

Report Launch

2pm August 25th 2020

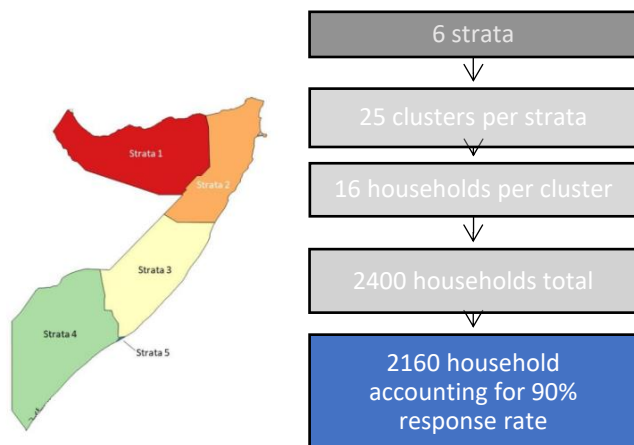
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The **Somalia Micronutrient Survey (SMS 2019)** was conducted by Federal Ministry of Health, in collaboration with UNICEF Somalia.

The survey aimed to **provide a comprehensive picture of nutrition indicators in Somalia** and review the past decade to see if there are improvements.

The nutrition status of **women of reproductive age and children under five years** was assessed by the survey. This **up-to-date information will be used to develop evidence-based policies** to improve nutrition in Somalia.

Key Methods: Five geographic areas and a sixth group including internally displaced people (IDPs) across the country made up the six strata of the study. Data was collected between December 2018 and July 2019. Information from blood samples was gathered to check for vitamin and mineral deficiencies including iron, folate, vitamin B12, zinc and vitamin A. Children's growth was also assessed and thinness, overweight and obesity were measured in women. Malaria in women and children and the iodine content of water and salt was also examined.



Key Results:

- **17%** of children showed signs of **chronic malnourishment**. This irreversible condition, stunting, curtails their physical and cognitive growth.
- **11%** of children suffered from **acute malnutrition** and were too thin for their height (wasting).
- **13%** of the children had nutrition problems related to inadequate diets (**underweight**).
- **Internally displaced children consistently had the poorest results:** 28% suffered from stunting and 23% were underweight.
- More than **40%** of women and children were **anemic** and over **26%** had iron deficiency anemia, while **34%** of children and **11%** of women had **vitamin A deficiency**.

Key Recommendations:

1. Continue work to **improve the diets of children** and start creating programs that **focus on the diets of women, especially pregnant women**. Provide nutrition supplements, information and food programs to ensure people eat enough and eat the right foods.
2. Improve infant and young child feeding practices to increase dietary diversity, **improving the uptake of vitamins and minerals**. Provide iron through food or supplements to boost children's energy, enhance their ability to learn and improve future economic growth.
3. **Tackle vitamin A deficiency in children** to improve their immunity and decrease illnesses.

For more information, please contact:

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