



# ANNUAL REPORT

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2023

Our Dedication to the Promotion of Democracy, Peacebuilding, and Economic Development was the foundation of our 2023 programs

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# Message from the Executive Director

Ali Farah Ali



On behalf of the Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC), Board members, staff, and associates, I am pleased to greet you all and wish you a happy and successful transition to 2024. PDRC and its associates and supporters, including the generous international Community who availed absolute technical and financial support, the year 2023 was filled with successes and setbacks. It was earmarked with political, economic, security, and social challenges and opportunities, with short and long-term impacts on local and national levels.

The year started with the conflict between the Sool region communities and the Somaliland administration, which resulted in significant humanitarian crises and geopolitical/demographical tensions in Somalia, whereby Garowe and neighboring towns were most affected. This made it harder to achieve sustainable peace in the region. The fighting caused mass displacement of Sool residents and led to considerable economic costs that are unlikely to be recovered anytime soon.

Notwithstanding the burden of the conflict in the Sool region, Puntland implemented the One Person One Vote (OPOV) elections in 33 Puntland districts. This level of success resulted from the government's firm commitment and the willpower of the public combined. Nonetheless, the political Associations strived to engage in a stiff and competitive environment to win the majority in their respective constituencies. However, this progress was accompanied by some security concerns, which led to the postponement of the local government election in three Nugal Regins districts: Garowe, Dangorayo, and Godobjiiraan. Despite the spark of insecurity, the Puntland Constitution amendment was also a major political turn-over in the Puntland political transformation.

At the regional level, the so-called "Sea Piracy" has resumed off the coast of the Red Sea and the northeastern Indian Ocean, particularly in Yemen and Puntland. The ongoing conflict in Yemen against the Houthis has some influence on this resurgence. It is also a means and motivation for local fishing communities to combat illegal fishing operations by foreign poaching trawlers. This phenomenon is considered a global issue that attracts the intervention of multiple militaries and is a major threat to the stability and security of the region.

At the local levels and despite continuous efforts to mitigate and address their root causes, during 2023, some clan conflicts occurred in Puntland, but mostly in Mudug, Karkaar, and Bari regions. The Sherbi village in the Karkaar region was the worst, where a village of about 4-5 thousand inhabitants is deserted due to fighting between the two major sub-clans that lived in peace and together for decades. Efforts to reconcile are ongoing.

As part of Somalia and a federal member state, Puntland State revives its glory by cultivating strategies and foundations for democratization, good governance, peace, economic growth, and development. Rehabilitation and recovery from civil war, political unrest, and lawlessness is not a smooth journey nor the sole responsibility of a particular segment of society. Close to three decades of misery, trauma, and limited functional government systems, all citizens and well-wishers of the Puntland State of Somalia and Somalia are duty-bound to work selflessly as a team to rebuild the country. PDRC cannot exclude itself from this noble cause. Our Center is founded on a common goal of peacebuilding, promotion of 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 and capacities has been the story behind our success not only in 2023 but also in the preceding 20 or so years. Our neutrality in politics is our primary strength to win the confidence of the wider public and the authorities.

## Vision

A Conflict-free, Resilient, Democratic and Developed Somalia.

## Mission

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

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

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

*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*

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

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

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



# Peacebuilding & Reconciliation

## The Road to Sustainable Peace and Good Governance (R2P) Program

The Road to Sustainable Peace and Good Governance (R2P) Program, with a duration of four years, started in January 2022 and is implemented by three local partners: the Puntland Development and Research Centre (PDRC) in Puntland, the Horn Centre (HC) in Galmudug, and the Academy of Peace and Development (APD) in Somaliland. The program aims to enhance peaceful coexistence in and among the three above-named regions by strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of existing governance institutions, realizing all-encompassing reconciliation of communities, and instilling trust among the citizens and their governments.

During 2023, the program was successful despite unforeseen challenges, which included armed clashes among clans in Galmudug and North Mudug of Puntland, armed political conflicts in Garowe as well as and a protracted war between the Sool Community and the Somaliland Government. These challenges hampered the smooth progress of program implementation and necessitated robust coordination, communication, and program adaptation to the emergent political and social realities.

Despite the hurdles, the program executed almost all planned interventions and achieved targeted goals. In the Puntland region, the program focused on three milestones: i) Promotion of community peace and reconciliation, ii) Civic Education on Good Governance, and iii) Strengthening Community Governance Structures & Local Governance Institutions. In Puntland, the program realized the following interventions during 2023:

On Community Peace and Reconciliation, PDRC Supported community-based Reconciliation Processes, especially in the Mudug Region. The center also promoted a culture of peace dialogue where women and youth community Interaction and Integration Forums on their rights brought together 80 participants (30 females and 50 males) for interaction and reconciliation in South and North Galkayo on 27th December 2023. PDRC also supported the building of Community Structures and Mechanisms to Counter Resource and Climate-based Conflicts, specifically with support to the Mudug Western Corridor Peace Committee in which technical and financial support was extended to 70 Mudug peacekeeping committee members, which included the intra-clan Peace Committee, addressing maintenance of security and good neighborhood between the North and South Mudug Communities, and the Galkayo western Corridor Peace Committee. In conflict resolution skills, the conferences addressed pending issues undermining security and maintaining peace. The latter focused on the Galkayo Western Zone Committee engaging in peacebuilding among the Darod sub-clans within North Mudug (Puntland) and between the Darod and Hawiye clans along the borderline of the Western part of Galkayo. In addition to providing training in conflict resolution skills, the conferences addressed pending issues undermining security and maintaining peace.

# Peacebuilding & Reconciliation

Other interventions included support to the peacebuilding and reconciliation committee, comprising 15 members. The program established these committees in 2022, which comprised 1) the Samawade Galdogob Reconciliation Committee, 2) The Sahmeygaag-Sangajebiye Elders' Reconciliation Committee, and 3) The cross-border PL/SL Peace Connectors. The R2P program continued supporting these committees, which operated in their respective areas, enhancing peacebuilding and reconciling clans/sub/clans.

It is important to note that the R2P Programme supported institutional capacity building where different PDRC staff received training, software, and hardware materials procured, among others, to promote organizational sustainability and productivity.

The 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.

The year 2023 brought about new conflicts both political and clan-based in all the areas of intervention, with general increase of conflicts. In December 2022, we reported 2,942 reported conflicts based on the indicators on ACLED, with the R2P areas of interventions of Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug accounting for 288 of those conflicts. In contrast, 2023 reported a slight decrease at Somalia level with a total of 2,678 conflicts with 506 of them being from our area of interventions of Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug. Though the number of conflicts decreased at Somalia level, the amounting number in the area of interventions increased due to new clan/political conflicts that took over the whole of 2023 in SSC regions, new political conflicts in Puntland and Somaliland, as well as increase in clan conflicts in Mudug.

