

SAACID



Fadumo Ali Abukar



Fadumo and her son Ilyas

“My name is Fadumo Ali Abukar. I am twenty five years old mother, and a mother of 6 children - 5 girls and 1 boy. My eldest daughter is 8 years old and my youngest son is 1 year old. My 4 eldest daughters share 1 father, while the 2 others are from different father. My first ex-husband, Hassan Ali, was a porter. He divorced me after I gave birth to 4 consecutive daughters, because he told me that he didn’t like to have all girl children. And he always called me ‘the mother of girls’.

My second husband, Mohamed Osman (35), is now jobless. He has been unemployed for around 2 months now. He has worked as a mason for almost his whole life. Our livelihood was good when my husband worked, and we usually had three meals a day, but now, our living mainly depends on the food we get from the SAACID food kitchen in Waberi District. In fact, the food we get from the food kitchen is not enough, but I sometimes work for neighbourhood families, washing clothes for them and doing other house chores too. When I can get such work, I earn an amount of money that covers some small expenses for my family. I usually earn 15,000-20,000 Somali Shillings [roughly US \$50-70 cents]. Now, we usually have 1-2 meals a day.

Accessing water is not so difficult, because we can buy 200 litres for 15,000 Somali Shillings [US \$0.5].

Presently, I am residing in Waberi District. We have been living in this district since I got married to my ex-husband 9 years ago. Before that, I was living in Hamar-jajab District. I came here to get health support for my lovely youngest son Ilyas. Ilyas has been ill for aou 3 weeks now. I really don't know what is wrong with him; but he refused to be breastfeed after he got measles and whopping cough about a month ago. A week ago, he also got watery diarrhoea, and I immediately took him to Madina Hospital, where he was an inpatient for 6 days. Now the diarrhoea has stopped, but he is still unhealthy and weak. I did not take my son to any other doctor, as my husband is unemployed. I am not able to take him to the private clinics, because I am unable to pay the doctor visit fees, and other costs needed for the purchase of prescribed drugs. I am still very worried about the health of my lovely son.

I was been informed by a SAACID neighbourhood lady that this health centre was in operation and provided free treatment to malnourished children. I really felt very happy with this information. She has also informed me that the clinic is providing free healthcare to unhealthy children under 5 years of age and those who are acutely malnourished. When I came here I was well received. The nurses at the clinic provided him with treatment, biscuits [Plumpy Nut], and Amoxicillin syrup. They also gave me instructions and advice on how to feed my sick son at home with the biscuits. Now, I am expecting that my son will recover from the sickness arising from malnourishment. Also, the nurses told me to bring my son back to the clinic after 6 days for follow-up and possible continuation of treatment. I hope my son's health will get much better in the following weeks, which I foresee.

I also hope that the services of the health centre can be extended in order to assist more sick children like my son who need special help at this critical time. I request the clinic provide also other health service support, like vaccinations and treatment for pregnant mothers.

