The Community feedback in this report was collected by our community correspondents spread across the Dadaab refugee camps and host community during the course of their work, as well as feedback collected from the weekly live radio call-in show (Bilan) broadcasted in Dadaab by Star FM’s Radio Gargaar 97.1FM. The community comments were recorded during Vox pop interviews in no structured way but from those willing to comment on the Coronavirus issue. A total of 65 comments were recorded in the week of March 17 – March 20, 2020. These highlights indicate broad trends in the refugee and host communities’ perceptions of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
Coronavirus is a dangerous disease, and we fear it so much. We heard about it on the radio, but we don’t know much. We haven’t seen anyone affected by it. I would say, may God protect us from it.  
Adult, female, Dadaab

There is widespread fear among people regarding the Coronavirus. These are people with low incomes who live in refugee status. If this virus has severely affected developed countries like China and others, we feel it might harm us. I would suggest that humanitarian organizations should put effort into preventing it.  
Adult, female, Dadaab

We heard this virus which some people named Corona, and we are not a party to that. We are not the type it will affect. God forbid; we pray it does not reach us. Here there is no testing and treating kits. Advanced countries who usually support us are overwhelmed and grappling with it. We cannot believe something we have not seen. People are of different race and religion; we believe that it cannot affect Muslims. We heard that people should quarantine themselves, how can we do that when we rely on a daily wage. Any day you come home without something, you will have it rough with the kids and the wife. Those who have fridges and stock of foodstuff can quarantine themselves, but not us. Furthermore, Corona cannot survive in this hot temperature and as a result, it cannot affect us.  
Adult, resident, Dadaab

We fear the Coronavirus. It’s a fatal virus. We ask God not to infect any Muslim. People in Dadaab camp live in a border, households are very close which makes it a high-risk area if the virus reaches here. I would urge the community to reduce shaking hands and hugging. It’s contacted if someone’s breathe reaches another. I pray to God it doesn’t reach us.  
Resident, Dadaab

For more information on In The Loop Bulletin and Communicating with Communities efforts by Internews in Kenya, please contact Stellar Murumba on smurumba@INTERNEWS.ORG