COVID-19 SOMALI HIGH-FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEY

Round 2

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

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ABBREVIATIONS

CATI	Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview
COVID-19	Coronavirus Virus Disease 2019
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
RDD	Random Digit Dialing
SHFS	Somali High-Frequency Survey
SHFPS	Somali High-Frequency Phone Survey
SHFPS II	Somali High-Frequency Phone Survey Round II

1 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Somali High-Frequency Phone Survey (SHFPS) has been designed and conducted to monitor the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Somali households and to inform policy responses and interventions. The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on households have created an urgent need for timely data and evidence to help monitor and mitigate the social and economic impacts of the crisis, especially on the poor and most vulnerable. The survey covers important and relevant topics, including knowledge of COVID-19 and adoption of preventative behaviors, economic activity and income sources, access to basic goods and services, and exposure to shocks and coping mechanisms.

This note presents the survey methodology and implementation details for round 2 of the Somali High-Frequency Phone Survey (SHFPS II) conducted in January 2021. Round 1 of the SHFPS was implemented between June and July 2020.

The SHFPS II has been designed to be representative at the national level and to provide reliable estimates at the state level and by population type. The geographic stratification considered Galmudug, HirShabelle, Jubaland, Puntland, and South West, the claimed state of Somaliland and the Banadir administrative region. The sample was stratified by four population types: urban, rural, nomads, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).[1] Data from round 1 of the SHFPS served as the sampling frame. Initially, a sample size of 1,800 households was targeted in round 2. However, due to implementation challenges in reaching specific population groups via phone, the sample size was slightly reduced. At the end of the data collection, 1,756 households had been interviewed.

To ensure the representativeness of the distribution of Somali households by state and population type, each household observation requires adjustment by a sampling weight. During round 1 of the SHFPS, weights were calculated using a two-stage weighting procedure: propensity score weighting and post-stratification. Propensity score weighting was implemented to correct for the selection bias generated by Random Digit Dialing (RDD), while post-stratification aimed to correct for distortions in sample coverage by state and population type. Both sets of weights were calculated based on the Somali High-Frequency Survey II (SHFS II). For each observation, the final weight was a multiplication of the propensity score weight and the post-stratification weight.

The propensity score weights were calculated based on a representative household's probability of being included in the high-frequency phone survey. To predict this probability, four variables contained in both the SHFS II (prior representative survey) and the SHFPS (high-frequency phone survey) were used: state, population type, household size, and satellite ownership (a proxy for asset ownership). Observations in the phone survey with lower probability of being included in the phone survey receive a higher weight in the sample. The sum of all propensity score weights is equal to the total sample size.

The post-stratification weights are analytical weights that were constructed to ensure the representativeness of the sample by state and population type. Household population estimates for mutually exclusive state and population type cells from the SHFS II served as reference values for constructing these analytical weights. For each cell, weights are calculated by dividing the propensity weighted sample population by the actual population size. The sum of all post-stratification weights is equal to the real population size.

Of the 1,756 respondents interviewed in round 2, 91% are base respondents who also participated in round 1, while the remaining 9% are new respondents who were contacted through RDD. The

[1] IDPs are defined as internally displaced persons living in an IDP settlement.

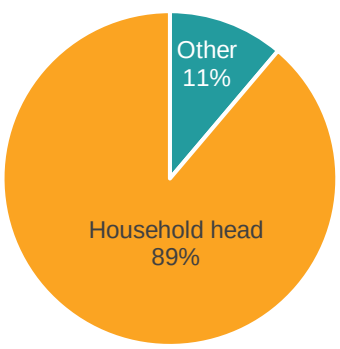
response rate for panel interviews was 84%, while the response rate for the RDD interviews was 11%.[2] The interviews were conducted using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) and the survey was implemented on the SurveyCTO platform.

[2] The response rate is calculated as the percentage of reached eligible households willing to participate in the survey.

