

# SAACID



**Mogadishu, Somalia; 14 September 2009**

**The first malnourished child has been treated in the Dharkenley District, Mogadishu**



*Baby Yoonis, with wasting and bloated belly*

In September 2009, SAACID, with funding from Oxfam Novib, opened 8 Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC) sites throughout Mogadishu City. The aim was to meet the growing needs for moderately and severely malnourished under 5s that SAACID had been seeing at its wet food kitchen sites.

“My name is Farhio Abdulaahi Hussein, I am a mother (27) of 8 children - 5 girls and 3 boys. My eldest son Isman is 9-years old, while my youngest child is just 8 months old.

I have been living in the district of Dharkenley for the past 10 years. My husband Ahmed Abdulaahi (30) works as a vehicle tire repairer. He works in the Dharkenley Market. Our life depends on what he earns from the work he does.

I came here to get a treatment for my little son, Yoonis. I found out about this centre when it was still under reconstruction, because it not far from my house here. I also found out when the centre would officially open; and that the centre was going to provide free nutritional care to children less than five years of age.

My son has got constant fever; and he coughs, and sometimes he vomits. Three months ago, I took him to a hospital. The doctor there told me that he may have contracted tuberculosis after the result of X-Ray; and he prescribed some medicine. After a month, when there was no change in my son, I decided not to continue with the medicine, because I thought that he did not have tuberculosis.

Three days ago I took him to a pharmacy in order to take stool exam; but the result was negative. I am very hopeful my son will get better with the care from this centre. I think this centre will support poor people, and the poor people in the district will get free healthcare; and thousands of people in the district will be beneficial of this program. I met good people here, and they treated me with respect and were warm and welcoming. I have decided to be one of the clients at this centre”.

### **Mogadishu, Somalia; 9 November 2009**

SAACID met Farhio again in early November to see how her son Yoonis was progressing.

Farhio said that, “I am very happy today because I can see that my son Yoonis is getting healthier day-by-day. Before coming to the SAACID centre, Yoonis could not drink milk, or sleep well at nights. Now, he drinks milk,

She said that her son could not even drink milk and couldn’t sleep well at nights but now he can drink milk and can sleep well at nights. In addition, he has an attractive appearance. “Now, I am very happy to see that he can eat and drink, and his appearance is very healthy now”.



*After nearly 2 months of treatment*

Sa'ido, a female SAACID nurse at the Dharkeynley CTC site, explained the condition of the child before admission and after undergoing treatment. "After we saw that this child was malnourished, we accepted him to be registered as one of the patients at the CTC centre. After nearly 2 months of treatment, he is now cured.

The first day we had registered Yoonis was 14 September 2009, and it was also the first day the centre opened. He was 4.2 kilograms upon admission; and now he is 6.5 kilogram's in weight. Therefore, on 14 November we shall transfer him from a severely malnourished status to a moderately malnourished case; and he will then receive another 2 months treatment that is specialised for moderate malnourishment.

On 14 January 2010, Yoonis received a final medical clearance and was discharged from the programme.