Dear Reader,

It again has been a busy month for the project with a variety of activities being implemented in parallel in cooperation with the three parliaments ranging from support to legislative work, capacity building for the administrative/finance staff, working with parliamentary committees, efforts to re-establish the NFP legislative archive, M&E training activities, and workshops to enhance the skills of the SL constituency office staff. Highlights of the past four weeks were the various oversight missions conducted by the HoR in Puntland and Somaliland and the tabling of the draft Rules of Procedures for the PL HoR.

Considering that this newsletter is already the eighth edition since Dec 2014 it has been decided to give the cover page a bit of a face lifting.

Let me take the opportunity - on behalf of the project team - to wish you all Eid Mubarak

SL HoR Environmental committee taking water samples during their oversight mission to the region

The UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) provides support to the NFP, and the Parliaments of Puntland and Somaliland in order to capacitate them to operate as inclusive, transparent and effective law-making, oversight and representative bodies. The project provides technical assistance to

1. enact quality legislation and to maintain effective oversight over the government
2. establish effective institution, with a functioning administration and infrastructure
3. empower MPs to represent and remain accountable to the people and to provide leadership

The Project is supported by the European Union, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and UNDP. The total budget for 2013-2016 is 11.7 million USD.

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National Federal Parliament
NFP used LoA funds for the payment of the following parliament expenses: Young graduates salaries covered from LoA funds; internet fee for Office of the Speaker and parliament offices covered; recruitment of technical advisors for Office of Speaker is under process; catering of costs related to provision of training (M&E training for parliament staff); recruitment of national consultant to conduct ICT needs assessment of federal parliament is in advanced stage; payment for office renovation work of the parliament.

Puntland House of Representatives
Puntland House of Representatives (PL HoR) used LoA funds in the following ways: Conducted one constituency visits and one oversight mission to Puntland regions (costs of transport, DSA for participants, stationery and media); reviewed, revised and printed RoP; refurbishment of parliament office is partially completed. Ongoing activities of parliament are resolution of local disputes and development of parliament website.

Somaliland House of Representatives
Somaliland HoR has completed the process of hiring a local firm to support and train the staff on management of finances, human resources and procurement according to international standards and UNDP Harmonized Cash Transfer system. The HoR printed and distributed a number of recently developed manuals to all departments of the house as follows:
- Accounting/Procurement Manual
- Committee Verbatim Reporting Guideline
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Committee and their Functions
- Management of Record and Filling System Manual
- Organizational chart of the House

The house also completed the collection of plenary minutes and printed six years verbatim report of the house. LoA funds also covered operational costs (i.e. rent of the premises, internet fee, water and electricity) for five constituency offices. Printed pre-numbered financial/procurement documents (i.e. Payment Vouchers, Receipts, Delivery Note, Purchase Orders etc). The newly hired firm developed a number of template agreements for personnel, company and construction works.

Finally, from LoA funds the committee oversight missions to four regions of Somaliland were covered.

Puntland Ministry of Constitution, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MoCFAD) is ongoing. The objective of the CB activities is to address financial management and internal control deficits of these institutions identified through micro capacity assessments conducted by ABRIMO in 2014/15. With the assistance of UNDP and Project staff and consultants, the three parliaments and the MoCFAD have started a process to strengthen Secretariat administrations:
- **NFP**: recruitment of a local administrative reform expert ongoing
- **Puntland HoR**: local expert of administrative reform recruited; organizational restructuring commenced; internal audit strengthened; employee background check policy introduced.
- **Somaliland HoR**: development of a number of policies, vouchers and guidelines, such as accounting manual completed; specialized company contracted.

Mr. Warsame Hassan, UNDP national expert, is coordinating the efforts to strengthen the Secretariats’ capacity and to achieve synergy.
Young Graduate Training Needs Assessment Conducted

Responding to the findings of a DFID initiated third-party–monitoring of the NFP Young Graduate Programme, the UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) has carried out a capacity / training needs assessment exercise regarding the NFP Young Graduates. Using a questionnaire filled in by 23 YG the project gathered data to determine what training needs exist so that future training programs can be developed in line with identified gaps. The assessment found skill deficiencies with respect to certain types of functions including legal analysis and drafting, legislative/legal research, administrative and finance skills, parliamentary oversight skills and data management. Based on findings and recommendations resulting from the assessment, future training programs will respond to the skill gaps identified in order to enhance the capacity of the NFP Secretariat by creating the required skills and knowledge needed by the Young Graduate staff.

