

# SAACID



**Halimo Hassan**



*Halimo collecting water*

## **“If there is no water there is no life” ... Halimo**

SAACID and Oxfam Novib have been working together maintain a water well and piping system for displaced families in the Lafole area of the Afgoye Corridor since March 2009. The water is provided free-of-charge, and is distributed through a piping system to some 55 Internally Displaced person (IDP) camps in Lafole.

Bakayow IDP Camp is a recipient of this free water distribution system. Halimo Hassan resides in Bakayow. She is a mother of 50 and has given birth to 9 children - 3 girls and 6 boys. Her 7 living children reside with her in Bakayow Camp (2 of her sons died in the Ethiopian occupation of 2007-8).

“Life in the camp is very different from life in Mogadishu, because when we were in Mogadishu we usually had 3 meals every day, but now we only get 1 strong meal at midday each day. My husband and my sons were working previously, but now that we are displaced, they have no permanent work.

We have not received any humanitarian aid from international or local NGOs since the insurgents banned WFP [World Food Programme]. Many poor families are moving from the camps to new places, including Mogadishu, because of food shortages.

We are not planning to move from here because we still believe that we can live here and we will someday see that NGOs and other humanitarian agencies will again be able to work in the area, if the insurgents lift the ban on them. The only reason that we are now staying in this camp is that there is free-of-charge of water. Our family income is so little that if this opportunity for free water disappears, there will be further massive displacement from the Lafole area. There are so many families that are only just surviving in the Lafole camps, the free water allows thousands of families to stay together and not be broken up and further displaced.

We get the water whenever we need it, and the water we get from this water point is enough and we are satisfied. We want to thank SAACID and Oxfam Novib, and we sincerely request that this lifesaving water programme continue.



*Water point with water tanks in the background*