



Abdelrahman Elwishahy, WHO fellow in violence and injury prevention, 20 October 2019–20 June 2019

As a young health professional, taking part in the research and policy analysis processes conducted at the Regional Office has been an invaluable experience. Not only are you as a fellow exposed to numerous topics and discussions, but also your contribution to pressing matters such as regional commitments or ongoing projects is both needed and valued by the Office.

I am a dentist holding an MSc in International Health. Focused on global health challenges such as global health governance, and universal health coverage in the face of scarce resources and external shocks such as climate change. Prior work experience in the private and public health sector. A firm believer in fair and accessible health and well-being an inalienable right of any human, regardless of race, gender or citizenship.

What inspired you to come to work every day?

The fully supportive team of colleagues that make up the backbone of the Regional Office. Aside from that, the engaging and friendly discussions on the broad global health in every office, corridor, and room.

What are your future goals?

Working with the regional health policy forums in hopes of realizing the regional targets of universal health coverage and equitable health access. My short-term plan is to work in health policy and governance regionally, and subsequently, pursue a PhD in that topic in Germany, where I am currently residing. I am sure that I can build on the synergies between my alma mater, the Regional Office, and my future PhD to help attain those goals.

What were your major contributions during the fellowship?

Under the leadership of my supervisor, the Regional Advisor on violence, injuries and disabilities, I was able to design and create numerous policy and advocacy publications on road safety in the Region. I have also been assigned to work on several youth engagement initiatives, including being my unit's focal person for a multi-programme project on the impact of COVID-19 on adolescent health.

What is your takeaway from this fellowship?

Being in WHO during such a crucial time made me realize the crucial importance of regional and transitional coordination and cooperation to achieve key targets such as universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.

What were your fun experiences outside the office in Cairo?

Even though I come from Cairo, hanging out with Regional Office friends has given me the chance to re-explore my hometown. Through these get-togethers, we found that in Cairo, there is something to do for everyone, everywhere, and anytime!

Any tips and suggestions for the future fellows?

The time you spend at the Regional Office is very valuable and enriching. Aside from your normal responsibilities, there are always ongoing Kuwait hall meetings, lunch-and-learns, lunch seminars, or even friendly office discussions. However, do not let that take you away from enjoying yourself in Cairo!

WHO's health-in-all-policies should be regarded as a golden standard in all strategic planning. We as humans will reach universal health coverage only through realizing that the hardship of one person, is a hardship of all!

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