

MORE CARE AND LOVE TO FIGHT THE PANDEMIC

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“Everyone has a story to tell when it comes to the impact of Covid-19 and particularly in relation to key life dimensions such as personal, family, friends and work-related aspects. The disease has affected both poor and rich, though, differently. To me it is a learning moment and my key reflections range from fear of death to social disconnection and loneliness, as well as the vulnerabilities associated with human beings. On the other hand, good habits such as developing a strong culture of reading, adjusting to new ways of living, learning to teach remotely as well as being caring and loving to my family and the society at large.

As a father and a humanitarian practitioner dealing with saving lives on a day to day basis in Somalia, I am worried for the already vulnerable communities in Somalia, particularly the IDPs who live in overcrowded spaces with poor access to basic services such as health, WASH and food.

The Covid-19 has also impacted me personally. First and foremost, I had an already personal plans of going abroad to pursue important tasks, but travel restrictions have not made that possible. On the other hand, there is also a positive aspect to this in the sense that it has given me time to be with my family. I also have sufficient time to listen and read the Quran; hence it has given me a better time to reflect and pray.



Osman Nur is ADRA's WASH Deputy Manager based in Mogadishu

The situation has also demanded an increased room for caring, loving, learning and teaching. As a result, it has taught us as a family to revisit our ways of living in terms of livelihood management, hygiene practices, lifestyle, and developing stringent modes of living at all the times for the purposes of better preparation and prevention of the disease.

On the flip side, the situation has created an enormous stress at family level, where everyone is stressed about the disease as it is new to us. As a responsible father, I had to orient the family to not be shocked and stay calm and follow the instructions on the prevention



“As a father, I had to orient my family ... to follow the instructions on the prevention of COVID-19..”

Osman (centre), talking to a community member in Somalia.

of COVID-19 by the Ministry of Health. In addition, I procured sanitizers and other essential things and inducted my family on how to wash their hands frequently.

I also got adequate time to teach my children on new skills such as reading and memorizing the Quran, ironing their clothes, among other household chores so that they are responsible. The rationale of engaging children to help in house chores is to train and prepare them for the world. It is a way of teaching them that hard work and learning is the sure way to personal and professional growth and hence, prosperity.

Through this pandemic, I have learnt that it's good to have an emergency mindset. The ongoing projects need to have a provision of contingency fund that can enable us respond quickly whenever such crisis unfolds in Somalia context where the humanitarian crises are many. As we move forward in providing the humanitarian and development services, I strongly advise that we incorporate crisis modifier into our projects.

Through all these, I have found some inspirations working at the forefront. Firstly, when I got an email from my line manager with the decision to liaise with the regional authorities across Somalia to embark on awareness raising and distribution of hygiene

kit aimed at the prevention of COVID-19. This was the triggering moment and we participated in the COVID-19 response. Secondly, I was driven by the humanitarian guiding principles and values. Thirdly, our humanitarian objective to alleviate the suffering and avert the death of the vulnerable communities in Somalia.

As we worked with the beneficiaries during this time, especially in the IDP settlements, they were grateful for ADRA's interventions. The governments of Puntland and Jubbaland also appraised the timely awareness raising and distribution of hygiene kits in the fight against the spread of COVID-19.

This pandemic is a test to all human being in the world, as it calls us to revisit our actions and deeds. We need to be righteous and refrain from doing the bad things such as oppression, injustice and corruption. We need to be accountable to ourselves first, before we are accountable to others. Finally, follow the health precautions and protect yourself and others and take your time to deepen the relationship with Allah as the pandemic prevails.

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