

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

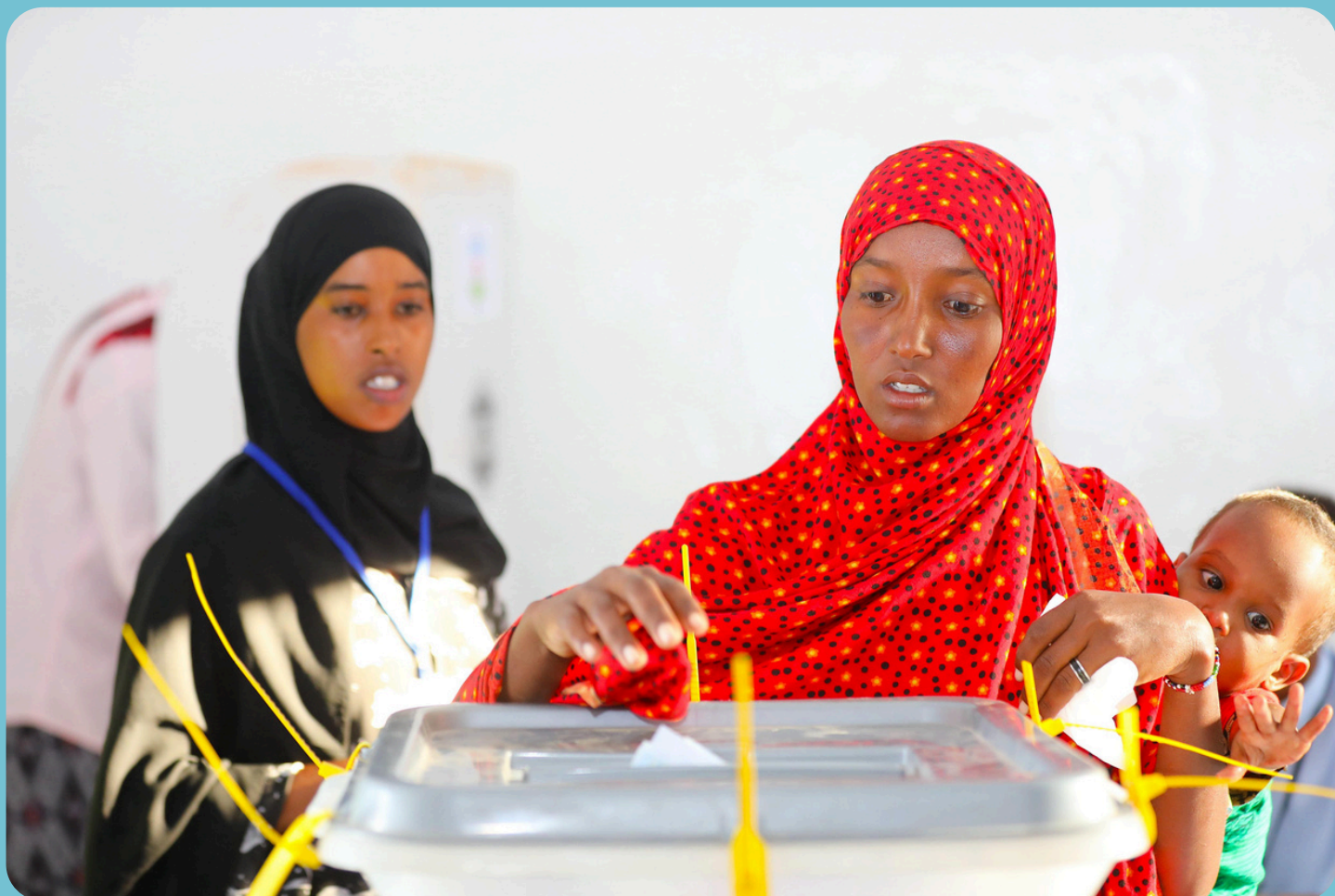


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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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 prosperous 2025. PDRC and its associates and supporters, including the generous international Community who availed absolute technical and financial support, the year 2024 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 was characterised by significant geopolitical changes across the world, which resulted in significant humanitarian crises and geopolitical/demographical tensions in Africa and Somalia in particular, affecting the entire funding landscape. This made it harder to achieve sustainable peace and developed in the region and necessitated new approaches and models to navigate the changing dynamics in 2025. These dynamics are likely to cause social, economic, and political shocks not only in Somalia and Africa, but the entire world,

Notwithstanding the burden of the conflict in the Sool region, Puntland implemented the One Person One Vote (OPOV) elections in the remaining 3 districts of Garowe, Dangoroyo, and Godobjiran in Nugal region, marking a total of 36 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. 2024 was relatively more peaceful compared to 2023, thanks to all local and international partners that tirelessly supported this cause.

At the regional level, sea piracy” has continued 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 level and despite continuous efforts to mitigate and address their root causes, during 2024, some clan conflicts occurred in Puntland, but mostly in Mudug, Karkaar, and Bari regions. The Sherbi village in the Karkaar region was the worst but there was relative peace by the end of 2024.

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 2024 but also in the preceding 26 years. Our neutrality in politics is our primary strength to win the confidence of the wider public and the authorities.

PDRC Vision

A conflict-free, resilient, democratic and developed Somalia

PDRC 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.



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 2024, the program was successful despite unforeseen challenges. In 2024, PDRC successfully achieved its planned milestones of R2P programme despite contextual challenges, which included heated political contention between the government and opposition groups over selection of a state new legislative organ, which in turn elected a new president and deputy president. The year was characterized by a historical presidential and parliamentary election that saw the re-election of President Deni to serve a second term.

One of the major interventions of R2P programme since its start in 2021 constituted community-based reconciliations carried out in target areas. These activities covered Puntland provinces of Mudug, and the areas along the Nugal-Sool provincial border. However, this milestone was mainly geared towards Galkayo Western Corridor, which includes the districts of Bursalah and Galdogob and are cradled along the Puntland and Galmudug borderline. However, in 2024, due to dwindling programme funds, the community reconciliation component was not as extensive as before and PDRC covered the following community reconciliation operations.

Bursalah Reconciliation Conference.

PDRC under the R2P funding organized and funded this encounter between 25 and 30 April 2024 in Bursalah town. The zone falls under the Galkayo Western Corridor. The event marked a follow-up to an earlier reconciliation effort made, which PDRC had facilitated in 2023 after successive homicide incidents between the two lineages of Wadalmugge and Lelkase, who reside the area. These preceding meetings, with mediation of third-party traditional leaders, culminated in signing of a peace agreement and cessation of hostilities between these two warring lineages. Thus, the objective of this latter 2024 conference was to seal off the agreement and finalize implementation of its terms. This conference concluded the remaining unfulfilled items in the agreement.

Consolidation of the Peace Agreements between Sa'ad and Lelkase.

Within the month of September 2024, PDRC had under the funding of R2P, initiated and partially funded two preparatory reconciliation meetings held in Galkayo between Sa'ad and Lelkase. In this case, PDRC engaged the two states of Puntland and Galmudug States, who on their part covered the remaining costs of the meeting.

Monitoring of Mudug Security Situation

The programme staff maintained regular monitoring and observation on the North Mudug and borderline security situation. Particularly Mudug province is a volatile and conflict-prone zone and requires fastidious attention because outbreak of a clan conflict in one part directly impacts and exhibits ripple effects on the rest of the province. The programme staff also conducted follow-up on the security situation of the other provinces of Mudug, Nugal, Karkaar, Bari and Sanaag.

In the eastern part of Galkayo along the coast of the Indian Ocean, two sub-clans fight on resource natural resources, namely pasture and water sources. These sub-clans are Dir-Shikhal and had been intermittently conducting skirmishes with casualties in both sides during the last three years. Under the R2P financial participation, PDRC had sensitized the Ministries of Interior of the two administrations of Puntland and Galmudug to organize a reconciliation conference between these two warring communities.

Sherbi Reconciliation Event

Sherbi village is located 60km North of Gardho and lies on the Gardho-Bossaso tarmac Road. Its residents mainly comprise of two Majeerteen lineages—Ali Jibrahil and Bah-Garen (Osman Mohamoud). At the beginning of 2023 a Conflict erupted over a dispute on Ali Jibrahil's attempt to construct a Motel at a location 15 km North of Sherbi village on the tarmac. Bah-Garen lineage obstructed the endeavour. As a result, successive armed confrontations followed with fatalities sustained by both sides.



In a further development, hostilities extended to the Sherbi village where the two lineages inhabited, which occasioned total displacement of the village residents. Under R2P funding, PDRC funded a reconciliation process, to which the Puntland government leads. This prompted the commissioning, on 20th January 2024, of a five-member parliamentary committee, which investigates the problem and submits relevant strategies of resolving the conflict.

