Dear Reader,

In August 2015 the project held its quarterly board meetings with the National Federal Parliament, the Puntland HoR and the Somaliland HoR. Overall the senior management of all three parliaments and donor representatives expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the project and commented on the much improved assistance provided throughout the past months.

Other highlights of the reporting period are the start of the construction work to upgrade the security parameter of the National Federal Parliament, a series of oversight visits conducted by MPs and the start of the initial support for newly formed and emerging parliaments.

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 institutions, 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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All three parliaments continued with the implementation of the activities which are agreed in the LoAs.

**National Federal Parliament:** NFP used funds provided through LoA in several ways: Young Graduates salaries for the month of August covered from LoA funds; internet fee for Office of the Speaker and parliament offices covered; procurement process for upgrading parliament security parameter wall finalized and contract signed, the construction works started. Air tickets purchased for the committee members of finance and budget to attend the workshop on public procurement in Nairobi.

Project organized 2nd phase of the workshop on public procurement bill for the Committee on Budget and Finance in Mogadishu 23 to 30 Aug. The workshop was facilitated by a consultant to support the drafting of the bill. Selection of a capacity development consultancy firm is completed.

**Somaliland HoR:** In August, the project released the 2nd installment of the LoA and the Secretariat started the implementation of Q 3 activities: Facilitate the logistics arrangement for another set of committee oversight missions including funding transportation and travel. The committees are the Public Accounts, Standing Committee, Social and Religious Affairs together with their secretariat staff. Committees visited Awdal, Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag regions of SL for the purpose of monitoring government activities. In order to improve the outreach of the HoR, the project supported the development of 3 brochures: devoted to HoR regional offices; the committees and their mandates; and the HoR and its Secretariat and when the three session are held.

An International consultant organized two workshops: the first was a three-day communication and outreach workshop, the second was another three-day workshop on gender sensitive budgeting for MPs, Secretariat staff as well as CSO representatives. The local capacity development firm continued the on-the-job training for the admin and finance department on financial management, human resource, procurement and reporting skills. As a recurrent activity LoA funds covered the running costs for the constituency offices in 5 Regions.

**Puntland HoR:** Using LoA funds the PL HoR has conducted a conflict resolution mission of several MPs in order to mediate disputes between two rival clans between in Gardo and Dhahar districts. The parliament has also finalized the contracting process of a national expert to prepare a modern website for the HoR which shall be finalized in Mid Oct 2015.

A national capacity building consultant developed a risk control framework and both the administration and finance staffs were given on-the-job training. The staff trained on maintaining cash books, bank reconciliation and HACT framework.

UNDP Project strives to strengthen the capacity of the NFP in order to become an effective institution that enjoys well-established internal control, accounting, and administrative procedures. In 2014 UNDP contracted ABRIMO Company which assessed NFP institutional capacity to manage funds in accordance with the Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfer (HACT) framework and identified a number of deficiencies in the areas of staffing, financial controls, procurement, reporting and information systems. In order to address this deficits the NFP through a competitive process selected a national consultancy firm that will provide needed technical assistance and prepare the necessary internal regulatory and procedural frame work. The consultancy services will encompass on-the-job training; development of policies, procedures and guidelines; continuous mentoring, and assisting in the preparation of financial reports.

The project provided assistance and advice throughout the selection process and will cover the costs of the consultancy firm.
PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT PROJECT

The Sixth Session of NFP HoR Closes on Wednesday

The 6th session of the House of Representatives of the National Federal Parliament, which commenced on 27 April 2015 with a constitutional address by the president of the Federal Government of Somalia, ended on Wednesday 16 September 2015. Throughout this session, the House held 39 plenaries with significant achievements in regard with lawmaking and oversight responsibilities. The House successfully approved the following resolutions and laws:

- Resolution on the appointment of Commissioners of National Independent Electoral Commission,
- Resolution on the appointment of Commissioners of Boundaries and Federation Commission,
- Resolution on the Somali Shilling,
- Resolution on Review of the Provisional Constitution,
- Political resolution on the formation of national states
- Foreign labor Law
- Review of the budget law
- Auditor General law
- Revised and approved 2015 federal budget.

