

## HIGHER MILK SALES FROM TRAINING IN MILK HYGIENE

By **VSF Suisse Somalia.**

After losing her husband to the war in Somali in 2004, Amina Ali Omar started selling milk in Bulla Hawa old market to support herself and her eight children. Her start-up capital was in form of milk contributions from relatives who owned goats, cattle and camels. The contributions amounted to about 40 litres of milk per day. From the milk sales she would get a profit of 14,000 Somali shillings (US \$ 0.5) per jerrican.

After saving some of the profit she progressed to selling other products such as rice, pasta, wheat flour, onions and potatoes which further boosted her capital, making it possible for her to purchase milk without having to rely on her relatives.



*Mrs. Amina Ali Omar, selling milk at Bulla Hawa*

In February 2009, Amina was among the 21 women who received three days of training in milk handling and hygiene, organized and conducted by VSF-Suisse in Somalia.

“I used to sell an average of 40 litres of milk per day, of which 15 litres would get spoilt or sour by the end of the day. After I was trained in milk testing, proper cleaning of milk containers and also given an aluminium milk can, I now carefully screen the milk that I buy and store, in addition the quality of the milk I sell has improved” explains Amina.

According to Amina her training has contributed to the improvement of her businesses. “I now boil surplus milk and store it in a clean aluminium container inside a hole in which I pour cold water ready for the next day. As such I am the only trader who has fresh milk to sell the next day until suppliers arrive around 11 or 12 am.” She explains, “I have therefore increased the quantity of milk I sell by 40 – 60 litres and reduced my spoilage losses to almost nil, this is remarkable progress in my business.”

Amina says her challenge at the moment is lack of additional milk cans. She plans to acquire more milk cans so that she can increase the amount of camel milk she handles.

*“My life has improved, I’m now confident in handling milk and my business has grown. I look forward to more training to improve on my business skills” says Amina.*