

SAA CID



Mumina Afrah

Mumina Afrah is 61 years old, and is now living in Tusbahle IDP settlement in the Lafole area of the Afgoye corridor. She was forced to flee from her neighbourhood in the district of Hawl-wadag in 2007, when heavy fighting between the opposition and Ethiopian/TFG forces drove her out, along with 13 members of her family - including her husband, 2 sons, 4 daughters, and their children.

The reason for the family's departure from Mogadishu was explained by Mumina's husband. Her husband always gets upset whenever he remembers a young girl who was struck by a mortar shell. "She was saying uncle help me", he recounted, as tears flowed down his face. "Uncle help me - but I was stopped by many people who were shouting at me to take cover. I fled the scene. I heard that the girl died. I immediately decided to take our family to Afgoye corridor".

"Initially we settled in a camp in Elesha, but unfortunately we were evicted by the landlord after we were not able to pay a rent he requested", said Mumina. Adding that, "we moved to this new place long ago, which is located in an area far away from Elesha".

Mumina and her family peacefully lived in the corridor, but there were many other problems with trying to survive. “We are poor, not even having a morsel to eat”, Mumina said happy to tell her story. “When we first came, there was chronic shortage of water in the whole area. The essence of life was missing; and most of the children in the area suffered communicable diseases, especially those related with water - such scabies and other skin diseases”.

Mumina confessed that her family nearly decided to return to Mogadishu no matter how bad the situation was in Mogadishu, because the situation for the family was so bad in the Afgoye corridor. “We were tired of the lack of water in the Lafole area, which is also chronically overcrowded”. “Before we realised our decision to move, drastic things changed when SAACID announced that it was going to drill a deep well with funds from Oxfam Novib. When the water came it as sweet and clean and cool, and we now have enough water; and the children are showing less signs of communicable waterborne diseases”.

“We pray for the day that we can return to Mogadishu; but the ongoing conflict probably means that we will be here for a long time to come. Now we have enough water, but we also need enough food, and services, such as health services”. We hope that SAACID and Oxfam are able to secure more money for our area”.