

SAACID



Saciido Abdi Mohamed



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SAACID and Oxfam Novib have been partnering each other in humanitarian relief and development programming since 1996. In September 2009, SAACID and Oxfam Novib began a new partnership in child nutrition in Mogadishu City. SAACID is running 8 Community Therapeutic Care (CTC) sites in 8 of Mogadishu's 16 districts. To date, more than 55,000 children have received treatment at those sites.

Saciido was born and grew up in Mogadishu, where she still lives. Saciido has 1 younger brother. Her father died while she was 3 years old. After the death of her father, her mother became the breadwinner of her 2 children, but unfortunately, her mother died for cholera 2 years of her father's death. Then her uncle undertook the responsibility of the 2 children.

Saciido got married when she was 16 years old, after she could no longer endure life at her uncles' home. "I got married when I was 16 years old, and this came after my uncles' wife continued to target my brother and myself. I tried to endure the problems many times, but finally I decided to leave that life and to build my own future life, and I have succeeded. Now

I am a house wife, and I have 3 children (2 girls and 1 boy). My husband (Siidow, 26) is a porter and works at Bakaro Market in Hawl-wadag District, where he carries things for the people in his own wheelbarrow. Our life depends on what he earns from his work. I don't know what he can get or can't get but we eat when he provides, and we do not concern ourselves if we don't receive anything.

Life in this country is very worsening, and I am very worried about my children's life because we are not able to eat a balanced diet, and that is why my children are ailing with malnutrition".

Hamar-jajab is one of the health centres in Mogadishu which SAACID is operating. The centre provides free healthcare to children with malnutrition, who are less than 5 years of age. Saciido is now 1 of the recipients of the centre, when she admitted her 1-year old son, Abdi Siidow.

"I came here for my beloved son, Abdi Siidow, to receive healthcare. "Abdi has been ill for almost 1 month, and I did not know what was wrong with him, but he became very sick 2 weeks ago. An outreach lady from SAACID, who came to my home for a visit, saw Abdi and measured his MUAC [mid upper arm circumference], and she told me that he was ailing with a malnutrition problem, and she informed me to take him to this health centre. When I came here, I was well received, and the nurses have checked my son's health. Then the nurses provided my son with free healthcare and told me that he could be placed in an OTP programme, because of the malnutrition problem. When I came here I felt a good expectation, because the nurses told me that the malnutrition problem could be treated, and this raised my hopes, and I expect my son will now soon get better from this malnutrition problem. The nurses gave my son special paste for malnourished children; and they also provided me with good education on the ways that I should feed my son with the paste.

Saciido concluded her speech by thanking SAACID and other humanitarian organisations for their life-saving programmes.