to the high rates of mortality and disability.

Gender-based violence is on the increase throughout Somalia. Although accurate figures are not available, principally due to the high level of under-reporting, gender-based violence remains a major protection concern, manifested in harmful traditional practices and in acts of sexual violence against women and girls including rape. IDP women and girls, particularly those belonging to minority groups, are increasingly becoming the targets of sexual violence by youth gangs. This violence and other factors have made young displaced people, especially women and girls, increasingly vulnerable to HIV infection.

UNFPA AREAS OF CONCERN AND PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS FOR 2010

INTERVENTION AREAS		AMOUNT REQUESTED
Save Motherhood		US \$ 748,000
SOM-10/H/29147/1171	Reducing maternal and neonatal deaths and disabilities through provision of quality emergency obstetric care (EmOC) and essential reproductive health (RH) services including ending obstetric fistula care services in Somalia focusing on conflict-affected population	748,000
Gender Based Violence		US \$ 930,400
SOM-10/P-HR-RL/29113/1171	Prevention and response to gender-based violence in Somalia	930,400
TOTAL		US \$ 1,678,400

¹ Please see [Volume 1](#) of the Somalia CAP for more information on the crisis, its humanitarian consequences and overall sector response plans.

SAFE MOTHERHOOD

Basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care services in Somalia are largely unavailable. Only 33 percent of pregnancies are attended by trained health care workers, who often lack essential equipment and basic skills. In the most vulnerable areas, the maternal mortality ratio is 1,400 deaths for every 100,000 live births; infant mortality rates are 86 per 1,000 live births and only 9 percent of births take place in hospitals or other health facilities. Only 2 percent of deliveries are handled by medical doctors, 19 percent are assisted by family members, and 23 percent are carried out with the help of nurses and midwives. Infrastructure for delivery of maternal and child healthcare is very poor with many referral hospitals non-operational.

In collaboration with WHO, UNFPA is requesting US \$748,000 out of a total project budget of US \$1,701,370 to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths for displaced and host populations in the three zones of Somalia through the provision of quality emergency obstetric care and essential reproductive health care, including obstetric fistula care services.

Project activities include:

- Extending basic Emergency Obstetric Care services in 10 centers in selected sites in the vicinity of vulnerable populations, and provide basic reproductive health medical equipment to 10 hospitals;
- Establishing an Emergency Obstetric Care referral system, including transport and communication, to support outreach services to internally displaced persons communities and other vulnerable groups;
- Building the capacity of Emergency Obstetric Care service providers (doctors, nurses, midwives, etc.);
- Conducting fistula repair, gender-violence mitigation measures and addressing Female Genital Mutilation through advocacy campaigns for internally displaced persons and host communities (UNFPA activity).

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In Somalia, clan warfare, drought, floods and food insecurity have exacerbated gender-based violence through the displacement of communities and the breakdown in traditional support and protection structures. Lack of awareness and capacity to prevent and address gender-based violence has made women and young people increasingly vulnerable sexual violence and, consequently, to HIV. The impact of sexual violence, such as rape, can be devastating to a person's physical and mental health. A coordinated approach to tackle the widespread gender-based violence issue in Somalia is urgently needed.

In order to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and its consequences, including HIV/AIDS, for women, youth and other vulnerable groups in conflict and emergency situations in Somalia, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIFEM and UNICEF are requesting from donors US \$ 6,144,876. From the total amount of the project, UNFPA is requesting US \$930,400.

Project activities include:

- Strengthening gender-based violence referral pathways by providing both training and material support to ensure adequate provision and access to legal aid, psychosocial counseling, medical assistance and support to survivors;

- Initiating reintegration programmes targeting gender-based violence survivors and other vulnerable groups;
- Providing livelihood support to women and youths in internally displaced persons settings and host communities with particular focus on gender-based violence survivors;
- Increasing awareness of Female Genital Mutilation complications through media outlets, religious leaders and other relevant stakeholders;
- Advocating for the inclusion of Female Genital Mutilation policy into the gender policy through advocacy activities with relevant ministries ;
- Establishing a multipurpose protection information center and a one-stop service center for emergency gender-based violence response;
- Establishing a religious leaders' network to campaign and raise awareness on abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation and other forms of gender-based violence;
- Community mobilization for child protection, with a focus on gender-based violence (child protection committees, child protection advocates and IDP focal points);
- Deployment and support to gender-based violence outreach workers in selected communities of seven regions of South and Central Somalia and IDP settlements in Puntland and Somaliland to identify and refer survivors of gender-based violence to appropriate services.

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