The Committee, traditional elders and PDRC facilitated two reconciliation conferences in Armo village regarding the Sherbi conflict. The most impactful of the two conferences took place on 8 February 2024 in Armo. Participants included: the parliamentary committee and prominent traditional leaders of Bari and Karkaar provinces/regions, representatives from two feuding lineages, women and youth groups, PUNSAA, other outstanding individuals and peace activists. This conference emphasized the importance of ceasing hostilities between the two brotherly communities and immediate operationalization of a neutral dispute resolution committees. Representatives from the two conflicting sides affirmed the decision of mediating jury and voiced that they ready for reconciliation and committing to the verdict of the selected intervening committees. In the following month, the assigned committees adjudicated on the cases of the feuding parties and declared a verdict to which both parties agreed to.

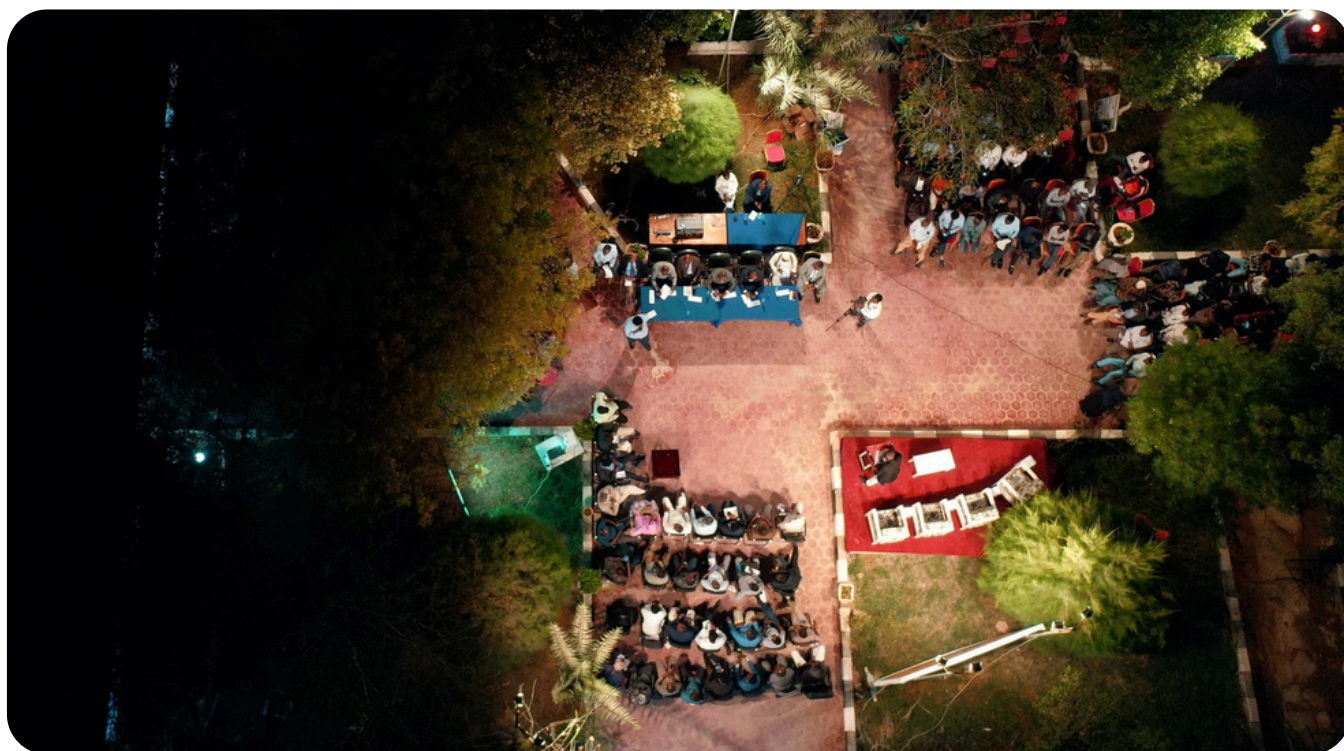
To cement the achieved Sherbi community reconciliation, PDRC, facilitated, with the blessing of the Ministry of Interior, volunteered a peace integration initiative aimed at fostering unity and reduction of the community's tensions and fragmentation. This initiative consisted of two components: a public forum bringing together diverse sections of the Sherbi community and a football tournament organized between the youth of the two contended communities/lineages.



These two events were held on 19 December 2024—the Sherbi Peace Strengthening Forum on the first half of the day, and the football tournament in the afternoon of the day. In the public forum participants included women, youth, elders, respective village committees PDRC, district and Karkaar province authorities. In collaboration with MOIFAD, organized a Peaceful Coexistence Forum that brought together diverse representatives of Sheerbi community, including women, youth, elders, village committees, district-level local council members, and regional authorities. In total, forum attendants numbered 204 of which 100 were male and 104 females.

Sool Conflict

PDRC Maintained continuous assessments on the Sool Conflict between SSC-Khatumo and Somaliland. These include: i) Capacity building/training for peace connectors (Samawade, Sherbi, PL/SL peace connectors), ii) Regular security situation analysis in the regions of Mudug, Nugal, Karkaar, Bari and Sanaag, iii) Regular security situation analysis in the regions of Mudug, Nugal, Karkaar, Bari and Sanaag, and iv) monitoring the implementation of the Sahmeygaag-Sangajebiye Peace Agreements signed during 2022 and 2023 with the financial support and facilitation of the R2P programme



PEACEBUILDING & RECONCILIATION

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 2024 being a year of presidential elections in Puntland, Talowadaag supported peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts including:



Sherbi Communities' Reconciliation Process

Efforts to resolve the conflict between the two communities in Sherbi have faced repeated failures, causing immense suffering for the population. Many residents lack proper shelter, leading to displacement and increased burdens on already struggling families. Despite the complexity of the conflict, both authorities and mediation committees demonstrate genuine efforts to reconcile the closely connected communities. While prospects for peace are promising, challenges remain in managing the return of the population to the village and addressing their immediate needs as they recover from the conflict's aftermath. Healing trauma and fatigue will be essential for the community's long-term recovery and reconciliation process. The Puntland government and traditional leaders jointly intervened to address the ongoing conflict in Sherbi.

In January 2024, the Puntland legislative body appointed a 5-member parliamentary committee to study the conflict and propose strategies for resolution. Simultaneously, traditional leaders selected a committee of elders to collaborate with the parliamentary team in mediating the conflict. The negotiations and mediations were hosted by the traditional leader of the Ali Suleiman Sub-clan in Armo, located on the road between Gardho and Bossaso. A formal inauguration ceremony took place on February 8, 2024, in Armo, where the peace committee spent 18 days consulting with the conflicting communities, visiting Sherbi, and gathering relevant information. Subsequently, on February 25, 2024, the committee issued an 11-article peace agreement. PDRC provided support for the conference in Armo.

Establish Adequate working relationship and coordinate between local governments and Early Warning Committees in Cadadda

PDRC facilitated a meeting between the Cadadda Peace Committee and the local governments of Burtinle and Lasanod districts to establish a working relationship and coordination for early warning and response to prevent clan conflicts. Formed as per the 2018 Maygaagle agreement, the committee comprises 24 members representing the Omar Mohamud and Bahrarsame clans in the conflict-affected border villages of Nugaal and Sool regions in Somalia, as well as villages on the Ethiopian border.



Challenges in coordination arose due to the area being under three different administrations. Recent changes, including the capture of Sool region by SSC-Khatumo state and the election of a new mayor in Burtinle district, prompted the peace committee to improve relations with these administrations. Following the meeting, agreements were reached between the committee and the administration.

The committee agreed to continue their daily tasks, including public awareness, property assessments, and restitution for lost properties. They also decided to establish a joint police force in the area, providing necessary equipment like police stations and cars. A conference led by respected traditional elders, including Garaad Jama and Islan Bashir, will address unresolved issues such as the fate of the water storage that triggered the 2005 conflict, with clan elders handling compensations. Environmental protection was highlighted to prevent further degradation caused by deforestation. Participants pledged to collaborate on development initiatives, such as constructing schools, water wells, and a road connecting Sool to the newly built Gar'ad Port to enhance community integration and movement. The peace committee focused on tasks not involving contentious matters like blood compensation and land ownership.

Cultural rally of arts and poetry in peace promotion for secondary schools and universities in Puntland

In Somali society, poetry, oratory, drama, and song have historically been pivotal in conveying emotions, ideas, and the nation's history. These artistic forms have safeguarded Somalia's collective memory, particularly during decades of conflict and social unrest. Today, young Somalis are increasingly turning to digital platforms to showcase their creativity through live performances, cinema, and visual arts. Despite their potential, these platforms face challenges such as limited monetization opportunities and a tendency to neglect themes that promote societal harmony and peace.