This shows that the year 2023 had been intense in conflicts (506), this being an increase of 75,69% compared to the year 2022 (288). This is due to multiple reasons:

i) In Puntland, tensions leading to violence over the local government elections and land/clan disputes in parts of Mudug. By December 2022 the total number of conflicts in Puntland was 129 (ACLED, 2022), while in 2023 we counted 279. This amounts to an increase of 116.27%. 94 of the conflicts took place in SSC cross-border region with Somaliland, while 106 took place in Mudug region cross-border with Galmudug. This means cross-border conflicts (SSC,Mudug) amounted to 71.68% of the Puntland conflicts.

ii) In Somaliland the delayed elections created tensions and sometimes confrontations in Ceelafweyn, Borama, and reported land dispute between two Isaaq tribes in Burco, Cali Saahid village. Another reason for increased numbers in Somaliland is the conflict in Lasanod with occasionally also spilled in other towns and cities such as Buuhodle. By December 2022, the total number of conflicts were 43 while by end of December 2023 the number was 138 which shows an increase of 220.93% compared to the previous year. It is worth noting that 94 of these conflicts took place in Sool (Las'anod), Sanaag (clashes with police and land conflicts) and Togdheer (Buuhoodle and Burco).

# Peacebuilding & Reconciliation

iii) In Galmudug, the 229 conflicts of the past year 2023 account for the fight against Alshabaab and clan conflicts in many districts and regions of the state. Here also there is an increase compared to last year where the total of conflicts was 188 throughout the year.

While most of the political and liberation conflicts do not come under the portfolio of R2P Consortium, the partners did their best to mitigate and, in some cases, to reduce the level of conflicts. For the clan conflicts which come under the portfolio of the partners, work has been done in all regions to halt and find solutions between the clan. This will be further discussed below. Finally, it is worth sharing that some years are better than other, for R2P partners 2023 has been the hardest in terms of the state building and peacebuilding work done with many challenges at our doorsteps whether political or conflicts.

## Talo-wadaag Phase II

Under the support of 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 program 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, conflict prevention & management right from the grassroots. Despite 2023 being a year of elections, Talowadaag supported peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts, including:

- 220 Participants, including 154 males (70%) and 66 females (30%), were reached during the **PDRC 2023 Annual Peace Learning Conference, Garowe**. This was organized at Martisoor Hotel, Garowe, between the 21st and 23rd of September 2023, the first of its kind, a distinguished gathering leveraging over three decades of expertise in institutional state-building and peacebuilding. This significant event aimed to foster vibrant discussions, facilitate the exchange of profound ideas, and share invaluable experiences. Its primary objective was to invigorate locally driven methods for conflict resolution and peacebuilding championed by enthusiastic stakeholders, practitioners, and community leaders. This summit provided a unique opportunity to establish vital networks among unsung community heroes and fervent peace-building advocates while serving as a platform for the voices, hardships, and sacrifices that have remained unheard of for decades.

Through a Peer-Reviewed Call for Papers, several researchers and scholars submitted and presented papers that will be published in 2024. Read more about the PDRC Annual Peace Learning Conference at: <https://rb.gy/f23tj1>

- Supported the existing peace committee in Cadadda and Galkacyo: The program regularly supports the peace initiatives in Cadadda and Galkacyo with particular emphasis on local-led peace initiatives, awareness, integration, and building public outreach.
- 300 participants, including 230 males (77%) and 70 females (23%), were reached in the Galkayo Peace Week (GPW), formerly known as the Galkayo Peace Book Fair, for the third time since it was initiated in 2021. This acclaimed gathering aimed to celebrate the peaceful coexistence and integration among the brotherly communities living in the Galakcyo district or Mudug region in general

# Peacebuilding & Reconciliation

- 100 youths, including 70 males (70%) and 30 females (30%), were reached in a forum on the role of youth in building peace and security in Galkayo.
- Logistical support on peace promotion efforts in resolving electoral disputes in Garowe. After the local election, a faction of opposition, primarily led by individuals who were formerly influential political leaders and held sway over certain government defense commanders, emerged from the Nugaal region. They put forth the argument that the government was strategically leveraging the local council election as a means to extend its term in office. At the commencement of Puntland's Parliamentary session in Garowe, when tensions emerged, PDRC was tirelessly engaged on various fronts to defuse Garowe's political and security crisis by conducting separate meetings with opposing political and military leaders, both host and visiting titled traditional elders, members of the business community, and by establishing a neutral platform for dialogue that included representatives from all opposing political factions in Garowe.
- 70 participants, including 28 males (40%) and 42 females (60%), were reached during the Support for resolving the election dispute in Puntland, Garowe





# Governance & State Building

## The Road to Sustainable Peace and Good Governance (R2P) Program

Regarding Civic Education on Good Governance, the program operationalized 15 local and election promoters in different locations in Puntland to sensitize local people to participate in the ongoing democratization process, such as participating and encouraging citizens to register and vote in the elections. The Interventions included consultations, training, public awareness raising forums, MAVU voter education forums, and dissemination through IEC materials that reached 2950, of which 240 included women and youth candidates.

The program also included Supporting the formation and establishment of community governance structures and local governance institutions where four forums were organized, i.e., two in Burtinle and two Badhan districts, which attracted 100 participants with a focus on the necessity of collaboration between the council and the citizens, the necessity citizens' payment of due to taxes, as well as defining the responsibilities of each party, the district council, and the citizens.

There was the empowerment of traditional community structure through forums between traditional community structures and newly elected councilors, which attracted at least 50 traditional elders.

During the past 6 months, the democratization process underwent intense progress starting with the registration process at the beginning of January. Most CSO's and TPEC did not have civic education budget for the first regions of Bari, Gardafui and Haylaan who went for the exercise, that added to the fear of the citizens regarding the process caused by oppositions and militia the turnout was less than expected. As such, PDRC through its different programs that were released mid-January strived to provide as much civic education in many districts while trying to reach all regions. This was successful as PDRC was one of the few CSO's that had a good budget for such work. While R2P reached 6 districts with many towns and cities, Talowadaag had similar targets and other smaller programs also reached a minimum of 1 district. During the registration process, **1,250** persons were reached through the civic education forums on the registration process, 48% (598) were women/girls.

Post registration process, PDRC continued its work through IEC materials and messages urging the citizens to take their voting cards. This was followed by voter education on the voting-day procedure comprising again of IEC materials, audio-visual materials, film-forums, trainings, and mock-elections. We reached **1,700 through the forums/trainings with 46.3% (786)** being women/girls. It is worth noting that the reach through audio-visual materials and IEC materials (4 during the registration process and prior to election day cannot be measured in numbers but the expectation is in the thousands.

# Governance & State Building

Finally, PDRC also focused on set of civic and voter education for minorities such as women, youth and IDP's with trainings and access to PAs provided. Under this component, we reached 120 women candidates, and 120 youth candidates from 7 PAs where 42% (50) were girls.

For Somaliland, since elections were postponed, we cannot measure the impact of the two activities on civic education on good governances done by APD.

## Success story

The civic and voter education campaign explained the importance of voting and urged citizens to register and vote in the forthcoming elections. Through media and MAV forums, IEC and election promoters, it was estimated the programme reached a good percentage of the population in the districts of intervention.

The impact of this programme can be felt both in the short and long term. In the immediate short term, the impact of the voter education programme is measured in the public response to the registration exercise. In the long-term, the impact of the civic and voter education and dissemination programme emerged when the Puntland citizens cast their votes on 25 May 2023. First, the overall number of participant voters was higher, and secondly, the percentage of ballot spoilage decreased from 12% out of 28,000 voters in the early local government elections to 4.7% out of **186,181** voters in the last election. This is a graphic indicator of the actual impact of the civic and voter education programme which PDRC had implemented.

Furthermore, another area of R2P Programme impact is that in the traditional selection system, where women councillors numbered **79** in all the 33 district councils, whereas in this OPOV election, women gathered **152** councillors out of **774** councillors elected, which is an increase of **48%**. This is attributed to the PDRC promotion intervention civic and voter campaigns, organization of forums for women in general and women candidates and bringing together women candidates and the political association to advocate for women cases' advancement.