M&E Training for NFP Staff Conducted in Mogadishu

As part of the overall capacity building activities for PSP national counterparts, the PSP M&E officer, Mr. Jibril Nour has provided a training on monitoring and evaluation on 15th - 17th and 23rd-25th June 2015 in Mogadishu in which 44 (8 women and 36 male) of National Federal Parliament staff participated. The objectives of the training were to train key parliamentary staff on the main principles and methods of monitoring, evaluation and data collection in order to enable them to monitor and document achievements and progress made by NFP against its Strategic Plan (2012-2016). During the training, participants realized the need to elaborate a monitoring plan for the NFP Strategic Plan — a proposal which still needs to be endorsed by the NFP senior management.

Legislative Support to NFP

A series of consultations with several committees of the NFP took place in Mogadishu to provide assistance as they continue their work on high priority items that are scheduled to be considered by the NFP in the 6th and 7th session. Specifically, project staff met with the Finance & Budget-, Judicial & Religious Affairs-, and the Interior Committee to discuss current progress on key draft legislation, such as Draft-Law on Counter-Terrorism (CT), Draft-Law on Anti-money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing (AML-CFT), Draft-Law on Establishing the Constitutional Court.

The project in close cooperation with UNODC committed to work with the respective Committees to facilitate workshops on CT and AML-CFT draft-laws.

The UNDP Parliamentary Support Project furthermore contracted a consultant Mr. Dahir Warsame to assist the NFP/Finance & Budget Committee on the Draft-Law on Public Procurement. Work will start shortly after Eid.
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Many of these issues, such as the Boundaries and Federation Commission, Anti-Terrorism Legislation, establishing the Constitutional Court, election and political party law, and the review of the Provisional Constitution are fundamental to strengthening democracy in Somalia. Action by the NFP on these and other items is enshrined in the Provisional Constitution. George Crawford together with UNDP staff met with the staff of the Finance and Budget-, the Judicial and Religious Affairs- and the Interior Committee to discuss current progress on key draft legislation, public consultations and oversight. In addition to engaging in a lively give and take on the actions that Committees can engage in prior to the formal submission of draft legislation from the Council of Ministers, the interlocutors outlined their needs for subject matter expertise as well as assistance so as to be able to engage in public dialogue around Somalia. UNDP, through a LoA provides funding support to the work of the committees in order to facilitate the implementation of their work plans.

Progress on NFP Legislative Archive Reestablishment

An extensive search for the missing pre-1991 Somali legislation records is underway in USA public libraries. Similarly, a search for missing volumes is expected to start locally in Somaliland and Puntland in Jul/Aug 2014.

Given the fact that in the last couple of decades both Somaliland and Puntland have been more stable than southern/central Somalia, it is assumed that some parts of the missing legislation could be found in these regions. Therefore, PSP teams in Somaliland and Puntland are requested to investigate the availability of past legislation in those project sites. Similar activities are also planned to be implemented in Mogadishu by the NFP committee staff during the recess of the National Federal Parliament.

On the other hand, as part of a comprehensive quest to find out / secure missing legislation records in the USA, UNDP consultant Mr. George Crawford has met with representatives of the United States Library of Congress; the research library that officially serves the United States Congress.

At the meeting, they informed him that the Library of the Congress holds significant parts of Somali legislation that are available on Microfiche but at the same time they believe that certain volumes are missing from their collections.

Over all, the outcome of the meeting was an important step forward in the project’s quest to search for missing volumes. The Library of Congress agreed to provide the NFP whatever Somali legislation records available in their libraries provided that NFP would in return give the Library records that are available in the NFP collection but missing in the Library of the Congress. The Legal and Legislative department of the National Federal Parliament is similarly willing to exchange copies of its existing records for the missing volumes.

Mr. Crawford will continue to link up with the Library of Congress during the coming weeks.
Puntland State Parliament has commenced its 35th session on Monday 15 June 2015 in Garowe. High-ranking officials from the government, UN organizations, the Ethiopian consulate, CSO, and the media as well as traditional and religious leaders attended the session.

H.E President Abdiwali Mohamed Ali officially opened the 35th session giving his constitutional address to the parliamentarians. President Abdiwali among others commended the role of UNDP towards the development of the state.

H.E Saed Hassan Shire, the Speaker of the PL HoR stated that in this 35th session, the HoR plans to approve a number of bills on strengthening state security, economic growth, the military forces, international relations, and investments. HE Mr. Shire further reiterated the president’s speech and informed the plenary that UNDP had supported the first constituency oversight missions to Bari, Mudug, Sool, and Sanaag regions in which the HoR carried out monitoring of those projects that the government implements in these regions with the support of aid and development organizations. He stated that PL MPs would continue such oversight missions whereby MPs would visit their constituencies to assess the availability of basic services and to report on the situation, concerns, and needs of the communities. This way, they would hold the government accountable and make it more responsive. Finally, HE Mr. Shire informed the plenary that PL HoR would commit to provide expert advice and assistance to support the emerging parliaments.