To address this, PDRC has emphasized leveraging the artistic talents of youth to foster peace and reconciliation. Initiatives such as the Arts of Peace Competition for secondary school students and a Poetry Competition for university students have been instrumental in bridging traditional cultural expressions with modern digital mediums. These competitions, which promote messages of peace and reconciliation, have celebrated young talents and inspired broader societal engagement through recognition at the 2nd PDRC annual conference.



2nd PDRC Annual Peace Conference

Drawing on more than two decades of experience in institutional state-building and peacebuilding, PDRC annually (since 2023) convenes its flagship event “The Annual Peace Conference” on September 21st to 23rd in every year. This gathering serves as a testament to PDRC's unwavering dedication to promoting peace and stability in Somalia. The conference provides a unique platform for stakeholders to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and share experiences.



By building on locally-driven methods for conflict resolution and peacemaking activities, the conference empowers interested parties, practitioners, and community leaders to spearhead initiatives that resonate with their respective communities. Peace conference explores emergent challenges to peace, conflicts resolutions, and peacebuilding challenges, best practices and innovations to address major challenges and inform policy-making process. It holds an inter-disciplinary space to address the most pressing topics and transformative practices in peace, conflict, and innovation.

The second iteration of the PDRC Annual Peace Conference builds upon the success of its inaugural year, which focused on reflecting on Somalia's conflict dynamics and drawing from past experiences to inform future policymaking, planning, and decision-making. The APC2024 conference is themed **"The Role of the Media in Peace and Conflicts in Fragile Contexts,"** highlighting the pivotal role that media, (including social media, the internet, and technology) plays in shaping narratives and influencing conflict dynamics. Somalia's decades-long experience of conflict and instability underscores the critical importance of understanding the evolving role of media in both exacerbating tensions and fostering reconciliation efforts.

While traditional media has historically upheld norms of journalism and ethical reporting, the emergence of social media and technology has introduced both positive and negative changes to Somalia's media environment. The conference aimed to bring together Somali peacebuilding practitioners and experts to share their successes, challenges, and best practices vis-a-vis the role of media in peace and conflict efforts in Somalia and beyond.

The conference was attended by approximately 250 participants, including the President of Puntland, Hon. Said Abdullahi Deni, and the Deputy Executive Secretary of IGAD, Hon. Mohamed Abdi Waare. On the second day of the event, Mr. Waare was featured as the guest speaker for PDRCTalks29, addressing the theme "Peace and Security in the Horn of Africa."



In addition, President Deni held a separate meeting with intellectuals and political figures who had participated to the conference to engage in discussions about the pressing issues facing Somalia. Following these consultations, the president made a significant announcement: his decision to pursue dialogue with the federal government. This marked an important step toward addressing the political disputes among Puntland and Federal Government of Somali and fostering a collaborative approach to resolving Somalia's complex political and social issues. To ensure the success of this initiative, a mediation committee was appointed to facilitate and guide the dialogue process.



Overall Gender Disaggregation Under the Talowadaag Phase II Programme

	Activity Name	Female	Male	Total
1	Induction training	22	92	144
2	Sensitization for rights and responsibilities	461	339	800
3	Capacity gaps assessment	153	177	330
4	Sherbi peace conference	8	11	19
5	Female council training	25	0	25
6	Advocacy forum for IDPs	70	80	150
7	Training for joint youth on conflict analysis, etc	35	15	50
8	Resumption for Democratization	44	56	100
9	Puntland police forum in Garowe	76	74	159
10	Cooperation between Cadadda Peace Committee and local authorities	2	30	32
11	Political Parties Debate	86	114	200
12	PEC and the Public	74	126	200
13	International youth day	54	46	100
14	Puntland parliament and the Galkacyo community	70	130	200
15	Galkacyo local council citizen forum	102	98	200
16	Galkacyo Police forum	123	87	210
17	PDRC talks-Waare	82	168	250
18	Arts and Drama	17	18	35
19	Annual Peace conference	27	173	200
	Total	1523	1823	3326

GOVERNANCE & STATEBUILDING

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

PDRC organized Induction trainings to 4 newly elected councils on revenue collection, participatory planning, budgeting and financial management, impact-driven performance and increased revenue mobilisation as summarised below:

#	District	No. of Female Councils Trained	No. of Male Councils Trained	Total	Training Date
1	Dhahar	8	23	31	5-6 th March 2024
2	Iskushuban	5	22	37	8-9 th March 2024
3	Harfo	7	23	30	24-25 th April 2024
4	Waiye	3	24	27	3-4 th Nov 2024
	Total	23	102	125	

Citizens engagement forums between the newly elected councils and local community including traditional institutions (4 districts: Iskushuban, Hafun, Waiye, and Dhahar).

This was mainly under the theme “ Strengthening Collaboration between Citizens and District Councils”. The following is the summary of the participants:

#	District	No. of Female Councils Trained	No. of Male Councils Trained	Total	Training Date
1	Dhahar	105	51	156	7 th Oct- 2024
2	Iskushuban	67	89	156	9 th Oct- 2024
3	Harfo	71	80	151	2 nd Sept-2024
4	Waiye	66	84	150	5 th Nov 2024
	Total	309	304	613	

Induction trainings for councillors

PDRC conducted induction training for the 4 districts of Waiye, Iskushuban, Dhahar and Harfo. These sessions, organized by the Puntland Development and Research Centre (PDRC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, aimed to build the capacities of council members in effective service delivery, revenue generation, participatory planning, and conflict resolution. The trainings were designed to equip the newly elected councillors with essential governance skills, foster inclusive engagement, and promote accountability and transparency in local government operations.

Training Objectives

- **Enhance Governance Capacities:** Build the capacity of district councils to effectively manage service delivery and governance processes.
- **Promote Revenue Generation:** Train council members on revenue collection methods, budgeting, and the use of digital tools to streamline financial management.
- **Foster Participatory Planning:** Introduce and emphasize participatory planning techniques to ensure inclusive and community-oriented decision-making.
- **Strengthen Conflict Resolution:** Provide practical training on conflict resolution approaches to help manage and mitigate disputes at the local level.
- **Engage and Empower:** Facilitate dialogue among council members, government officials, and citizens to ensure a collaborative approach to local governance.

Overall Impact and Recommendations

The series of induction trainings across Dhahar, Iskushuban, Harfo, and Waiye successfully enhanced the capacities of newly elected district councils. Key outcomes include:

- **Improved Knowledge and Skills:** Participants gained essential skills in governance, revenue generation, participatory planning, and conflict resolution.
- **Active Engagement:** The use of interactive and participatory training methods resulted in high levels of engagement, with council members expressing their readiness to apply the acquired knowledge in their respective districts.
- **Demand for Continued Learning:** Across all trainings, participants requested additional training materials and expressed interest in further capacity-building sessions.
- **Strengthened Institutional Capacity:** The involvement of key stakeholders, including local government officials and experts from the Ministry of Interior, has helped lay a strong foundation for improved service delivery and governance at the district level.

Citizens Forum between council and citizens

Between September and November 2024, under R2P, PDRC facilitated four citizens' forums in Harfo, Dhahar, Iskushuban, and Waiye as part of the R2P programme's Milestone III. These forums aimed to strengthen collaboration between newly elected district councils and their constituents through open dialogue and civic education. Each forum gathered between 120 to 150 citizens, along with council members and local officials, marking some of the first formal engagements since the local council elections held under the one-person-one-vote system.

Across all districts, the forums focused on clarifying the roles and responsibilities of district councils and citizens, particularly emphasizing the importance of tax compliance for effective service delivery. Led by facilitator Prof. Abdulkadir Sh. Mohamoud Salah, sessions included presentations on governance, followed by interactive discussions. Citizens expressed appreciation, pledged to support local governance efforts, and presented their priorities, while council members reaffirmed their commitment to inclusive, transparent leadership. These forums succeeded in building trust, encouraging accountability, and laying the groundwork for continued cooperation between citizens and their local governments.

Talo-wadaag Phase II

Talo-Wadaag made significant strides in achieving its annual action plan objectives. The program successfully facilitated forums that strengthened citizen-government accountability, promoted inclusivity, and enhanced citizen participation. It also supported social reconciliation efforts and encouraged proactive measures to ensure long-term peace. These initiatives had a meaningful impact across Puntland, particularly in key locations such as Garowe, Galkacyo, Badhan, Baargal, Rako, Armo, Sheerbi, and Magacley. The programme contributed a lot of civic engagement and good governance through the following activities:

Sensitization Forums on citizens to participate in decision making at local government

PDRC conducted citizen forums in Rako, Bargaal, Badhan, and Armo districts aimed to promote participatory decision-making at the local government level by employing interactive discussions, and multimedia presentations to raise awareness among community members about their rights and responsibilities. Feedback from participants indicated a high level of engagement and a greater understanding of their roles within local governance structures.