## Support to Local Democratization Processes in Puntland

PDRC is also implementing the Support to Local Democratization Processes Project funded by Rift Valley Institute (RVI) under the Somali Dialogue Platform. Since 2022, the center has provided a mediation platform between TPEC and political associations in Puntland, and political space management between political associations in Puntland, organizing closed-door meetings where there is a need to manage political disagreements among high-profile political actors, dialogue forums between political associations and citizens, among others. This project provided weekly, monthly, and quarterly contextual and political updates on the Puntland State of Affairs, especially governance, politics, and security, preparation of monthly and ad-hoc policy memos, and undertaking policy research on democratization and governance. Outputs and Outcomes achieved:



# Governance & State Building

- Contributed to the Puntland president's decision to finalize the local government elections.
- Four memos with political analysis
- Analytical Briefing 1: Initial Phase of Puntland Voter Registration
- Analytical Briefing 2: Contentious Issues facing Puntland Local Government Elections
- Analytical Briefing 3: Puntland Local Government Elections: Implications and prospects to State Assembly and Presidential elections
- Analytical Briefing 4: The Impact of the New Interpretation of the Electoral Closed List System on Puntland Local Council Elections
- Continued advocacy and pressed the president, Ministry of Interior, Parliament, and Political associations.
- Voter education and mock election exercises in Dangoroyo (Haji-Khayr, Uusgure, and Elbuh) and Baargaal were attended by 800 participants.
- 100 IEC materials fixed in public spaces in Dangoroyo and Baargaal districts.
- Support the Puntland Ministry of Interior (MoIFAD) with political engagement and dialogue forums.
- Policy Paper 1: Puntland Local Government Elections: Lessons learned for future democratization.

## Support for Civic Education and Inclusion

This was funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). Specifically, it included engagement of program stakeholders, i.e., Parties, possible parliamentary candidates, and local councils.

Upon realizing the sudden transition in the election model, the Puntland Development and Research Centre (PDRC) responded by coordinating meticulously planned comprehensive forums "Engagement of Program Stakeholders" activity" in Bosaso, Qardho, Galkacyo, and Garowe districts between December 14 and 24, 2023. This initiative was prompted by the President's announcement of a shift from a one-person, one-vote election model to a clan-based selection model after potential challenges.

The primary objective of these forums was to create space and platforms for critical discussions regarding potential strategies and proactive approaches aimed at fostering a comprehensive dialogue on the evolving election model and possible pathways for the continuation of the democratization process and for resuming the paused democratization process. Each forum engaged 60 participants, amounting to 240 participants across all four locations. These participants represented a diverse spectrum of society, including stakeholders from political parties, potential candidates, the representatives of the Puntland Electoral Commission, traditional elders, elected local councils, and the mayor of the districts. Those forums served as instrumental platforms for inclusive discussions and active participation, facilitating a rich exchange of ideas among various community segments.

# Governance & State Building

## Strengthening Citizen's Engagement in Local Governance through Civic Education Program (II)

This project aimed to undertake civic engagements where citizens are sensitized to hold their leaders accountable and promote good governance and service delivery in 9 districts between October 1 and 2021-February 2023. The districts where the program is being implemented include Qardho, Eyl, Garowe, Galkayo, Burtinle, Galdogob, Bossaso (including Uffayn), Alula, and Iskushuban districts of Puntland Somalia stretching for a period of 17 months.

In 2023, the main activities undertaken included coaching potential female candidates for Local Council Elections, Dialogue Forum between Traditional Elders and Potential Female Candidates, Lobby and Advocacy Meeting between Potential female candidates and Representative of Political Associations, Distribution of IEC Materials including billboards and stickers, Children's Consultation Meetings for inclusion in the DDF, One-day Children's Consultation Meeting in Garowe, and Election Observation on the Election Day.

### Key Achievements:

- 114 female candidates from six districts, i.e., Garowe, Galkayo, Burtinle, Galdogob, Alula, and Iskushuban, were coached in various topics such as Political campaign planning, Targeting the voters, Developing a compelling campaign message, Campaign strategy, Campaign budgeting, and Campaign Fundraising Plans.
- 6 Dialogue forums between traditional elders and female candidates in six districts, i.e., Garowe, Galkayo, Burtinle, Galdogob, Alula, and Iskushuban, attended by 167 participants.
- 6 Lobby and Advocacy meetings between political association representatives and female candidates were conducted in six districts, i.e., Garowe, Galkayo, Burtinle, Galdogob, Alula, and Iskushuban, attended by 131 participants.
- A One-day children's consultation workshop was held in Garowe to support the Mid Term Review of the Government of Somalia & UNICEF Somalia Country Programme 2021 -2025, attended by 58 participants.
- 196 Children consulted in 4 Meetings conducted in Jariban, Eyl, Banderbeyla, and Dangoroyo districts, including 94 boys and 102 girls, capturing children's concerns to be included in the District Development Framework (DDF) of the Puntland Ministry of Interior, Affairs & Democratization.



# Governance & State Building

## Talowadaag Phase II

In its second year, 2023, the Talo Wadaag-II program has implemented several activities on peacebuilding and state-building. The program focused on enhancing public understanding of voter registration through public forums, civic and voter education/information, mock elections, dissemination of 3367 IEC materials, and engagement of local promoters. In this time frame, the project also promoted and advocated women's participation in Puntland's local council elections and beyond.

The program directly supported TPEC in enhancing public understanding of the voter registration process and raising awareness of voter registration. These activities included documenting visual and verbal narratives on the voter registration process, organizing public forums focusing on women and youth to raise awareness on voter registration, and facilitating public sessions where citizens could ask questions to seek clarifications on the registration process. These efforts aimed to promote transparency, inclusivity, and awareness among the public about the importance of voter registration in the local government elections in Puntland, Somalia.

Under the civic education and civic engagement component, the Talo-wadaag Programs achieved the following:

- 2400 participants, including 1537 males (64%) and 885 females (36%), were reached in ten (10) Civic engagement forums on voter registration in Galkacyo, Bosaso, Badhan, Dhahar, Buraan, Xingalool, Burtinle, and Jarriban.
- 250 participants, including 127 males (51%) and 123 females (49%), were reached during the stakeholder dialogue forums, which brought together the various democratization stakeholders, including TPEC, Political Associations, CSOs, government, and the Public, to strengthen and speed up the ongoing Local Councils Election Process in Garowe
- 1000 participants, including 416 males (42%) and 584 females (58%), were reached in Community forums with Integrated Mock elections in Badhan, Dhahar, Galkacyo, and Jarriban
- 156 Participants were trained and engaged, including 44 males (28%) and 112 females (72%) for local civic education promoters in Badhan, Dhahar, Galkayo, and Jarriban districts. 2023
- 162 participants, including 101 males (62%) and 61 females (38%), trained on women empowerment entailing Promoting Political Participation and Gender Equality through Civic Education in Badhan, Dhahar, Galkacyo, and Armo
- 160 local council female candidates trained and coached in Badhan, Dhahar, Bosaso, and Galkacyo
- 70 Participants, including 23 males (33%) and 47 females (67%), attended the lobbying and advocacy forum with diverse groups of local election stakeholders to convince voters to support and vote for female candidates, Garowe.
- 70 women reached advocacy forums for women's participation and representation in 2024 – 2029, Puntland Parliament elections, Garowe.

