



Puntland
Development &
Research Center



**PUNTLAND DEVELOPMENT
AND RESEARCH CENTER
PDRC**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2022

Our Dedication to Peacebuilding, Promotion
of Democracy was a foundation
of our 2022 programs

***OUR DEDICATION TO PEACEBUILDING,
PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY WAS A
FOUNDATION OF OUR 2022 PROGRAMS***



TABLE OF CONTENT

○	<i>Message from the Executive Director</i>	4-5
○	<i>Vision, Mission, Strategic Objectives</i>	6-7
○	<i>Achievements in Numbers</i>	8
○	<i>Peacebuilding</i>	9-12
○	Governance	13-25
○	Development	26-27
○	Challenges	28-29
○	Policy Briefs	30-31
○	Research	32-39
○	PDRC Talks	40
○	2022 Partners	41



Message from the Executive Director

Greetings to you All in the name of Allah the Most Merciful and Most Gracious!

2022 was such a fruitful year premising this on the formidable team at Puntland Development and Research Centre, our development & funding partners, and a supportive community. We relentlessly interacted closely with the international community especially development partners, protagonists of democratic systems and peace-loving stakeholders.

Being part of Somalia and as a Federal Member State, Puntland State is reviving its glory through cultivating strategies and foundation for democratization, good governance, peace, economic growth, and development. Rehabilitation and recovery from civil war, political unrest, and lawlessness, is not a smooth journey neither is it a sole responsibility of a particular segment in society.

Close to three decades of misery, trauma, and limited functional government systems, all citizens and well-wishers of Puntland State of Somalia and Somalia in general, are duty-bound to work selflessly as a team to rebuild our country. Of course as PDRC, we cannot exclude ourselves from this noble cause, especially our Board of Directors who are highly supportive and selfless.

Our center is founded on a common goal of peacebuilding, democratization and development with vibrant men and women, willing to devote their efforts and time towards building success. Resilience under tribulations punctuated by limited resources, has been the story behind our success not only in 2022, but also in the preceding years.

Our neutrality in politics, welcoming all state building partners, has been at the helm of our success. It's only through teams, dedicated staff with a focus, supportive strategic partners, reputation, and public acceptance, that we can build our great institution. I must acknowledge the technical and financial support from our international partners especially Embassy of Switzerland (SDC), Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Embassy of Canada, Embassy of Sweden (SIDA), UN-JPLG: UNICEF, National Endowment for Democracy (NED), UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, EU, Rift Valley Institute (RVI), RCRF Programme -Ministry of Finance for Federal Government of Somalia, among others. We are also highly indebted by the nurturing of long-term partnership, Interpeace, and its entire staff. In 2022, PDRC was joined by The Oslo Center (TOC) and Demo Finland to strengthen the capacity political associations in Puntland. We have hopes in the coming years, multi-party-political systems will be stronger and will smoothen the road to democratization in Puntland.

We also extend our profound gratitude to State and non-State actors especially Civil Society e.g SEG-TAP Partners: KAALO and PUNSA, TPEC, Political Party Associations, line Ministries such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs: Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, our partner organizations Academy for Peace and Development, Horn Centre, youth and women umbrellas, religious and traditional leaders, local government leaders, business leaders, marginalized groups, children, and all those who have contributed to PDRC's success in 2022.

In December 2022, the Board, and all staff of PDRC converged for a one-week strategic planning retreat in Eyl District to develop the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. We have already embarked on implementing this plan and hopefully, PDRC will triple its performance and impact in 2023.

A lot lies ahead in 2023 and I am confident, with the joint efforts of our international, local partners, Somali Diaspora, and the entire citizenry of Puntland, it will be a successful year Insha'Allah!

Sincerely,
Ali Farah Ali



VISION MISSION STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



A conflict-free, resilient,
democratic and developed Somalia



To promote sustainable peace,
democracy, governance, and
the development of Somalia
through evidence-based research,
advocacy and awareness creation,
dialogue platforms and institutional
development and capacity building

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To empower and enhance communities' participation and ownership of peacebuilding and social cohesion initiatives, practices, and processes in Puntland and Somalia by 2027

2

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To promote, advocate and strengthen multiparty democracy and citizen engagement in transparent governance at state and local levels by 2027

3

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To influence and support the establishment, enactment, & implementation of at least 3 national state level policies on prevention & response to violence & conflict, & peacebuilding by 2027

4

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To support and promote social economic empowerment and market skills development for at least 5,000 youth and women by 2027

5

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

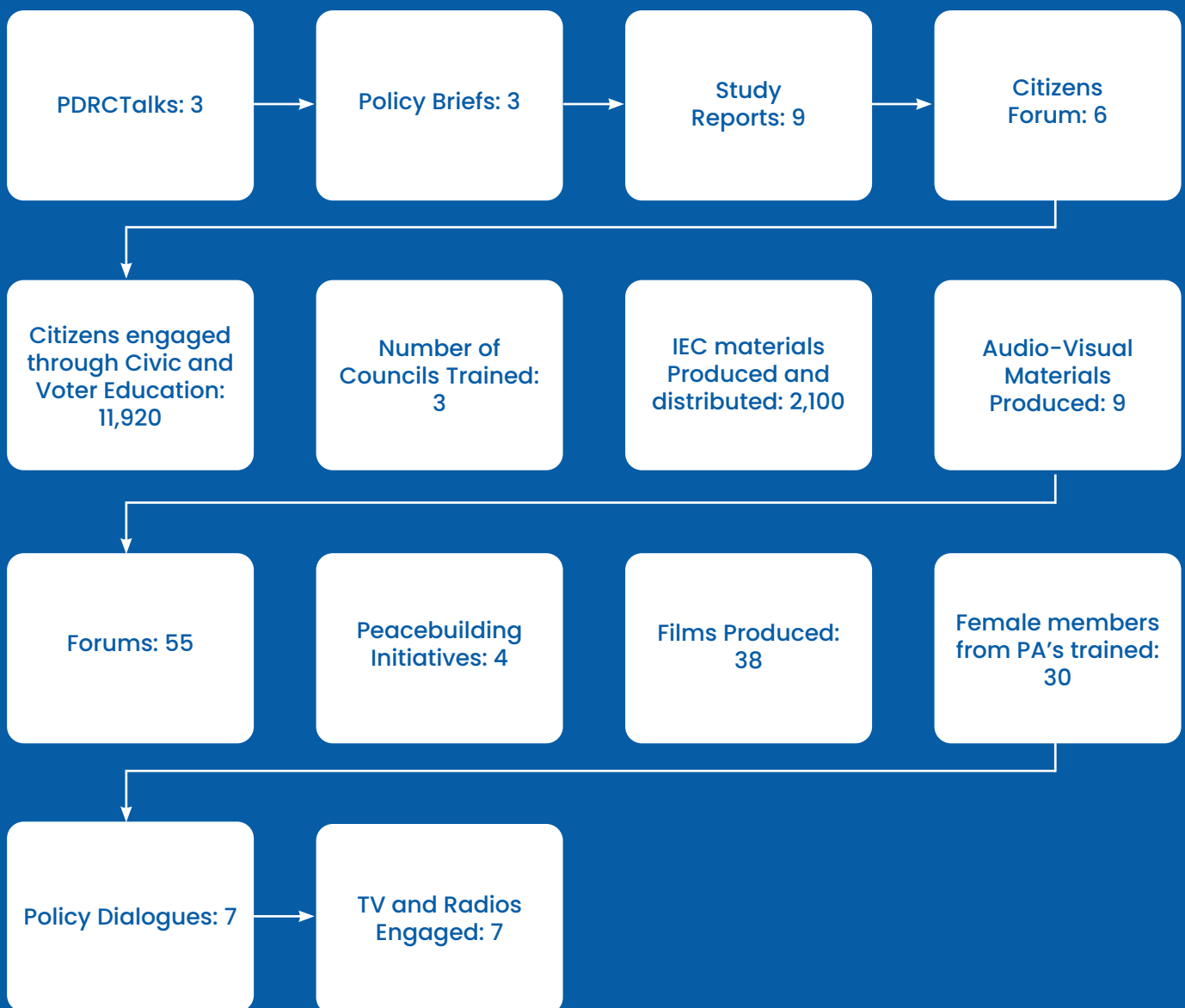
To do environmental & climate change research & awareness to reach the 9 PL regions as well as neighbouring border regions by 2027

6

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To promote the nurturing, preservation, and sensitization of Puntland culture and heritage annually.

