

SAACID



Habiibo Osman



Habiibo Osman collecting water from one of the piping points

“Water is the basic need for human life”

For the last 19 years, internally displaced families in Somalia have lived under a constant threat of violence due to political instability. Many men, women and children have been forced to flee their homes in order to save their families. Although they still remain within the country, most don't have social services and basic necessities, such as education, and clean water. SAACID and Oxfam Novib have been striving to meet the needs of Somali IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) by providing them with food aid and clean water. This assistance continues to flow in the form of clean and free water being provided to poor families in 55 IDP camps, who have been displaced from their homes in Mogadishu.

SAACID also provides free emergency education to IDP children at 10 sites in Lafole and the Elasha area, where most of the displaced families are now subsisting.

Habiibo Osman, is a 40 year old displaced mother of 6 children. She lives in the Yabaal IDP camp in the Lafole area of the Afgoye Corridor.

“I have given birth to 8 children, but only 6 of my children are alive, while 2 of them died from starvation. I am the only the breadwinner for my children, and now I am unemployed because there is no work in the area; but I used to work in Bakaro Market as porter before we were from Wardhigley District where our life was better than today. I sometimes get some support for my neighbourhood families. Some of them give us dry food, while others give us their leftover food, because they respect me as a mother of orphaned children”.

Habiibo lost her husband, Mohamed (45), in 2008 after an exchange of a heavy shelling in Hodan District while he was working in the area. Mohamed was a professional mason.

“Three weeks ago from now, my 10-year old son, Ahmed, started to work at the Lafole Market as shoe shiner. He earns 10,000-15,000 Somalia Shillings per day [around US \$0.50], and this becomes the first step my son had taken to support me and my large family.

We are very happy to be here because we get access to free clean water, and this is why we still believe that we can live in this camp. There are many families who are residing in camps in this area, and the reason is the free clean water. Before families come to reside in a camp, they will first find out if the camp has access to free water. This is because they know that water is the basic need for human life, and that is why the water points are becoming so busy.



Haji Garabey Hussein, a newly arrived IDP at Yabaal Camp

Haji Garabey Hussein (65) is a former District Commissioner of Abdul-aziz District. He welcomed SAACID as thanked SAACID for providing so many services to all the people, no matter where they were. He appreciated SAACID and Oxfam Novib for the free water service – “this really makes a genuine difference to the lives of tens-of-thousands of very poor people”. Haji Garabey is one of the new displaced people in the camp; and he had only been residing in the camp only 4 nights when we met him. We are thanking SAACID and Oxfam Novib, and we ask SAACID and the donors to extend the water points in order to decrease the people in the long queues waiting for access to water”.

The elders of Yabaal IDP Camp also thanked SAACID and Oxfam Novib for providing this free water, and they also suggested extending the water points to some new camps.