Forty-year-old Mohamad Ghanem wishes he could turn back the clock and relive his teenage years. At the age of 11, he took the world’s weight on his shoulders after his father fell ill, when he had to step up and support his seven younger siblings.

Mohamad followed his passion for rewiring electrical connections, succeeding in earning his living from it and becoming a skilled electrician. “I wanted to stay in school and become a doctor, maybe a surgeon, but eventually I became a doctor of electricity,” says Mohamad with a big smile on his face.

Mohamad works as a maintenance agent in the logistical team at MSF’s Nablus hospital in West Mosul. It’s not his first job with MSF; in fact, Mohamad has worked in nine different MSF projects in Mosul since 2017. “When I first applied to work with MSF, I just needed a job, but I chose to stay with the organisation because I receive great support and appreciation from my team. I feel that my job brings an added value to MSF’s work.”

Mohamad’s biggest motivation is helping people, which gives him a joy he can’t put into words. By fixing electrical issues in the hospital, he ensures that the medical work can continue uninterrupted. “The medical team is at the forefront of the hospital, while the logistical team is like its backbone. I think my job directly serves the people, which is why I will always do all I can for the success of the project.”

When he’s going through a tough time or facing a difficult problem, Mohamad gets in his car and drives without any destination in mind, simultaneously quenching his thirst for exploring new places and finding peace of mind. Often he will stop by a river and sit for a while, without distractions, while focusing on finding solutions or resolutions. He believes that “humans need some serenity in this busy and fast-paced life”.

After a busy day at work, Mohamad returns home still full of energy. He helps his six children with their homework then plays with them. He sits with his wife to tell her about his day and to ask about hers. “I never let my children see me in a bad mood,” he says. “I have great love for my family. I live to see them happy and I hope I can give them a better future.”