Mansur Bala Safiyanu "IT IS NOT YET OVER, UNTIL WE ARE ALL OVER"

At the early hours of Saturday, 21st of November 2020, together with 14 of my associative community volunteers, we headed to a village for a health awareness campaign. Dusty, dry and foggy nature of the weather is among the basic things that made that Saturday. Three hours of a long, tired, hectic and exhausting journey of my life, which was only driven by the desire to help some people in our local community, being in a vulnerable situation, in view of the recent viral COVID-19 pandemic. We had planned with our team a campaign with the aim to raise awareness, during which we would distribute facemasks and explain the local population how to take preventive measures. It was not easy to access the village. For over 2 hours we drove through a bumpy road, bushes and dry rivers. Finally, we were there; a group of women, children and men of joyful community had already gathered in front of the community leader's house with children shouting in local language "ga turawa sunzo ga turawa sunzo" meaning "the white people have come".

The joy, hope and excitement in the eyes of these people was overwhelming. It's an organized community with desire to help themselves but do not have the means to do so. It's a community with a population of over a thousand people, with a lot of neighboring villages and yet without access to health care, portable drinking water, with only access to basic primary education; a community struggling with extreme poverty.

The eye of one of the village women community volunteers was filled with agony, loss and confusion while narrating the condition of the community; all of the WaCA associative community volunteers almost had tears running down their cheeks. "Mu mun hakura mun barwa Allah komai" is the last and the most heartbroken word that came from her mouth which means "we've left God to decide our faith".

That Saturday afternoon on the way back home, I carried with me the words of the people that we met. I felt grateful for all the things that I have. It is also clear to me that a huge part of the population in my community lives at the comfort with accessibility to health care. A huge population and community on the other hand, as whole lacks access to basic health care and have no or very little knowledge about their health more especially on this deadly virus (Covid-19). Yet the hope in the eyes of the community gives me the desire to do more; as it is said "it is not yet over until we all are over".

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