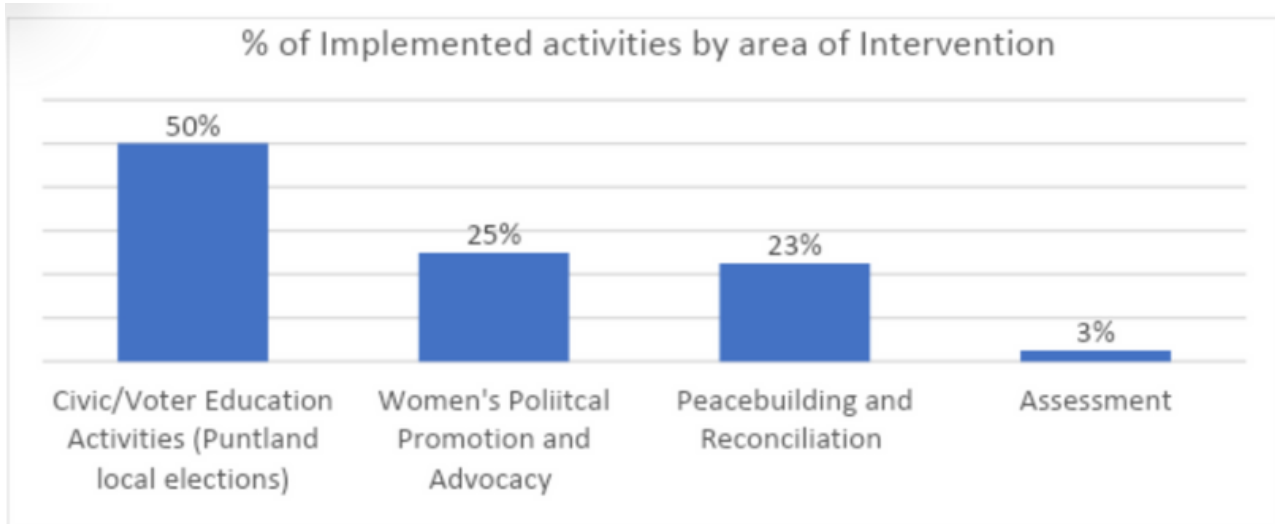
# Governance & State Building

Overall, a total of **4865** persons were reached during this period in ten (10) districts: Garowe, Armo, Bosaso, Badhan, Dhahar, Galkacyo, Jariban, Xingalool, Buran, and Burtinle across five regions.

**Table: Overall Talowadaag Programme Achievements by Gender in 2023**

Description	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Youth	
Summary of Tala-Wadaag II 2023 participants	2621	2244	2500	<b>4865</b>

**Figure 1 : List of Talo-Wadaag II Activities in 2023 by Percentage**



## Strengthened and Inclusive Multiparty System in Puntland

The multiparty system has surfaced in Puntland's political space with the establishment of nine political associations, an interim election committee (TPEC) that later transformed into the Puntland Electoral Commission (PEC), and three early local government elections. These include KAAH (the ruling party association), Cadaalad iyo Sinaan, Mideeye, Horseed, Runcad, Shaqalaha, Ifiye, Dhaliyaradda, and Mustaqbal. However, Horseed and Mideeye are yet to be certified by and represented on the Puntland Electoral Commission (PEC).

The Oslo Centre, Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC), and Demo Finland implemented a joint program to support Puntland's democratization process and multiparty system.

# Governance & State Building

The project aimed 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 to examine the Puntland political associations' strengths, weaknesses, and gaps (PPAs). A baseline assessment was conducted to identify institutional needs, gaps, and capacity-building needed to enable PPAs to undertake their mandated responsibilities and duties. 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.

Besides other activities, a survey on Public Knowledge, Attitude, and Perception of 2023 Local Government Elections in Puntland State was published on the PDRC website.

## Project Achievements

No	Activity	# of participants reached	Women		Men	
			No	%	No	%
<b>Female Political association/parties' members have contributed to decision-making, policymaking and advocacy, as a network and have enhanced their skills</b>						
1	Training female political association's members on decision-making processes, policy development, lobby and advocacy	30	30	100%	0	0
2	Training of female councilors on roles and responsibilities, citizen outreach, policy development and implementation	30	30	100%	0	0
3	Training of women candidates for local elections	40	40	100%	0	0
4	Meeting with women candidates on network	40	40	%	0	0
5	Meeting with women leaders to develop rules and regulations	40	40	100%	0	0
6	Meeting with women leaders to Validation of the rules	40	40	100%	0	0
7	1 Meeting with male & female party leaders and other stakeholders on the network Male Party leader	40	31	77.5%	9	22.5%
8	Dialogue and sensitization forum between PPAs and Women	585	540	92.30%	45	7.69
9	Advocacy workshop for Women's political participation	60	40	66%	20	34%
	Women in politics and Political leader's advocacy meetings	45	30	66%	15	34%

<b>Political Parties/ Political Associations and their leadership have enhanced their understanding and skills of the role of political parties, institutional development, and policymaking</b>						
1	Policy Development and Communication in election campaigning (PAs to develop messages for use in Citizens' forums and General Campaigns)	90	24		66	
2	Train PAs on party institutional development (Training on review of party constitutions, candidate identification procedure, Membership Mobilization & retention, Women Participation in Politics)	90	30	33%	60	67%
3	Support Technical Committees to consolidate findings from dialogues (outreach) to develop their policy messages for campaigns	90	30	33%	60	67%
4	Citizens' Forums (General for all community members)	1200	600	50%	600	50%



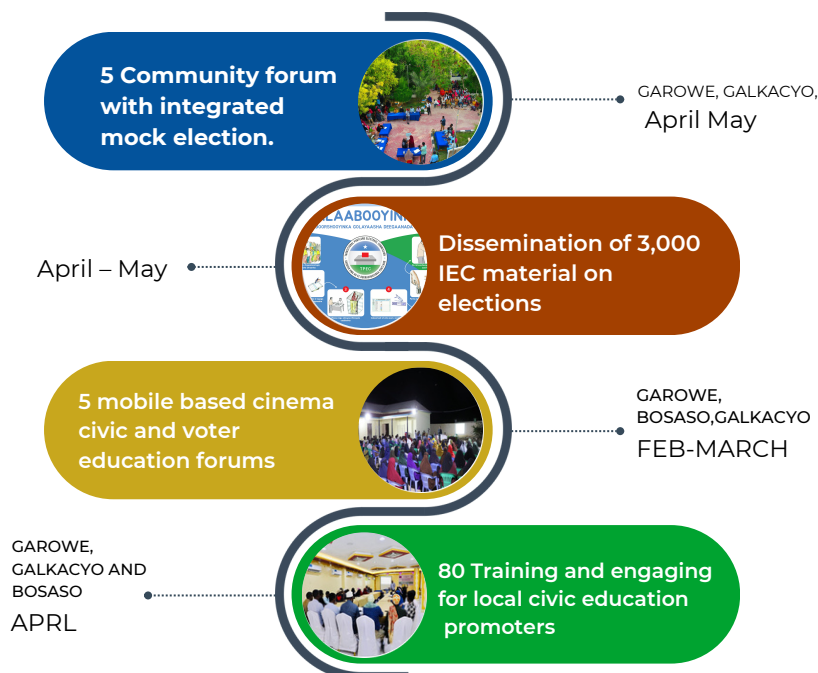
# Governance & State Building

## Somali Election Governance Transparency and Accountability Programme (SEG TAP)

The Somali Elections Governance, transparency, and Accountability Project (SEG TAP) was a 30-month project funded by the European Union. The project's overall aim was 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. 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 the Puntland democratization process, giving particular emphasis to the vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and the disabled. Over 50,000 citizens are intended to be reached by the project.