Similarly, a number of bills including (Counter-terrorism bill, 1st reading), (Human Rights Commission Act, 1st reading), (Telecommunication Law, 2nd reading), (Media Law, 2nd reading), (Public Procurement law, 1st reading) and (Foreign Labor Law, adopted) were tabled/submitted to the House. Moreover, the House itself with support of the Oslo Center initiated a draft Political Parties Law and sent it to the Executive for input.

In addition, the House endorsed new MPs, strengthened oversight over the Executive and started airing twice every week TV programs intended to improve accountability and public outreach.

With project support the House also provided training and technical assistance to the newly formed assembly I Galmudug. The SG of the NFP commented on UNDP as the backbone of the NFP operations and commended it for its continuous support to the NFP.

A number of MPs brought forward a motion re an impeachment against the FGS President. The Speaker of the Federal Parliament request the pro- and the anti-motion camp to enter in a political dialogue in order to find a solution and offered to act as a mediator.

MPs of the National Federal Parliament will now go for recess and resume business upon the commencement of the 7th session on 15 October 2015.

Workshop on Legislative Analysis and Drafting of Amendments

As part of the ongoing training of Committee Clerks, 37 members of the staff of the National Federal Parliament participated in a series of workshops on legislative analysis and drafting of amendments.

Building on an earlier training, participants prepared an article-by-article analysis of Law No. 28 of 22 September 1962—Somali Citizenship. They next examined the Provisional Constitution to see what articles pertain to citizenship. They then combined the two into a side-by-side document that matched up pertinent articles of the Provisional Constitution to the specific articles in the 1962 law.

After a discussion of the principals of drafting amendments, the participants drafted a series of amendments to the specific articles of the 1962 law to bring them into compliance with the Provisional Constitution.

The discussions were informed by having the workshop participants research international norms and examples of citizenship laws in Africa. The primary source of information used in the workshop was "Citizenship Law in Africa--A Comparative Study by Bronwen Manby (2010)."
In response to the capacity assessment conducted by ABRIMO Company, the capacity building (CB) for NFP, SL HoR, PL HoR and MoCFAD continued during the month of August:

**National Federal Parliament**

The NFP with project assistance has completed the process to contract a local specialized company to undertake training, policy development and administrative reform activities in order to improve the financial management and internal control capabilities of the NFP Secretariat. A call for proposal was advertised on popular websites with closing date of 20 August. Four companies have submitted proposals. The NFP completed a final bid evaluation in order to hire a qualified consulting firm for the assignment.

**Somaliland Parliament**

With the professional assistance of a consulting firm, the SL HoR carried out key CB activities, including developing cost allocation policy for fair overhead, establishing formal guidelines to deal with potential conflicts of interest and nominating members to constitute the Procurement Committee of the HoR, which will review procurements and approve contracts. As part of the on-the-job training, the HoR staff received training on the accounting and procurement procedures in accordance with the Accounting Manual and SL Public Procurement Act.

**Puntland Parliament and MoCFAD**

With the technical assistance of the PSP consultants, both PL HoR and MoCFAD developed a comprehensive risk assessment framework which attaches every identified risk to a specific risk mitigation measure. The staff of both institutions also received training on financial management and essential internal control measures, including maintaining cashbook, conducting bank statement reconciliation, managing petty cash fund and comparing budget to actual expenditure.

