

SAACID



Health and Nutritional Activities in Adale District, Middle Shabelle Region



Fadtima and Suhayb before treatment

Background

SAACID has been operational in Adale District, Middle Shabelle Region, since 1991. From 1991 to 1997, SAACID operated a full range of health and nutritional services throughout Adale District in partnership with ADRA (including inpatient surgery). After 1997, ADRA withdrew from Adale, and SAACID's capacity to deliver services to the district reduced to 1 TB Clinic and a small amount of outpatient care in Adale Town.

In late 2008, SAACID signed a 2-year strategic partnership contract with Medair. SAACID is now in its 2nd year of that strategic partnership with Medair, to develop and sustain an integrated health, nutrition and WASH programme for the whole of the district of Adale. Medair has been responsible for funding and developing a comprehensive primary healthcare programme throughout the district; as well as developing an integrated programme for nutrition, WASH and livelihood activities throughout the district of Adale. The aim is to have developed SAACID's indigenous capacity to a point where SAACID can sustain indigenous operations by the end of 2010.

This programme has made great strides over the past 18 months, and remains on track to reach its strategic and operational goals.

Fatima Abdullah Abdi

“My name is Fatima Abdullah Abdi. I am a 21 year-old mother with 2 sons, Suhayb and Ahmed. Suhayb is 14-months old, while Ahmed, whom I delivered at the SAACID Adale Medical Centre, is 45 days old now.

My husband, Hassan Ali, is a 26 year-old small businessman; but he is currently unemployed at the moment. He used to be a road vender at the second largest market of Yaqshid District [called Towfiq] in Mogadishu City. We got married 3 years ago in Yaqshid District where we used to have a normal life, but our life was completely ruined when heavy shelling by AMISOM entirely destroyed the market and displaced thousands of people who resided around the corners of the market. My husband and I discussed with other where we could seek refuge; and my husband suggested fleeing to the Afgoye Corridor [west of Mogadishu], but I disagreed, and requested to flee to my relatives in Geelgub Village in Adale District, which he finally accepted.

When we arrived, we found that rural life was very difficult, as Adale District is very economically depressed. With no work, and therefore no income, my son Suhayb became severely malnourished; and he also got an infectious mouth sore, so that he couldn't be breast feed or eat any food. Since I was newly displaced, I didn't know where to go for treatment, or who to seek help from; and when I asked how much was the cost of transportation from Geelgub Village to Mogadishu hospitals, I was told that it was about 4,500,000 Somali Shillings [about US \$150]. I became desperate when I realised that we couldn't afford to take our son to Mogadishu. While I was worrying about my child's condition, I myself felt a great pain in my stomach. As I was in my 9th month of pregnancy, I suspected that I was about to give birth; and the neighbours told me that there was local maternal volunteer registered by SAACID.



Suhayb could not eat properly due to his infected mouth

I took my son with me to the maternity volunteer. After an examination, the volunteer saw the infectious lips, the tongue, and the general condition of my son's mouth. She then told me to visit the SAACID health outpost in Geelgub Village where she said my son could get help. She also told me that there was a female community health worker that I could consult with for antenatal care.

I met with a kind female SAACID nurse at the Geelgub health post and she told me that my son was severely malnourished and also had complications. Furthermore, she added that I would need to have an examination with SAACID's mobile OTP/SFP team that routinely visits Geelgub village every Wednesday. On Wednesday 31 March, I brought my son back to the SAACID centre for a further examination. The nurses and auxiliaries welcomed me and examined my son. They recommended that my child be referred to SAACID's Stabilization Centre in Adale Town, which was 30 kilometres away from my village. The mobile team asked me to go back and prepare myself to spend 1-2 weeks at the Stabilization Centre. They also told me that I would not need to worry for my daily food, because they said the Stabilization Centre offers 3 meals per day for the caretakers at the centre. In the mean time, they called the referral car and I was picked up and taken to Adale Town.

After 5 days in the Stabilisation Centre something unexpected happened. I again felt signs that I was about to deliver. Then I called my mother from Geelgub to be a caretaker for me and my son. I was told that there was an experienced midwife and a labour room at SAACID's hospital; and this was a relief and a delight for me. Soon I delivered a healthy new baby boy at in the labour room, and I got good postnatal care, and my new son was vaccinated there; and the eldest son was completely cured of malnutrition and its complications.

Suhayb was discharged from the Adale Stabilisation Centre and referred back to the Geelgub Health Post after his complications were cured, and where he received further outpatient treatment and monitoring. To get back to my village, SAACID again let us use their referral car, so that we had no cost associated with this travel. I have really benefited from this program in 2 ways, and I can only express my heartfelt thanks to SAACID for this lifesaving service".



Before



After



A fully cured Suhayb