Women in Global Health

Somalia 2019
Women in Global Health Leadership
A message from SIDRA Executive Director

The Somali Institute for Development Research and Analysis (SIDRA) perceives Women in Global Health initiative as having come at an opportune time in Somalia where women’s participation in health leadership is still minimal, at the same time with low but increasing levels of gender equality. At SIDRA, gender equality and advocacy for women’s affairs in all spheres of and our economy in Somalia, is positioned in our key priorities and with no doubt, women in Global Health leadership will open the gates of Somali Women’s capacity to strengthen their network and potential to participate in community and health leadership.

We remain staunch supporters of gender equality and greatly embrace any move towards gender partnership in Somalia and Africa as a continent. This however is not a one man’s game, but rather a duty of you and I, men and women, young and old, to unleash women’s potential in global health leadership.

It is thus our great pleasure to appreciate everyone’s effort towards organizing the launching of Women in Global Somalia chapter. Together, we can witness women’s efforts in leadership achievements of our Country and the entire globe.

Yours Truly,
Guled Salah Barre
Executive Director
Somali Institute for Development Research and Analysis (SIDRA)
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Mohamed Marty: Member Women in Global Health Somalia
Samira Duale Dirir: Operations Associate at SIDRA Institute
Ambara Mursal Noor: Communications Officer at SIDRA Institute
A SEAT AT THE TABLE FOR SOMALI WOMEN IN GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP

UNFPA Somalia is pleased to partner with Women in Global Health (WGH) and the Somali Institute for Development Research and Analysis (SIDRA) to launch WGH Somalia chapter which is aimed at creating a platform of knowledge exchange for Somali women in leadership in health and celebrate the Somali women working in global health and in the health sector, as well as shed light on their crucial contribution to the re-building of the health system in Somalia.

Girls and women rarely have opportunities to act as leaders or as advocates in many issues that affect them. Many girls and women face high risks of having poor sexual and reproductive health and of being subjected to violence or exploitation.

Promoting women’s leadership and better health outcomes for women and girls globally is key to UNFPA’s work. UNFPA engages women widely in its work, and advocates for the engagement of women’s leadership in the work of others. The inclusion of women from diverse backgrounds and identities, particularly the disadvantaged and marginalized, is a priority for us at UNFPA. We also promote the meaningful participation of women in international settings where issues relating to them are discussed. Our efforts enable women to develop the skills, knowledge and support needed to make informed decisions about their bodies, lives, families, communities, countries and the world.

UNFPA encourages the participation and leadership of marginalized girls through a variety of programmes so that they gain confidence and skills as future leaders. Some of them have emerged as champions in their communities, speaking out against harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage, and advocating for human rights.

We believe that the involvement of enthusiastic female leaders in the health sector will assist in improving global health practice and improve the health of women globally.

Nikolai Botev
Representative, UNFPA Somalia

#WomeninGH #WGHSomalia #WGH500
REFLECTIONS FOR WOMEN IN GLOBAL HEALTH SOMALIA

Women in Global Health (WGH) is a global movement and organization that brings together all genders and backgrounds to achieve gender equality in global health leadership. We are especially thrilled to welcome Women in Global Health Somalia. Health leadership for women in fragile states, such as Somalia, is crucial in creating strong and resilient health systems; driving universal health care and shaping the broader health agenda for all people.

Although women make up majority of the global health workforce, they have very minimal influence in leadership positions in the health sector. We are here to change the narrative such that the value of women is realized and that women are all able to reach their maximum potential in health.

WGH not only creates a platform for discussions and collaborative space for leadership, but also fosters gender transformative leadership so that all people can thrive in their leadership journey in global health. As WGH Somalia joins a vibrant, growing global network, this enhances opportunity for cross-country, multi-sectorial, and multi-disciplinary opportunities for women in Somalia. Moreover, the valuable perspective that Somalia brings will add to the global discussion. We also encourage men to join as allies to support the work of Women in Global Health Somalia because as we know, gender equality benefits all and should be a goal for all.

I am deeply moved by the spirit and dedication shown by the great team of WGH Somalia and congratulate them on their efforts to advance women’s leadership and gender equality in Somalia.

Sincerely,
Dr. Roopa Dhatt
Executive Director & Co-Founder
Women in Global Health
Women in Global Health Somalia chapter

Introduction

The Somali chapter of Women in Global Health (WGH) is inspired by the women in global health (WGH) movement, which was established in 2015. The WGH is a movement for gender equality in global health leadership. It supports women’s leadership and gender parity in global health, with the end goal of achieving improved and more sustainable health worldwide. Recognizing the momentum and realizing the problems discussed by WGH affects women in Somalia as well. We realized the need to join the movement and illuminate and celebrate the diverse Somali women working in global health and in the health sector, as well as shed light on their crucial contribution to the re-building of the health system. To achieve this goal, we teamed up with SIDRA Institute and UNFPA to launch WGH Somalia chapter in an effort to create a platform of knowledge exchange of Somali women (both local and diaspora) leadership in health.

Overview of the Existing Problem

Somalia has one of the highest gender inequality index (GII) in the world with GII of 0.776 out of 1 (2012), indicating complete gender inequality and placing Somalia 4th in the world, in terms of gender disparity. Gender inequality is a persistent societal problem in Somalia, perpetuated primarily by cultural norms and traditions, in which community define acceptable roles for men and women. This is further exacerbated by conflicts and insecurity, and widespread poverty. As a result, women are impeded from fully accessing education, health and employment, leaving many either illiterate or with low education. However, there is an increasing number of female students registered in the universities, especially in medicine and caring sciences but their presence is not reflected in the leadership and teaching positions in academia.

The need for a WGH chapter in Somalia also grew out of frustration poor (lack of) representation of women in Somalia’s health leadership positions. Women comprise of more than 75% of the health workforce yet occupy approximately, less than 10% of leadership positions at local, state and national levels as well as in INGO’s and government bodies.
Young women are entering the health field in increasing numbers, but at each step of the ladder the percentage of women in power decreases. Many girls dropout after getting married, while many are hindered from advancing by structural discrimination. According to a study conducted by SIDRA in 2017, majority of female university students in Somalia pointed out, the biggest hinder to be the lack of female mentors and role models in decision making position in Academia and workplaces as a major demotivating factor for young girls. The WGHSomalia wants to change this by; showcasing the enormous contribution women make, creating a platform for women to support each other nationally and globally.

The launch of the WGHSomalia on 29-30th January I Garowe, Somalia will be the first Somali Women in Global Health Chapter, it is also the first WGH chapter in Africa. As part of the event, a list of Somali women in the global/health sector, nationally and globally has been published. It is our hope that this list will increase visibility of Somali women’s contributions and dedication in the health sector and global health in general. By showcasing the achievement of the Somali women, we hope to inspire and provide young women with role models and motivation to pursue careers in health/global health.

