

SAA CID



Khadija Axmadey



Khadija is presently displaced at Yabaal IDP settlement in the Lafole area of the Afgoye Corridor

My name is Khadija Axmadey. I am 52 years of age. I am a mother of one daughter, who is 26 years old, and who has no children. I am a disabled person, and can't do any work; but my beloved daughter is always here to help me.

We were displaced from Tarabuunka IDP camp in the district of Hodan in Mogadishu in the year 2007, when the Ethiopians attacked and occupied Mogadishu. In the initial month of occupation, we stayed in Mogadishu, but when the Ethiopian troops intensified their conflict, using of heavy artillery and indiscriminate shelling day and night, we moved to this camp.

Up until our 2007 displacement, we had been living in Mogadishu for 8 years. In that time, we had been displaced within the city several times – caused by fighting, killings and rape all through the city. We endured all that, but as a mother with a daughter and with no other

person by our side, I always felt too much fear of being raped, tortured or humiliated by the merciless militia that have been a constant menace in the city.

My husband died a decade ago, as result of a diabetic disease, which he suffered for a very long time, and was unable to get [insulin] an injection to stabilise the diabetics, because it's very expensive and we didn't have the money to treat him, so finally he died.

In terms of livelihood opportunities, sometimes my daughter works for the families near this camp and she washes their clothes for a small income. She doesn't get this work on a continuous basis; and sometimes we stay weeks without any cash income. When she gets work, she earns the equivalent of about 10,000 Somali Shillings (US \$0.30). Sometimes she doesn't get paid in cash, but gets a bartered salary, such as some dry food, such as rice, sugar, and oil.

Our life depends on the food we get from local and international NGOs like SAACID and WFP; and the water we receive from the Oxfam Novib-funded well that SAACID operates. We were in need for this well, because, before this well was dug the water were brought by a vehicle, and we usually had to wait for a long time to get 2 jerry cans of water, which is equivalent to 40 litres; and it's not enough to us - and sometimes, we had to wake up at 4:00 to 5:00 am in the night in order to be the first in the queue. In fact, it was very difficult to get water before this well was dug. Now, the access to water is very easy, and we can get as much as we need; and we can get water at any time. Now the water we get from the well is enough to cover all our needs, such as washing our clothes, bathing, using for cooking our food and the most important thing of all - drinking.

In concluding my story, I would like to thank Oxfam Novib and SAACID for their generous donation to build and maintain this well for myself and my daughter, and the many people who have access to this well. I strongly recommend that more wells be dug to help more displaced people secure enough water for their needs.