Achievements in Numbers



Peacebuilding

» Talowadaag Programme

Under the support of the SIDA, PDRC with its consortium of Interpeace, APD, and Heritage, has been implementing the second phase of the Talo-wadaag project since December 2021. Talo-wadaag is a multi-year programme intended to promote citizens' participation in building democratic systems, nation building and state building using an inclusive participatory model where citizens are engaged in governance and conflict prevention & management right from grassroots. The programme employs community outreach mechanisms, unity and peace building tools including socialization leisure activities. The aim is to promote brotherhood, prevent and manage conflicts and will embed federalism as one of the models of governance that would promote decentralization/devolution of powers, policy and government programme implementation and minimize chances of interstate and intrastate conflict eruptions. This is mainly through building the capacity of local government, community peace committees and government law enforcement agencies.

The second phase of the project was able to make a difference and met nearly every benchmark in its annual action plan of 2022. From Bargaal - the far east regions to Cadadda settlements in the west corner of Puntland. PDRC continued to support democratization process, promotion of inclusivity and citizens' participation, assisted social reconciliation processes at all odds, and encouraged preventive action for sustainable peace in Puntland generally in Mudug and Nugal regions in particular.

Achievements:

1. Supporting the existing community peace structures in Burtinle and Galkacyo.

Support to Cadaada Peace Committee

The Cadadda conflict have been dragging for more than twenty years, and at least a dozen of reconciliations were held to solve it. However, it was recurring for a very few years in 2018. The two conflicted clans in Adadda (Bah-hararsame & Omar Mohamoud) set up an early warning committee to act as an intermediary early warning that prevents the conflict to rebound. Under the support of PDRC, the peace committee routinely goes to this prone area to enhance people's understanding and desire for peace. PDRC has been providing technical, and logistical support to the Peace Committee to conduct their peace initiatives.

Since July 2022, PDRC supported more than four initiatives for awareness raising and handover of property. In this year the routine awareness was a crucial because this

remote territory was among the few places that received the Gu' rains which prompted dozens of pastoralists to gather in the area, in addition to the onset of the Dair rainy season, which is expected in September, and when the rain starts, the pastoralist moves to the places that received rain for water and grazing.

The communities recommended that the committee to continue such amazing work as the situation is fragile and necessary to continually tell people about the peace. Peace is a vital to human survival. It needed by every creature on this planet such as families, communities, nations and entire world as well.

Annual Galkacyo Peace Bookfair

The 2nd annual Galkacyo Peace Bookfair organized by MADASHA-NABADDA 'the youth peace integration' under support of PDRC and Interpeace held in Galkacyo on October, 2022 with theme of "a **Climate for Peace**". Around 200 hundred people including officials from Federal government of Somalia, Puntland, GalMudug, authors, scholars and other guests attended a three-days event. It was excellent opportunity to bring communities to end conflict, inspire a reading, learning and peace empowering, also stimulate discussions in different topics such as economic development, peace & stability, and infrastructure. Such dialogue platforms are much needed in the conflicted communities to identify the key issues and develop solutions.



Photo 2 - Galkacyo Annual (2022) Peace bookfair.

Peace prevails in Galkacyo for past six (6) years due to consolidation of Puntland and GalMudug Galkacyo peace agreement, the improved collaboration between the two administrations and communities and more importantly the efforts from the joint peace committees. The Galkacyo Peace Bookfair is one of the peace innovations from Galkacyo youth integration (MADASHA) with the slogan of 'Inta Nool baa nabad u baahan', since the Somali government collapsed in 1991, Galkacyo has been an example for conflict zones in Somalia but now is an example for peaceful once.

Promoted social integration through a football game

On the 12th of August 2022, which falls on the International Youth Day was commemorated in Galkacyo. The event was consisted of two major activities: football game and public forum. Numerous stakeholders gathered from Galkacyo north and south to mark the event which aimed to strengthening relationship between the two sides of Galkacyo which fall under the administration of Puntland and Galmudug respectively. This particular event was unique and historic as huge number of people reacted positively to the how the event was conducted. More than 100 youth were engaged and mobilized to participate in the event with the slogan "peace" which has significant to the people of Galkacyo. Despite the commemoration, the main purpose of the event was to showcase and convince the community the need for "united Galkacyo". Mudug Youth Organizations Umbrella (MYOU) hosted the event with the support of PDRC.



Photo 3- Youth Peace Football in Galkayo.

Since the Galkacyo peace agreement was reached in 2017, the youth has been played a vital in the peace process and the integration of the two communities in the region. PDRC under TALO-Wadaag project has been supported the Galkacyo joint peace committee since then.

» Road to Sustainable Peacebuilding and Good Governance (R2P) Programme

The Road to Sustainable Peacebuilding and Good Governance (R2P) Programme is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Swedish

International Development Agency (SIDA). It is a four-year programme, which aims to contribute to: *“Stabilization and establishment of effective Local Governance institutions and laying the ground for genuine and comprehensive national reconciliation for the Somali people to restore trust among themselves and towards the government and its institutions thus resulting in peaceful coexistence.”*. In addition to the overall objective, the programme also aspires to cement a solid collaborative partnership between competent local peace building and research organizations. Thus, SDC selected Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC) and its sister organizations of Academy of Peace and Development (APD) located in Hargeisa, Somaliland and Horn Center in Dhusamareeb, Galmudug State, to implement the programme, which targeted building the capacity of communities to address conflict resolution as well as enhance local governance, particular in participation of citizens in decision-making and ensuring accountability of their political representatives.

The envisaged specific programme outcomes of R2P are as below:

1. Reduced internal & cross-border tensions in the areas of intervention by R2P
2. Citizens in areas of intervention by R2P are actively engaging in socio-political processes and holding the local councils accountable.
3. Local councils in the areas of intervention by R2P are better responding to the needs of the citizens through improved service delivery.

On Reduction of conflicts in the targeted areas:

In this outcome, the consortium members (PDRC, APD, HC) focused on research-based and localized understanding of conflicts in different focus areas in order to produce a lasting, and sustainable peace in the regions. Community-based peacebuilding is the cornerstone of the work of the consortium. This past year, 2022, the consortium members worked on assessing conflicts in various hotspot areas in Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug; understanding the root causes, actors of both peace and conflict allows for better peacebuilding interventions where all actors are considered, challenges limited and connectors strengthened.

Beginning 2022, the PDRC, APD and HC started their work in a Somalia with 2,553 conflicts took place in the year 2021 alone, 293 of those conflicts took place in Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug (ACLED, 2021). The consortium ended 2022 with a Somalia with increased number of conflicts (2,942) which can be attributed to the fight against terror group Al Shabab, only 288 of these conflicts took place in the area of intervention of R2P programme. These numbers not only show that during the baseline year of 2021, conflicts Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug were 11.47% of the total conflicts in Somalia. In 2022, the same areas amounted to 9,78% of Somalia's conflicts. There is a

decrease of 1,69% between those two years, while this decrease is not solely due to R2P consortium efforts, we believe that our work contributes to it. In Puntland, the baseline indicated 165 conflicts in 2022, the numbers of 2020 show 129 conflicts. 27 of those conflicts were in Sool and Sanaag crossborder area with Somaliland, and 45 were in Mudug region crossborder with Galmudug. It is worth noting that the crossborder numbers were 33 with Somaliland and 86 with Galmudug. At Puntland level, the decrease is of 22% and at crossborder level a decrease of 18.2% in Sool and Sanaag and 47.7% decrease in Mudug.

Somaliland had 58 conflicts in 2021 with 33 being crossborder with Puntland, while 2022 numbers show 43. 27 being crossborder. There is 25.9% reduction in the general conflicts in Somaliland with 18.2% at crossborder level. While Galmudug does not show huge different with 189 conflicts in 2021 and 188 in 2022, the crossborder Mudug region experienced a big shift with a 47.7% reduction of the number of conflicts (86 in 2021 to 45 in 2022) as per Somalia INSO conflict updates. While the R2P Consortium does not take whole credit for this decrease, the program has played its part in allowing better understanding of conflicts, use of early-warning mechanisms, support to peace committees in their peacebuilding and reconciliation works and the overall creation of awareness regarding conflicts , specific issues and dialogue.

