Acceptance speech by Dr. Deqo Aden Mohamed (daughter of laureate Dr. Hawa Abdi Diblaawe.

Thank you to Roosevelt Foundation for this honourable award, I am grateful to receive the Medal from Want on behalf of my mother, Dr. Hawa Abdi, and share the courageous work that is happening in Somalia. She regrets that she cannot be with you today, but she is sending her love and best wishes.

The award is perfect to capture my mother's work. She has dedicated her entire life to helping those around her. Before the war, she wanted to expand healthcare access to the rural population, especially mothers and children. Then, for 23 years of civil war, she gave the right and dignity to the most vulnerable to live their lives, through healthcare, education, food, clean water, and shelter. At the height of the civil war, there were over 90,000 people who found shelter on her land. She gave opportunities for women, men, and children, to be freed from the violence and clan divisions that torn the country apart, and a chance to live their own lives.

When I was a young girl, me and my sister would go around to help our mother deliver medications in rural villages. We stood by our mother's side during the civil war, and we too followed in her footsteps to become doctors to help make a difference in the world, and show that women can be leaders too. Today, even though there is renewed hope with a new government, there is still a long way to go to rebuild Somalia, where 23 years of violence has destroyed even the fundamental meaning of peace in society.

That is why we continue our work today. I am carrying on my mother's work through the Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation, running a village with a 400-bed hospital, school for girls and boys, a women's education centre, and a sustainable farm using smart farming techniques. With these institutions, it is our vision to build socially and environmentally-conscious communities, so that the people of Somalia can stand up for themselves and be committed to sustain long-lasting peace in the country.