The WGH Somalia list was initiated by Dr. Amina Jama Mahmud. With this list we wish to show the broad and deep experience and expertise, passion and diversity that exists among women working in global health in Somalia. It is our hope that you will find this list helpful and motivating. Who knows, you may find your future employee, collaborations partner, panelist or keynote speaker!

The bio were written by the nominees themselves, save for some minor language editing. We are aware that we have not captured all the wonderful women in Global Health Somalia, but this is just the beginning. We are grateful for all the support we have received during this journey and we look forward to hearing from you and expand this list in the future!
Women in Global Health
Somalia 2019
AASIYA CABDI DIIRIYE
Erigavo General Hospital

Aasiya Cabdi Diiriye, graduated from Sanaag University at 2016, where she studied to qualify as a midwife. However, Aasiya’s career in health started in January 1992, at the height of the civil war, upon seeing the dire need for healthcare professionals. She started working at Erigavo general hospital as unqualified midwife in the same maternity ward since then.

In her work at the hospital, she comes across several difficult cases associated with obstetrics and gynecological cases. Erigavo is a rural mountainous region with many accessibility challenges, which often exacerbate the health issues. Easily treated health problems can become fatal. Imagine having to deal with such problems as Hydrocephalic, Anencephalic, severe eclampsia, Uterus rapture, UTI, Sepsis, prolonged labour, pneumonia, breast abscess, retained placenta, delivery of twins, fistula, rape, gestational diabetes without the support of a medical doctor.

As the only health worker, she does the health promotion, medical consultations, deliveries provide family planning consultations and conduct breastfeeding campaign, among other things. Aasiya often feels like “Jack of all trades”: She is the doctor, OB & Gyn specialist, Nurse, Health Promoter/Community worker and Midwife, all in one; each day, every day!

- SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Midwifery, Prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) HIV, Counseling of maternal and child health issues, Research, EPI.
Amina is the founder of Women in Global Health Somalia chapter. She currently works as a Project Director at Save the Children International, Somalia country office in Nairobi.

As a returning diaspora from Sweden, she has chosen to utilise her experiences, skills and education to contribute towards rebuilding the health and education systems in Somalia. She holds a PhD in Applied Health Technology from Blekinge Institute of Technology, an MPH and a B.Sc. in Nursing from Lund University, in Sweden. She has also studied Management, Communication for Development and Higher Education Pedagogy at postgraduate level.

She has worked as a senior policy advisor for the federal ministry of health in Mogadishu, and independent consultant. Prior to moving to Somalia, she has worked in various research and leadership capacities to strengthen health and social policies, contribute to capacity- and opinion building geared towards creating enabling, inclusive and sustainable health, and wellbeing for refugee and other underserved communities in Europe.

Her research interests focus on equity on advancing evidence-based approach to capacity building, policy making in universal and equitable health care services and gender inequality in health and education. She has published in peer-reviewed journals.

**SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE**

Health Policy, Global Health, Gender and Social inclusion, Research
Amina has worked in different refugee and NGO’s involved in community building in Toronto and Puntland, Somalia. In Somalia, she is heavily involved with an organisation called Golnugal, an NGO based in Garowe, Somalia. The organization provides services through volunteerism from the Somali diaspora to promote self-reliance and entrepreneurship amongst Somali women and girls. Since 2015, Golnugal has taken initiative in community building and empowering women.

Amina holds an undergraduate degree in Diaspora and Transnational Studies, Equity and African Studies from University of Toronto, a Master’s in Education, specializing in Adult education and Community Development from OISE-University of Toronto. She is a community organizer and a mother who has devoted her life to community development and social justice within the Somali community in Toronto, as well as in Somalia. In November 2015, she co-founded Golnugal with friends. Golnugal is an organisation that provides health and social services through volunteerism. It is funded through donations from the Somali diaspora communities globally.

Golnugaal is dedicated to improving Public Health of the most vulnerable section of the society, especially for women. Its objective is to create a supportive environment for women, and connecting diaspora women with their counterparts in Somalia, and to enable them rebuild communities through a bottom up approach. Some of the activities include; vocational training for women to be make them self-reliant and provide young girls with the tools to become entrepreneurs with long-term goals of sustainability.

Golnugaal has taken several initiatives among them, access to medication in order to give relief to mothers who could not afford as a result of financial poverty. We also fundraise to help people affected by droughts, and for disaster relief to provide water, food, blankets and many other items to remote villages. We also bought equipment such as fridges for the local hospital to store blood and for the morgue. Golnugal is also planning to build the first Women’s Hospital in Garowe. The hospital will cater for victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and, maternity and child health care services.
Although Amina has never been to Puntland, she is proud to be able to fundraise and support Somali women, and contribute to the development of women’s health in Somalia. Gollugaal organization is 100% organized by volunteers, all funds go straight to recipients/activities.

### SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

My research interests are diverse, but include social and cultural preservation in Somali diaspora, and anti-imperial rhetoric. Community development. Motivational speaking and mentoring youth, especially young women. Health Equity, Poverty Reduction.
Asia is a medical student at Nile College in Khartoum, Sudan. Since grade eight, she dreamt of becoming a doctor, as she always had a passion for helping the poor and vulnerable people.

Her passion for medicine and healing people increased following the unfortunate civil war that broke out in Yemen during her last year of high school. This resulted in a lot of displacement, and other man-made disasters. The 20th November 2013 was a happy but also a sad day for Asia. A happy day because she got admitted at the medical school in Sudan; a sad day because, studying in another country meant that she would be without her family for the first time.

Asia was struggling the first months, as she needed to get accustomed to the new climate, new food, new culture, new people new everyday struggles, which she had to fight alone without her family. But all those struggles did not stop her from succeeding and get closer to her goal, one day at a time. She did her first research about the knowledge and practice of metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) among asthmatic patients at the Al-Shaab hospital in Khartoum from November 2017 till February 2018. This made her more interested in doing research to improve the health system in Africa and Somalia. Since Asia was little, she dreamt of serving the sick and the poor.

Now that she has witnessed the many health issues that people in Somalia face, including cholera, she is committed to work and educate the Somali community about the health issues and contribute to Somalia’s progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

**SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE**

Community research, Social work, Family medicine, Awareness programs for the community, Vaccination programs.
AYAN HARARE
Senior Food Security Analyst | Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Federal Government Somalia.

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Ayan Harare

Ayan is a Somali-British Public Health Nutritionist with Masters in Global Public Health Nutrition and BSc Biological Sciences. She is currently working with the Government of Somalia, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management as part World Food Program (WFP) capacity building program.

She is responsible to fully support the Ministry and provide the overall technical facilitation of humanitarian community’s planning, programming, and resource mobilisation to improve the food security and nutrition situation in Somalia. In the UK, Ayan worked with the UK National Health Services (NHS).

Ayaan is also a skilled community health educator with extensive experience on planning, organizing and providing health and nutrition promotion programs in the community. She worked with Somali speaking communities in London to identify barriers they experience in accessing health care services.