Governance

» **Talowadaag Programme**

Voter Education Forum

On November 2022, PDRC in collaboration with TPEC held a public forum for voter education in Baargal district of Gardafue region. As the Puntland local elections draw near particularly the voter registration, voter education campaigns hosted by TPEC with support of civil society organizations including PDRC are going on simultaneously in utmost of the districts where the elections are expected.

The forum in Baargal is among those voter education campaigns which was attended by 100 people including the district authority, and the general public. Women and youth were the majority of the participants. The event was impactful and collaborative drive of PDRC and TPEC to prepare the voters for the upcoming local elections, to educate their rights, to be informed voters and featured strong discussions. It delivered to the participants basic information and knowledge on fundamental voting rights, eligibility to register and as well the voter education guidelines and act. The voter registration is a key element in ensuring that all citizens can enjoy the right to vote. There was also a discussion session where participants raised questions to TPEC about the election

process; most of those questions were related to the election time, election model, polling stations, and the process of voter registration. During the forum, the PDRC and TPEC team also identified gaps in public understanding on the electoral process and political rights due to illiteracy and inadequate civic and voter education programs in the district. However, the public was eager for elections and acknowledged TPEC's work.

Promoting Minorities Participation in Puntland's local council elections

In collaboration with the Somali Minority Women and Children Development Organization (SMWCDO), PDRC successfully organized a high-profile forum for promoting political participation of minority communities in Puntland. The forum took place in Garowe and attended by over a hundred (100) people, including the minister of interior, minister of water and energy, state minister of education, MPs, political associations, TPEC, media, elders, and a larger number of minority communities.

The minorities rights have been struggling in Somalia since the state collapse in 1991 which has affected all Somalis. The 4.5 formula implies that Somalia's political power sharing leaves 0.5 for minorities, implying that there is no single seat reserved for minorities in Puntland. Minority communities are large communities that live in all nine Puntland regions; they are not a minority, but rather marginalized. As skilled workers, citizens, and taxpayers, these communities contribute to economic growth. Minority communities are not only politically excluded, but also socially marginalized.

Media Engagement

On 21st September 2022, PDRC signed an MOU with Media Association of Puntland (MAP). This was aimed at providing media practitioners with a rotational access opportunity to accompany PDRC into the hard-to-reach areas of Puntland on condition that MAP provides free airtime coverage and broadcasting for visited community challenges and priorities on their respective media outlets/houses to reinforce the ongoing civic and voter education campaigns in Puntland.



Photo 4 - Citizen Engagement Mini Forum.

Citizens' engagement is an important element for Puntland's democratization process. Media embraces the best approaches for engaging public to promote their rights and responsibility towards the elections. The media embedment was a successful initiative and experience that PDRC has previously adhered in 2015 where many journalists have taken advantage of it and many reported conditions have been solved by the concerned institutions. Now the hope is that this initiative will contribute more to the elections specially the voter education.

» **Road to Sustainable Peacebuilding and Good Governance (R2P) Programme**

Regarding civic education on good governance, the consortium members (PDRC, APD, HC) focused on providing awareness, trainings, and education for the citizens in all areas related to civic education and good governance through different means such as consultation meetings, training and courses, media engagement and research.



Photo 5- Voter Registration Awareness in Garowe.

During the past year, the PDRC trainings for 500 participants in the four districts of Waciye, Badhan, Boocame and Dangoroyo; another 1360 at the least were reached through mobilization and sensitization with the mobile cinema. The trainings and film-based forums focused on sensitizing citizens on their rights and responsibilities and preparing them for the local council elections through voter education. Though post-registration data is not available yet, we believe that the impact of these engagements will be felt during registration and elections of these districts. Finally, the PDRC contracted 5 radio stations that covered 11 districts and 2 Tv stations in the dissemination of 9 audio-visual materials throughout Puntland with the reach of 30,000 citizens for the radios and 5.2m for the TVs.

APD has finalized three major activities, one was a research study on political participation perceptions across Somaliland. The overall objective of this study was to find out the public opinion on the current political issues in the country. The specific objectives are; 1. To understand the public perception of the House of Elders (Guurti), the current President and his administration, the three national parties and the National Electoral Commission. 2. To understand the public concerns regarding the upcoming presidential elections and political parties' registration. 3. To explore the level of political consciousness of citizens in Somaliland. From this study, it was noticed that 91.9% of the respondents were planning to vote during the presidential elections; 39.9% of the respondents considered voting a civic duty, while 33.3% do it because of political agenda and 16.9% because of clan affiliation). It was also interesting to

know that citizens (84.3%) support opening the platform for political associations and 80% want the elections to be held according to the schedule. In case of delay, 73.4% said they would not participate in violence. Finally, the participants in majority (66.4%) want to vote for the house of Guurti. The APD also held 6 public policy forums with the participation of 245 people in total. 4 of the forums were political while 1 focused on customs and another on cultural bias and gender in Somaliland. It shows that politics was the biggest discussion point and issue at stake in Somaliland that year.

In this outcome, the HC conducted Pillars mapping II on issues impactive statebuilding processes in Galmudug. Effective statebuilding is based on developing an inclusive political culture that equitably negotiates expectations, demands and obligations for the diverse interests therein. Galmudug state building is a precarious undertaking, as stakeholders try to find consensus to appease the multiple vested and contesting interests. This study identified key issues impacting state building and the following section offers recommendations on short term solutions to the prevailing challenges that HC can work on in the upcoming years with the support of its Puntland partner PDRC. On community governance structures and local governance, the consortium members (PDRC, APD, HC) focused on understanding the gaps in the works of community structures and local governance structures in Puntland and Somaliland. Once the gaps are identified, the partners provide the necessary trainings and support to strengthen their work but also their relationship with different members of the community.

During the past year (January – December), the partners managed to undertake research that allows us to better understand the context of the districts we are working in, the structures that exist and the gaps they face in terms of capacity. These research studies were done in Eyl, Qardho and Uffeyn of Puntland and Garadag, Ainaba and Oodweyne of Somaliland. Finally, in Galmudug, HC focused on Pillar Mapping 3 on decentralization. After the assessments, the consortium trained local councilors, established task forces that support them and trained them as well. This contributed to their understanding of their work as well as increased their capacity to deliver.

In the areas PDRC and APD had done the baseline, we report an increase in the local population that believe service delivery has improved according to their needs. Indeed with the councilors being elected for the first time in Eyl, Uffeyn and Qardho, the following are the achievements that they made and felt by the citizens:

- Invigorated the operations of their municipalities and strengthened revenue collection. They had devised concrete plans of collecting taxes from rural villages. They also charged new tariffs on previously untaxed items such as: rental houses, farms, trucks, water tanks, tip trucks, fire wood, milk, etc.

- Formulated and disseminated their annual budgets to the public, which was the first time that municipality budgets were made public.
- Conducted extensive public awareness raising and unleashed sanitation campaigns
- Visited the district's rural villages and determined their respective priority needs while urging them to pay taxes

In Garadag, Ainaba and Oodweyne, our Partner APD reported that the citizens believe service delivery has improved. This is also due to new councilors wanting to prove themselves and showcase their ability to do better than the previous council.

» **Strengthened and Inclusive Multiparty System in Puntland**

The Puntland State of Somalia was established on 1st August 1998 by delegates from 5 regions, namely, Nugaal, Bari, Sool, Sanaag, Mudug, and Buhoodle districts of Togdheer region. The constitutional conference was attended by traditional elders, political elites, representatives from civil society, and businesspeople. During this conference, the late Abdullahi Ahmed Yusuf was elected for the first self-regional autonomous administration (now Puntland state of Somalia) with a three-year term and interim charter. According to the first adopted charter, the mandate of the first administration was that the political governance system transits from a clan-based power-sharing system into a multiparty democratic system. With the establishment of nine political associations, an interim election committee (TPEC), and three early local government elections, the multiparty system has surfaced in Puntland Political space. Nevertheless, the transition has yet to be fully actualized.