2 HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

The sample composition in terms of population type, age, and gender is similar in both rounds of the phone survey. Most households (39%) reside in urban areas. Nomadic and rural households are nearly equally represented (24% and 23%, respectively), while Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in settlements only represent 14% of households in the sample. Most respondents (89%) head their household, with a higher proportion of households headed by men (92%). The gender distribution of respondents largely reflects the Somali population and is similar across population types and states. Women and men are equally represented in round 2 (50%). Typical of the Somali population, most of the respondents are young. The majority of them (62%) are younger than 40 years and only 12% are older than 60 years.

Figure 1: Status of respondent within the household (left) and households by population type (right)



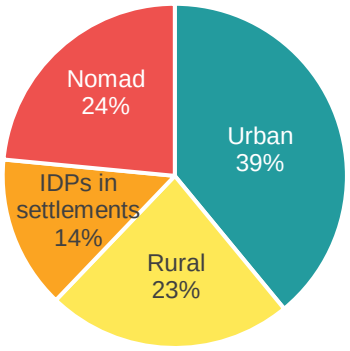
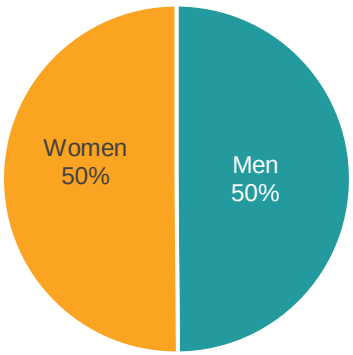
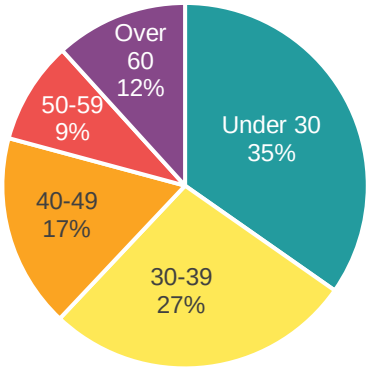


Figure 2: Gender (left) and age (right) of respondents





Most respondents (59%) did not complete primary schooling, with a higher proportion of women (71%) not completing their primary school education. In turn, only 12% completed primary school, while a further 7% completed secondary school and 14% attended tertiary institutions. In addition, 8% attended Qurani school. The average household size is 5.8 persons. With an average of 5.0 members, urban households are smaller than households from other population types. Over a quarter of households reside in Somaliland (26%), while only 4% come from Galmudug.

Figure 3: Highest level of education of respondents

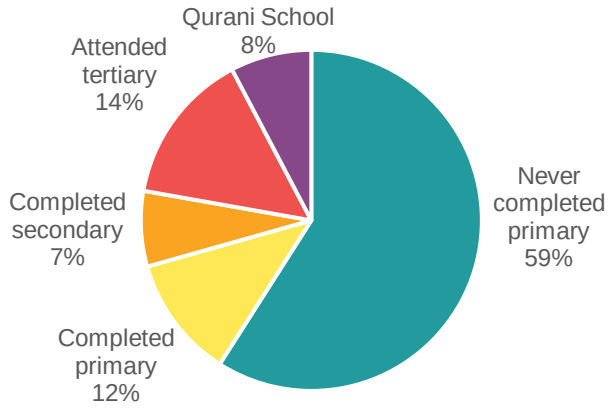
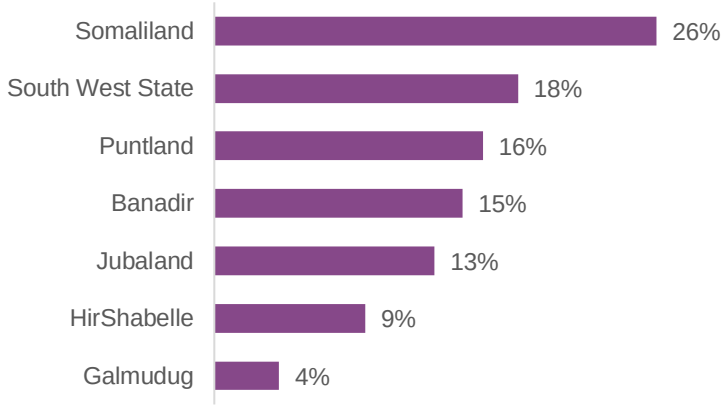



Figure 4: Households by state