In 2023, PDRC, in collaboration with TPEC, trained CVE champions in Bosaso, Garowe, and Galkacyo. The champions' training was aimed to produce a group of active citizens who can voluntarily participate in the awareness raising of the communities on the local elections. 130 civic and voter education champions were trained and selected from the community's different segments, 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 and the call center; in addition, they were also given lessons about the Puntland Local elections, the registration process, PL election laws, guidelines, and frameworks.

## Project Achievements





# Governance & State Building

## Political Space Management

Being an apolitical and experienced partner in peace and state-building, the Puntland Development and Research Centre (PDRC) has been an instrumental player in the advancements thus far made by the democratization process and the political development of Puntland. The active involvement and role of the PDRC in the state-building process of Puntland date back to 2005, during which it assisted the then administration in its constitution-making and democratization endeavors by providing legal expertise and technical facilitation support for the constitution review committee of the time. A vast undertaking whose start was supported by PDRC and whose foundation was laid down by President Adde Musse from 2005 to 2008, has taken a real shape during the tenure of his successor, president Faroole, between 2009 and 2013 during which time it has seen the completion of the review process and promulgation of the state constitution and major electoral laws followed by the establishment of the first Puntland Transitional Electoral Commission (TPEC) which marked the official start of the democratization, the emergence of political associations as well as the first towards state-wide municipality elections – tough canceled two days before its due date for reasons related to politics and election violence in parts of Puntland.

The PDRC's support for Puntland's state-building effort has also gradually altered and expanded over the years, as have the administration's focus and priorities, which have shifted from drafting a constitution to embracing democratization and a multiparty system in Puntland.

From its earlier involvements in Puntland's review and making of the constitution to working with successive administrations and election commissions over the advancement of the democratization process, PDRC has been accredited as a beacon for the Puntland democratization process, having its name synonymous with democracy in addition to its accumulation of more than 15 years of firsthand experience and becoming an institutional memory for the successive attempts of the democratization process in Puntland.

It's worth mentioning that Puntland's people and government's aspiration for democracy and democratic elections remained an elusive and unattainable goal up until 2021 despite attempting and failing it several times. It is noteworthy that, despite several attempts and setbacks, the Puntland government and people's aspirations for democracy and democratic elections remained elusive and unattained in Puntland until 2021. It's during this time that democratic elections took place in three piloted Puntland districts for the first time, at 25 years of age, and in Somalia (Somaliland excluded) for more than half a century, leading to an informed and expanded staging of municipal elections in 30 more districts in May 2023.

Despite all these incredible breakthroughs in the political development and context of Puntland, 2023 will be forever marked as a year of both blessings and political turmoil, with the departure from the long-standing tribal-based governance system to a multiparty democracy and the rise of anti-democracy coalitions made up of opposition politicians and forces in some regions of the state.

# Governance and State Building

The primary political disagreement pertained to the administration's ability to hold democratic elections in 33 districts during the final year of its mandate and its commitment to hold elections for the legislature and presidency within the limited remaining time of its mandate. On the other hand, the opposition coalition demanded that the administration hold the parliamentary and presidential elections within the remaining months of its mandate, accusing the incumbent president of abusing the democratic process to obtain an illegal extension. The matter was further exacerbated by the executive branch's motion for a constitutional amendment, which was accepted by the parliament in July 2023, leading to protracted political and security impasse and, at times, violence in Puntland.

Against this backdrop, the PDRC has reinforced its traditional support for democratization and ongoing elections with a political space management role and support, becoming a hub for political mediation and conflict resolution. It did so using its convening capacity and neutral space for facilitating dialogue forums for bringing together or bridging the gap between the sides in conflict and through shuttle diplomacy, selective engagements, and the provision of research-backed options and options for compromise, cooperation, and concession considerations, throughout 2023.



# Development & Environment

## SHAQO Consortium (Skills & Jobs) Programme

The Shaqo Skills & Jobs is a groundbreaking three-year initiative collaboratively implemented throughout Somalia & Somaliland by the Shaqo Consortium. PDRC is leading the program implementation in Puntland. Building upon the successes of the 2020-2022 Nexus Skills and Jobs pilot projects, the Shaqo Consortium has embarked on its second phase with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

At the heart of the program's mission is the imperative to create realistic, sustainable livelihood opportunities for many unemployed Somali youth. Recognizing that the empowerment of this demographic is crucial to the social and economic development of the country. Shaqo program participants receive direct support through income-generating activities, business and vocational skills training, and psychosocial counseling, as well as support through access to financial services, such as seed funding, to promote adequate livelihood opportunities.

Three groups of farmers received fully-equipped greenhouses in Badhan, Cuun, and Garowe. In Puntland, livestock is the dominant and traditional sector, while crop farming is a new business concept that requires more support. Although farming is limited due to low rainfall and water scarcity, there has been a growing trend of horticulture due to favorable growth conditions and market demand for vegetable crops in major towns like Garowe, Bosaso, Galkacyo, Qardo, Badhan, and Lasanod. Since then, the farming sector has been growing gradually, and many small horticultural farming communities have been established in different regions of Puntland.

Three fully equipped greenhouses were provided to Cuun, Garowe, and Badhan youth farmers to support these budding agricultural communities. Most farms faced similar difficulties: energy supply, limited technical expertise, and access to funding for modern farming equipment. Greenhouses addressed many of these concerns with solar panels for energy and efficient water supply use with drip irrigation systems. In addition, farmers can now farm in drought-affected locations as greenhouses have less evaporation. They will allow the farmers to harvest all year around and, in the long-term, improve food security in their local communities.



# Development & Environment

After the installation of the greenhouses, specific training on maintenance, best agricultural practices, and drip irrigation was given to the youth to support their knowledge and expertise. It is expected that other similar training and support will be given in the long run as seed funding for their farms.

Green Jobs is devoted to optimizing employment opportunities for youth in the agricultural sector. By proffering tailored interventions, this pillar focuses on providing productive assets, promoting market access, and supporting targeted training for Somali youth in this sector. Green jobs focus on skills building in farming, small processing facilities, healthy food creation, and targeted support to youth through market linkages and community association building.

## Project Achievements:

- More than 20 frankincense women in Uffeyn were equipped with materials to enhance their productive capacity
- 36 farming youth were trained and equipped with greenhouses (cooling systems and water tanks) in Badhan, Cuun, and Garowe.
- 2 Farming youth groups in Uffeyn (Tayo Frankincense Group) and Cuun (Cosob Farm) were offered seed funding, i.e., \$4000 and \$ 5000, respectively.
- 33 Female Youth from Puntland State University (PSU) were trained in technical food processing and business development for cooperatives and offered seed funding of \$ 3000.
- A Public-Private Sector Board Meeting, attended by 12 participants, was held in Garowe, including businesspeople, ministers from the Puntland government, and heads of public sector institutions
- More than 30 Dairy Farming youth in Godood (Galkayo district) were trained in business plan preparation, marketing, and entrepreneurial skills
- One (1) Youth-Led Business (Habeb Mills Ltd) in Garowe was equipped with:
  1. One Oil Processing Machine
  2. A set of cheese processing machines, including a milk pasteurization machine
  3. An Automatic Packaging Machine
  4. A Small Scale Processing Facility (Warehouse)
  5. A tomato processing machine
  6. A cold storage container

Our interventions primarily focus on the agriculture value chain, including milk processing, farming, and small-scale food processing.