Against this background, The Oslo Centre, Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC), and Demo Finland are implementing a joint program to support Puntland's democratization process and multiparty system. The project aims to strengthen and promote an inclusive multiparty system in Puntland. Therefore, in line with the stated project goal, PDRC has embarked on a baseline assessment study that seeks to examine the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps of the Puntland political associations (PPAs). This would allow us to understand the institutional needs, gaps that would enable PPAs to undertake their mandated responsibilities and duties .

According to the baseline assessment findings, political associations have received and embraced the multiparty systems. From the early elections held in three districts, Qardho,, Eyl, and Ufayn political associations and the public have a new vigour for elections to be held in the 37 remaining districts. However, the baseline study found that political associations face many challenges, including being institutionally weak due to poor resourcing of human and material capabilities and low technical know-how of political association management. As they prepare for the elections, political associations should have a grasp on policy development, citizen engagement

outreach, get-out-the-vote techniques, and campaign messaging, but these skills are lacking. Regarding women's inclusion in the party structures, women and youth are excluded in the decision-making process of the political associations as they do not hold senior political positions. The highest position a woman holds in the PA is the deputy chairperson, while the youths mostly hold the youth wing positions which are not part of party structures. Moreover, the baseline study underlined specific capacity-building needs that PPAs require, including promoting the general understanding of how multiparty democracy functions, the knowledge of running political parties, and training on the roles and responsibilities of different party structures. The project is thus expected to result in: a) Training of elected local councils, b) Review and Strengthening of Party documents and structures, c) Establishment of a Multi-Party Women Network in Puntland, d) Each Political Association shall have a technical committee to steer its civic engagement and strengthen the PA's visibility, and e) Evidence-based research on citizens' perceptions on multiparty system in Puntland.

» **Advancing the Democratization Process in Puntland**

PDRC Zivik project accomplished its activities in 2022. The project was aimed at enhancing the democratization process in Puntland politics. The activities empowered women, youth, elders, and local communities across Puntland at the grass-root level. This project was designed to support the civic education and outreach of the rural communities to understand their role in Puntland politics. The participation and representation of Puntland citizens in the legitimate process of free and fair local council elections (one-person, one-vote). This process is democratic way and limits and ends clan-based system of domination and partiality, which violates the constitutional rights and duties. PDRC Zivik project conducted 8 voter education forums, 3 media training on election reporting, 3 validation workshops, 4 multi-stakeholder meetings, 7 voter registration forums and 3 training and advocacy to increase women's participation and representation in Puntland local council elections

The impact of the project activities implemented in 2022 improved the local communities in social, training and environmentally. The civic education forums educated and informed the constitutional rights and duties of the citizens and the government. The environmental and other responsibilities of the local government and local communities, the civic education components provided the importance of democratization process in Puntland and how women, youth and vulnerable communities to participate the upcoming local elections.

The voter registration forums provided the procedures of voter registration process and steps. The impact of the Zivik project is social impact, training impact and environmental impact. PDRC Zivik Project implemented with consultation of InterPeace, TPEC, MAP, and PUNSAA about voter education and awareness raising necessary information

about voter information to access in major towns and rural communities to enable to vote and to become potential candidates and to avoid violations of the guidelines and procedures of local council elections.

Zivik project made significant progress in terms of voter registration and platform to exchange the community concerns about voter registration and the process of the local elections. It also included capacity building of local media about the reporting elections impartially and positive coverage on elections reporting. The project also provided training and advocacy to enhance women's participation and representation in political associations on local council elections.

» **Somali Election Governance Transparency and Accountability Programme (SEG-TAP)**

The Somali elections governance, transparency, and accountability project (SEG-TAP) is a 30-month project funded by the European union. The overall aim of the project is to promote accountable and inclusive socio-political and electoral governance in Puntland that is responsive to the socio-political and economic development needs of the State of Puntland. With the objectives to enhance the stakeholder awareness and voter knowledge on democratization, the capacity of civic society actors to monitor accountable and transparent democratization process and to promote multi-stakeholder dialogue in Puntland democratization process giving special emphasis the vulnerable groups such as women, youth and the disabled. over 50, 000 citizens are intended to be reached by the project.

In 2022, PDRC in collaboration with TPEC conducted the training of CVE champions in Bosaso, Garowe and Galkacyo. The training of champions was aimed to produce a group of active citizens who can voluntarily participate the awareness raising of the communities on the local elections. A total of 130 civic and voter education champions were trained, and they were selected from the different segments of the community such as University students, teachers, health workers, Women, youth and IDPs. The champions were trained on the newly adopted civic and voter education strategy that included the WhatsApp portal, the call centre, in addition, they were also given lessons about the Puntland Local elections, the registration process, PL election laws, guidelines and frameworks.

PDRC also organised six public screening forums in Bosaso and Garowe districts that reached more than 1000 residents. PDRC conducted the mobile based cinema civic and voter education in Kalabayr, Garyaqaan, Awrculus and Cuun villages, IDP camps of Garowe district, and Bosaso District. The public screening forums were intended to mobilize the communities, share them with the lessons learned during the early

elections, and provide them hands on knowledge about the election process. the participants asked TPEC and PDRC dozens of questions about the election, registration, the right to vote, the role of IDPs, and the opportunities for women and Youth.

PDRC distributed 1600 IEC materials in Nugaal, Mudug and Bari regions under SEGTAAP project. These IEC materials were supposed to deliver election messages to the community. The IEC materials were of two kinds: one portraying graphically the registration cycle and the other showing the requirements of the registration. The messages were developed by TPEC, and it will be uniformly used by all partner organisations. The uniformity was adopted to avoid the confusion caused by the different IEC materials that were distributed by organisations during the early local council elections. The trained CVE champions played a key role to dole out the IEC materials. The materials were displayed in public places such as schools, health post, markets, and government offices. It is expected that IEC materials shall help thousands of citizens to get important information about the registration process.

Achievements

- 650 residents in the rural areas and IDPs reached
- 130 civic and voter champions trained in Garowe, Galkacyo and Bosaso
- More than 1,000 residents in Garowe were reached by CVE promoters in Garowe alone.
- The distribution of 1600 IEC materials in Garowe, Bosaso and Galkacyo
- The revival of IPIV election revived where people erstwhile thought to have ceased.

» Support to Civic Education and Inclusion

There were two sets of problems identified during the previous support from NED which focused on perception surveys regarding the resumption of the democratization process in Puntland as well as the role of political associations. On the one hand, civic education, particularly voter education was very limited and does not reach the furthest communities in rural/ hard-to-reach areas. This has led to many voters not being able to cast their ballot without support during the early elections at Eyl, Uffeyn, and Qardho. Many of the citizens could not identify the logos nor read the names of the political association they wanted to vote for. On the other hand, an important actor of democratization – Political Associations – is facing challenges in accessing funding, reaching and getting supporters, providing voter education, and institutionalizing their policies such as inclusion. For funding purposes, the current NED program only focuses on issue number one and as such, the following objectives aim to address these above-mentioned needs and challenges:

Training workshops to enhance Civic Knowledge of Democracy and Elections

In the months of July and September of 2022, PDRC conducted a series of training workshops to enhance Civic Knowledge on Democracy and Elections in five targeted villages (KalaKabayr, Yombays, SinuJiif, and Cuun) in Garowe district under the Support of Voter education and inclusion in anticipation of Puntland-wide local council elections funded by National Endorsement for Democracy (NED). The training workshop was facilitated by a team of PDRC staff led by the NED Project Coordinator, Audiovisual Unit assistant and accompanied by the electoral training manager from the Puntland Transitional Electoral Commission (TPEC) playing a role of assisting in answering questions from the trainees and another public opinion about the democratization process in Puntland.



Photo 6 – Training Community on Civic Knowledge of Democracy.

The facilitated two training workshops benefitted a total of 500 participants, selected people from the various categories/groups of the communities visited to improve their knowledge of and participation in the local council elections scheduled to take place in Puntland late this year or early next year. Gender representation in the targeted 500 beneficiaries was 61% male and 39% female; the trainees took the different lessons and understood a lot. There were also a question-and-answer session and interaction between the trainer and the trainees.

Media engagement (tv and radio) in the dissemination of voter education messages

PDRC has created six **audiovisual materials** that have been separated into civic and voter Education: these audiovisual materials are currently being disseminated through TVs and Radios that are most watched and listened to by Puntland people.



