

# SAACID



*Checking Maryan's daughter Biibi to see if she is cured of Oedema*

“My name is Maryan Ibrahim Mohamed. I am a 37-year old mother of 11 children - 8 girls and 3 boys. My eldest daughter is 25 years old, and my youngest daughter is 28 months old.

My first (ex) husband, Ali Samoow, was a mason. He divorced me after my mother joined my family. He refused my mother to stay with us, and I told him that I needed my mother; and as a result of that disagreement, he divorced me.

I got married to my 2<sup>nd</sup> husband, Abdalla Bilaal (50) 3 months after my 1<sup>st</sup> husband divorced me (5 months ago). He is mechanic and electrician. He has 2 other wives and 14 children. He considers all my children and my mother as part of his family, and he is prepared to pay for all their needs.

Presently, I am residing in Hamar-weyne District. We have been living in this district for almost 2 years. We have been displaced from Hodan District. We were displaced after we could not endure the fighting and the shelling which was happening in Hodan. We are now residing in an old government building in Hamar-weyne, because we can't afford the rent of a house, and that is why we preferred to reside in this old destroyed government building.

I sometimes go to work in my neighbourhood to wash clothes and clean houses. I earn 30 to 40 forty thousand Somali Shillings [US \$1 - \$1.3] when I successfully finish my work. I do not get this work every day but I can usually get 2-3 days of work per week. This is not enough, but it is extra aid and helps support for my large family. In addition, our daily life also depends on the food we get from the food kitchen in the district; and this food is the most unforgettable thing – it has really helped us survive and sustain our livelihood in the very difficult current circumstances. Now, we are not depressed from not having enough money, because we can rely on food from the food kitchen.

The water situation is not so difficult, because we buy 1 barrel [200 litres] for 15,000 Somali Shillings [about US \$0.50]. The water is brought by donkey cart.

I arrived here to get a health and nutritional support for my lovely youngest daughter Biibi Ali, who was sick for the past 3 months. Biibi became seriously ill about 3 weeks ago. We don't have any spare money, so there was nothing to pay a doctor or pharmacist with. I really don't know what is wrong with her, but she refused to be breastfed after she got the measles and whopping cough about a month ago. About a week ago, she also got watery diarrhoea, and I immediately took her to Medina Hospital, where she has been inpatient and was treated for 6 days. Now the diarrhoea has stopped but she is still unhealthy and weak.

As I am economically poor, I could not take her to private doctor because I am unable to pay the fees for a doctor's visit, and cover the cost of the required prescribed drugs. I am still very worried about the health of my lovely daughter.



*The demand is great – SAACID has treated over 42,000 children in the first 8 months of activity*

I was first informed by an outreach lady that this health centre was in operation and provided free treatment to malnourished children less than five years of age. I really felt very happy with this information, because I wasn't able to take my daughter to a doctor due to lack of

money. When I came here I was well received. The nurses at the clinic checked my daughter, and then immediately provided her with treatment, and a paste called Plumpy for malnutrition. They also gave me directions and advice me on how to feed my sick daughter at home with the Plumpy. Now, I am expecting that my daughter will recover from the sickness arising from malnourishment problem. Also, the nurses told me to bring my daughter back to the clinic after 6 days for a follow-up check-up and possible continuation of treatment. I hope my daughter's health will get much better in the following weeks, which I now foresee. I also request the clinic to provide also other health service support - like vaccinations and treatment for pregnant mothers as well. The nurses say that they are working on this, but at the moment they cannot get the necessary drugs.

I give my strong appreciation for all the donors who are contributing to the health centres – and also to the food kitchens – which are all lifesavings; and really keeping thousands of poor Somalis alive at this time.

### **Six weeks after initial treatment**

“I am happy today because I see my daughter Biibi is recovering from the sickness of malnutrition. The health of my youngest daughter Biibi is improving and I love her very much.

My daughter's health was very poor before I brought her to this health centre, and I was very worried about her health situation. In addition, I sometimes thought my daughter Biibi would not survive her critical situation. I am going to thank the outreach lady who first informed me that this health centre is in operation, and provided free health care to malnourished children less than five years age. It very likely saved Biibi's life.

There is a great change in the health of my daughter. As you can see before, she was ailing with oedema, but now the oedema has disappeared, and this came after the efforts made by nurse Khadija at the SAACID Hamar-weyne health clinic.

The nurses at this health centre gave me good advice on ways that I could better feed my daughter with the plumpy paste; and I very much appreciate the work they are doing for the sick and poor vulnerable families in Mogadishu.

SAACID organisation doesn't need any prompting to support its people, because they already are committed to provide support for the vulnerable children. However, we request SAACID to enlarge these health centres, and to include the vaccination for the children. This is because vaccination is the most important thing for the promotion of the health infants and young children.

Finally, I am going to thank SAACID and its partners that are helping poor and innocent people like us, who have been in such a desperate situation for almost 2 decades now.