**National Federal Parliament Project Board Meeting**

On 27 August the NFP project board meeting took place in Mogadishu in the presence of NFP Secretary General Abdikarim Buh, UNDP DCD David Akopyan and representatives from the donor side: DFID (UK), EU, Norway. SG Buh and the CTA presented the activities conducted during the reporting period. They highlighted the progress with regard to infrastructure work, the technical and financial support to facilitate the work of the committees and the project’s engagement in assisting the legislative work. Substantive discussion was dedicated to the achievements with regard to the Young Graduate program and NFP’s intention to fully integrate YGs in 2016 into the national civil service pay role.

The project board welcomed the decision of the project to assume cooperation with the newly formed assemblies of Jubaland and Galmudug and encouraged the project to also reach out to other newly emerging parliaments.
Support to Drafting a Procurement Law

Following a successful training for the NFP Budget, Planning and Finance Committee (BPFC) and the completion of the revision of the Procurement Bill by the BPFC in July/August 2015 in Nairobi the bill has been translated into Somali language. The work has been conducted in August/September by a team comprising of three BPFC members, an advisor of the Ministry of Finance, a public servant at the National Assembly and a UNDP consultant. The team continues working with the consultant and complete a substantial amount of the translation of the bill though at the time of publishing this newsletter, work was still ongoing. It is expected that the revised bill will be tabled in the 7th NFP session for debate.

Once the Bill is enacted into law Somalia will have the first procurement law of its kind in its history. During the time of the post-independence civilian governments and Siad Barre’s regime, procurement was an integral part of the national financial management law. In contrast to the centralized institutional arrangement for the public procurement function in the past, the draft procurement law decentralizes procurement decisions horizontally to public institutions at each level of government and vertically to regional governments and local authorities. If effectively managed, the new provision will:

- contribute to spur efficiency in the implementation of public procurement decisions and provision of public services,
- contribute to reduce incidents of loss of large amounts of public funds through embezzlement or corruption,
- widen participation of domestic industries in public procurement transactions.

The proposed act contains two laws in one as it sets out the procedures and institutional structures both for public procurement transactions as well as concessions for public assets, natural resources and services. A sound concession system is catalytic to attract foreign capital into the country for investment in development projects in a wide range of areas of the public sector functions including development of public infrastructure and utilities, exploitation of natural resources and provision of public services. For rehabilitation of its dilapidated road network, power and water supply facilities, Somalia’s need for adequate funds for reconstruction and developmental interventions is enormous. Concession agreements with foreign investors and entrepreneurs could make it possible for the nation to rebuild itself faster.

Progress Against NFP Legislation Archive Reestablishment Action Plan

Based on an action plan to reestablish the NFP legislation archive prepared by the Project in collaboration with the NFP, a team of 12 young graduates, under the leadership of the NFP legal department, started a two-week endeavor to screen the available copies of the 1950-1991 legislation in order to (1) separate between readable and unreadable texts and (2) classify the documents into statutes and non-statute texts. The overarching objective of this activity is to determine the actual number of missing legislation and then deploy staff to search for the missing legislation in archives across the country.

The Legal Department, in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General and funded by the project produced two Official Bulletin booklets publishing bills passed by the NFP between January-May 2015. Copies of these gazettes were placed in printing/photocopying shops where interested members of the public may obtain their own copies.
Puntland HoR MPs Engaged in Dispute Resolution Mission in Gardo and Dhahar Districts

On 29 Aug to 4 Sep 2015 a delegation from Puntland HoR with full assistance of the UNDP Parliamentary Support Project conducted a field mission in order to commence a mediation between two rival sub-clans in Gardo and Dhahar districts.

The conflict between the two clans goes back to 2006/2007 over complaints from pastoralist communities on degraded land and pasture. The inhabitants from Dhahar community revolted against the charcoal burners from Gardo community cutting trees for charcoal production and destroying the forests which negatively impacted the pasture and the livelihoods of nomadic inhabitants in Sool. However, with the absence of effective local authority to control the conflict and to protect the environment a serious of clan confrontation emerged which resulted in the killing of three man from Gardo community and one from the Dhahar community.

