Dear Reader,

A decisive event in the reporting period was the opening of the 6th session of the National Federal parliament. The highlight of the project activities during this period was the signing of Letters of Agreement (LoAs) with all three parliaments. LoAs are the contractual basis for those resources of the Annual Work Plan which are partly or fully administered by the parliaments themselves. Through these LoAs the Parliamentary Support Project intends to deliver approximately 100% more on technical assistance than in 2014. LoAs are accompanied by a risk mitigation and capacity development plan.

This edition of the newsletter also contains an article which describes the history of the three parliaments in Mogadishu, Garowe and Hargeisa. It points out that there exists a tradition of parliamentarism at the Horn of Africa on which existing parliaments can build on.

LoAs signed with National Federal Parliament, the HoR in Puntland and the HoR in Somaliland

Beginning of May UNDP signed Letters of Agreement (LoA) with all three parliaments and the first installment of cash advances are currently transferred. LoAs are an important tool to build administrative capacity within the secretariats and to provide material support to parliaments' activities. As described in Newsletter 4/2015 some 85% or more of the parliaments' budgets are spent for salaries or related costs with hardly any money left for activities or procurement.

Taking into consideration the findings of the ABRIMO capacity assessment funds allocated for each parliament in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) are basically divided into three parts: Roughly one third will be directly implemented by UNDP and is not part of the LoA. For another third of the funds (which is part of the LoA) the respective parliament – monitored by UNDP project staff - will conduct the procurement and contracting and UNDP will pay directly to the vendor based on a due process and after satisfactory delivery of goods and services. The last third – also part of the LoA - consists of cash advance transferred in several instalments based on clear spending guidelines and limits. Subsequent instalments will only be transferred when there is full and satisfactory documentation of the use of the funds against the agreed guidelines.

Each LoA is divided in three parts: a) agreement on activities and provision of funds; b) risk mitigation plan, c) capacity development plan. The risk mitigation plan mirrors the findings of the ABRIMO capacity assessments and should significantly reduce the risk of funds being misused. The capacity development plan has the goal to assist the three parliaments to address identified shortcomings of the ABRIMO assessment. Find more details re planned capacity development activities in a separate article in this newsletter. Parliaments have already received the first installment of cash advance or transfer is imminent and with these funds are able to conduct activities like constituency visits, oversight activities, small procurement, public outreach or cover running costs of key expenses (e.g. internet, office rents, and small repairs). A series of trainings of project staff as well as parliamentary staff on how to properly implement the LoAs has already started and will continue into June.

UNDP direct implementation and LoA implementation executed through national counterparts together shall achieve the goal to increase the delivery of technical assistance by approximately 100% compared with 2014. With other words – if successful - the three parliaments in 2015 will receive twice as much support as in 2014.

In This Edition

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Upcoming Events

- Board Meeting Puntland HoR 18, May 2015
- Board Meeting Somaliland HoR 19, May 2015
- Delegation of the Somaliland HoR travels to attend UNDP/WB work shop on parliamentary oversight, Jamaica
- On the Job training on monitoring and evaluation for department of planning of Somaliland HoR

The UNDP Parliamentary and Constitutional Support Project is supported by the European Commission, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom (DFID), UNDP BCPR, and is managed by the United Nations Development Programme in Somalia.
In this and the following editions we want to introduce you to the consultants which are working for the Parliamentary Support Project. In order to establish continuity we have assigned consultants to work on an in-and-out bases for a longer period with a specific parliament.

George Crawford is a senior government relations advisor with many years of experience in the US House of Representatives. He has been recruited by the project to provide parliamentary development services to the National Federal Parliament (NFP). In the past few months, George has worked with NFP Committees to standardize committee reporting, work planning and to train committee staff (young graduates).

George is an advisor in King & Spalding’s Government Advocacy and Public Policy Practice Group where he works with the firm’s clients to develop and implement strategies to successfully achieve their legislative policy goals. Prior to joining King & Spalding, George served as Chief of Staff of House Democratic Leader, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) where he was the principal advisor on policy, political and procedural matters. Before joining Ms. Pelosi’s staff in August 2001, he worked on the House Rules Committee for 18 years as professional staff for Chairman Claude Pepper (D-FL) and chief of staff for Chairman Joe Moakley (D-MA). On June 22, 2006, Mr. Crawford received the McCormack Award for Excellence, which honors longtime employees of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Austin Muranganwa Zvoma is an expert on Parliamentary Development with over 30 years’ experience in parliamentary practice and procedures. He has been recruited by the project to provide capacity development services to the Secretariat of the Somaliland House of Representatives (HoR). In the past couple of months he has worked with the HoR to improve the organizational structure and administrative procedures of the secretariat.

Austin is the former Clerk of the Zimbabwe Parliament, which in Commonwealth countries is the term used for the Head of the Parliament Secretariat responsible for providing administrative and procedural services. He held the latter position for 25 years. Prior to that he worked as deputy clerk, assistant clerk, senior committee clerk and committee clerk for a total of 8 years. He also worked as a Customs Officer for the Department of Customs and Excise in Harare.