The current democratically elected local councils in these districts have increased accountability among council members, contrasting with past clan-based selections. The forums emphasized civic education, highlighting citizen duties, expectations from the government, and the importance of collaboration between the community and local authorities. Recognizing the detrimental effects of institutional collapse on Somali society, both the community and administration recognized the imperative for public ownership and accountability as foundational elements for rebuilding and transforming the community

The resumption and reorientation of democratization

PDRC organized a forum on April 16 to address the resumption and reorientation of the democratization process in Puntland. Following the local elections in May 2023, there were expectations of transitioning from clan-based selection to democratic elections. However, challenges such as armed conflicts, legal framework gaps, and time constraints led to a return to the clan system in January 2024. The forum brought together various stakeholders, including government officials, the Puntland election commission, political parties, civil society groups, and the public, to discuss the obstacles to resuming the democratization process. Participants identified opportunities like government commitment, public dissatisfaction with the clan system, and the existing electoral infrastructure. Recommendations included revising legal frameworks, strengthening rule of law institutions, enhancing civic education, and developing a comprehensive strategy to complete the democratization process.



Forum for IDPs in Galkacyo

An advocacy forum was held in Galkacyo to raise awareness about the rights, roles, and responsibilities of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in local governance. The forum aimed to foster stronger connections between IDPs and the local government, emphasizing the need to protect their rights, educate them about their responsibilities, and empower them to actively participate in governance as essential stakeholders. Notably, IDPs in Galkacyo significantly contributed to the local elections, securing a local council seat in Bulobacley village. The forum, attended by local councilors, the district secretary, and the director of social affairs, resulted in commitments to closely collaborate with IDPs and advocate for their rights and welfare.

Public and the Police citizens' forums in Garowe and Galkacyo

The Puntland State Police Force was established on 22/02/1999 after the creation of the Puntland State of Somalia, following a period from May 15th, 1998, to August 1, 1998, as outlined in Article 13 of the National Convention. The force underwent a 90-day training at the 54th Division Camp of the Somali National Army and has been organized into five regions and Buhodle District. Initially comprising 500 members from various pre-existing forces, the Puntland Police Force has expanded to include thousands of trained officers stationed at 153 police stations across all regions.



In recent years, urban areas of Puntland state have experienced increasing insecurity, leading to public scrutiny of the security force's effectiveness and capacity to ensure public safety. Concerns have been raised about alleged police involvement in criminal activities like drug smuggling, attributed to insufficient training and professionalism to address emerging challenges. This erosion of trust has shifted public perception of the security forces from protectors to adversaries. As a response, the PDRC organized citizen forums to facilitate discussions between top police officials and the public, aiming to address security issues, enhance public trust, and improve the overall image of the security forces. The forum brought together different stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, with police leadership presenting information on crime rates, types of crimes, achievements, and challenges faced by the security force.

Citizens' Forum on Puntland Election Commission (PEC) and The Public

In Puntland State, while successful local council elections were held in October 2021 and May 2023, election violence led to the postponement of elections in three districts of Nugal: Garowe, Dangorayo, and Godob-jiraan, leaving the process incomplete. In June 2024, the Puntland Electoral Commission (PEC) addressed this issue by announcing a new election date of July 23, 2024. To prepare for the elections, the Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC) hosted a citizen's forum on July 15, facilitating dialogue between the public and the PEC. This forum provided a platform to discuss election processes, share updates on the pending elections in Nugal, and promote greater public awareness and participation in governance.

During the discussion PEC emphasized its commitment to inclusivity, transparency, and integrity while the participants shared concerns and recommendations, highlighting the importance of monitoring, civic engagement, and equitable representation. The forum concluded with a call for peaceful and democratic elections, reaffirming Puntland's commitment to progress.



Political Parties' Election Debate

In July 2023, the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission certified the first eight political parties in Puntland since its establishment in 1998. These parties contested 81 seats in local district elections held in Garowe, Dangorayo, and Godobjiraan. Recognizing the overlap in campaign messages, the Puntland Research and Development Center, in collaboration with the Media Association of Puntland and the PEC, organized a political debate in 2024. This event provided party representatives an opportunity to present their programs on key issues, including security, infrastructure, and social services, while directly engaging with voters.

The debate aimed to strengthen public ownership, increase accountability within political parties, and bolster support for local council elections in the Nugal region. Political parties serve as foundational pillars of democratic systems, promoting a diversity of perspectives and ideologies. They provide inclusive platforms for citizens, particularly marginalized groups, to voice their concerns, participate actively in the political process, and unlock their potential to contribute meaningfully to society.





Following the May 25th, 2023, elections by the TPEC in 30 Puntland districts, including Galkacyo, where local councils were elected, the democratically elected administration in Galkacyo has been in office for 18 months. However, there is a perceived lack of maturity in society to hold elected representatives accountable at both district and state levels. A forum was held in 2024 to sensitize the public on accountability, focusing on fostering the Galkacyo Development Committee, promoting decentralization, enhancing revenue systems, acquiring district equipment, improving drainage infrastructure, advancing sanitation and development, streamlining land acquisition, and formulating a comprehensive security plan.

Citizen Forum on Puntland State Parliament and Galkacyo Community

PDRC organized a citizen's forum in Galkacyo, bringing together members of the Puntland parliament and the public, with over 200 citizens in attendance. The forum aimed to address the key priority needs and challenges facing Galkacyo town. This marked the first forum held by Puntland parliamentarians with Galkacyo residents since their swearing-in in December 2023. Galkacyo, historically divided and plagued by insecurity and armed conflicts, has experienced relative peace since 2017 due to a peace agreement between Galmudug and Puntland. The town faced additional challenges following flash floods in November 2023, resulting in significant property damage, school and hospital closures, and impassable roads.

The key issues discussed include Parliament's role in Galakcyo/Mudug peace process, the proliferation of districts and the inauguration of local council, land conflicts and the creation of new settlements, flooding in Galkacyo and the lack of a proper drainage system, youth unemployment, scarcity of water and electricity, and the relations between Puntland and the federal government.



Induction and capacity training for newly elected Local councils

After the One-Person One-Vote elections, the need for capacity building in newly elected councils became apparent to meet public expectations and effectively carry out their duties. Leveraging its extensive experience in local government training, the PDRC facilitated induction training. The Talo-Wadaag program conducted capacity building sessions in four districts - Rako, Bargaal, Badhan, and Armo in Puntland. The overarching goal of the training was to enhance the capabilities of the recently elected local councils in fulfilling their responsibilities, revenue management, public engagement, participatory planning, and budgeting.



PDRC also backed the induction training of local councils in Burtinle, Harfo, and Galdogob districts, a venture conducted by the Ministry of Interior in conjunction with PDRC and Interpeace. In April, the Ministry of Interior sought SIDA's support to conduct the training through the Talo-Wadaag program, an initiative endorsed by the donor and consortium partners. PDRC facilitated transportation and media engagement during the training sessions. The primary objective was to provide local councilors with essential knowledge and practical skills to effectively fulfill their responsibilities. As many council members were newly elected and lacked prior experience, it was crucial for the government to deliver comprehensive, hands-on training tailored to their roles.

Training of female councilors on the role, responsibilities, citizen outreach, policy development and implementation

PDRC conducted a training session for 22 elected female councilors from Badhan, Baargaal, Rako, and Armo districts, aiming to empower them and enhance their effectiveness in governance. This initiative sought to tackle the underrepresentation of women in politics and their limited participation in local governance.

The training covered essential topics such as roles, responsibilities, citizen outreach, and policy development and implementation. By delivering targeted training, PDRC aimed to bridge the knowledge gap and equip female councilors with the skills to develop policies, formulate plans and strategies, build effective networks, and actively engage in decision-making. Ultimately, the goal was to enable women to play a significant role in advancing their communities.



Training for joint youth and women committee in Galkacyo on conflict analysis, conflict prevention, conflict transformation, conflict sensitivity and early warning systems.

PDRC conducted training for a joint youth and women committee in Galkacyo, consisting of 50 members (35 female and 15 male). The inclusive peace committee aims to mend relations between the two communities to prevent conflicts within the town. Through collaborative dialogue sessions and conflict resolution workshops, the committee has fostered trust and mutual understanding. Measurable outcomes include a reduction in reported conflicts and increased participation in shared town initiatives, such as infrastructure development and cultural events, demonstrating progress toward long-term reconciliation. Historically, division and mistrust between the communities were exploited by criminals and terrorists. However, since the 2017 peace agreement, youth and women groups have worked to bridge the gap and foster trust and integration between the divided communities. The training focused on conflict analysis, prevention, transformation, sensitivity, and early warning systems to enhance their peace-building efforts.

PDRC, a peacebuilding organization, has been assisting youth and women peace committees through tailored training, advocacy, peace caravans, and technical consultations. The training encompassed various subjects including conflict analysis, early warning systems for conflict prevention, conflict resolution techniques, conflict sensitivity, and conflict transformation. This context-specific training was enriched with practical examples and case studies from the Mudug region to enhance the participants' understanding and application of peacebuilding principles.