Photo 7 - Training journalists on Election Reporting.

Voter Education through films Forums

Between 14 and 26 November 2022, a team of PDRC facilitated and conducted a series of Voter Education through film forums (one film screening forum per village with a target of 100 individuals/ village (therefore a total of 500 persons in all villages) in five targeted off-tarmac villages (Kalabayr, Yoombays, SinuJiif, and Cuun) in Garowe district under the Voter Education and Support to enhance the role of Puntland Political Associations (PAs) in anticipation of the Puntland-wide District Elections project funded by National Endorsement for Democracy (NED). Voter Education through film forums was facilitated by a team of PDRC staff led by the NED Project Coordinator and two Audiovisual Unit assistants.



Photo 8- Voter Education Session (Mock-Election)- in Jeedaal

The facilitated Education through film forums benefitted a total of 500 participants, selected people from the various categories/groups of the communities visited to improve their knowledge of and participation in the local council elections scheduled to take place in Puntland early months of next year. Gender representation in the targeted 500 beneficiaries was 56.6% male and 43.4% female; Participants watched prerecorded films for voter registration and what is required from the voter before getting registered. They were taught the steps to follow when a voter is willing to register themselves, and they comprehensively understood. There were also a question-and-answer session and interaction between the facilitator and the audience.

Distribution of IEC materials on the voter registration process forums in the five villages under the Garowe District

Around five hundred IEC materials encompassing Voter registration steps and Voter Registration Messages and conditions have been disseminated and dispersed to all villages of Awr Culus, Kalabedh, Yoombeys, Sunijiif, and Cuun under the Garowe district. One hundred pieces of IEC materials for voter registration were distributed to each village. These IEC materials were stuck and posted in places where people commonly gathered, such as schools, teashops, MCH, or hospitals, and most of the walls of houses in the village.

» Strengthening Citizens Engagement in Local Governance through Civic Education Programme (II)

The objective of this project is to undertake civic engagements where citizens are sensitized on how to hold their leaders accountable and promoting good governance and service delivery in 9 districts between October 1, 2021–February 2023. The districts where the programme is being implemented include: Qardho, Eyl, Garowe, Galkayo,

Burtinle, Galdogob, Bosasso (including Ufeyn), Alula and Iskushuban districts of Puntland Somalia stretching for a period of 17 months.

The first quarter of this project saw 49 potential female candidates attending dialogue with 41 traditional leaders in Eyl, Uffeyn and Qardho, 53 female candidates dialogued with 37 representatives of Political Associations, awareness raising conducted among 1500 participants, 30 potential female candidates coached and supported, 2,088 stickers distributed, and 6 billboards with election messages mobilizing voters especially to vote for women, installed. From the 23 successful candidates in the early election districts, 14 of them had been coached, supported, or attended PDRC civic education sessions. During this sensitization, the sessions included understanding about their responsibilities to protect the law, comply with the law, pay taxes, their rights such as right to security, access to public services, right to participate in elections (to vote and be voted) among others. Reference was made to Law No.7, articles 13 to 54, defining the local government structure of Puntland, functionality including roles of each member of the local council, among others. *Thus, PDRC used Wadahadal Local Government & the People: A Resource Pack for Somalia (March, 2018) as one of the key reference materials* supplemented with short film screening during sensitization sessions

There was sensitization of Community members including, women, men, youth members, IDPs and marginalized individuals and households about their rights and responsibilities in local governance, district level development planning process and opportunities to participate, and women's equal participation in local governance. This was done in all the 9 districts.

They were also sensitized on collaborative planning in society, collective resource mobilization, sustainable development, effective resource utilization and engagement of local donors, international agencies, Somalis in diaspora, central government administration among others to increase resource mobilization to enhance investment in service delivery and development priorities in their societies.

Citizens were also trained on how to achieve effective representation in local government. Specifically, the awareness focused on how to achieve effective representation in local government, a representation beyond the ballot box, how citizens can organize themselves to have collective voices for better representation in local government with key priority challenges addressed, their perceptions about the recent elections, what motivated them to vote, their expectations from the elected leaders among others. All awareness raising forums were film-based with the support of PDRC Mobile Audio-Visual Unit (MAVU) and favoured both literate and illiterate participants.



Photo 9- During a Children's Consultation session to inform the District Development Framework.

Development

» Building Resilience in Crisis through Education (BRiCE) Programme

Building Resilience in Crises through Education (BRiCE) is a 3-year project jointly implemented by PDRC, University of Sussex, Plan International, Relief International, Gambella University (Ethiopia) and the Puntland Ministry of Education & Higher Education. PDRC, together with University of Sussex (UoS), completed the second phase of the research component of the BRiCE project in 2022. Plan International (UK) solely funded this project throughout 2022. The research component of the project tracks cohort learners and their teachers over three years and sought to examine teaching and learning for children displaced by conflict and other disasters in Puntland and living in camps for internally displaced people. The research, consisting of both qualitative and quantitative data, observation and structured and semi-structured with school communities, started in 2019 with Grade 3 learners and their teachers in 9 IDP camps. The research tools and questions are used in relation to the wider school environment, the home and community, and the broader policy context.

The main areas of focus for the research included access to quality education for boys and girls, the level of social cohesion, the resilience of learners in keeping up education amid several social and economic challenges with post-conflict traumatic effects, and the role of the teachers as well as the school environment of the progress

of the targeted children. Apart from learners' progress, the research also studied the role of teachers/teachers' work, teacher professional development, resilience, and social cohesion. Drawing on the research, the study also outlines the lessons learnt in enhancing access to quality and inclusive education for refugees and internally displaced children in conflict-affected contexts, specifically in Ethiopia and Somalia.

The overall aim of the project was to improve access to quality and inclusive education in a safe environment. The project had two specific objectives:

- To improve access to safe, quality ECCD and basic education in fragile, IDP/refugee camp settings and host communities; and
- To strengthen data collection for creating and disseminating a solid evidence base of what works to enhance access to quality and safe education in crisis-affected environments.

This was achieved through three results:

- Girls and boys feel safe in the ECCD centers, schools, and surrounding community
- Improved access to quality education through effective school management, skilled teachers and improved physical learning environment; and
- Evidence-based education practice and strategy informs national-level and programme-level initiatives that improve access to quality basic education in crisis-affected environments.

The research studied a cohort of Grade 3 learners and their teachers over three years, critically examining learner access to quality education to ascertain what works, how and why, and under what conditions.

The BriCE project has been successfully implemented, including the research component undertaken by PDRC, University of Sussex and Gambella university in Ethiopia. The report for the last phase has been dispatched for printing. As soon as published, PDRC and its partners in the project will embark on the task of distribution and dissemination. The end goal is to impact policy change and a series of informed, public discussions on the prospects of addressing the huge and numerous challenges IDP children and their teachers face. In recognition of the successes the project over the past four years, the Ministry of Education & Higher Education of Puntland gave PDRC and the project partners a recognition award during the Puntland's Education Sector Review conference which was held in Garowe.

Challenges

- During the field, the working team confronted some of the following obstacles which need to be considered.
- The illiteracy rate in the community was very high, which can reduce their understanding of the lessons being taught. The level of acquaintance with the local population was another challenge then.
- The periodic drought diverted the attention and promptness of the people who lived in those villages and made them requisite everything other than dealing with people and animals affected by the drought. The working team spent a lot of time and effort to make people understand how to deal with the drought and take the Training.
- Women were not very motivated to participate in discussion sessions during the film screening forums; as a result, only 43.4% of women participated in the discussion.
- In some areas, people are more concerned about politics-related issues caused by political spoilers misguiding and misinforming the local community.
- Because of the nascent multi-party system in its early years in Puntland coupled with the extensive current debates of election-related activities/political debates, attaining the full attention and entire committed presence of 9 Political Associations in these two-day training was challenging. Therefore, we have approached all PAs with all possible communication channels to invite top female PA members. However, the invited representatives requested from PAs were exclusive to mainly the deputies, general secretaries, and female wing heads.
- A lot of activities were implemented in a short period during the pilot election period. This created some pressure among project staff especially in booking venues.
- Higher turn up of participants compared to the planned numbers.
- Cases of underbudgeting where some districts like Alula required extra travel days up to 32 hours to reach the venues.
- Some activities i.e those that are election-related were constrained by the delay of elections against what earlier expectations.
- Delayed activities such as workshop meetings with the district councils of Uffeyn, Eyl, and Qardho due to the delay of swearing in of council members.
- Some activities were conducted during the drought season and community members were asking for addition support in form of provision of water for domestic consumption and for animals.
- Fluid political environment, where politicians and political associations are changing political positions now and then.
- A 6-month's delay (or one-year in the case of Eyl Council) of operationalization of elected local councils of the three districts where elections took place. This was

due to Puntland Government's deviation to the national level parliamentary and presidential elections.

