

# Bio for Dr. Abdiqani Sheikh Omar Hassan

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Abdiqani Sheikh Omar Hassan is a doctor and the Government Director General with extensive experience in Public Health, Humanitarian, and Gender Equality sectors in Somalia. In addition to this, he is an advocate for human and gender rights and a generous social worker. Having worked as the Director General for the Ministry of Women and Human Rights, and the Ministry of Health and Human Service, he has a list of significant achievements under his name.

With an impressive academic, research, and publication record, he possesses a set of interpersonal, communication, networking, decision-making, and negotiation skills that complement his commitment to on-going professional development. He is an inspirational leader and a true team player who knows how to build and motivate successful teams.

## Education

Dr. Abdiqani has a Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery from Benadir University and a Master's degree in Public Health from Kampala University. He holds a diploma of Human Resource Management from Dima College, Kenya and a qualifying post-graduate diploma of Malaria Program Planning and Management from Tehran University.

He also holds multiple certificates in Political Science and Public Administration, Strategic Management & Leadership, and Policy Planning and Implementation.

He has spent several years in academia indulged in the perusal of many educational resources, which has proved to broaden his horizon and has made for an ongoing learning process.

## Career

Dr. Abdiqani has been offering his services in the medical and public health industry for over 10 years. He first started off as an Assistant Coordinator in the National Refugee Commission back in 2007. From there, he gradually climbed up the professional career ladder by working as an Executive Director at the Somali Young Doctors Association, a Research Fellow at the Somali Medical Research Institute, a

National Malaria Director at the Ministry of Health, and offering consultancy services as a technical advisor and survey coordinator for the Malaria Program in Somalia.

It was only after earning 7 years worth of valuable experience in different institutes and getting his skills polished that he was appointed as a Director General in the Ministry of Health and Human Service in 2014. He very tactfully dealt with the devising and implementing of policies of the Ministry of Health, and the routine operations of the public health system. Under his 2-year leadership tenure, the Ministry of Health and Human Service grew magnanimously. Some of the successful operations under his belt include the Somali Health Policy, National Strategic Plan for HIV/ AIDS, National Reproductive Health Strategy, Somali Drug Policy, Somali Nutrition Strategy, Development of Joint Health and Nutrition Program, and Somali EPI Policy. Not only this, he successfully improved the Donor relationship and developed the financial management capacity for the Ministry.

Later in 2016, Dr. Abdiqani's focus shifted – but only partially – to working for women and human rights. As a Director General in the Ministry of Women and Human Rights, he served to bring some revolutionary changes in the Ministry. Not only did he supervised the team to develop the Human Resource Manual, Financial Management Manual, Human Resource Mapping, Gender Mainstreaming, and Human Right Commission Road Map but also introduced the culture of local and international training to enhance the staff capacity-building process. He also came up with and presented the Sexual Offense Bill to the cabinet ministers.

As a supporter of women rights, he adopted the National Gender Policy and Female Genital Mutilation Policy and presented it to the cabinet ministers for approval. He also managed to get the Human Right Commission Bill signed by the Somali President. In tenure, as short as 1 year, he successfully managed to change the human and women rights game in Somalia for good.

His love and passion for medical research lead him to work as the Director of Somali Medical Research Institute for the past one year. Serving humanity being his aim from day one, he also makes time to provide voluntary health and counselling services to people of his community.

## **International Conferences and Meetings**

Dr. Abdiqani has attended a number of international conferences tapping on various aspects of global issues, such as public health and gender equality.

Some of the international conferences, meetings, and workshops that he has attended include the *Global Public Health International Conference* held in Malaysia, a thematic workshop on *Monitoring, Reporting, Fact-finding, and Investigating in Armed Conflict* conducted in Switzerland, the *World Health Summit Conference* in Germany, the *Africa Health Summit* in Senegal, the *Sixth Inter-country Meeting of National Malaria Programme Managers* from HANMAT and PIAM-NET countries in Cairo, and the *1<sup>st</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Marriage and Family Institution and Preservation of Its Values* in Saudi Arabia.

Among other prominent international appearances, he was on a high-level Japanese panel discussing on *Precision Medicine and Population Health*. He was also appointed as a key speaker for a conference on *Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting* in Finland.

In addition to international conferences and meetings, Dr. Abdiqani has attended many workshops, training sessions, courses, and programs focusing on niches like health, nutrition, medical illnesses, gender equality, humanitarian laws, and management and leadership, on both national and international levels.

## Research and Publications

- Published a [research paper](#) on ‘Treatment of Uncomplicated Malaria with Artesunate Plus Sulfadoxine – Pyrimethamine is Failing in Somalia: Evidence from Therapeutic Efficacy Studies and Pfdhfr and Pfdhps Mutant Alleles’ on 25 Jan 2015
- Published a [paper](#) on Sept 2013 on ‘Malaria Situation in an Endemic Area in South Eastern Iran’
- Published a [medical book](#) by the name ‘Assessment of Knowledge, Attitude and Practice towards Immunization among Mothers/ Caretakers of Children in Benadir Region, Somalia’ on April 19, 2016
- Published a research paper on Mapping the Receptivity of Malaria Risk to Plan the Future of Control in Somalia
- Wrote a paper on Malaria control and the *Plasmodium falciparum* Morbidity and Mortality Burden in Somalia: 2007-2010
- Wrote a thesis entitled ‘Bronchopneumonia in Under 5-year Children in Wardhigley District’
- Wrote a research paper on the Prevalence of Malnutrition under five years’ children at Mogadishu IDPs’ and presented it at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Health Problems in Relation to Displacement and Disasters held at Friendship Hall in Khartoum- Sudan from 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August

2009

- Published a report on Baseline Mapping and Health Facility Audit Survey: Merka District, Somalia, 25<sup>th</sup> August – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007

## **Technological Skills**

Dr. Abdiqani has extensive knowledge of Microsoft Word, Corel Word Perfect, Microsoft PowerPoint, SAS, STATA, and SPSS.