Evaluation: Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

PDRC was hired by UNICEF to conduct an evaluation for the Global Partnership for Education Programme (GPEP). This evaluation measured GPEP's achievements against its stated objectives, applying standard criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, coherence, and coverage. The evaluation covered six regions—Mudug, Nugal, Karkaar, Bari, Sanag, and Haylan—spanning urban, rural, pastoral, coastal, and IDP settings. The mixed-method approach included Key Informant Interviews (KIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and quantitative analysis of Education Management Information System (EMIS) data, providing comprehensive insights into GPEP's impact, challenges, and lessons learned. The sample included urban, rural, pastoral, coastal, and IDP settings (extending to minority representation).



The evaluation covered the beneficiary groups, the learners from the most vulnerable and marginalized girls and boys at risk of exclusion from both the displaced and non-displaced communities, including children with disabilities. The evaluation targeted the school management and CBO staff. Key Informants included representatives from GPE partners, UNICEF, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiEWG), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the education sector, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), and local leaders. This selection process was reviewed and endorsed by UNICEF, GPE partners, and the Puntland Ministry of Education. FGD participants were also selected using purposive sampling in consultation with grantees. The grantees' in-depth knowledge of project stakeholders ensured the identification of individuals with direct experience and engagement in the project and relevant insights for the evaluation. FGD participants included School Boards of Management (BOMs)/Community Education Committees (CECs), teachers, parents, and learners.

Further, a comprehensive desk review was conducted to analyze documents related to the project's design, implementation, monitoring, and reporting. Sources included the Programme Monitoring Report, Partnership Reports, Donor Reports, Education Sector Analysis (ESA) Report, UNICEF Education Programme Reports, and the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP 2017–2021). These documents supplemented field data by providing contextual and historical insights, ensuring a holistic evaluation.



Other sources included: EMIS Database 2017-2021, EiEWG Reports, National Education Cluster Reports, Additional Maximum Country Allocation (MCA) for the ESPIG, 2020-2023 Reports, Education Sector Programme Implementation Grant (ESPIG) 2017-2020 Reports, and Accelerated Funding (AF) Framework Reports.

Summary of Evaluation Participants by Region and Gender

Region	# of FGDs	Males	Females	# of Klls	Males	Females
Nugal	14	63 (60%)	42 (40%)	18	13 (72%)	5 (28%)
Bari	11	41 (56%)	32 (44%)	7	5 (71%)	2 (29%)
Mudug	7	23 (62%)	14 (38%)	3	1 (33%)	2 (67%)
Karkaar	7	33 (51%)	32 (49%)	5	3 (60%)	2 (40%)
Haylan	9	33 (63%)	19 (37%)	8	6 (75%)	2 (25%)
Sanaag	7	21 (58%)	15 (42%)	6	5 (83%)	1 (17%)
Totals	55	214 (58%)	154 (42%)	47	33(70%)	14(30%)
	Total FGD Participants= 368	58% Males	42% Females	Klls=47	70% Males	30% Females

Somali Dialogue Platform (Support to Puntland Democratization Process)

The political landscape in Puntland has been shaped by a series of strategic dialogues, forums, and mapping exercises aimed at strengthening governance, democratization, and local accountability. These initiatives reflect Puntland's commitment to addressing political challenges, fostering inclusivity, and enhancing institutional frameworks. With support from Rift Valley Institute (RVI), the Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC) hosted a landmark event titled ***“The Consultative Forum of Puntland’s Parliamentary Representatives in Somalia’s Two Houses and Puntland Civil Society on October 29, 2024”***. The forum brought together parliamentary representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), and other stakeholders to discuss governance and public participation in Somalia's political future. It emphasized the interconnected roles of governance and civil society in shaping Somalia’s political trajectory. Overall, the central themes included addressing Somalia’s current political situation, exploring sustainable state-building pathways, and defining society’s role in transformative processes. The forum served as a vital platform for dialogue, bridging gaps between formal governance structures and civil society. However, the effectiveness of such discussions depends on actionable follow-ups. While the event highlighted the need for inclusive governance, tangible policy implementations remain a challenge, particularly in a region grappling with political fragmentation.

PDRC also organised a **Policy Dialogue on Priorities, Challenges, and Options to Strengthen Democratization**. This dialogue engaged 56 participants, including government officials, parliamentarians, academics, women’s groups, and youth organizations. Discussions centred on Puntland’s democratization journey, achievements, and persistent challenges. Key notable achievements discussed in this dialogue include: formation of 36 local district councils (2021–2024), transition of eight political associations into parties, establishment of the Puntland Electoral Commission (PEC) and Constitutional Court, and formation of the 6th Parliament (2024–2029) and election of the President and Vice President. It also highlighted challenges such as staggered local elections causing administrative inefficiencies, legal ambiguities from recent constitutional amendments, and financial sustainability of democratization efforts. Overall, the dialogue highlighted Puntland’s progress but also exposed systemic vulnerabilities. While legal and institutional frameworks are in place, their enforcement is inconsistent. Financial constraints threaten the sustainability of democratic gains, necessitating donor support and domestic revenue mobilization.

Another dialogue on challenges and opportunities for accountable local governance.

This event assessed the accountability and responsiveness of local governments post-Puntland's historic 2023 local elections, which saw citizens elect councils in 30 districts for the first time in 25 years. The key areas of discussion were: accountability challenges as new councils lack training in budgeting, revenue collection, and service delivery, Capacity Building through successful training programs (e.g., Talo Wadaag and R2P) were noted, but scalability remains an issue, representation Issues particularly the declining female representation in the 2023 elections compared to 2021 raised concerns about inclusivity and civic Engagement where enhanced civic education and participation mechanisms are needed to build trust. While the elections marked a democratic milestone, the gap between electoral success and governance effectiveness is evident. The lack of skilled local officials risks undermining public trust. Addressing gender disparities and improving civic engagement are critical for long-term stability.

PDRC also undertook Mapping of **SSC-Khatumo and Puntland Stakeholder Engagement**. This initiative aimed to foster dialogue between SSC-Khatumo and Puntland stakeholders to resolve constitutional disputes and enhance governance frameworks. The specific objectives were: Promoting inclusive governance balancing traditional and democratic practices, strengthening stability amid regional conflicts (e.g., tensions with Somaliland in Erigabo), Supporting economic and social development through collaborative frameworks. There were some noted challenges such as competing priorities, including Puntland's campaign against ISIS and Al-Shabaab as well as the unstable regional environment complicating negotiations. The mapping exercise was a proactive step toward conflict resolution, but its success hinges on sustained engagement. The region's security challenges divert attention and resources, highlighting the need for international mediation to facilitate structured dialogue.

Support for Civic Education and Inclusion in Governance

Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC) successfully implemented key activities under the NED (National Endowment for Democracy funded project 2024, engaging diverse stakeholders across various districts. The project undertook stakeholder engagement, including political parties, potential parliamentary candidates, and local councils. This initiative was conducted in Bosaso, Qardho, Garowe, and Galkacyo from December 14 to 24, 2023, with 240 participants (130 males and 110 females).



The sessions facilitated dialogue on critical governance issues, fostering collaboration among participants. Moreover, there was usage of film forums and training sessions on Puntland's laws and Constitution, held from March 5 to 15, 2024, in Bosaso, Qardho, Garowe, and Galkacayo. These events aimed to enhance legal awareness and civic understanding and were attended by 200 participants (110 males and 90 females). The interactive sessions contributed to building more informed people regarding Puntland's legal framework.

PDRC also organised an advocacy forum promoting women's participation in the upcoming local council elections. Held between 5th and 20th July, 2024, in Garowe, Dangorayo, and Godob-Jiraan districts in the Nugal region, this activity drew 840 participants, with women comprising the majority (456 females and 384 males). The forum provided a platform to address barriers to women's political participation and encouraged inclusive electoral processes.

These activities strengthened governance, civic engagement, and gender inclusivity in Puntland.