She developed and delivered culturally sensitive health promotion sessions on healthy eating, breastfeeding, family planning and many other areas identified by the community. Ayaan aspires to be a leader in the field of Global Health.

— SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Recently completed qualitative research on the impact of external pool funding on Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition in Somalia. Expertise focused on investigating different factors and influences on food security and nutrition at international, national, household and individual levels. Interested in researching impact of small-scale economic strengthening such as livelihood programs and cash transfers on addressing Maternal and Child Health care deficits. Currently focusing on exploring impact of women’s empowerment on improving household food security, health and nutrition.
Basra Ismail
Ministry of Health of Somaliland

Basra is currently working in the Ministry of Health, Somaliland as the National Micronutrient focal person. She is a qualified Nurse and is currently studying for a post graduate program in Nutrition and Food Science. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in health management.

She has worked as nurse in public and private hospitals for the last 15 years. She is a national HRH trainer and advocate for better health system. Basra combines her work responsibilities with raising 5 children.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Public health promotion, Research, Advocacy, Clinical management expert, Health trainer.
Deqo Aden Mohamed is a Somali-born doctor who grew up feeding refugees, her mother was harboring. She earned an MD in Moscow in 2000 and was an OB-GYN resident in Russia until 2003. Deqo continually traveled back to Somalia during work holidays to serve internally displaced people in Mogadishu. She went to America as a refugee in 2003 and gained extensive experience working in health care services. She became a naturalized American citizen in 2008.

Dr. Mohamed worked with MSF (Doctors Without Borders) from 2008 to 2010 in Somalia during the measles outbreak in the country, she also led the MSF team for vaccination over 14,000 children under the age of five. Today, she leads all operations in the Hawa Abdi Village in Lower Shabelle, while ensuring the safety of the 300 families, who have found permanent shelter in the community. She leads the 400-bed Dr. Hawa Abdi General Hospital, the Waqaf-Diblaw Primary School, a women’s education center, and a smart farming agriculture project. She simultaneously manages the administrative aspects of the Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation as CEO of the organization in the United States. She also delivers lectures at different universities in Somalia.

Deqo is the founder of Hagarla art-crafts, and co-founder of Somalia Cancer Society, where she actively raises awareness about cancer. She sits on the board of Fursad Fund, which raises money to rebuild Somalia and create jobs for Somali Youth, by Somali people around the globe. She also serves as an adviser on reproductive health at the Federal Ministry of Health in Somalia.

Besides her work, Deqo regularly attends conferences and speaks on behalf of Doctor Hawo Abdi (DHAF) Foundation and on Somalia. She has been an invited guest speaker at the World Forum on Human Rights in Brasilia, Brazil, and participated at a ceremony on kidney diseases in Chennai, India. She has been featured on media outlets such as TED, the Leonard Lopate Show, and the Daily Beast. She was awarded Glamour Women of the Year 2010 and Black Girls Rock at BET at 2012. She received an honorary Doctor of Public Service from Chatham University, UK.

**SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE**

Women’s Health, Cancer, Education, Entrepreneurship
Edna Adan Ismail is one of the most influential women in Africa today. She is a talismanic figure whose life and work are an inspiration to people all around the world. Her long career in public life, which has seen her making lasting contributions in the fields of health, peace building and foreign affairs, has been marked by an exceptional devotion to advancing the cause of women.

From her time as a trainee nurse and midwife in London in the 1950s to her present running of the pioneering Edna Adan Hospital, Edna has never ceased to be a tireless campaigner and champion of women’s rights and health. Born in Hargeisa, in the then, British Somaliland Protectorate, Edna first trained as a nurse and midwife in London 1954-1961, and later in New York and in Boston University. In 1965 she was appointed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and posted to Libya as Midwife Educator. She returned to the Horn of Africa in 1967 when her husband, Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal, became Prime Minister of the Republic of Somalia.

Despite the tragic setback of the civilian government being overthrown by a military coup led by General Mohamed Siyad Barre in October 1969, Edna Adan became a Political Prisoner under house arrest for 6 months. Upon her release she resumed to her nursing career. In 1976, she became the first woman director of the Ministry of Health in Somalia, a post she held for two years. In 1986, as Somalia descended into civil war, she re-joined WHO as Regional Adviser for nursing/midwifery, then served as Technical Officer for Mother and Child Health until 1991 when she became appointed WHO Representative in the Republic of Djibouti until her retirement in 1997.

As the first person to publicly speak out against FGM in a region where the practice remains widespread, Edna has been a fearless and tireless campaigner for more than 40 years, leading the campaign in the Horn of Africa and internationally, and training legions of midwives to follow in her footsteps. Faced with a healthcare system that had been demolished by the long civil war, upon retirement in 1997, Edna founded the Edna Adan Hospital in Hargeisa, Somaliland, with the aim of improving women’s health in a region with one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world.
Established as a maternity teaching hospital with a goal of training 1,000 midwives, over the past 16 years it has grown into a major referral institution for obstetrical, surgical and medical, and pediatric cases from a wide geographical area in the Horn of Africa. With the opening of the Edna Adan University in 2010, the level of training has been raised and the programmes multiplied. Today, over 1,500 students are enrolled in courses such as nursing, midwifery, medicine, pharmacology, laboratory technology, anesthesia, dental technology and public health.

In parallel to the founding of the hospital, in 2002 Edna embarked upon a career in politics and served as minister of Social Affairs and Family Welfare in Somaliland and as a stellar Foreign Minister from 2003-06. Her time in government is remembered fondly and she became a much-loved figure in the land of her birth. As the only female minister in the government at the time she used her position to raise the concerns and amplify the voice of women.

Edna's story chimes with the aspirations of women everywhere. It is no surprise that it has struck a chord with so many, her story being included in the PBS documentary Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide in 2012, and her work being regularly featured and celebrated by prominent journalists such as Nicholas Kristof. Among her numerous awards, Edna Adan received the French Légion d’honneur (2012), and was made Commandeur Dans l’Ordre National du 27 Juin, Djibouti (1997).

Most recently she became the inaugural recipient of the Renfield Foundation Award for Global Women’s Health by the University of Pennsylvania and was short-listed for the European Parliament’s Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in the same year that she was also nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. She holds honorary doctorates from Clark University, the Universities of Cardiff (UK), Pennsylvania (USA) and Ahfad (Sudan), and the Chancellor’s Gold Medal from the University of Pretoria for her work on Human Rights.

- SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Global Health, Maternal and Child Health, Education of women, Human Rights Campaign against FGM

#WomeninGH #WGHSomalia #WGH500
Fadumo Omar Mohamed
Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières, MSF)

Faduma is a clinical psychology background, specializing in trauma caused by war atrocities. Faduma has an accumulated 20 plus years of mental health expertise, especially in creating new mental health interventions (setting up, implementation, trainings, supervising, monitoring and evaluations).

She is also an expert in working with refugees and displaced people. She has a long experience in working in different cultural context. She has written many articles in relation to communities and populations suffering from mental health, caused by man-made war and atrocities around the world.