UNDP offered its continuous assistance to support the PL HoR to enact quality legislation, maintain effective oversight of the executive, build the capacity of its institutions, and reach out to PL citizens in order to ensure representation and accountability of MPs.

Ad-hoc Committee of the Puntland HoR Submits Draft Rules of Procedures to the Plenary

An ad-hoc committee of the Puntland House of Representatives with assistance of the UNDP Parliamentary Support Project during the past months has produced new comprehensive Rules of Procedures and a revised Code of Conduct, which shall enable the HoR to conduct its business in accordance with international standards and global best practices.

The review and restructuring of the RoP has benefited from technical assistance provided by an international consultant, Mr. David Payne, who worked with the ad-hoc committee for several months in 2014/2015 while the parliament was in recess. UNDP also arranged translation of the revised text into Somali.

Comprehensive Rules of Procedures and a detailed code of conduct are cornerstones of democratic governance and an essential step forward towards MPs’ accountability when performing their tasks of representation, legislation and oversight of the executive.

The ad-hoc committee has in June submitted the final draft of the Rules of Procedures to the plenary for debate and approval during the 35th session which commenced on 15th June 2015. Key improvements of the draft compared with the current RoP/CoC are:

- enhanced powers of Parliamentary Committees
- emphasis on strengthening oversight powers
- prerequisites of non-confidence & impeachment vote amended
- clearer rules for legislative process, the election of the Speaker and the election of the President
- conflict of interest norms tightened, prohibition of vote peddling, limits of MP’s immunity defined
- security directives prohibiting weapons in the Parliament building; obligatory search procedures for all on entering Parliament
Jubbaland Constitution drafting process reaches an important milestone at the end of July. A Constituent Assembly composed 300 civil society delegates will be convened to discuss and adopt what is known as a Provisional regional Constitution of the new State of Jubbaland.

The Members of the Drafting Committee have declared publicly that the Provisional Constitution will fully conform to the federal Provisional Constitution that was adopted in August 2012 and be subject to its provisions.

It is not the end of the process. After that point the recently convened Regional Assembly of clan-selected representatives will create a parliamentary Constitution Review and Implementation Oversight Committee.

The latter will have the responsibility of reviewing the Provisional Constitution within three years. After public consultations, further deliberations would proceed to include amendments before final adoption.

So far the Jubbaland Drafting Committee, 15 persons drawn from civil society throughout the region, has completed two months of intensive discussion which is going to terminate in mid-June with a series of public consultations in regional towns.

The project supported the drafting process in the form of an international constitutional expert who provides assistance and advice.

Using funds provided by the project through a Letter of Agreement, two delegations of the Puntland House of Representatives consisting of 10 MPs and 4 staff of the secretariat conducted, 7-13 June, oversight missions in Bari, Mudug and Sanag regions of Puntland state. These were the first missions of their kind since the establishment of Puntland House of Representatives in 1998.

The delegation has met constituency representatives in Bosaso, Ufeyn, Galkio Galdogob & Buhodle districts to introduce parliament’s work to the people and to collect information about the situation in the districts with respect to security, health care, education, access to water and economic development. The MPs met clan elders and religious leaders, women representatives, youth, minority groups and visited regional and district offices, hospitals schools and other key institutions of the public and private sectors to gain an understanding of the practical problem faced by people in various sectors. UNDP provided training, logistics and financial support to the preparation of both oversight missions in order to enable parliamentary committees to conduct effective oversight over the executive branch, to strengthen good governance and bring the parliament closer to the community.

MPs plan to present their findings to the plenary during the current HoR’s 35th session. Similar oversight missions are planned to take place in the other parts of Puntland during the upcoming months.
In Somaliland, the project provides support to cover operational costs of the five Somaliland HoR constituency offices. In order to enhance the capacity of the staff working in these offices the project consultant Ms. Soulef Guessoum conducted a three-day workshop in Hargeisa from 13 to 15 June 2015. The training focused on enhancing staff knowledge on strategic planning and to prepare an action plan for the local offices in the regions (Aanaag, Sool, Togdheer, Sahil, Awdal). During the first two days, the HoR staff were provided information on the strategic planning concept and conducted an analysis based on SWOT methodology. Participants then developed action plans for 2015-2016 and presented it to MPs on the third day. They presented SWOT analysis triggered a fruitful and frank discussion re how to make the offices more effective. MPs during the training encouraged the constituency office staff to liaise with them in order to prepare their visits and their activities at the constituency offices. The overall objective, “Relationship between elected members and citizens is reinforced in three years”, was developed by the staff and the following key values were identified during the workshop:

♦ Respect all citizens and without discrimination based on gender, religion or clan,
♦ Avoid being politically biased and support all MPs from all political tendencies equally,
♦ Avoid tribalism, be honest and respect the law.