Below is a summary of voter education activities undertaken by PDRC under the NED-Funded project:

#	Date	Funder	Location	Activity	Males	Females	Total	Materials Used
1.	17 th July 2024	NED	Garowe	Advocacy Forum for Women's Participation in local elections.	0	60	60	PPT
2.	22 nd July 2024	NED	Garowe	Advocacy Forum for Women's Participation in local elections.	11	69	80	
3.	7 th /July 2024	NED	Yoombays village Garowe	Voter education forum	57	43	100	IEC Material
4.	10/ July 2024	NED	Godobjiran	Voter education forum	56	44	100	IEC Material
5.	12/ July 2024	NED	Dangoroyo	Voter education forum	55	45	100	IEC Material
6.	14/ July 2024	NED	Baqbaq village, Dangorayo	Voter education forum	49	51	100	IEC Material
7.	19/ July 2024	NED	Libaaxo village, Dangorayo	Voter education forum	39	61	100	IEC Material
8.	20/ July 2024	NED	Xamur village, Garowe	Citizen education Forum	52	48	100	IEC Material

Electoral Facility Programme

The Electoral Support Facility (2024-2029) is a 5-year programme that aims to enhance Somalia's electoral processes by providing scenario-based planning, legislative support, and institutional strengthening for both direct and indirect elections. The Lead Partner is Build Up, assisted by Netherlands Institute for Multi-party Democracy (NIMD) and Somalia regional/state partners including PDRC (in Puntland). The Key activities include: Deploying experts to train electoral management bodies, review laws, and offer advisory support, Legislative Support through Improving electoral laws and frameworks for federal and sub-national elections, Coordination by aligning efforts with SSF III grantees and partners to harmonize electoral support, Inclusivity & Preparedness: Supporting indirect elections to increase participation and lay the groundwork for future representative processes, assisting electoral bodies in conflict resolution and strengthening their capacity, especially in regions where SSF III has limited presence. The Facility leverages lessons from Puntland's recent elections and upcoming 2026 Federal Elections to provide strategic guidance, scenario planning, and targeted interventions where needed. Its goal is to foster more inclusive, well-managed electoral processes in Somalia. During 2024, PDRC undertook pre-election micro assessment in Puntland, Voter education, and a retreat at Qardho District.

The pre-election assessment included analysis of what was to be done in order to successfully finalise local government elections in the remaining three districts of Garowe, Dangorayo, and Godobjiran all in Nugaal region. It also analyzed preparedness and readiness of political parties, and Puntland Electoral Commission. The assessment highlighted the Federal Government-Puntland relations that required careful consideration and stakeholder engagement. Further analysis was made on the legal frameworks and constitutional amendments that had been undertaken by the Puntland parliament implying that the modifications to articles 44 and 56 introduced a transition from the parliamentary

selection method to a new democratic presidential system, wherein the President and Vice President were to be elected directly by the people, although this never happened in 2024. The assessment concluded that there was need to support Puntland elections by training for regional, district, and field staff, the dispute resolution committee, and political party agents; Procurement of non-sensitive materials such as polling station stationery and consumables for voter card printing and maintenance of PEC equipment, Support to PEC staff including: secretariat staff in order to ensure sustained institutional memory and technical capacity Regional and district offices, and field staff. More support was needed in terms of Voter education activities and materials as a well as financial management.

Further, there was voter education exercises during the election period. Below is the summary of the voter education participants reached during this initiative:

#	Date	Project Name	Location	Activity	Gender			Materials Used
					Male	Female	Total	
9.	14 th July 2024	Electoral facility	Garowe	Voter education Forum	43	157	200	MAVU, IEC materials
10.	17 th July 2024	Electoral facility	Garowe	Voter education forum	42	158	200	MAVU, IEC materials
11.	19 th July 2024	Electoral facility	Garowe	Voter education forum	16	184	200	MAVU, IEC materials
12.	14 th July 2024	Electoral Facility	Garowe	Mock Election	34	66	100	IEC Materials
13.	17 th July 2024	Electoral Facility	Garowe	Mock Election	17	83	100	IEC Materials
14.	19 th July 2024	Electoral Facility	Garowe	Mock Election	12	88	100	IEC Materials
15.	18 th /July/2024	Electoral Facility	Godobjiraan	Mock Election	62	38	100	IEC Material
16.	20 th /July/2024	Electoral Facility	Dangoroyo	Mock Election	53	57	100	IEC Materials
17.	18 th /July/2024	Electoral Facility	Uusgure Village, Dangoroyo	Voter education forum	125	75	200	MAVU and IEC Materials
18.	15 th /July/2024	Electoral Facility	Xaji-khayr Village, Dangoroyo	Voter education forum	127	73	200	IEC Materials
19.	12 th /July/2024	Electoral Facility	Caano Yaskax	Voter education forum	103	97	200	IEC Materials
20.	08/July/2024	Electoral Facility	Birta-dheer village, Garowe	Voter Education forum	115	85	200	MAVU and IEC Materials
21.	14/July/2024	Electoral Facility	Awr-culus village, Garowe	Voter Education forum	112	88	200	MAVU and IEC Materials
22.	09/July/2024	Electoral Facility	Birta-dheer village, Garowe	Mock Election	50	50	100	IEC Materials
23.	08/July/2024	Electoral Facility	Hamhamaa village, Garowe	Voter Education forum	123	77	200	MAVU and IEC Materials

The Qardho Election retreat co-funded under the Electoral Facility Programme and Somali Dialogue Platform (SDP), focused on electoral transparency and democratization, involving key stakeholders such as the Puntland Electoral Commission (PEC), political parties, the Ministry of Interior, and CSOs. The major objectives were: reviewing lessons Learned i.e analysing past local elections to identify best practices and areas for improvement, addressing challenges and opportunities by identifying obstacles to democratization and avenues for reform, defining electoral milestones by establishing clear objectives for upcoming elections, including harmonizing district council timelines and clarifying responsibilities for key election stakeholders by mapping the roles for PEC, political parties, and CSOs to ensure accountability.



The retreat underscored the importance of early preparation and inclusive policies in building a credible democratization process. However, logistical, financial, and regulatory challenges persist. The emphasis on stakeholder collaboration is commendable, but sustained political will is necessary to translate discussions into concrete electoral reforms.

Somalia Conciliation Barometer (SCB)

The Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC), in partnership with SeeD (Cyprus), Build Up (USA), and DhaxalReeb (Mogadishu), commenced implementing a one-year project named “Somali Conciliation Barometer (SCB)” in September 2024, funded by the Somali Stability Fund (SSF). The objective of the project is to contribute to peacebuilding and the reconciliation process in Somalia by measuring peace and reconciliation at the district level and validating theories of change related to peacebuilding and reconciliation, thereby informing decision-making and guiding the activities and programs of the National Reconciliation Framework.



As a starting point, the SCB project is being piloted in the two federal member states of Puntland and South-West. Four partners, including PDRC, are jointly undertaking the project. The methodology that the Heshiin-Beeg is utilizing is the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE) methodology.

The SCORE methodology employs the principles of participatory action research (PAR), which ensures the continuous engagement of relevant stakeholders in defining the problem and research questions, co-creating solutions and tools to address the problem and answer the research questions, and interpreting the results to deliberate on the next steps. The study is anticipated to reach 1,600 respondents (800 in Puntland and 800 in the Southwest).

The outcomes of the research project will be implemented on a national level to address the persistent challenges associated with national reconciliation, utilizing sustainable and regionally validated methodologies to foster national unity.



DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT

The main programme under this section was the Shaqo Skills and Jobs that is funded by the Kingdom of Netherlands. In 2024, the Shaqo Project focused on job creation in the fishery sector while continuing to support crop and dairy farms and food processing facilities. The year began with a fishery processing and hygiene training in Garacad, Mudug Region, Puntland, a growing port town with transformative potential. The training equipped fishers with skills in proper sanitation, contamination control, and fish handling from catch to market, ensuring quality and freshness. Participants also learned fish preservation methods like drying, salting, refrigeration, and freezing, as well as sea survival techniques, including first aid, life jacket use, and weather awareness. Similarly, farmers in Cuun Village received training on sustainable agriculture, covering organic farming, integrated pest management (IPM), conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and crop rotation to enhance soil health and long-term productivity. These efforts aim to improve food security, increase income opportunities, and support rural livelihoods in Puntland.



In Galkayo, Mudug Region, a dairy farm benefited from seed funding, which was used to purchase essential equipment like a cooling machine, expand production, and train employees. Part of the funding also went toward marketing and acquiring a bus for milk transportation, which doubled as a revenue-generating service for students and cooperatives. This investment led to a 55% increase in milk production, expanded customer reach, and the creation of eight new jobs. Improved product quality and strategic marketing boosted sales revenue by 15%, strengthening the farm's market presence. Moving forward, the farm plans to invest in advanced machinery, employee training, and eco-friendly practices to overcome challenges like water scarcity and limited innovation, ensuring sustainable growth and community engagement. The Shaqo Project's initiatives have laid a strong foundation for economic development and resilience in the region.



Fish processing Facility – Eyl, Nugaal Region

A beneficiary operating a fish processing facility was identified in Eyl, Nugaal Region, Puntland. Established in 2021/2022, the facility focuses exclusively on fish processing, unlike the more common practice of handling both fish and lobster. The business aims to cater to diverse consumer preferences by processing a variety of fish, with its main product range including King Fish, Tuna, and Groupers. The beneficiary works closely with local communities and employs responsible fishing methods, contributing to the long-term preservation of Somalia's marine environment.

However, responsible fishing practices face significant challenges, particularly from foreign fishing trawlers and local communities grappling with economic hardships. The beneficiary seeks to address these issues by revitalizing fishing opportunities in Eyl and incentivizing local fishers to partner with them instead of engaging with trawlers.