She is fluent in fine languages (Arabic, English, French and Russian) and in addition to Somali, which is her native language.

- SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Mental Health, Refugees/Displaced people/Asylum Seekers, Treatment and prevention SGBV, Mental Health training and development, Field staff welfare care (trainings, coaching and mentoring)
Fathia Sh.Muhummed Warsame
Ministry of Health, Somaliland

Fathia graduated from Hargeisa University at 2009. She did an internship in Hargeisa Group Hospital for one year, and then 3 months in Erigavo. After finishing the internship, she went back to her home town of Gabiley, which is located 58km west of Hargeisa. In Gabiley there is only one ophthalmologist working there.

But there is no Emergency obstetric care, if there is a mother with obstruct labour or an abortion they must refer her to Hargeisa Group Hospital for treatment, but she has to have money for transportation.

Our mothers die because of hypovolemic shock, others for rupture of uterus. Together with colleagues, Fathia started providing emergency obstetric care services like, caesarean section, dilation and curettage, assisted deliveries and postnatal care. They also offer modern family planning and other medical services.

The clinic has only one nurse and no qualified midwife, hence she is one of the two doctors managing all the patients in the hospital. Sometimes as a Doctor, she also works as a midwife and nurse. To tackle the shortage of HRH, Fathia trains future midwives and nurses.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE
Pediatric, Basic obstetrics and gynecology ultrasound, Hospital management.
Fatima Ismail
Surveillance Officer, World Health Organization
National Public Health and Research Institute

Fatima is young, highly motivated medical doctor, keen to serve Somali community by delivering the best quality of health services. She is Somaliland Surveillance Officer at the World Health Organization.

She graduated from Jordan University of Science and Technology with MBBS after she won a Competitive Academic Scholarship by Islamic Development Bank when she had ranked the first place of National Secondary Examination.

During her study in medical school she took part in many voluntary humanitarian activities like public health promotion activities with MSF in Syrian Refugee Camps, assisted in IVF (In vitro Fertilization) procedures and Emergency response activities. Currently, besides working in WHO, she advocates for the eradication of FGM/C and better health System (Universal Health Coverage) and Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality Rates.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE
Strengthen the Somali health system and Awareness, Advocacy and research, Leadership, Psychosocial support, Training/mentoring
FOUZIA ISMAIL
Executive Director
Somaliland Nursing and Midwifery Association (SLNMA)

Fouzia is trained Nurse and a midwife. She graduated with a Public Health and Midwifery diploma from Mogadishu, Somalia in 1974. She went on to study for a degree in midwifery in 1993, at Ottawa University, Canada. Fouzia started her career as a midwife in Mogadishu Somalia from 1974 to 1989. She then moved to Ottawa Canada, when the civil war broke out.

Between 1993- 2004, Fouzia worked as a community health nurse and health promoter at South- East Ottawa Centre for a healthy community, she was later promoted to health promotion coordinator. She came back in 2004 and initiated the Somaliland Nursing and Midwifery Association (SLNMA), which is a professional association for the two cadres.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE
Certified Diabetic educator, Management and leadership, Midwifery expertise
**Gudon Adam Abdi**  
Hargeisa Group Hospital obstetric, gynecology and neonatal Department

She took her MBBS and her postgraduate diploma in obstetric, gynecology and infant health. She has nearly 9 years of experience in working the medical field specially for women and children. Dedicated to improving overall health in women and children who lives in one of the poorest countries and highest in maternal and child morbidity and mortality.

She works the national referral hospital and the one of the largest medical school as medical doctor and lecturer respectively volunteering most of her time. She also works in an antenatal and general outpatient clinic that provide free visit and obstetric ultrasound to the poorest community and an internal displaced people in Hargeisa specially women and children. She provides trainings to other health professionals in the settings her work, includes medical, nursing and midwifery students as well her fellow colleagues. She does health awareness and education released on TV and radio programs.

She volunteers primary and high schools in providing school health education. She was first junior medical doctor who run one of the largest medical commission in Somaliland, which is National health professions commission as program manager and first junior doctor who done un supervised emergency cesarean section. She has published and unpublished articles and medical audits.

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**SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE**

Maternal and Child health, Medical Researches, Health system management and quality improvement, school Health education, Health professional education.
Habiba got her education in Mogadishu, Somalia. She benefitted from the government gender led initiative in the 1980’s. She was promoted and given the opportunity to study Medicine and Surgery. She graduated from the faculty of Medicine in 1987.

She worked at Benaadir Hospital for 2 years and MCH ARIF for 5 years as an Obstetrician and Gynecologist. After that she started worked at Digfer Hospital as gynecologist for about 3 years. During 1992-2009, she worked as gynecologist and head surgeon at SOS Hospital in the outskirts of Mogadishu.

When the civil war broke out and, the consequent breakdown of governments and social structures, Habiba founded developed in-service training programs for Doctors and Nurses to fill the gap.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Gynecology Surgery Women and Children.
HODAN DUALE
Health Project officer, GIZ
Hil Hooyo

Hodan Duale, graduated from University of Hargeisa in 2010 with a Bachelor of Medicine. She served as an obstetrician in the largest public hospital in Hargeisa city in 2011-2016. Hodan served as obstetric practitioner, she was also a clinical instructor for the medical students.

She currently, works as health project officer in GIZ, which focuses Primary Health Care in rural areas.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE
Leadership and management, Health system strength management
HODAN ALI SHIRE
General Director, Eyl Group Hospital
Ministry of Health Puntland

Hodaneey1431@gmail.com

Hodan Ali Shire is a medical practitioner resident in Eyl Puntland, Somalia. She trained to be a medical doctor, gaining her MBBS in China. She decided to come back to Somalia to help her people. Hodan is currently based in Eyl, a historical town in a remote mountaineous coastal region of Eyl, in North Eastern Somalia. She is the only medical doctor in her region with an estimated population of 130,000.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE
Medical research to keep up with new treatments and medical guidelines
Maternal and Child Health
Jihan Mohamed Salad
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

jihan works as Maternal and Reproductive Health Programme specialist for the United Nations Population Fund ( UNFPA) in the Puntland State of Somalia. Her work is centered on managing programmes to increase the capacity of national health institutions and to deliver essential life-saving maternal and reproductive health services, including in areas with poor access to health services, and areas affected by humanitarian crises in Puntland State.

In Somalia, Jihan has also worked with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Ministry of Health of Puntland State as Health Promotion consultant. In her capacity as a consultant, she was responsible for providing on-the-job training and skills-transfer to staff on health promotion, Behavior Change Communication (BCC) and intervention design, implementation and evaluation.

She also has progressive relevant experience in policy advocacy, human rights, meaningful youth participation, peer-to-peer education and inter-cultural communication, having participated as youth advocate in global platforms, including the UN Commission on the Status of the Women (CSW), to discuss pressing health issues faced by young people worldwide. She graduated as a health scientist with a Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences and a Master's degree in Prevention and Public Health at the VU University in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Jihan has a great interest in maternal and reproductive health, health promotion and disease prevention, gender and health, human rights, interdisciplinary research, health policy and management of health care.

- SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Khadra Ismail Gulled
Erigavo General Hospital
House calls for Maternal care

khadrakayf@gmail.com

She graduated from Edna Adan University at 2011, as a qualified midwife. Since October 2011 she had worked at Erigavo General Hospital in maternity ward. During her work at the hospital, she came across several difficult cases alone without support of a doctor. At the sometime, she worked at the hospital she also visits mothers as house calls in their houses and manage serious cases for maternal care.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Kinsi Finger
Ministry of Health, Federal republic of Somalia THET (Tropical Health and Education Trust

Kinsifinger@hotmail.com

Kinsi studied in Dubai in United Arab Emirates. She holds a Diploma in General Nursing, a Post-Basic Programme in Maternal & New born Nursing. She has also numerous additional courses including, in-service education for senior nursing personnel, Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission, Training Of trainers, She conducted the second inter-country training workshop on Reproductive Health counselling in Jordan, ICCM TOT training. She also participated in the Somali Health and Demographic Survey supervisor and Trainer in 2017-2019.

She is the National Fistula and Reproductive health focal person. She advocates for fistula victims care and social wellbeing, where she closely works with the only fistula repairing hospital in Somalia.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Advocacy and awareness, Research, Training of health workers, Behavior change of women like FGM, GBV and early recognition of Obstetric Fistula, Management all health-related programs.
LUCKY SULEIMAN  
University of Burao

Lucky has extensive experience in Education, Management and Media, in addition to being trilingual. Lucky is a powerful communicator, capable of managing cross-cultural diversity. Her achievements include: Spearheading the vision of delivering comprehensive and universal coverage of health care for all citizens.

Developing and implementing primary, secondary and tertiary levels of health care (in 5 out of the 6 regions in Somaliland) as part of a wider health system strengthening strategy. In addition, she is an experienced health services manager, having managed hospitals with over 450 staff, including providing management training/supervision to the staff.

She, together with the stakeholders, established a mental health care model based on chain-free psychiatry, instilling better quality standards for those suffering from mental health disorders, their families and caretakers. Lucky is currently responsible for 18 members of staff, including a junior doctor where she is also responsible for induction training, managerial seminars and workshops for improving knowledge and skills of staff regarding the overall quality of health services.

She is experienced in designing and conducting educational programmes as proactive action against prejudices. As well as creating educational literature to extend awareness about mental illness and proposing coping strategies and support. In addition to her job at in the health care sector, Lucky works at the University with administration and management of the SCOTT programme [Strengthening Capacity of Teacher Training] run by SAVE THE CHILDREN- UK and CARE International. SCOTT manages 767 Teachers who are studying for the National Diploma tied to the new Curriculum for Somaliland.

**SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE**

Material Development and Design, TQM Organizational systems and processes, Educational management.
Mariam M. H. H. Rabi
Edna Adan University Hospital
Somaliland Female Medical Doctors Organization (SOFMEDO)

Mariam Mohamed Currently works as a resident doctor at Edna Adan University Hospital, where she manages and treats emergency obstetrics patient and newborn. She also works as a consultant at the Hargeisa group hospital. As a medical doctor, she been involving in community health since her third-year medical school. Parallel to her work, Mariam is studying postgraduate diploma in maternal and infant health in the same university hospital. In addition to the clinical work, she teaches and supervises undergraduate medical students at University of Hargeisa. She is also a member of Somaliland female Medical Doctors, where she and other female doctors conduct awareness and community outreach campaigns to improve Public Health.

She obtained her bachelor's degree in medicine and Surgery from the University of Hargeisa. In July 2017 after her gradation, there was a cholera outbreak. She volunteered as a health promoter to raise community's awareness on the problem, how to prevent and treat it. This exposed her to the broader public health approach to tackle health issues and build better resilience in own communities. She has also been appointed as the coordinators for the King University's and Somaliland Partnership, on mental health representative.

Mariam has strong interest in research and has co-authored a paper entitled “Gender equality in the global health work place; learning from a Somaliland –UK pair institutional partnership” The survey was the first the region. Recently, on December 2018, she completed 4-week leadership training in Nairobi Kenya, provided by YALI Regional Leadership Centre of East Africa.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE
Community Health, Mental Health, Women and Children’s Health, Research.
MARIAM M. M. ADAWE
Post-graduate student at Mbarara University of Science and Technology

maryama00460@gmail.com

Mariam holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery and graduated from the University of Somalia. For one year, she has done internships in different hospitals, including Benaadir Hospital, Aden Cade Hospital and Egyptian Hospital. She worked as a General Practitioner in Egyptian Hospital for six months, after which she decided to study obstetrics and gynecology in order to contribute to saving pregnant women and mothers. Therefore, she decided to pursue her interests and obtain a master’s degree in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda in 2016. She graduates in June, 2019.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Obstetrics and gynecology, Global Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.
Marian Hassan
European Union Capacity building (EUCAP) Somalia.

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Maryan is a Somali Peace and Women’s empowerment activist in her country. Previously, she worked with refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) within east Africa. Her work mainly focused on conflict mapping, protection/advocacy and provision of livelihoods. She is specialised in elective conflict transformation and mapping. In early 2017, she graduated from Master of Peace Studies from Innsbruck University. Her thesis’s focused on the role of Somali women in clan conflict mediation.

Maryan holds an MA in Peace, Security, Development & International Conflict Transformation from Innsbruck University, MAS in Peace & Conflict Transformation from Basel University, DTE in Telecommunication Engineering from Multi-Media University College (MMU) Kenya and Women’s peacebuilding Leadership Postgraduate certificate from Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) USA.

She co-researched “Pillars of Peace Somali Program - Puntland Note: Mapping the Foundation of Peace Challenges to Security and Rule of Law, Democratization Process and Devolution of Power to Local Authorities” produced & printed by PDRC in collaboration with Inter-peace. She has also been trained in her studies (from Innsbruck University in collaboration with the Austrian Armed Forces and Red Cross) first aid response, the use of CIMIC (Civil Military Cooperation), and good Negotiation skills.

■ SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

My research interests are diverse, but include: Gender, State & Peacebuilding, Community development, Motivational speaking, Mentoring youth especially young girls.
Maryan Hassan Daahir
Hargeisa Group Hospital

Maryan graduated from School of Nursing School Mogadishu, in 1983. She has been a registered since then. In 1993, she was appointed as the Head charge of Medical ward at Hargeisa Group Hospital.

She has finished many short courses in CSI and has been awarded the diploma of Information Technology at CSI in Somaliland. She has also finished Bachelor of Arts in development management at Gollis University. Since 1996, she has been the head of mental ward in Hargeisa Group Hospital.

She has participated in workshops, seminars and consultancies both locally and internationally related to health especially mental health.

■ SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Mental Health, Counseling for mental health issues, Psychosocial, Service delivery and practical administration, Psychiatric Nurse and VCT Training.
Maryan Olad Nur
Vigilant care service agency
HIILLO Organization

She has a bachelor degree in health and social care and is heading towards masters in public health. Currently, run her own care agency in London; as well as charity Organization which helps contribute to the betterment of the Somali community national and international.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Mental health wellbeing (specific), General health awareness, help people to adjust to their disability, Women and Youth empowerment.
MARYAM QASIM
The Head of Office of the UNFPA Garowe Sub-Office.

mqasim@unfpa.org

Dr. Maryam Qasim is a medical doctor, a humanitarian and a politician. She worked as an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist as well as a University lecturer and a community activist in Somalia, Yemen, the Netherlands and Great Britain for more than 30 years.

She served as a Minister in various Federal Governments including serving as the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in 2017; serving as the Minister for Human Development and Social Services, which included the portfolio of Health and Education in 2012 – 2014. She also served in 2010 - 2011 as the Minister for Women’s Development and Family Welfare.

She has also served as Goodwill Ambassador for the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) in Somalia in 2014-2017. Besides Somali, Dr. Qasim is fluent in English, Dutch, Arabic and Italian. She is currently working as a senior consultant for UNFPA on maternal health. She is also the Head of Office of the UNFPA Garowe Sub-Office.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Humanitarianism, Global Health and Gender advocate.
Najma Sheikh Ali

World Health Organization as a surveillance coordinator on polio program.

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LinkedIn: drnajma.ali

Naima is highly competent and enthusiastic medical doctor with extensive knowledge and experience in the field of public health. Health-care project management and with strong track record of advanced training in healthcare management. She possesses strong leadership skills; able to prioritize, delegate tasks, and make sound decisions quickly while maintaining a focus on the bottom line. She motivated doctors with solid experience managing all levels of large-scale projects, including budgeting and administration.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Public Health, Research and Health Care Management, and Health, Economic.
Najma Sheikh Ali  
Ministry of Health

Najma trained as a midwife-nurse in Mogadisho. She also holds a degree of Public Health from Addis Ababa Medical University. After graduation from the midwife-nurse school, she worked several places: like Benaadir Hospital, Madina Hospital, Careef MCH, Qoryooley refugee camp in Mogadisho. Later she started to work for Hargeisa Group Hospital as midwife as well as a local NGOs in a program called Women to women initiative for HIV awareness.

Currently, she is a team leader of MCH-Hawadle, she also works with EPI, and as District Polio Officer. In the EPI she leads the design the micro-plan of the district, AFP surveillance and NID support supervision. I also facilitate PMTCT, FGM and EPI.

- SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Midwifery, Prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT), Counsellor of GBV, Mother and Child health Care (MCH), EPI.
Nasra Ali Noah is 26 years old who, currently lives in Ankara, Turkey. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Nutrition and Food Science. She is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Health Care Service Management. Nasra is a strong believer in community health and the relationship between health and socio-economic status.

Prior to moving to Turkey, Nasra worked in an MCH, stabilizing severely under nourished children and training mothers to proper child feeding techniques. In her free time, she tries to reach out to the vulnerable communities to help them improve health and wellbeing. Among the causes she is involved in are; breast feeding, communicable diseases and their prevention, female genital mutation (FGM), and hygiene and sanitation. She has her own website, where she writes down essential information about proper ways of child feeding, nutrition during pregnancy, pre-school age nutrition and diet. As a young graduate, she wanted to help her community using what she had learned in school in an easily accessible way and in a language, they would understand-Somali.

My long-term goal is to contribute towards research on how to decrease malnutrition associated mortality and morbidity among children.

## SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Health education, Nutrition, Sanitation and communicable diseases, Health awareness rising.
Nasra Yusuf Ahmed
Burao General Hospital
National Institute for Reproductive Health Research (NIRHR)

Nasra Yusuf, is a Medical Doctor with expansive experience of working in hospitals located in remote areas, and in the health care industry at large. She is an emergency obstetrics surgeon, who has saved many mothers and children in critical situations.

She has been closely working with severe cases of FGMs and successfully saved many young girls from suffering caused by FGM. Nasra is keen to apply a holistic approach in treatment of FGM, where she integrates the surgical care with post-traumatic care of FGM victims.

Nasra is also a skilled in clinical researcher, and co-founder of the National Institute for Reproductive Health Research (NIRHR); the first of its kind in Somaliland. The institution will foster research in women and new born health, an area that has been greatly neglected for so long, despite maternity and new born mortality in the country being one of the highest in the region and, in the world. The NIRHR, is an answer to the needs of the mothers in the country. The institute follows the guidelines of WHO’s reproductive health.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Rabica Ahmedziyar Mohamed
Midwife at WARDI MCH
Nurse at Fiqi Hospital in Mogadishu Somalia

Rabica is trained and a registered nurse. She has come across and worked with a well-thriven team. The health care in Somalia particularly Mogadishu is limited in terms of recourses available for the nurses and she has been able to work with multicultural people from different communities.

Rabica upholds midwifery degree and currently works at WARDI MCH. She is knowledgeable about all aspects of pregnancy and confident in communicating this knowledge to the patients. Rabica has skills and the capacity to become a leader in global health and focusing in reproductive health and education.

**SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE**

Midwifery, Gynecology, A nurse.
Ridwa Anwar Ismail
Ridwa Nutrition Center

She was born in Hargeisa, 1993. Graduated from University of Hargeisa Faculty of Nutrition Science and Food. During her study in nutrition food science, she also studied college of medical in nursing and midwifery.

After her graduation, she worked as a volunteer consultant for mothers and children in MCHGs. In 2016 when she was finishing her study, she started the consultant nutrition for mothers and children. And in this year, she created a center called Ridwa Nutrition Center, which is the first type of nutrition center for the entire Somalia. During 2016, she did a research about rescuing mother and children, and when she finished the research, she wrote a book called “Mother and baby care”. The book is about all the needs for the mother and baby during their pregnancy and growth respectively. She has the experience for the mother and the babies nutrition diets. Now she is the CEO and founder of Ridwa Nutrition Products.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Health services, Consultant nutrition and diet, Leadership, Community work and support, Trainer in health.
Rowda Abdullahi Olad
Maandeq Mental Health, Founder/ Clinical Director
Finish Church Aid (FCA) Mental Health Consultant

Rowda is a specialist on Clinical Mental Health with extensive experience in working with diverse communities and cultures. As a mental health professional, Rowda uses evidence-based methodology to serve clients and their families in order to provide them with effective psychotherapy.

Before returning to Somalia, Rowda worked as a psychotherapist at counseling ltd in the United States, with veterans that were experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

She helped them with coping and overcoming distressful situations. She is experienced in conducting group counseling sessions for court-mandated clients who are charged with domestic violence or have anger management- and substance abuse issues. She has also worked with at risk youngsters, organizing workshops for them, around empowerment, providing them with skills to prevent them from engaging in risk behaviors.

- SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Safiya Dhimbiil graduated Hargeisa Nursing School in 1984, since then she has been serving the community as a midwife. She has worked different places including Hargeisa and Mogadishu. Since 1991, she was based on Dilla district. She started as a volunteer for many years before joining the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS). Safiya has always strived to develop new skills and capacities to better herself and improve the health services. She has had opportunities to different trainings including; Bemonc, family planning, FGM among others.

- SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Midwifery, TOT training as she can train others, FGM.
Sahra Aidid Abdillahi
Golis University
Gargar Multispecialty Hospital, Saxo Medical Centre

Sahra Aidid, graduated as a medical doctor at Hargeisa university department healthy science. In 2010, for second batch. During her internship and national service programmes has been working with different people and region that help her to gain experience. In 2011, she joined Gargar multispecialty hospital department of obstetrics as medical doctor for full time.

Sahra practicing in the department of obstetrics and gynecology for the last eight year and has opportunity to work with one of leading private hospital in Somaliland. She applied her full capacity as highly professional skills and handle obstetrics and gynecology cases, including emergency obstetric and neonatal care, family planning as well elective surgery.

In 2012, she joined Golis University Collage as lecturer to foster teaching institute of Somaliland to produce a young professional doctors to the society. In 2013, she established private owned clinic that rendered preventive and curative care with needed community in area where medical staff is rare.

Apart for that, Sahra took part in TV and Radio live awareness program about antenatal and postnatal care for early detection and recognition warning signs in pregnancy and managements that beneficiary to mother who has little chance to attend clinics.

She had a chance to be one of founder of Somaliland Female Medical Doctor Org. (SOFMEDO). Also, Sahra won numerous awards for her competent and for took part final examination for medical student with external examiners.

**SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE**
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Reproductive Medicine & IVF, Health Professional Education.
Saida Ahmed
Federal Ministry of Health

Saida is currently working at Federal Minister of Health as Child Health Advisor for the implementation of high quality child health services strategic technical leadership to FMOH in different regions in Somalia.

Also, she is building on existing tools and developing approaches to ensure the efficiency programs to reduce child mortality, and impact of Child Health Services at facility, community and patient level. She graduated as Medical Doctor, and Paediatrician from the University la Sapienza in Italy.

She is doing training, and working in Somalia, Kenya, and Italy and Canada. She worked at Osservatorio Epidemiologico of Lazio, Rome Italy. She developed different training and workshop for awareness and advocacy of child health, and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Somalia, in Italy, and in Canada.

She translates booklets and CDs in Somali language about FGM, family planning, breastfeeding, immunization, and a series of Child development. She volunteered twice for Benaadir Hospital for the re-activation of Benaadir Hospital, and doing training for doctors, nurse, and axillary at hospital.

- SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Pediatrician, public Health, epidemiologist, Health management.
Seynab Moallim Nur
Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)

Seynab Moalim is a registered nurse and has a bachelor’s degree in Midwifery. She has more than 30 years’ experience in the areas of Maternal and Child Health. Seynab worked with organizations such as Benaadir Hospital, Digfeer hospital, ACF, Women health alliance, as a senior registered Nurse and Midwife.

She is currently working with Somali Red Crescent Society as a National Reproductive Health Manager. Seynab has played a key role in the establishment of the first Fistula Clinic in Mogadishu and is proud to be working for the most vulnerable women in Somalia.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

The Reproductive Health Field with the aim of contributing to the goal of reducing the maternal death in Somalia.
**SHUKRI DAHIR**  
Edna Adan University Hospital

She have been trained as a nurse and midwife in Edna Adan University; one month after her graduation, she went to Amoud University to become a doctor, which she finished in 2011 and then underwent surgical training programs in CO-SESCA and Istanbul Medeniyet University.

She has also been trained as a fistula surgeon in Hamlin fistula hospital in Addis by FIGO and now she is working as a surgeon in Edna Adan University Hospital and also, she is the only trained female surgeon who does obstetric fistulas in Somaliland. She is lecturer at Edna University and teach the nursing/midwifery students and medical students as well.

She also had an opportunity to work in Hargeisa Group Hospital and Borama Regional Hospital as an intern and for the last several years she worked as an advocate for children disabilities and organized programs to prevent some of the preventable childhood disabilities. She also had an opportunity to attend and present in conferences in several countries around the world, such as America, Holland, France, India, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

**SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE**

General surgery, Neurosurgery, Ob/gyne.
Sihaam Sheikh Muumin
University of Rochester Medical Center as a Research Internship program

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Sihaam Abdilaahi Mumin recently graduated from the University of Rochester in New York. She majored in Public Health with the concentration of Health, Behavior and Society and minored in Psychology. Sihaam has a range of professional experiences in research, administration, leadership and programing. To name few, Sihaam is a Resolution Project Fellow.

The Resolution Project identifies young leaders through Social Venture Challenges and empowers them to make a positive impact in their communities. Sihaam was selected as Social Venture Challenge Fellow for a project aimed at improving the quality of life for women and girls in Somaliland through access to health education and hygienic sanitary products.

Sihaam worked for the University of Rochester Medical Center as a Research Intern. She contributed to a final study report on scientific techniques for ensuring safer nursing home care strategies. In her role she also conducted detailed data analyses and record keeping and assisted with design of new and existing surveys.

She also worked for Saving Mothers office in New York City. Saving mothers is not-for-profit organization dedicated to eradicating preventable maternal deaths and birth-related complications. In her role at Saving Mothers she performed research and logistical support for their newly launched Women's Reproductive Health program in Uganda, as well as evolution of existing programs in Kenya, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

Sihaam recently returned to Somaliland to work on a public health grassroots initiative to promote female reproductive health education, particularly focusing on menstrual health, feminine hygiene management, and female genital mutilation (FGM). Through the initiative females will be able to access health education, health services and anonymously tell their stories, making the issue public throughout society, while enlisting all of society to protect girls and women's health.
Sihaam is a tenacious and resilient-hardworking person who is dedicated to women getting access to affordable, good quality and culturally appropriate care. Her college education, work/internship experiences and leadership positions helped her develop excellent skill set she hopes will help transform the healthcare systems in Somaliland.

**SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE**

Eradication of MMR, Reading and researching, Travelling, Medical entrepreneurship.
SIRAD ADEN MOHAMED
Somali red crescent society (SRCS)

Sirad is a qualified midwife with over 40 years experience in Maternity and Child Health. Her educational background is in Nursing-Midwife and Public Health.

Sirad has dedicated all her professional life to saving lives of women and children and building capacity of nurses and midwives in Somalia. She started working at Ministry of Health in Mogadishu, Somalia in 1974. When the government collapsed, she joined SRCS 1993 and has been working there to date.

She joined SRCS because it was the only organization that was working in the field of health in Somalia throughout the civil war, when all organization left the country. She sacrificed all her time both professional and private, to work for the most vulnerable communities in Somalia.