The project through a LoA has provided the Somaliland House of Representative with funds to conduct oversight visits to the regions. During the month of June four HoR committees with a total of 38 persons (30 MPs and 8 from the Secretariat) visited Awdal, Sahil, Togdheer and Sool, four of the five regions of Somaliland for oversight purposes. The committees consisted of the Public Works, Justice and Human Rights, Environmental and Natural Resources, and the Security and Intelligence Affairs Committee. The purpose of the missions was to assess the current situation in the constituencies and the level of service delivery particularly conditions of roads, justice execution, security, livelihoods and environmental situation.

During the mission, Road Committee members found a number of issues including the need to improve roads to enable people in remote villages to benefit from services in the region’s capital city with respect to health, commerce and education.

The Justice and Human Rights Committee learned from prisoners that they hardly receive any legal support from the government or the legal aid centers. Committee members received requests to enhance the capacity of the regional courts including more judges and paralegals, to rehabilitate the existing court building and the prisons in the region.

The Environmental Committee encountered a number of environmental degradation problems in one of the regions. During its mission the committee witnessed far reaching soil erosion, appropriation of public pastureland by individuals which is threatening the livestock and creating tensions in the region. The committee also visited the region’s water reserves (Barka and Shallow Wells) to assess the quality of the water.

Members of the Security Committee visited the coastal region of Berbera where a number of Yemeni refugees arrived recently.

The committee evidenced the need to improve the police presence in the region and to upgrade transport and equipment for police operations in order to enable them to continue patrolling the coast.

The committees are expected to present their findings to the plenary of the house during the next session.
Continuing our series to introduce consultants working for the Parliamentary Support Project we present in this edition two Somali experts. Their particular advantage of course is the in depth understanding of the challenges and their possibility to work with the Parliament counterparts in Somali language.

Mr. Dahir Warsame is a Somali/Djiboutian expert with 37 years of procurement experience in both public and private sector. He has been recruited by the project to provide in July/August technical assistance to the NFP Budget and Finance Committee to discuss and revise the draft procurement law. He will commence his work shortly after the Eid holiday.

In his capacity as procurement expert, Mr. Dahir has been supporting the procurement team of the World Bank Country Office in Kenya in providing procurement advisory assistance regarding to the Bank’s lending operations in Kenya, Rwanda, and Eritrea. He further supported the Kenya Private Sector Association (KEPSA) in contract management and selection of consultants for World Bank-funded projects.

Between 1997 and 2012, he worked with the World Bank Group (WBG) as a procurement specialist during which he supported over 100 projects in all phases of procurement throughout the entire projects life cycle. During his professional career in the World Bank, he received 16 performance and spot awards for his contribution to developmental support operations. Prior to 1997, Mr. Dahir worked for the WBG as operations officer and also has 10 years of working experience with public sector institutions.

Mr. Warsame Hassan is a national expert based in Garowe with 14 years of working experience with state and local government administrations. He was contracted by the project in 2014 to provide professional advice and technical assistance to the three parliaments and the Puntland MoCFAD. Within the PSP team, Mr. Warsame is coordinating the support that the project provides in response to the findings of the ABRIMO capacity assessments conducted in 2014/15 of the three parliaments and the MoCFAD. His work aims at developing staff-, administrative- and finance capacity of these institutions by coordinating and mentoring the work of national experts and/or specialized company that have been contracted by the respective parliaments. He shall furthermore create synergies between the three parliaments and facilitate knowledge transfer regarding how to enhance the internal structures and improve or create procedures and processes.

Previously Mr. Warsame worked with Agaasin Consulting Services in Minnesota/USA as a consultant between 2007 and 2013. Simultaneously he had been a senior supervisor/manager at Hennepin County (Minnesota, 2010-2013). Mr. Warsame further served as senior case manager and community outreach liaison officer at Hennepin County during 2008-2010. Between 2005 and 2008, he worked as executive assistant of the Minneapolis Public Library Board.