In addition to these upgrades, the fish processing facility in Eyl faced challenges due to unreliable electricity supply, which led to operational inefficiencies and increased costs. To address this, a solar energy system was identified as a critical solution to ensure sustainable operations in the coastal town. The facility requires consistent, affordable, and environmentally friendly power to operate essential equipment such as blast freezers, cooling systems, and processing tools. Solar energy offers a reliable, renewable power source tailored to the facility's needs. As part of SHAQO's support, a contribution was made toward the purchase of a solar system, ensuring uninterrupted operations and long-term sustainability. Together, these investments strengthen the beneficiary's ability to produce and package high-quality food products efficiently, addressing operational challenges and scaling up to meet market demands. Additionally, cooling and sealing equipment, including a sealer with heating strips, was provided to improve the preservation of processed fish. This support aligns with the beneficiary's mission to streamline operations, increase output, and deliver high-quality processed fish products to the market, while promoting sustainable fishing practices and community collaboration.



Farming and Market Kits

The provision of agricultural kits to farms in Badhan (Sanaag region), Cuun, and Garowe (Nugaal Region) offers significant benefits to farmers by addressing their specific needs and enhancing productivity. These kits, tailored to the requirements of each farm, include essential inputs and tools that directly contribute to improved crop yields, pest management, and overall farm efficiency. The inclusion of pesticides, insecticides, and fungicides helps protect crops from pests and diseases, reducing crop loss and ensuring healthier plants. Fertilizers such as urea, NPK, potassium sulphate, and calcium boron improve soil fertility by providing essential nutrients for robust plant growth and higher yields. Additionally, manure and fertile soil enrich soil quality, promoting sustainable farming practices and long-term soil health. High-quality seeds, such as onion, pepper, hot pepper, and carrot seeds, ensure farmers have access to resilient and productive crop varieties, leading to better harvests and increased income.

Efficient farm operations are further supported by tools like sprayers and dripper tubes, which enable precise application of pesticides and fertilizers, reducing waste and ensuring even distribution. Water storage tanks facilitate better water management, especially in arid regions, ensuring crops receive adequate irrigation. A screwdriver kit assists in the maintenance and repair of farming equipment, minimizing downtime and operational disruptions. By providing these resources, farmers can reduce their reliance on expensive external inputs, lowering production costs. The use of organic inputs like manure and fertile soil also promotes environmentally friendly farming practices, ensuring long-term sustainability.



Ultimately, higher crop yields and improved quality of produce translate to better market prices and increased income for farmers. Access to diverse seeds and farming tools enables farmers to grow a variety of crops, enhancing food security for their families and communities. In summary, the distribution of these agricultural kits empowers farmers by equipping them with the necessary tools and inputs to overcome challenges, improve productivity, and achieve sustainable farming practices, leading to greater economic stability and food security. In summary, the distribution of these agricultural kits empowers farmers by equipping them with the necessary tools and inputs to overcome challenges, improve productivity, and achieve sustainable farming practices, ultimately leading to greater economic stability and food security.

Food Processing Facility – Garowe, Nugaal Region

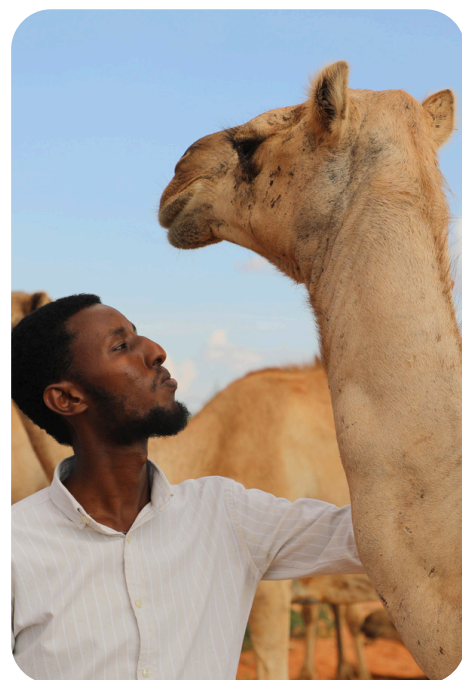
Rooted in the facility's goals of increasing production capacity, improving operational efficiency, and ensuring high-quality products that meet market demands, several key investments were made to enhance its operations. Equipment was acquired to process raw materials into fine granules, ensuring consistency in food production. Additional machinery was purchased to facilitate the efficient transportation of materials within the facility, significantly improving workflow. Packaging materials were also procured, including larger and smaller-sized options for products like "Mushaali" and "Boorash", enabling the production of consumer-friendly package sizes that maintain product quality and enhance marketability. To ensure a reliable energy supply, a power generator was installed, minimizing downtime and supporting consistent production.



The aim of these investments is multifaceted. The new equipment streamlines the production process, reduces manual labor, and ensures a consistent output of finely processed food products. The power generator provides uninterrupted energy, preventing production delays caused by electricity outages. Meanwhile, the packaging materials allow for the production of consumer-ready products in standardized sizes, boosting marketability and customer satisfaction. These investments address critical needs such as meeting growing market demand, improving quality control, and enhancing operational efficiency by minimizing manual labor and errors. Furthermore, the professional packaging positions the beneficiary as a competitive brand in the food processing industry, appealing to a broader customer base.

Connecting students with livestock community

Through the SHAQO platform, PDRC organized a workshop in Galkacyo aimed at fostering dairy business development and strengthening institutional capacity to promote youth economic integration. The two-day workshop targeted animal husbandry students from Red Sea University, providing them with practical insights into Somalia's dairy sector and strategies to tackle challenges such as poor livestock management, inadequate infrastructure, and limited market access. Key topics included advanced feeding and breeding techniques, animal health management, and the economic potential of camel products. A central focus of the training was the role of dairy associations in promoting collaboration, implementing best practices, and advocating for policies that drive the sector's growth and sustainability.



The workshop combined classroom-based learning with a hands-on field visit to a camel dairy farm, where students gained direct experience in camel herding, milking, and the economic dynamics of dairy production. They observed quality control measures and explored innovative practices, such as crossbreeding Somali and Holstein cows to enhance milk yields. This practical exposure enriched their understanding of dairy business operations and underscored the cultural and economic significance of camel milk in Somalia.

By emphasizing the formation of dairy cooperatives and associations, the SHAQO platform established a foundation for institutional support for youth entrepreneurs. These initiatives are crucial in creating an enabling environment that empowers young people to actively engage in and benefit from the economic opportunities within the dairy industry. The program not only enhances technical expertise but also promotes sustainable economic models that integrate youth into Somalia's agricultural value chains, fostering long-term growth and



Establishment of Puntland Dairy Association led by youth

PDRRC convened a consultative meeting in Galkacyo, Puntland, gathering 30 stakeholders from the camel milk sector, including farmers, herders, vendors, retailers, and industry experts. The meeting sought to tackle pressing challenges within the camel milk value chain, such as quality control, food safety, logistical barriers, and economic constraints. Facilitators included Dr. Diirshe Duwe, a veterinarian, and Aisha Ahmed, a dairy entrepreneur and Shaqo Platform beneficiary, who shared their expertise and practical insights to enrich the discussion.

The session introduced the idea of forming a dairy association to improve coordination among stakeholders, strengthen collective bargaining power, and establish quality standards. Through interactive methods like group discussions, Q&A sessions, and brainstorming, participants actively engaged in generating practical solutions and ideas for the association's structure, roles, and leadership. Key topics included steps for registration, membership criteria, and strategies for resource mobilization.



The anticipated outcomes of the meeting included fostering community consensus on the necessity of a dairy association, encouraging collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, and drafting an initial action plan to establish the association. This initiative represents a critical step toward building a sustainable and inclusive camel milk industry in Puntland, empowering stakeholders to address challenges collectively and unlock the sector's full potential.

In a nutshell, the SHAQO Project successfully achieved its objectives by addressing critical challenges and fostering sustainable growth across key sectors in Puntland, including fisheries, agriculture, and dairy production. Through targeted training programs, strategic investments, and stakeholder engagement, the project empowered local communities, enhanced productivity, and promoted economic resilience.



In the fishery sector, the project provided essential training on hygiene, processing, and preservation techniques, equipping fishers with the skills needed to improve product quality and safety. The introduction of solar energy systems addressed power shortages, ensuring uninterrupted operations and reducing costs for fish processing facilities. These efforts not only revitalized fishing opportunities but also incentivized local fishers to adopt sustainable practices, contributing to the long-term preservation of Somalia's marine resources.

In agriculture, the distribution of agricultural kits, including seeds, fertilizers, and equipment, enabled farmers to increase crop yields and improve food security. Training programs on sustainable farming practices, such as integrated pest management and crop rotation, equipped farmers with the knowledge to enhance soil health and adopt environmentally friendly methods. These initiatives strengthened rural livelihoods and created new income opportunities for farmers.