A committee consisting of five MPs, secretariat staff, media personnel and UNDP staff conducted several meetings with both community clan elders, women, religious leaders, business groups and local authority. As a result of this mediation both clans guaranteed peace from their side and promised to pay the compensation money (Diya) according to Sharia law and Somali customary law.

The two sub-clans accepted the continuation of the mediation process, the establishment of a conflict resolution committee and welcomed the MPs proposal to hold a comprehensive peace conference in Dhahar during Oct/Dec 2015. The MPs assured to continue the mediation process and work on community integration encouraging dialogue and facilitating follow up meetings until a final agreement is reached. The UNDP project fully funded the mission. For reading more click here

Monitoring and Evaluation Training for MoCFAD Staff of Puntland

A training on monitoring and evaluation was conducted 19-24 August 2015 in Garowe for the Puntland Ministry of Constitution, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MoCFAD). 13 staff (incl. 4 females) and the heads of the departments participated. The objectives of the training were to train key ministry staff on principles and methods of monitoring, evaluation and data collection. Participants are now better able to monitor and record progress and achievements. The training was also an opportunity to discuss the elaboration of a monitoring plan for the MoCFAD Strategic Plan (2014-2019).

Recommendations originating from the training were to increase capacity building for ministry staff in the areas of report writing, constitution, democratization, peace building, and financial management. For reading more click here
PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT PROJECT

Garowe PSP Board Meeting

Project board meeting for the Puntland HoR took place on 25 August in Garowe. Hon. Said Hasan Shire, the Speaker of PL HoR, welcomed participants and thanked UNDP for the continuous support to the HoR. He recognised that this is the third Board Meeting this year and he is hoping to have regular meetings in the future. He emphasized that the project has enabled MPs to conduct oversight and constituency visits to all regions of Puntland. Mr. Sayed Sahibzada, Head of UNDP Area Office thanked the Speaker and the Secretary General for their leadership, guidance and continuous cooperation in effective implementation of the project. He emphasised the importance of these board meetings for aligning UNDP support to the needs of the HoR. He reiterated the commitment of UNDP in supporting the Puntland HoR in its journey towards inclusive politics and democratisation in Puntland. SG Ali Ahmed made a presentation about the achievement of the past months. He highlighted the multiple oversight missions, the conduct of various trainings; the ICT needs assessments, the refurbishment of HoR offices and the development of administrative policies. He also informed about the planned activities e.g: upgrading of ICT equipment, refurbishment of plenary hall, and reinforcing the security parameter.

CTA Oskar Lehner pointed out that the fact that the SG made the presentation on the progress achieved showed the ownership and active engagement of the HoR. The project informed that it has funds available to financially support a cooperation between the Puntland HoR and other emerging parliaments in Somalia.

Workshop on Budgeting and Financial Oversight

Mr. Austin Zvoma a former Clerk of the Zimbabwe Parliament, conducted a three-and-half days workshop from 23 – 26 August for the Puntland HoR Economy and Public Accounts Committee (EPAC) on improving the role of the HoR in preparing the annual budget; its financial oversight function, and developing a strategy for long-term sustainability of the HoR. Key topics of the workshop included developing methods, procedures and mechanisms for:

- the HoR’s role in the budget formulation, review and oversight during spending by all line ministries and government agencies
- analysing compliance of expenditure with HoR approval and State financial regulations
- improved cooperation with relevant Ministry of Finance officers and the Auditor General;
- assessment of the financial and other resource needs of the PL HoR.

The workshop also addressed a strategy for sustainability of the PL HoR programmes and activities within the upcoming years.

