

“WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19”

“...The best part of my job is that it allows me to be part of ADRA’s vision of change — I help to reduce the suffering of people and create a long-lasting change.”

“Being a humanitarian worker means to have human values and an understanding of all human situations that we share; regardless of race, ethnicity, religion and social status. It’s working towards common human goals and ensuring I support people with respect and dignity.

As a humanitarian worker I am able to identify people’s needs and vulnerability with empathy, while being passionate about walking the extra mile to help alleviate the suffering of those in the midst of a crisis.

My biggest fear as a front-line staff during the COVID-19 crisis has been putting my health on the line to help communities understand what the virus is all about during awareness campaigns and distribution of soap and hand sanitizers in IDP camps where social distancing is compromised.



Musa Mursal Mohamed conducting a COVID-19 awareness campaign in Baidoa

The announcement of the first case of COVID-19 in Somalia was a sad and a fearful moment; sad because of the occurrence and fear because of the prevailing working environments that I had to face. However, my conscious overruled my fears that I should not stay in my comfort zone while others needed a helping hand.

Since the moment I became a humanitarian worker, I have developed a new perspective of everything around me and I see the world differently. I am more conscious of people and their daily struggles to survive.



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Musa (left), talking to women at an IDP camp in Baidoa

Helping people has been my pillar of inspiration and one that uplifts me all the time. There are times when I want to rest, but my heart would urge me to continue helping those in need.

As a front-line staff I get my courage and commitment during this crisis from the support I get in ensuring my health and safety comes first. I strictly adhere to the appropriate precautions and advice provided by the public health agencies in order to protect myself and others around me.

One of the best things in life is seeing a smile in a person's face and knowing that you helped put it there". The responses of our beneficiaries have been full of appreciation. "Please visit us again, your COVID-19 awareness campaign has changed the way of living and the practice of hand washing will be followed strictly", says Hodhan, a camp leader through a phone call.

My work is important to me because I know it has a ripple effect as it impacts the lives of many families and vulnerable populations. The best part of my job is that it allows me to be part of ADRA's vision of change — I can help reduce the suffering of people as well as help create long-lasting change.

Working for ADRA feels like getting together every day with family members who have the same vision and purpose. The humanitarian heart of the team members is evident inside the office as well as out in the field."

Musa Mursal Mohamed is a Project Officer based in Baidoa, South West State.