# Development & Environment

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For 2023, a year of green jobs, the project was guided by the following mantras.

Grow your food	Process your food	Sell your food
<p>We equip youth with valuable skills, tools, and funding to grow their farms and livestock to create employment and self-employment.</p>	<p>The Garowe Processing Facility allows for locally processed foods such as cereals, oils, tomatoes, and cheese to be accessible. We also support young entrepreneurs with processing businesses to thrive.</p>	<p>Access to the market requires skills and linkages. We provide both to our youth to allow their products to reach a maximum of consumers.</p>



# Youth, Elections, and Democratization – Beyond the National Elections

PDRC supported a Youth, Elections, and Democratization program jointly implemented by the Folke Bernadotte Academy of Sweden (FBA) and UNFPA, which involved a series of consultation forums on youth political participation in Somalia to increase young people's knowledge about political participation and discuss challenges and opportunities that young men and women face regarding political participation in Somalia. PDRC's role was to visually document and produce documentary films on the forums, which took place in six federal member states of Somalia, namely Puntland, Galmudug, Banadir region, Jubbaland, South-West, and Hirshabelle. At the end of the series of forums, one grand forum was held in Mogadishu in December 2023 to present the findings and recommendations and advocate for policy reforms in the presence of senior federal and regional authorities.

The forums gathered relevant actors involved in democratization, electoral planning, and youth participation from government, civil society, and international agencies. The Youth Regional Umbrella Organization, youth networks, and other organizations working on democratization in the various federal member states are important partners to the country's political fabric, as youth constitute the majority of the Somali people.

## The direct results of the project included:

- The opportunity for relevant stakeholders involved in promoting democratization to meet and discuss challenges and opportunities for young men and women's political participation through elections beyond federal elections in Somalia.
- Creating a mechanism for young women and men to express their desires, major challenges, limitations, and opportunities for youth civic engagement.
- Practical ideas and a way forward to increase possibilities for young men and women to participate in democratization and upcoming electoral processes.
- Intergenerational dialogue between youth, government officials, and other decision-makers.
- Increase young women and men's knowledge of their right to, and different forms of, political participation in the electoral processes on different levels.
- Increased evidence and sharing of practices to reposition and advance the cause of youth political participation in Somalia.
- Give youth and other relevant stakeholders a platform to continue the discussion from the forums on youth political participation.





# Media & Communications Department (MedCOM)

Over the year 2023, the Media and Communications Department of PDRC has been actively engaged in the production of documentary films, storyboards, and audio/video messages aimed at promoting the democratization process, security, good governance, peacebuilding, public awareness, development, and human rights in Puntland. The department's efforts have been commendable, as they have visited remote, hard-to-reach areas of Puntland to hold film-based discussions and forums, documenting various topics. This has been instrumental in educating people on the importance of the democratization process, including the role of women in politics, the significance of peaceful elections, and voter education.

The department's products have been widely distributed via various channels, including local TV stations and social and traditional media platforms. The department has established an extensive social media presence using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok. Through these channels, the department has been able to reach a wider audience and engage with communities that are difficult to reach through traditional media channels.

	Name	Engagement
<b>Films/Clips produced</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Qoriley Community Peace Reconciliation between</li> <li>2. Local Council Registration and Awareness Raising</li> <li>3. Road to Sustainable Peace And Good Governance</li> <li>4. Puntland Local Government Election Film</li> <li>5. Youth, elections, and democratization beyond the national election</li> <li>6. PDRC's role in building peace in Somalia in the past 20 years</li> <li>7. Awareness of elections for people living in refugee camps</li> <li>8. Voter Education On Puntland Local Elections</li> <li>9. Five flash messages</li> <li>10. Annual Peace Learning Film</li> <li>11. Baran community forum</li> <li>12. Baran elders and council training</li> <li>13. Garowe registration process</li> <li>14. Burtinle forum of council and community</li> <li>15. Communique PDRC annual peace</li> <li>16. Armo Citizen's forum feedback</li> <li>17. Children Consultation Meeting in Galdogob, Burtinle and Galkacyo.</li> <li>18. Training and Advocacy for women's participation and representation in Puntland local council elections</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the registration in Dangoroyo and Elbuh districts by holding an awareness-raising forum before the registration</li> <li>• Strengthening of Mudug peace and community reconciliation</li> <li>• Discussion on prospects of democracy in the future</li> <li>• Annual Peace Learning Event</li> <li>• Public Forums outside Garowe</li> </ul>

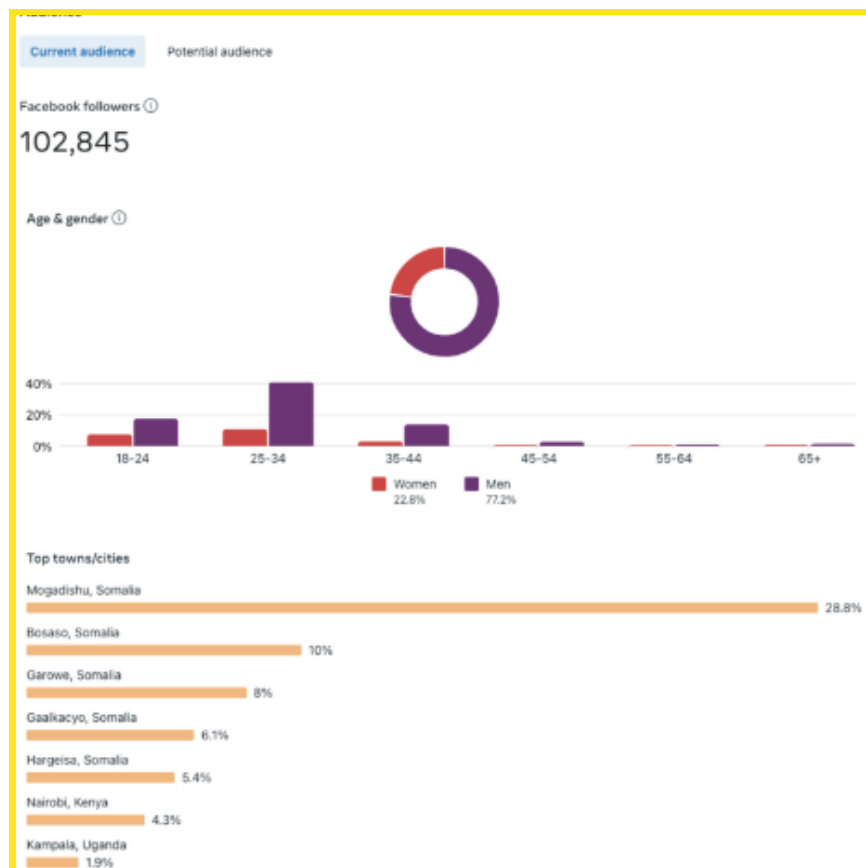
# Media & Communications Department (MedCOM)

