



The WHO-USAID project will improve COVID-19 vaccination rates across Somalia25 August 2022, Mogadishu – The World Health Organization (WHO) country office for Somalia and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have launched a new project which aims to fill current needs to prevent community spread of COVID-19 across Somalia. The project will address existing gaps in coordination, surveillance, vaccination and the operational response to COVID-19 and help the country’s health system recover from the pandemic towards a more inclusive and equitable system.

As of 24 August 2022, Somalia had 27 137 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 1351 related deaths. The country’s disease surveillance system remains fragmented and weak. Currently, only 62% of health facilities in Somalia are reporting through the early warning and alert and response network. The country was able to vaccinate only 15% of its population against COVID-19 fully, leaving a large number of high-risk populations unvaccinated. Somalia’s fragile health system has been struggling to sustain the progress made in containing and mitigating the transmission of COVID-19 among vulnerable populations, especially among around 47% of people who live in hard-to-reach areas, where disease reporting is weak and incomplete. This results in underreporting and the actual magnitude and size of the COVID-19 epidemic in the country may not represent the true burden of the disease.



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