

CASE STUDY 4



SHAMARKE & ZAKARIYE

School as a safe space during COVID-19 and other emergencies

Schools have been closed for many young people due to COVID-19 but for some students, school is more than a space for learning. It is somewhere that they know will also keep them safe.

Shamarke, 14 and Zakariye 13, Somalia

Shamarke (14) and Zakariye (13), used to live on the streets of Mogadishu, the capital city of Somalia. Like many other children, they were pushed onto the street by poverty and family breakdowns.

“ I left my parents when I was so young. I do not know the whereabouts of my family. ”

COVID-19 has inflicted deep and widespread impacts on the Somali economy, making many families unemployed and making even more children homeless.



The long school closures have exposed many more children to abuse and exploitation, taking away what was their only safe space.

Shamarke said

“ Before I used to live with street children. Most of them used to have big knives. I was taken out of these gangs. Now I live in a good place. I urge other street children to go back to school. ”

School helped a lot to get Shamarke and Zakariye off the streets. Thanks to the Kadare Street Children re-integration centre and investment in education they were able to resume their education in December 2020. ”

Zakariye said

“ I used to live as street child at Ceelgaab area of Hamarweyne district of Mogadishu. I was addicted to drugs. Now I am healthy and studying. I have a place to sleep and food to eat. In the future, I hope to be a school teacher. ”

Case study: Education for All Somalia