- After success of the LG elections in the three and preparation for a Puntlandwide elections, the outreach R2P teams conducting voter education travelling at rural districts met some security risks arising some district residents' concern on demarcation of district borders and inclusion some villages to this or that district.
- Sabotage of our activities from election opposers who are trying hard to undermine the election process.
- Some of the political association's refusal to participate the election and the registration process.
- Women don't lobby and campaign themselves as women when they are running for political office duty or representing their communities.
- Most of the women have limited experience in politics and equally financially constrained.
- Patriarchal nature of the communities in Puntland dictates more men compared to women, hence limiting the potential to succeed in elections.

Policy Briefs



This policy brief seeks to analyse the progress and challenges of Puntland’s democratization process and, in so doing, help Somali and international stakeholders maintain momentum towards credible and peaceful elections. It is based on data collected through focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and discussions that took place at the Puntland Democratization Stakeholder Forum on 20 February 2020. Following this introduction, the brief proceeds as follows: First, an overview is given of TPEC III and the successful early elections. Next, it analyses the key challenges faced in the wake of the early elections, before proceeding to explore the longer-term obstacles to the democratization process generally. Finally, a number of policy recommendations are proposed.



During local government elections held in Puntland in October 2021 it was noted that the level of illiteracy amongst voters was extremely high. This had a significant impact on the process and outcome of the polls, including a higher-than-anticipated number of spoilt ballots. This policy brief considers the significance of voter illiteracy on political processes in Somalia with particular attention paid to upcoming elections. To this end, PDRC conducted Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) to explore lessons learned from Puntland’s Early Local Government Elections, particularly focused on the subject of voter illiteracy. The material gathered from the FGDs and KIIs was presented at a oneday forum in July 2022, ‘Managing Voters’ Illiteracy in Puntland Local Government Elections’. Attendees included Puntland Government, civil society groups (including women, youth groups and the media), the TPEC, political associations, academics, and concerned international agencies.

POLICY BRIEF

November 2022



Puntland Democracy: The Need for an Effective Judiciary System.

BACKGROUND

An all-inclusive Community Conference held in Garowe from May-August 1998 established Puntland State of Somalia. A guiding three-year Provisional Charter¹, endorsed in the Community Conference, sanctioned the formation of basic governance functions divided into the executive, legislative and judiciary organs. It defined the mandates of each organ and underscored the independence of each organ to set up a system of checks and balances. The Charter also envisaged a speedy transition from a clan-based political system, where traditional elders nominated legislators, to a multiparty democratic system of one-person-one-vote. The Charter further charged the executive to draft a constitution to be ratified in a referendum. When the term of the Charter expired in 2001, no constitution was in place. It was not until 18 April, 2012, that a Puntland Constituent Assembly adopted a Provisional Constitution.

The Provisional Constitution of Puntland and the Provisional Constitution of Somalia promulgate the separation of powers and define the functions of the three organs of government. The Executive is ascribed to guide policy and administration, the Legislative organ deals with making the governing laws and amendments, and the Judiciary administers justice and adjudicates pertinent legal conflicts during the implementation of laws.

The Puntland constitution accords the state a constitutional court and a regional Supreme Court, and the Somali Constitution specifies formation of federal level Constitutional and Supreme Courts. The competencies of these state and federal level courts overlap, which future political processes and mechanisms will have to resolve. According to the Puntland Constitution, the Supreme Court constitutes the apex of courts of law, dispensing final ruling on penal and civil cases. The regional Constitutional Court interprets the law and arbitrates on Puntland constitutional issues.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE JUDICIARY IN PUNTLAND

The Puntland Provisional Constitution stipulates that the Judicial Organ consists of a) the Supreme Court of Justice, (b) the Constitutional Court, (c) the Regional Appeals Courts, (d) the Magistrate Courts, and (e) the Judicial Service Council. It underscores that "In the exercise of their functions the Judiciary branch will have complete independence from the Legislative and Executive organs of the Puntland State and shall be subject only to the Constitution and the Laws. Judges shall not be subject to interference in their judicial functions from any persons".²

Explicitly, Puntland's formal courts compose of three tiers: The Magistrate Courts (1st Instance Courts), the Regional Appeals Courts, and the Supreme Court. A Magistrate Court is established in each district, and each of the nine Puntland regions has a Regional Appeals Court.

¹ Puntland's Political Transformation, PDRC, Nov 2014

Most of the outcomes of the present Policy Brief Paper are based on the deliberations of an inclusive Consultation Forum held at PDRC on the 6th of October 2022. It was in this forum that the main judiciary challenges that can affect the democratization process were spelled out. However, and despite clear stipulations of the constitution, a series of challenges have undermined the effectiveness and independence of the Puntland legislative and judicial organs.

Both continue to be overshadowed by the powerful executive branch. Stakeholders acknowledge that the Puntland judiciary suffers from a multitude of weaknesses. Among them, the absence of a constitutional court has exacerbated the situation as there has been no legitimate entity to arbitrate on constitutional and legal conflicts that often arose.

Journal: 1 January 2022 | Issue: 9 January 2022

Taariikhda

Raaddadkii Iyo Joogtaankii Iibaxnimadii Reer Saba ee Xeebaha Soomaaliyeed

Ku saaban qoraalka	Dubucda qoraalka
Mahad Siyaad Maxamed Jibriye: waa ah cilmi baare madax banaan oo ku takhassusay deegaanka iyo Aasaarka kana tiran cilmi baareyaasha hay'ada PDRRC.	Tan iyo markii uu soo ifbaxay dhigantahii yaabka lahaa ee dalmareenkii Giriiga ee "Periplus of the Erythraean Sea" ¹ (ερίπλους τῆς Ἐρυθρᾶς Θαλάσσης) oo si weyn loogu faahfaahiyey ganacsigii sabkaha iyo Cananada ² utgonka iyo alaabooyinkii kale ee naadirka ahaa ee laga dhoofinayey xeebaha dhulka Soomaalida. Taasi oo ku adaneyd waagii uu daahfuray luqad yaqaankii mujaasada ahaa ee "Jean-François Champollion" ³ farti Masariidii hore ee "Hieroglyphs" markaasi oo la ogaadey safaradii dhaadheeraa ee Masariidii fircooniinta ay ku tageen dhulkii Ilaahyada Punt. Dhulkaasi oo lagu abaaray inuu ahaa xeebaha Soomaalida, ilaa waayadaan waxaa isoo tarayey baaritaano iyo dadaallo lagu naadinayey dalilo iyo waxyaabo la taabankaro oo la xiriira ganacsigii iyo iibaximadaa hore. Qoraalkaan iyo helitaanka raaddadkii hore ee reer Saba ee geyiga Soomaalida waa isku iska dhigantahay dhigantahii ugu weynaa ee abid la xiriira arimahaasi aan kor ku soo xusnay. Waxaana ay ka dhigantahay inaan anaguna markeena si wanaagsan uga qayb qaadanayno soo bandhigida taariikhda iyo degel yaalkii hore, taasi oo runtii ku mudaysan isku day wacan iyo guul inoo soo hoyatey dhamaanteen.

Hordhac:

Sida uu ku sheegay taariikhyahankii weynaa ee reer Giriig Strabo⁴ buuggiisii caanka ahaa ee *Geographia*, waxaa iray ilaa shan machad (goob) wax lagu caabudo inta u Bactrya, Sogdiana, iyo Kaas, Xanabaa ee xeebaha Buurka Soomaalida, xiligaasi oo ka beryaa ilaa laba kun oo sano (2000) ka hor. Strabo waxa uu sheegay in loogu reeri jirey meelahaas Biisulaa, Liya, Biifangool, iyo Haramoota, waxayna ahaayeen qar leh tirir dhaadheer oo qayboon.

