

SAACID



Sahro Ahmed Fiidow



Sahro and baby Mohamed

“My name is Sahro Ahmed Fiidow, and I am a 20 year-old mother with 1 son, Mohamed Abdi Mohamud. Mohamed is now 7-months old. Mohamed has been ill since I gave birth. In fact, I don’t know exactly what is wrong with him but he refused me to feed him with breast milk after 1 month of his birth. I didn’t take my son to any doctor because of no economic capacity to pay the fees. Fortunately, a SAACID neighbourhood outreach lady advised me to bring my son to this health post; and I was well received when I came here, and I met with good nurses, and they helped me improve the health of my son.

My husband, Abdi Mohamud, is a 25 year-old bus conductor; but he is unemployed at the moment. He used to work a minibus as a conductor in some of the streets in Mogadishu, but we have been displaced from Yaqshid District after consistent heavy fighting throughout the whole district. So now we are living with my husband’s parents in Wadajir District as displaced people. Before our life was very good and we lived separately from my husband’s parents. Now we are living in 3 rented room, and each 1 is about US \$4. For all this large

family, the total amount of the rent of the house is US \$12. The only bread-winner for this family is my husband's father who is a land-broker. His job depends on what kind of land or house he can negotiate a price and buyer for. My husband's mother stays at home and does nothing.

Water is not difficult to get, because we usually get the water from a donkey-cart. We buy 1 barrel of water for 15,000 Somali Shilling [around US \$0.50], but this water can be used only for cooking and washing clothes, because the water is too heavy and bitter. We buy 1 jerry can of clean water of 20 litre capacity for 5,000 Somali Shillings [US \$0.02]. We use this water for drinking only.

You can guess the life of a family who live in a volatile country like Somalia, because there has been no effective central government for almost 2 decades now, and most of the families who remain in Mogadishu are the most vulnerable people in Somalia; and we are 1 of those families, as I have already mentioned, our life depends on my father-in-law.

We usually eat 2 meals per day, and this food is the cheapest food in the city, because we are not able to buy foods for a balanced diet. In addition, the small children do not get milk regularly, including my little son Mohamed.

When I came to the SAACID health centre, I was well received, and the nurses checked my son's health, and told me that the problem is only malnutrition, and they gave me good advice and the ways that I could feed him with the paste at home.

Finally, I am going to thank SAACID and its entire staff for the stamina of their hard work and such lifesaving programmes”.



Reception at the SAACID Wadajir health centre