	Name
<b>Films/Clips produced</b>	19. Voter's registration - Sanag and Haylan. 20. Story [ The public's message of their right to vote 21. Student training in Jariban, Bayla, Eyl, Dangoronyo, Iskushuban and Garowe 22. Voter's registration Burtinle and Jalam 23. Children's Consultation Workshop 24. The various damages of the war in Sool and Cayn 25. The assistance provided by PDRC to the community that fled from Sool 26. The Message of Women's Participation in Elections. 27. Puntland Local Government Elections 28. Full Documentary highlighting lessons learned around local government elections in Puntland 29. Gaalkacyo Peace week. 30. Reconciliation of communities in Mudug region 31. Annual Peace Conference - Garowe. 32. The films of Shaq PlatForm - Iftiin Foundation and City University 33. PDRCPodcast 34. Tolmo Program Coverage
Location	Number of Audience Engaged
Haylan and Sanaag	600
Galkayo and Jerriban	500
Badhan, Sanaag	940
Waaciye, Karkaar	200
Dangoroyo, Nugal	140
Bosado, Bari	800
Bayla, Karkaar	300
Rako Raxo, Bari	400

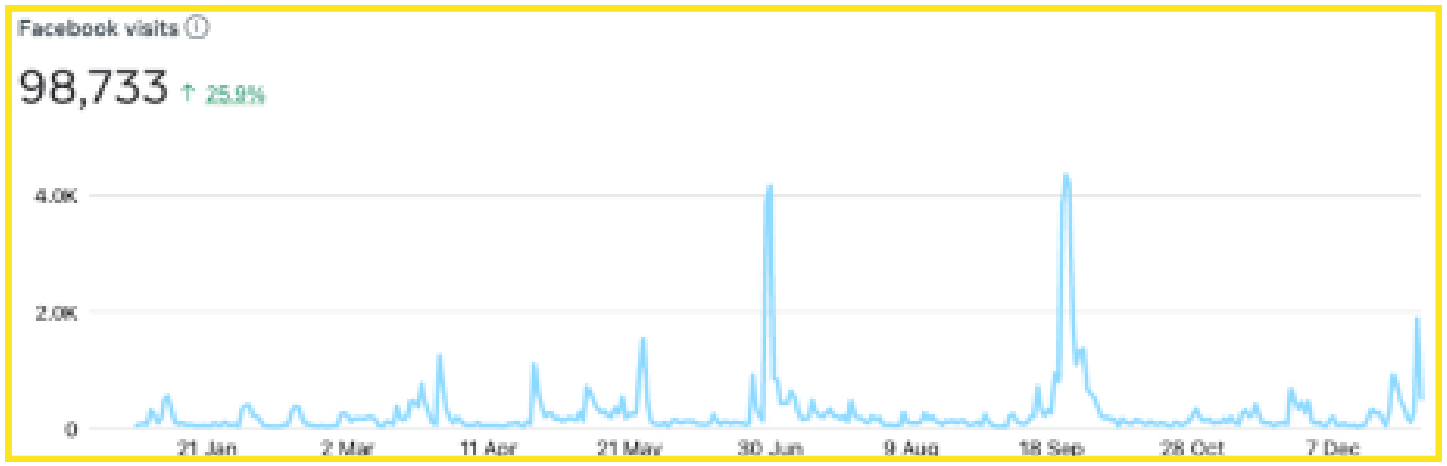
# Media & Communications Department (MedCOM)

Location	Number of Audience Engaged
Dhahar, Highland	260
Mugadisho, Kismayo, Baydhaba, Jowhar, and Dhusamareeb	650
Badhan, Sanaag	540
Dhahar	250
Burtinle	250
<b>Total (Physical Engagement)</b>	<b>5,830</b>

## Social Media Engagement



# Media & Communications Department (MedCOM)



# Policy Brief



## PUNTLAND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: ANALYSIS OF CHANGES, EFFECTS, AND PROSPECTS OF APPLICATION

The Puntland State of Somalia has grappled with intricate political complexities, armed conflicts, and political conflicts since its establishment in 1998, primarily spurred by a constitutional crisis. This study delves into the evolution of the Puntland constitutional-making process from 1998 to 2012 and recent amendments to the state laws, including the constitution itself. Various administrations have spearheaded these initiatives at different intervals, marking significant milestones in Puntland’s political landscape. This policy brief provides a comprehensive analysis of the recent constitutional amendments in Puntland, shedding light on their historical background, procedural intricacies, and their ramifications on the democratization process, as well as the region’s political landscape.

## PUNTLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS: LESSONS LEARNED FOR FUTURE DEMOCRATIZATION

Since its establishment in 1998, the Puntland State of Somalia has had a clear objective: to transition from a clan-based system to a democratic multiparty system rooted in the one-person, one-vote (OPOV) principle. Despite over two decades, the journey towards fully institutionalized democracy, ending clan-centric governance, has seen both strides and setbacks.

This policy paper aims to share the lessons gleaned from Puntland’s local government elections, informed by a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process by the Puntland Development Research Center (PDRRC) and public election data, academic research, and stakeholder interviews. It aims to provide actionable policy recommendations for refining future electoral endeavors in Puntland and guiding other federal member states in Somalia as they embark on similar democratic ventures.

## PUNTLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS: IMPLICATIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR THE PUNTLAND PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

For the first time since its establishment 25 years ago, Puntland State of Somalia concluded the first local government elections based on universal suffrage. This long-awaited dream of Puntland citizens had been tried many times in the past, with each attempt failing for a variety of reasons: time, lack of civic education, lack of trust, and so on. On 25 May 2023, the citizens of 30 districts in Puntland finally went to the polling stations to elect their local councils. The elections were lauded by many local and international stakeholders as peaceful, free and fair.

This brief summarizes the implications of the local government elections and prospects for Puntland Parliamentary and Presidential elections.





# Policy Briefs

## PUNTLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS: IMPLICATIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR THE PUNTLAND PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

For the past two months, disputes between political associations and the government of Puntland overshadowed the resumption of the local elections. Puntland has nine registered political associations that have competed during the recent early local elections. The rift between the two sides started in December 2021, when the date to hold the inauguration of the elected council was not met, triggering a wave of criticism from political associations and resignations by TPEC chairman and deputy chairman.

With this regard, the local government act (Law No 7) orders the government to facilitate the inauguration of the members and their first session. Since then, many of the PAs have not been on good terms with the government and have blamed the government several for undermining the whole process. This brief presents resolved issues, unresolved issues, and way forward on Puntland's Local Government elections.



## INITIAL PHASE OF PUNTLAND'S VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESS

According to the Puntland voter registration law (2021), to hold credible and transparent elections, voters must be registered to vote in a process managed by the Transitional Puntland Election Commission (TPEC). The registration process is one of the most challenging phases in the election process, as it often involves numerous technical and administrative tasks that require resources and political will, which can lead to delays in the process. On 25th May 2022, TPEC released the schedule for the local elections, which included a list of proposed activities from May 2022 to February 2023. According to the plan, the registration of voters was initially scheduled for July and August 2022.

The schedule also indicated the list of intended tasks including the election day initially planned for December 2022. However, the planned activities were delayed for several factors including, political tensions and the prolonged drought that affected most of Puntland regions. In late November, TPEC announced that voter registration will commence on 13th December, but the date was subsequently changed to 5th January 2023 following a request from political associations who wanted to prioritise political solutions to contentious issues around elections.