Dalmareenkii reer Faransiis *Georges Rawlin* ayaa isaguna markiiisii ka arday magaalada Olog⁵ sida uu sheegay Biisimo ee gacan waayey, kaas oo u eg dhisimayashii hore ee wax lagu caabudo jirey.

Hadaba kolkii aad u firsato Qabuurihii Buhbooyinkii degaana mandiqadan habka ay u xabsaleen kuwoodi geeriyooday oo ay murq iyo maal badan u geliyeen, waxaad ka misaladeysaa (dhisimayashii) in dalkii arifadnan ka noolaa waayadii taariikhda ka horreeyey ay ahaayeen qar waxaan samisnaa oo aasey ahay cawaan wax ma garato ah.

Waxaan sida u looyahay iyadoo ay muuqato inay u badnayeen ama ahaayeen Kalamaystato bun jooga oo aan qalab fiican lahayn ama sida badan kooxda raacato socoto ah, oo ay yar yahay inaad aragto dhisimayashii magalooyin hore oo ay ka tagen hadda ad aye u ixtiraameen kuwoodi geeriyooday.

Waa qoraalkii ugu horreeyey Alkhalifa ee si fududbaan uga hadlaa ganacsiga iyo waqooyiyo ganacsigii hore ee ka beryaa ilaa laba kun oo sano (2000) ka hor. Strabo waxa uu sheegay in loogu reeri jirey meelahaas Biisulaa, Liya, Biifangool, iyo Haramoota, waxayna ahaayeen qar leh tirir dhaadheer oo qayboon.

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¹Taariikhyo jarmaliga waqooyi caanka.

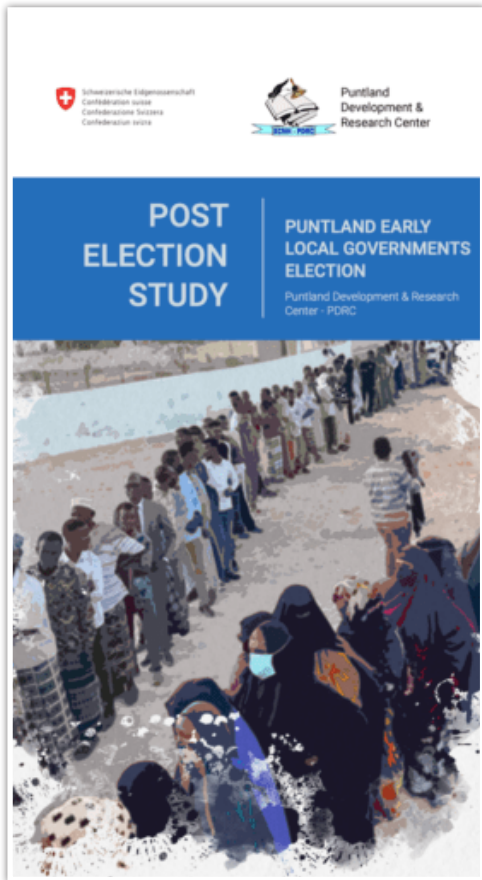
²Hieroglyphs, book 16 chapter 4 page 16

³Dugmo yar oo dhan ka gubbed ka xiga oo gadaal jirid iyo tan ka dhigantahay inaan anaguna markeena si wanaagsan uga qayb qaadanayno soo bandhigida taariikhda iyo degel yaalkii hore, taasi oo runtii ku mudaysan isku day wacan iyo guul inoo soo hoyatey dhamaanteen.

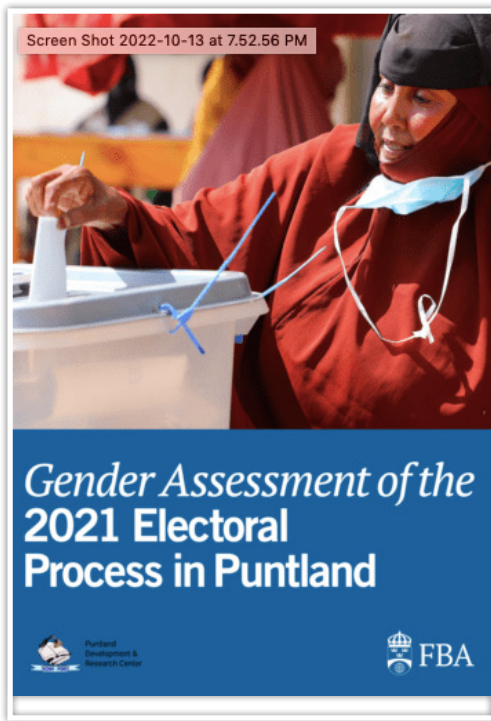
⁴Strabo, Geographia, book 16, chapter 4, page 16

⁵Olog, a small town in the region of the Red Sea coast, mentioned by Rawlin in his book "The Red Sea Coast" (1880).

Tan iyo markii uu soo ifbaxay dhigantahii yaabka lahaa ee dalmareenkii Giriiga ee "Periplus of the Erythraean Sea"¹ (ερίπλους τῆς Ἐρυθρᾶς Θαλάσσης) oo si weyn loogu faahfaahiyey ganacsigii xabkaha iyo Cananada² udgoonka iyo alaabooyinkii kale ee naadirka ahaa ee laga dhoofinayey xeebaha dhulka Soomaalida. Taasi oo ku adaneyd waagii uu daahfuray luqad yaqaankii mujaasada ahaa ee "Jean-François Champollion"³ farti Masariidii hore ee "Hieroglyphs" markaasi oo la ogaadey safaradii dhaadheeraa ee Masariidii fircooniinta ay ku tageen dhulkii Ilaahyada Punt. Dhulkaasi oo lagu abaaray inuu ahaa xeebaha Soomaalida, ilaa waayadaan waxaa isoo tarayey baaritaano iyo dadaallo lagu raadinayey daliilo iyo waxyaabo la taabankaro oo la xiriira ganacsigaasi iyo iibaxnimadaa hore. Qoraalkaan iyo helitaanka raaddadkii hore ee reer Saba ee geyiga Soomaalidu waxaa uu ka dhigantahay daahfurkii ugu weynaa ee abid la xiriira arimahaasi aan kor ku soo xusnay. Waxaana ay ka dhigantahay inaan anaguna markeena si wanaagsan uga qayb qaadanayno soo bandhigida taariikhda iyo degel yaalkii hore, taasi oo runtii ku mudaysan isku day wacan iyo guul inoo soo hoyatey dhamaanteen.



This report presents the outcome of the Post-Election Study on Puntland Early Local Government Elections (LGE) held on 25 October 2021 at three Puntland districts, namely; Eyl, Gardho and Uffeyn. The Embassy of Switzerland funded this research to support the on-going democratization process in Puntland. The report examines and portrays a critical analysis on the performance of as well as the outcome of Puntland LGE. The research was conducted with the intent of learning practical lessons prior to holding across-the-board elections in Puntland. Specifically, the objective of the early election was to determine the technical capacity of the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission (TPEC) and the extent of preparedness of the Puntland State to hold full-fledged public elections to establish a democratic system of governance. The research had duration of 2 months. Following the desk study, the field work was carried out between 26 October and 17 November, 2021 at the electoral districts.



On October 25, 2021, Puntland became the first federal member state in Somalia to hold democratic elections to district councils. "One person one vote" (OPOV) elections were conducted in three "early districts" of Eyl, Ufeyn and Qardho. In addition to their historic significance, these elections offer an important opportunity to learn lessons, not least when it comes to the promotion of gender equality and the political participation of women.

This first experience in expanded suffrage was a new opportunity for many previously excluded citizens to participate in the political process as voters, candidates, civic educators and election workers. Chief among these is the participation of women, who had been deeply disadvantaged under the clan-based system. It was also a barometer to understand the dynamics of women's participation, representation and influence in Somalia's transition to universal suffrage. Understanding gender equality and participation of marginalized groups in Puntland's municipal elections will help stakeholders reduce barriers to more equal participation as the rest of the country moves towards OPOV.

