

COMMITMENT AND LOVE IN THE MIDST OF FEAR AND UNCERTAINTIES

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There are moments we are driven by fear, yet it does not shut us down. It wakes us up.

For Mohamed Farah, he felt afraid doing any activity during this pandemic but knowing that he was doing it for a cause, gave him the impetus to keep on going.

“I felt scared when we were at the COVID-19 prevention and treatment center to check on the work’s progress that was on-going,” says Mohamed.

The COVID-19 centre in Kismayo was commonly known as the Maxfalka MCH, but Jubaland state of Somalia chose it as a COVID-19 treatment center. At the time ADRA’s WASH activities were continuing at the center to build two latrines, handwash facilities and rehabilitation of 8 latrines.

As a humanitarian worker for nine years, five of which have been with ADRA, Mohamed’s passion, commitment and love to others is what drives him to do what he does. However, with the virus he has had to change the way he works.

“Everything has changed. Things are not normal now. Our whole way of living has changed. I must constantly wash my hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer. I need to use a mask wherever I go out for field visits. When in the office, we practice



Mohamed during one of the community awareness campaigns in Kismayo.

social distancing and avoid unnecessary travels,” he says.

Working as a front-line staff, during this pandemic, Mohamed has learnt that working together is the only way required to defeat the spread of the pandemic.

“I have learnt as human beings; we can manage to slow down the impact of the virus by looking after each other and keeping to the guidelines shared by WHO. The virus has brought us together and showed us that we can defeat it, if we are all working together.”



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Handwash facilities being fixed at Iftin school in Kismayo. Eight schools received the handwash facilities.

Somalia reported the first COVID-19 case in 19th March. Since then, 2642 cases have been confirmed as at 16th June. In Jubaland state of Somalia, 171 cases have been confirmed in the same period.

“When the government announced the first case of coronavirus, I knew this was going to be serious and that the dreaded risk had come to my country. I never imagined that it could reach here in Somalia as I felt it was a foreign disease.”

Working with the government and especially the Ministry of Health, ADRA has integrated COVID-19 education and awareness campaigns in its programming, thereby complementing the government’s efforts in reducing the risk of the spread.

“As an organization, we have distributed COVID-19 hygiene kits and awareness messages in Kismayo. The awareness campaigns attracted the attention of the communities living in the areas and the billboards captivated the passersby. People are also grateful of ADRA’s efforts in the fight against COVID-19,” he says.

Drawing his strength from his experience in emergencies, especially in WASH and education sector and his knowledge of the community and the local administration, Mohamed urges all humanitarian workers at the forefront to keep on saving lives.

“COVID-19 is a serious disease and honors no boundaries, therefore as humanitarian workers, our top value should be on saving lives.

The pandemic has altered the livelihoods of people and especially to the most vulnerable in the community. Mohamed therefore appeals for more support to these people

“I urge donors to expand the emergency response by adding food rations to help more people who have been sole bread winners but have now lost their source of income. When distributing the WASH kits, people request for food, he explains.”

Mohamed Farah is ADRA’s senior project officer based in Kismayo.