As part of the workshop Mr. Sayed Sahibzada, Head of the Puntland UNDP Area Office provided a presentation about multilateral funding mechanisms and how to better access them.
Outreach Material for Somaliland HoR Designed

In order to communicate effectively and in an easy understandable fashion with stakeholders and citizens, the House of Representatives in Somaliland with UNDP project support designed three brochures explaining different components of the parliamentary work. The first brochure focusses on the regional offices of the HoR. It explains the mandate of the HoR in general and the role of the regional offices, how the population can use these offices to communicate with their MPs and what services the regional HoR offices will provide to the population. The second brochure is devoted to the parliamentary committees. It contains a list of the HoR’s committees with their contacts information and elucidates how committees are formed and how they work. The theme of the third brochure is the House of Representatives and it provides a description of the elected parliament and the Secretariat (administrative body). The brochure also contains the parliamentary calendar as well as the legal framework. The three brochures will be translated into Somali language and will be available at the Parliament and at the HoR regional offices. They are designed and drafted in ordinary language in order to communicate information about the parliament’s mandate and work to the public at large.

2005—2015 Minutes of the Somaliland HoR Published

With financial support of the UNDP project the Somaliland House of Representative compiled and published ten year plenary minutes covering 2005-2015. Using a local consultant to support the Hansard department it was possible to collect the minutes of the current HoR’s plenary sessions and of the previous one. This was for the first time that the Hansard department was able to produce 3 volumes of books which contain the parliament plenary minutes of the last decade 2005-2015. The difficulty lay in the fact that minutes of the current and previous HoR were scattered across different premises and some were kept in the archives without proper filing. After having received comprehensive technical support and training by an international and a national expert the Hansard department is now able to produce and distribute the plenary minutes of the HoR on time before the official closure of each session.

M&E Training for the Planning Staff of Somaliland HoR

UNDP Parliament Support Project delivered a training on Monitoring and Evaluation for staff of the Department of Planning of Somaliland House of Representatives (SL HoR). The training attended by 14 participants was held on 30 August - 1 September 2015. The objectives of the training were to train staff on the principles and methods of monitoring, evaluation and data collection. The training enables them to monitor and document achievements and progress against the established Somaliland HoR strategic plan 2013-2015. In a next step the Department of Planning in collaboration with the UNDP Parliament Support Project will prepare a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the HoR. For reading more click here.
The Somaliland board meeting was held in Nairobi on 21 August 2015. The meeting was co-chaired by the Speaker Honorable Abdirahman M. Abdillahi and Mr. Franco Sanchez, UNDP Governance and Rule Of Law (GROL) Programme Manager.

Representatives from the parliament, the donor community and UNDP project staff participated. During the session the speaker briefed about 2015 achievements and pointed out to the tremendous progress made with regard to achieving the milestones of the three-year strategic plan. Donor representatives agreed with his positive assessment acknowledged the achievements made during the reporting period.

Finally the members of the board noted with satisfaction the significant increase in project delivery compared with 2014 and agreed to support the project to request additional funds from the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) in order to maintain the current level of support.

Starting in 2013 with the provision of support to the National Federal Parliament, the Puntland House of Representatives and the Somaliland House of Representatives the project recently has extended its scope of work by providing technical assistance to the newly formed assemblies and emerging parliaments. This support is embedded into UNDPs wider concept of assistance to the Interim Regional Authorities (IRA) and the support to the ongoing state formation process.

After having made initial contacts with the speakers of the newly formed assemblies in Jubaland and Galmudug the project is currently putting together starter kits for the new assemblies consisting of basic ICT equipment, furniture and stationary. The project furthermore provided funding for a south-south knowhow transfer from the National Federal Parliament to newly formed parliaments and offered the same support to the Puntland House of Representatives in order to share its experience with new parliaments. This South-South cooperation shall help the new parliaments to set up their organizational structures, to prepare their internal governance documents and to learn from the experience of those parliaments who went through a similar phase some years ago.

CONTACT DETAILS PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT PROJECT (PSP)

MAILING ADDRESS:
UNDP Somalia Country Office – UN Common Compound, Airport Road, Mogadishu, Somalia | registry.so@undp.org

TELEPHONE: +252 63 4415717
EMAIL: mohamed.ali.farah@undp.org