This analytical brief summarises Phase I of Puntland's voter registration process and offers some scenarios and options on the way forward



# Research



## AN ASSESSEMENT OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES' LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN PUNTLAND POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION

Historically, Somalia has been considered a nation-state, where, unlike other countries, divisions based on ethnicity or religion which are sought to be an obstacle to the development of many developing countries are not present.

Despite the apparent reality that traditionally Governance in Somalia revolved around clan structures, where major clans struggle to dominate the political scene than smaller clans, the collapse of the Somali government in 1991 sparked a lot of discussions about how power sharing and representation of clans in the government contributed the breakdown of the state and the protracted conflict that followed.

This study sought to explore the factors that influence the political representation of minorities in Puntland and to find ways to increase their representation in public affairs as presented in the study report.



## PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION ON PUNTLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The strengthened and inclusive multi-party system project focused on strengthening the political associations' capacity to have a meaningful connection and outreach to their citizens, incorporate different social groups in their circles, and become fitted with the institutional capacities to make effective policies and campaign messages to effectively participate in the upcoming local government elections.

This pre-election survey sought to analyze how the public understands the political agenda, policy issues to be addressed by political associations, analysis of and how well these are aligned with their community priorities, the transparency and quality of election planning by TPEC, as well as the inclusion of women, youth, and minorities in the election process.

The study intends to fill the gap of information on how the citizens of Puntland perceive the OPOV electoral system and their willingness to engage in the democratization process.

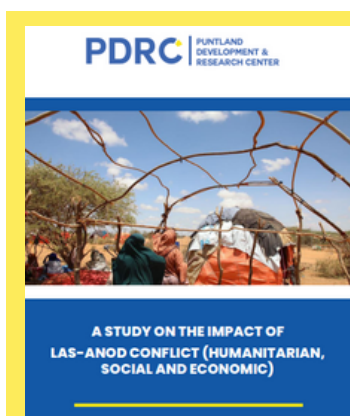


## ASSESSMENT OF LELKASE AND SA'AD CONFLICT AND PEACE

With the support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) under the Road to Sustainable Peacebuilding and Good Governance (R2P), Horn Center for Effective Governance and Policy Development (HC) and Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC) initiated this study, which focuses on understanding the conflict and peace situation of Galdogob and Bandiiradley.

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.



## A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF LAS-ANOD CONFLICT (HUMANITARIAN, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC)

The Las-Anod conflict disrupted the economic fabric, social services, and livelihoods of the communities of the Sool and Ayn regions. The fighting claimed the lives of innocent civilians and destroyed or damaged public infrastructure and buildings used for residence and business centers. Trade and other economic activities were halted due to the lockdown of open access to the local markets.

The Las-Anod conflict forced 330,000 individuals, causing an acute shortage of safe drinking water, food, shelter, and the basic necessities of life. In April 2023, PDRC conducted an independent assessment of the war's social, humanitarian, and economic impact from a humanitarian perspective and proposed an emergency intervention to assist the victims of the conflict.

# PDRCTalks

PDRCTalks is a monthly event to create a conducive platform for exchanging ideas, perspectives, knowledge, and awareness on issues related to Puntland, Somalia, and the Horn of Africa. Selective issues cover topics ranging from governance, democratization, peace, economy, development, and social issues, which are the key focus areas of PDRC.

PDRCTalks spearheads useful dialogue by Somali intellectuals, including Somali women, politicians, business people, independent thinkers, and academia, to discuss current and trending topics facing the country. The event has proven effective in sparking conversations within the Somali community and, through interactive dialogue, changing public attitudes. Social media is utilized to spread the messages throughout Somali communities living in the diaspora and within the country through live stream broadcasts. PDRCTalks has been received well and has featured prominent figures of Somali society to bring to the fore a multi-faceted number of topics in politics, economics, social issues, and cultural themes.

In practice, experienced speakers and experts on the subject matter are invited as guest speakers to give presentations, while a team of panelists looks at different perspectives of the theme also debate and share their views. Finally, participants have the chance to ask questions, express concerns and recommendations to the guest speaker and panelists.

PDRCTalks chooses a monthly theme relevant to Somalia's peace, security, education, environment, governance, or economic & social development.

The objectives of the monthly PDRCTalks are to:

- Creating a platform where subject matter experts share their ideas to broaden or challenge the participants' perspectives.
- Sparking conversations and debates between academics, politicians, civil society, youth, and women on subjects of interest in Somalia to find evidence-based and localized recommendations and solutions.
- Sharing issues of interest in Somalia to the diaspora and international institutions.
- Creating awareness within the local and diaspora population that may result in a new way of looking at the problems and challenges facing Somalia.

Some of the principal and proven advantages of PDRCTalks are:

1. Serving as a platform for all Somalis to develop home-grown/localized and contextualized solutions to the nation's challenges.
2. Produce policy briefs that will inform policymakers on the way forward.
3. Learn from good practices demonstrated across different regions in Somalia and Africa.
4. Feed into concrete recommendations for action.



# Tolmô Fellowship

The instability in Somalia has caused the destruction and weakened educational systems which led to the closure of schools and displacement of highly skilled teachers. As a result, a large number of young people have been denied access to education, limiting their opportunities for personal development and future employment prospects. Al-Shabaab and militia groups have taken advantage of the vulnerability and desperation of the Somali youth by offering them income to do heinous actions.

Despite the youth's resilience the cumulative effect is high unemployment, lack of mentorship and vocational training to enhance their skills. On the other hand, the society suffers from less development, less engagement, and less innovation by its youth since they lack the skills needed to drive for change. This is partially because of the educational system that does not provide enough exposure to extracurricular programs, limited opportunity to find mentorship, and limited awareness or capacity to join internationally relevant programs.

To address this PDRC partnered with Tolmô society to close the gap and create opportunities for young people in order to make significant impact within the society through the Tolmô fellowship program. The fellowship was the first of its kind to present the unique opportunity that will produce a pipeline of social change leaders.

Within a 5-month long advancement program Tolmô Fellows were empowered through knowledge acquisition, startup development, transformative leadership, and skill enhancement. Over the program, the Fellows implemented initiative close to their heart while participating in immersive workshops, forums, training, field visits, and mentorship. The fellowship equipped the changemakers with an opportunity to get access to critical knowledge, community, training, and tools to become more effective collaborators of change and grow their initiatives.

At the end of the fellowship, fellows become part of a lifetime community where they continue to collaborate in transforming businesses, careers, and social issues. The graduation of the first cohort was attended by Vice President of Puntland H.E Ilyas Osman Lugatoor stating his support for the continuation of the program *"Entrepreneurship through personal ambition & effort is more effective than waiting for government jobs. I hope that this program be replicated in other parts of Puntland and that we envision the future of Tolmo in 50 years"*.

The first cohort has already begun 3 initiatives currently being carried out in Garowe:

Garowe Community Gives-Back (Street Children Education Project)

Youth Guidance Project

Waste Management Project



# Our Partners

Interpeace

UNICEF

Swiss  
Development  
Cooperation (SDC)

The Kingdom of  
Netherlands

National  
Endowment for  
Democracy (NED)

The Oslo Center  
(TOC)

Plan International

The Swedish  
International  
Development  
Cooperation  
Agency (Sida)

Folke Bernadotte  
Academy (FBA)

Academy for Peace  
& Development  
(APD)

UNFPA

Horn Center (HC)

Transitional  
Puntland Electoral  
Commission (TPEC)  
- Currently (PEC)

Africa Voices  
Foundation


KAALO Aid &  
Development

BUILD UP





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