



<u>Triumph Over Adversity: WRRS's Unyielding Support in Afmadhow, Somalia.</u>

In the heart of Afmadhow, Somalia, the Wamo Relief and Rehabilitation Services (WRRS), with the backing of UNICEF, emerges as a lifeline for expectant mothers. Their dedicated team of clinical officers, midwives, assistant midwives, auxiliary nurses, and community health workers (CHWs) play a vital role in monitoring pregnant and lactating mothers through household visits, ensuring that no woman or child is lost due to a lack of health services. However, the organization recently faced an unprecedented challenge when the El Niño floods led to the closure of their health center. Within this setback, a remarkable story of resilience and community support unfolded.

On a fateful Thursday 3Oth November 2023, around 3 AM, Fadhumo Sahra Mohamed, pregnant with her second child, found herself in the throes of labor. The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) facility, her customary refuge, was inaccessible due to the floods. In her moment of need, Fadhumo reached out to the WRRS Team, who promptly made their way to her residence. The midwife, equipped with UNICEF-supported training, quickly assessed the situation and ensured Fadhumo received the necessary support. Despite the challenges posed by flooding and the absence of a fully equipped health facility, the team skillfully guided Fadhumo through the birthing process.

In the early hours of the morning, surrounded by the dim glow of lanterns and the reassuring presence of her mother and the team, Fadhumo gave birth to a healthy baby boy. This successful delivery in challenging circumstances serves as a testament to the resilience of both the community and the dedicated healthcare providers.

This heartwarming success story underscores the importance of community-based healthcare services, particularly in regions prone to natural disasters. The unwavering commitment of organizations like WRRS, supported by UNICEF, and the resilience of individuals like Fadhumo and the WRRS team exemplify the strength that can emerge even in the face of adversity. As Afmadhow rebuilds in the aftermath of the floods, this tale of hope and determination will be remembered as a shining example of the power of community and compassionate healthcare.

The comprehensive support provided by the WRRS team extends beyond childbirth, with the baby being weighed and immunized. Additionally, the mother received non-food items such as shelter kits and a mosquito net, along with essential food supplies (10 kgs of rice, sugar, and wheat), all part of the WRRS initiative and made possible through collaboration with partners like International Organization of Migration (IOM) through the Common Pipeline project. This holistic approach further emphasizes the organization's commitment to addressing the diverse needs of the community in times of crisis.