The purpose of this analysis was to document challenges and enabling factors for the promotion of gender equality as part of democratization during the elections in the early districts. The lessons learned from the present assessment are valuable for upcoming electoral processes, not only in Puntland but also in other member states, to which Puntland's efforts towards democratization can provide key insights.



This report presents the outcome of a voter education needs assessment, which PDRC conducted in June 2022 in Puntland. It is a part of the “Advancing the Democratization Process in Puntland Project”, which the German Federal Foreign Office had financed through ifa and Interpeace. The assessment follows the recently held Early Local Government Elections in three of Puntland’s Districts. As a result of the success of local elections, the international community agreed to further fund similar local government elections to be organized in the remaining districts of Puntland to set a precedent for the rest of federal Somalia. Consequently, this assessment targeted identifying contextual voter education needs to guide impending elections and maximize citizens’ participation. In delving into the level of citizen’s knowledge of their fundamental rights enshrined in the Puntland and Somalia Constitutions, the assessment found out that, while a good percentage of the interviewees were equipped with relevant information, the majority were unaware of most of their inalienable rights, particularly the significance and virtues of holding periodic elections. Youth and women demonstrated a great interest in One-Person-One Vote elections because, they felt, the representatives that the elders select in the current clan system were unaccountable to the public but were loyal to the elders, whom they owe their nomination and hope for their future support. They hoped that the elected representatives would be accountable to the electorate and would perform better to address the needs of the people.



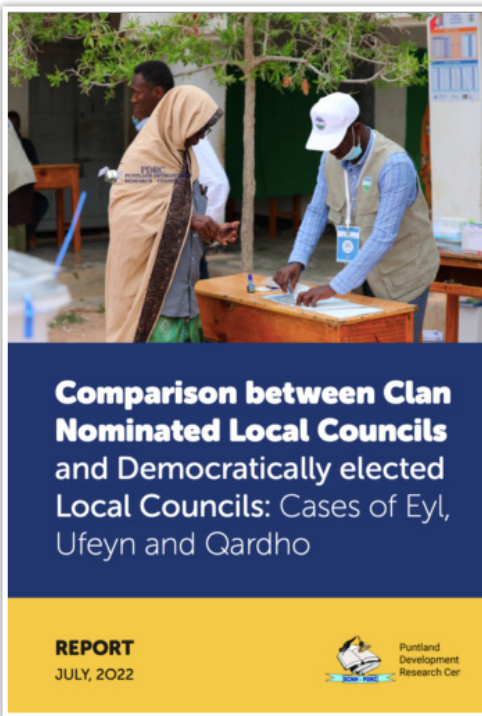
In July 2022, Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC) carried out a baseline assessment of community needs for public awareness and civic education on statebuilding in Puntland State. The assessment aimed to identify gaps in public knowledge and understanding on the current state-building processes to inform the design and delivery of effective, locally responsive and sustainable public awareness and civic education interventions. The study was carried out in six districts in Puntland namely Garowe, Galkacyo, Jariban, Dhahar, Ufeyn and Bocame, with total of 384 participants randomly selected from the targeted districts.

The study underlined that most of the people in the targeted districts are not aware of the key issues about the democratization process in Puntland such as the timing of upcoming local elections, the electoral model, political associations and election financing. This is due to low level of public awareness in governance processes caused by lack of state policies and strategies fostering civic engagement and education. The study also recognized radio/TVs, social media sites and public gathering as the preferable communication channels to use for awareness raising and civic education in Puntland. These findings along with recommendations of the assessment will be a base for a more holistic and participatory planning and implementation of Talo-wadaag II program interventions to achieve greater citizens engagement on governance issues, accountability and understanding rights and responsibilities relative to state and local governance.

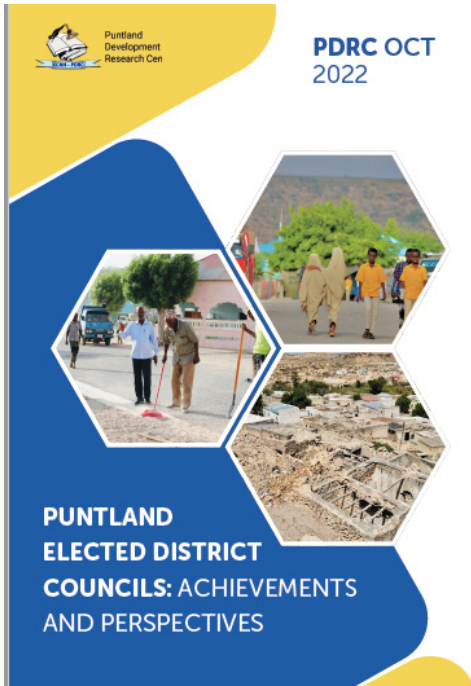


In the mid of last year, clan conflict broke out at the border between Nugaal and Sool regions, the conflict had its root causes in land claims and subsequent urbanization attempts from Hassan Ugaas on one side and Mohamed Ugar & Bahdubays on the other. The conflict turned to violence in July and September where several people were killed. Within few days, PDRC started a reconciliation between the clans to end the conflict.

The following report documents the reconciliation process as well as the verdict and agreements reached.



This paper examines the difference between nominated and elected councilors in terms of gender, age, education level, and political programs. The paper also highlights the gaps and challenges encountered by the previously selected councils and the capacity building that newly elected councils require to overcome those challenges as well as building accountable citizen-oriented leadership.



In October 2021, for the first time in more than half a century, Ufayn, Qardo and Eyl districts in Puntland state of Somalia held “one person, one vote” elections. This election in Puntland sets a historic precedent towards a more democratic process, where citizens themselves can elect their government leaders. Nearly, 29,000 people cast their votes in Eyl, Ufeyn and Qardo democratically electing 87 council members, of whom 23 are women. However, the public expected these elected councils to perform better than their predecessor ‘nominated councils’. After year, under the Talo-wadaag II, PDRC conducted a study focused on assessing the progress that the newly elected councils had made towards their tasked mission since their establishment.

The study also attempted to highlight the challenges that the councils encountered, and the lessons could be learned from their experience. These lessons will proffer both warning signals as well as exemplary illumination pathways for the future councils that will soon be elected in the remaining Puntland districts.

ASSESSMENT OF LELKASE AND SA'AD CONFLICT AND PEACE



The Galdogob and Bandiiradley conferences were the first of their kind to take place outside Galka'yo in nearly thirty years and resulted in a successful halt of the protracted conflict and violence between the two communities in the western Mudug corridor. Plans for consolidating peace throughout the region also emerged out of the conferences. It is important to state the vulnerabilities in the peace process that started with the two grand conferences of Galdogob and Bandiiradley given there had been no research, or informed dialogue around the historical nature of the conflict nor were clear entry points to peace identified.

The aim of this research is to better understand the conflict dynamics and their root causes, thus contributing to informed engagements under which peace and stability can be pursued between the communities. The second aim is to re-assess the situation, the progress made, and the challenges encountered since the grand conferences of Bandiiradley and Galdogob. The intention being to strengthen the gains made during the peacebuilding initiatives, and finalize the process by considering the longer term peacebuilding needs of the two communities moving forward.

PDRCTalks



PDRCTalks

MOWDUUCA

Kaalinta haweenka ee ka qayb-qaadashada Dimuqraadiyeynta & Siyaasada

MARTIDA MADASHA: XIL LAYLA CALI CILMI (BAARLAMAANKA SWEDEN)

2022

PDRC TALKS TALAADO/08/MAR/2022 SAACADA 18:30PM @PDRC

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PDRCTalks

TOPIC

"Local Manifestation Of The Global Challenge Of Illegal Fishing"

Guest Speaker

Prof. Awet Weldemichael

Queen's University in Canada and Author of "Piracy in Somalia: Violence and Development in the Horn of Africa"

PDRC PUNTLAND DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER

PDRC TALKS 23rd

21-JUN

06:30- BACDA MAQRIB

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PDRCTalks

XXIV

The Theme

THE ROOT CAUSE OF STATE FAILURE IN SOMALIA

Guest Speaker

PROF. HASSAN KEYNAAN

Academician & Researcher

PLEASE JOIN THE CONVERSATION

TIME 6:30 PM

DATE 31. October, 2022

+252-90 7 794231

info@pdrcomalia.org

pdrcomalia.org

Garowe, Main Road

LOCATION PDRC COMPUOND

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