The dairy sector saw significant advancements through capacity-building workshops, the establishment of dairy associations, and strategic investments in equipment and infrastructure. By fostering collaboration among stakeholders and promoting best practices, the project improved milk production, quality control, and market access. The formation of dairy cooperatives and associations provided a platform for collective action, enabling stakeholders to advocate for policies that support sector growth and sustainability.

Overall, the SHAQO Project's holistic approach—combining training, resource provision, and institutional support—has laid a strong foundation for sustainable development in Puntland. By addressing sector-specific challenges and empowering local communities, the project has not only achieved its immediate objectives but also created lasting opportunities for economic integration, food security, and environmental stewardship. These efforts underscore the importance of collaborative, community-driven initiatives in driving long-term progress and resilience in Somalia's key economic sectors.



BEYOND THE ACCORD: THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL PEACE STRUCTURES IN MANAGING INTER-CLAN CONFLICTS IN PUNTLAND STATE, SOMALIA

Abdirahman Said Bile



This study focuses on a Joint Peace Committee that was established in the Adadda area of the borders between Puntland, Somalia and Ethiopia to prevent the recurrence of a conflict and build the broken relationship between two disputing clans. The study employed a qualitative approach to collect and analyse data. Twelve Key Informant Interviews were conducted, and two Focus Group Discussions held (consisting of eight respondents each), in addition to the review of secondary literature on peacebuilding. The effectiveness of a local peace committee depends on its success to resolve the factors that have been hindering peace by addressing the structural causes of conflict and implementing any agreement reached, as well as by issuing early warning of escalation and activating early response, raising public awareness on peace, and building the relationship between the feuding communities. These factors prevent the recurrence of conflicts and help with the promotion of peace. To reach long-lasting solutions to interclan conflicts in Somalia, the study recommends the establishment of peace committees in conflict-prone zones, composed of diverse members of society from different levels of the community



A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF AS-ANOD CONFLICT (HUMANITARIAN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC)

This study focuses on a Joint Peace Committee that was established in the Adadda area of the borders between Puntland, Somalia and Ethiopia to prevent the recurrence of a conflict and build the broken relationship between two disputing clans. The study employed a qualitative approach to collect and analyse data. Twelve Key Informant Interviews were conducted, and two Focus Group Discussions held (consisting of eight respondents each), in addition to the review of secondary literature on peacebuilding. The effectiveness of a local peace committee depends on its success to resolve the factors that have been hindering peace by addressing the structural causes of conflict and implementing any agreement reached, as well as by issuing early warning of escalation and activating early response, raising public awareness on peace, and building the relationship between the feuding communities. These factors prevent the recurrence of conflicts and help with the promotion of peace. To reach long-lasting solutions to interclan conflicts in Somalia, the study recommends the establishment of peace committees in conflict-prone zones, composed of diverse members of society from different levels of the community

Mass Attitudes towards “One person One Vote” in the Wake of Puntland’s 2024 Electoral Crisis

This study focuses on a Joint Peace Committee that was established in the Adadda area of the borders between Puntland, Somalia and Ethiopia to prevent the recurrence of a conflict and build the broken relationship between two disputing clans. The study employed a qualitative approach to collect and analyse data. Twelve Key Informant Interviews were conducted, and two Focus Group Discussions held (consisting of eight respondents each), in addition to the review of secondary literature on peacebuilding. The effectiveness of a local peace committee depends on its success to resolve the factors that have been hindering peace by addressing the structural causes of conflict and implementing any agreement reached, as well as by issuing early warning of escalation and activating early response, raising public awareness on peace, and building the relationship between the feuding communities. These factors prevent the recurrence of conflicts and help with the promotion of peace. To reach long-lasting solutions to interclan conflicts in Somalia, the study recommends the establishment of peace committees in conflict-prone zones, composed of diverse members of society from different levels of the community



The issue of Minority clans' representation emerged at the Arta conference in 1999, when, for the first time, they were included in the formal governance structures through the 4.5 power-sharing formula. Despite introducing the 4.5 formula, minority representation in public positions beyond the national legislative remains inadequate to date. Clan politics, historical factors, poverty, and discrimination hinder minority participation in politics. However, with the introduction of a federal system in 2004, there has been growing concern that the system could produce clan-based regional states, deepen division, and further marginalize the minorities at the subnational and local levels. This study explored the factors that influence the political representation of minorities in Puntland and to find ways to increase their representation in public affairs. The following are some of the key findings and recommendations of the study



Given Puntland's strategic location along the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, its historical context, and the current security challenges it faces, this policy brief serves as a vital tool for policymakers, stakeholders, and the international community. The region's history of relative peace, economic potential, and ongoing security threats underscore the critical importance of informed decision-making and strategic planning. Addressing the resurgence of piracy, the geopolitical implications of the Ethiopia-Somaliland memorandum, and the broader security dynamics in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean requires a nuanced understanding of the region's complexities. This policy brief provides a comprehensive analysis of the factors contributing to piracy resurgence, the implications of the memorandum, and actionable policy recommendations. It is designed to guide policymakers in developing effective strategies to enhance maritime security, promote economic growth, and foster stability in Puntland and the wider region.



Having recently completed parliamentary and presidential elections, Puntland Federal Member State - finds itself at a critical juncture. Internal disputes, security concerns, the future of SSC-Khatumo, as well as relations with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) all present challenges to the state-building agenda. The recent elections saw armed clashes in Puntland's major cities, with unrest erupting over grievances at how the region's recent democratic and administrative transition has been managed. Added to this, the Las Anod conflict has increased the number of clan militias and their access to arms. Even so, the fact that the sitting administration was re-elected provides an opportunity for internal reconciliation and a reinvigoration of the stalled democratization process. Against this complex backdrop of political and security challenges, this policy paper sets out the key priorities for the new Puntland government. In examining these challenges and opportunities, the paper provides actionable insights and recommendations aimed at guiding policy-making processes.



Puntland state in Somalia faces significant challenges in achieving sustainable local governance due to a myriad of socio-political and economic factors. The region is prone to natural disasters such as recurrent droughts, flash floods and periodic cyclones that affect coastal areas, which exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and strain the capacity of local councils to achieve their mandates. Limited sources of revenue to generate the necessary financial resources further compounds these challenges, hindering the provision of basic services and the implementation of developmental projects in remote and hard-to-reach areas. This policy paper provides relevant information for decisions and actions related to local government structures and service delivery that could potentially enhance their functioning for the benefit of citizens in Puntland by highlighting problems and providing feasible solutions. It also formulates recommendations for enhancing efficiency and transparency based on an evaluation of the current state of the art of local governance in Puntland.



This policy paper reviewed the political and legal challenges that led to the suspension of democratic elections in December 2023. The objective of this policy paper is to present recommendations to the new administration geared toward facilitating an informed and expedited resumption of the election process. A comprehensive contextual analysis examines and clarifies the complexities of this process in order to deepen understanding of the current challenges and opportunities. Building on this foundation, this policy paper prioritizes and develops recommendations for the immediate attention and consideration of the new Puntland administration. These insights can play a pivotal role in guiding the swift and informed resumption of the democratization process by providing pertinent information and analysis

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Tolmo Society

The Tolmo Change Makers Fellowship is an intensive 5-month leadership development initiative implemented by Tolmô Society Somalia in collaboration with the Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC). Designed to cultivate the next generation of Somali leaders, the program combines theoretical knowledge with practical application to address pressing social and economic challenges in Puntland. Through its comprehensive curriculum, the fellowship empowers participants with essential skills in entrepreneurship, transformative leadership, and community development.

The program's second cohort engaged in a series of impactful activities that fostered both personal and professional growth. A highlight was the Leadership Retreat Primo, where fellows participated in interactive workshops on critical skills like effective communication, collaborative problem-solving, and strategic thinking. The retreat also featured valuable insights from scholarship recipients who shared practical advice on securing international educational opportunities. Another key component was the Tolmô Social Innovation Challenge, sponsored by Salam Bank, which guided fellows through a design thinking process to develop innovative solutions to local issues, particularly focusing on the complex challenge of family migration from Puntland.



Mentorship played a central role in the fellowship, with accomplished professionals from diverse fields sharing their expertise. Notable guest speakers included Dr. Abdisalam Salwe, an authority on IT and business strategy; Burhan Ismael Hassan, a financial management expert; and Dr. Axmed Hassan, a prominent community leader. The program also included an immersive three-day retreat in the historic town of Eyl, combining leadership training with cultural exchange and team-building exercises.

The fellowship's impact is evident in the sustainable initiatives launched by participants, including Biikon (environmental advocacy), Innoved Insights (youth awareness campaigns), and the Youth Transformation Bootcamp (career development program). By equipping young Somalis with the tools to drive positive change, the Tolmo Change Makers Fellowship is making a tangible contribution to Puntland's social and economic development.



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