She is also proud of all the young people she has trained, mentored and supported throughout her carrier. Same people she trained are today leaders in the ministries and engaged in the health sector in different capacities.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE
Mother and Child Health, Nutrition, Universal Health Care/Primary Health Care, Nursing and Midwifery Education.
SOHEIR H AHMED

Institute Health and Society, department of Preventative Medicine and Global Health, University of Oslo (UiO), Oslo, Norway | University of Hargeisa, Faculty of Medicine and Postgraduate studies, Hargeisa, Somaliland.

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Soheir H Ahmed is a PhD candidate at the University of Oslo in Norway. She is currently conducting her research on the Prevalence of Risk Factor for Type II Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases among Somalis in Norway and Somaliland.

She is also a senior lecturer at University of Hargeisa at Faculty of postgraduate studies. Her work experience includes working as a project officer at the Physicians for Social Responsibilities organization in Finland on fighting against Tuberculosis. Her achievements include social dimensions of health, and meeting the health needs of marginalized groups of people with a focus on immigrants and chronic conditions, teaching, health system management, planning, organizing, directing, recruitment, monitoring and evaluation.

She holds MBSS from university of Hargeisa and Master in International Community Health. Her goal is to leave remarkable footsteps in Global Public Health issues.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Epidemiology, Cardiovascular diseases & type II diabetes, Life style risk factor, Immigrants Health, Preventive medicine.
SUMAYA AHMED
Seconded Midwife to Garowe General Hospital through IOM FinSom

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Sumaya, holds a Bachelor degree in Nursing from University of Minnesota. She is an experienced Midwife in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Pediatrics and Postpartum care. She is passionate about mother and child, as well as, population health. Her ambition is to develop leadership skills and capacity in NICU.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Population health, Midwifery, Midwifery education.
Ubah Abdilahi Arab is a 24-year old female and a senior medical student at the Nile college in Khartoum, Sudan. Ubah dreamt of becoming a doctor since childhood, when she realized the challenges and difficulties that women in her neighborhood faced and in Somalia in general. These challenges and difficulties include female genital mutilation, puberty changes for young girls, pregnancy and childbirth complications, among many others. Ubah wanted to make a difference in the lives of the women and girls affected by these unfortunate circumstances.

The 21st of October 2013 was a memorable day, as Ubah left her home country at the age of 18, in order to study in a foreign country and thereby, pursue her dream of becoming a medical doctor. It was not an easy task for Ubah to live in an entirely new environment with other customs and traditions, but she was persistent and committed to overcome the challenges that she faced of being alone at a young age.

Ubah is in particularly fond of reading about medical research. She conducted her first research on ‘Knowledge and utilization of health insurance service among health services clients in a hospital in Sudan’ between December 2017 and February 2018, which increased her passion of doing further research to improve Africa’s health as whole and Somalia in particular. Since she was a little girl, she served the sick and the poor, which has given her a great sense of fulfilment.

In the 4th year of her study, she regularly visited many primary health care clinics and conducted household surveys and learned a great deal about the work of physicians, vaccinations, maternal health, pharmacology, laboratory services and the overall health system in Sudan. Working together with other people and serving humanity through her work, further increased her passion of becoming a doctor.
In the 5th year of the Obstetrics and Gynecology course, she saw a lot of women suffering from various medical conditions, including antepartum and postpartum hemorrhage, preeclampsia and eclampsia, chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes and other gynecological conditions such as fibroids and infertility.

This is when Ubah realized that she wanted to contribute to tackling the leading causes of maternal and infant mortality in Africa and thus, committed herself to become not only a doctor, but a doctor who specializes in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

### SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Decreasing Maternal Mortality Rate, Decreasing Infant Mortality Rate, Increase awareness on the importance of antenatal care and contraceptives, Surgical repair and rehabilitation of obstetric fistula clients.
Zainab Hudeidi
Rigshospitalet Copenhagen, Denmark

Zainab holds a degree in Nursing from Copenhagen Nursing School in Denmark. She currently works as a psychiatric mental health nurse in Copenhagen. She is the founder of Immigrant Women Organization (IWA), which is a nonprofit organization that integrates immigrant women and their families into the receiving community, empower immigrant women to participate in political decision making at all levels, in order to enhance and protect their common interest.

The core part of IWA’s work is to help women to develop skills needed to lead more productive, peaceful, and self-sufficient lives. Zainab is also involved in the Somali Diaspora movement as an activist for women’s right and children’s right to health and education. Her aspiration is to contribute towards the removal of major barriers to women’s participation; such as culture and traditions that keep women away from power in Somalia.

To enable women to play an integral role in shaping the future of Somalia, hand in hand with the men.
In 2010 Stevnsboers partnered with IWO, and sent a container full of blankets, tents, sleeping bags, quilts and mattresses to Bosasso Somalia. Zainab spearheaded the campaign, travelled to Bosasso in December and assisted in distributing the relief to the refugee camps.

Prior to moving to Denmark, Zainab worked in different refugee camps in East Africa, such as Kenya, Ethiopia Uganda and Somalia. She worked with UNHCR office in Bossaso Somalia and African Development Solutions (ADESO) in Nairobi Kenya. The year of 2015, she saw a horrific famine hit in the Horn of Africa. In December 2015, Immigrant Women Association’s management travelled to Sanaag region, Somalia to provide humanitarian assistance. Working primarily in the cities of Badhan, Ceelbuh, Xin galool and Laskorey in the Sanaag Region, Immigrant Women Association provided necessary basic food staples to over 200 women IDPs in the area.
The project was funded by the members of the organization and IWA was able to alleviate the hunger of hundreds of women, and children in Sanaag region, Somalia. IWA teamed up with Almadow Transportation, who provided invaluable help in the moving and distribution of the relief.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

Community health outreach, integration of women into their adopted land, Education and empowerment of women through education and economic investment both human capital and small capital grants, women political empowerment in Somalia in the context of the 30 percent political quota stipulated in the 2012 Garowe roadmap, access of justice for the disadvantaged of internally displaced in Somalia.
ZAINAB JAMA
Hargeisa Group Hospital HIV department
Ministry Of Health Somaliland/HIV Department

She graduated from University of Hargeisa 2012 and started working as a intern doctor 2013 at Hargeisa Group Hospital.

During medical school her favorite subject was surgery and was planning to do surgery however, during her internship specially in medical ward she discovered that people living with HIV face a lot of stigma among healthcare providers and didn't get the right treatment on time like other patients at the ward. She then decided to take option B which was internal medicine.

Her dream of studying was based on her childhood passion, because she believes that helping people when they are most in need is when they are sick and vulnerable. People with HIV became her focus because they faced double vulnerability: they not only needed medical treatment but also lifestyle management to stop HIV transmission in the society.

SPECIAL AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE
I love reading, writing and learning new things especially internal medicine, Volunteering, Expert counselling and raising health awareness particularly HIV (5 years’ experience), Analytic and research skills, Leadership/management skills.
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