We include this article with regard to the alarming number of MPs assassinated in Somalia. Since the adoption of the Provisional Constitution in August 2012, Members of Parliament both at the Federal level and in Puntland have faced an extensive amount of attacks. An unfortunate total of 14 MPs (11 Federal and 3 Puntland MPs) have been assassinated since 2012, of which 4 have been killed in this year alone.

It is important to note that these targeted killings have mostly happened when MPs were leaving Mosques. Also, 10 out of the 14 MPs have been either gunned down or sprayed with bullets while in their cars. 2 MPs were killed by explosive devices fitted underneath their cars, while 2 other MPs were killed in bomb blasts that also killed a number of other people.

Members of Parliament have been targeted by Al-Shabaab due to their important role as law makers and political decision makers. This article serves to highlight the peril which the men and women MPs are facing who put their lives at risk for contributing to the design of the future of Somalia. The project sends its sincere condolences to the friends and families of the deceased MPs:


**Puntland HoR:** Hon. Abdisalan Sheikh Mohamoud, Hon. Adan Haji Hussain, and Hon. Said Husain Noor.
As part of the overall capacity building activities for national counterparts, trainings on Harmonized Approach of Cash Transfer (HACT), Funding Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE), Atlas and LoA Financial Management were conducted on 27th - 29th April and 6th May 2015 in Hargeisa and Mogadishu respectively by the project. The trainings were attended by 18 participants from National Federal Parliament, SL House of representatives and UNDP program staff as follows:
- HoR Somaliland – 2 male staff
- National Federal Parliament – 2 male
- UNDP program staff (5 female, 9 male)

The objectives of the capacity building were to train key parliamentary and UNDP project staff on how to effectively handle administrative and financial aspects of the parliamentary work and LoA implementation.

The trainings were also an opportunity for the participants to discuss the new modalities of cash transfer from UNDP to national counterparts and to undergo practical sessions on how to request funds by using FACE form and reprogram unutilized cash. This will help implementing partners to familiarize with the complexity and procedures. Recommendations originating from the trainings were to increase capacity building packages for the national counterpart staff on LoA implementation.

National Federal Parliament has requested the project to assist to procure an accounting software and to arrange training for its finance staff as recommended as best practice during HACT training.

A UNDP-sponsored micro capacity assessment was conducted by ABRIMO Company in 2014 to assess the institutional capacity of the National Federal Parliament (NFP), Somaliland House of Representative (SL HoR), Puntland House of Representative (PL HoR), and the Puntland Ministry of Constitution, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MoCFAD) to manage funds. The assessment - conducted against the Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfer (HACT) framework and guidelines — found a number of deficiencies and gaps in the general areas of staffing, financial controls, procurement, reporting and information systems within each of these implementing partners (IP). In anticipation of signing a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with each of the IPs, UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) tasked a national consultant, Warsame Hassan, to review ABRIMO findings and recommendations and to prepare a capacity development action plans for each institution.

Mr. Warsame Hassan will provide guidance to the work of these three staff in order to achieve synergy and assure quality control.

Advertisement for the position of a Parliamentary Capacity Development Consultant for the Puntland House of Representatives - deadline 23 May 2015. Please see further details in the link below:
As part of the continuing support of the NFP, 40 Committee clerks and staff of the Secretariat took part in a multi-day workshop to develop the research skills required in support of MPs and Committees. Further training was provided on advanced research techniques using the internet. A robust research capacity in the NFP is one of the critical foundations for better informed decision making by MPs.

**Briefing notes**

Clerks and staff took the results of the research they performed and used it to form the basis for a briefing note to the Committee in a follow-up workshop. Briefing notes and briefing books are key instruments to bring issues to the attention of Committee MPs, brief them on upcoming Committee activities, and give them a deeper understanding of draft legislation. In addition, briefing books are often prepared in advance of public hearings and consultations and media events so that the Committee and the MPs can maximize public input and outreach. Briefing books contain all of the pertinent information that an MP needs to know in preparing for an event, such as background materials, prepared statements, copies of submitted testimony, possible questions for witnesses, copies, logistics, press in attendance, etc.

**Future activities**

Committee clerks and staff will continue to participate in more workshops that develop their research and writing skills. Additional workshops are planned on public hearings and consultations, and deepening staff’s knowledge of the Rules of Procedure.

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**Support for Improving Admin & Finance Regulations in the SL HoR Secretariat**

Austin Zvoma, an expert on Parliamentary Development and recently retired Clerk of the Zimbabwe Parliament, arrived back in Hargeisa on Sunday 26th April.

The mandate of Austin’s second visit to the Somaliland HoR from 26 April – 26 May is to continue with institutional capacity building for some of the HoR Secretariat departments by developing administrative manuals and guidelines to institutionalize systems and processes. More specifically, a review of the HoR Administration policy decision on the amended Accounting Manual and Procurement Procedures which include recommendations from the ABRIMO Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Micro Assessment of risk will provide a significant improvement to the work of the Secretariat.

Austin prepared a Management of Risk by the HoR Secretariat document which is a comprehensive analysis matrix of the extent to which the Accounting Manual and Procurement Procedures address the Significant and High risks identified in the ABRIMO HACT Micro Assessment Report. The result of this exercise which assisted decision making is that the two documents above address most of the risks.

Significant improvements are:

- Adoption and implementation of recommendations from the above documents to augment the Republic of Somaliland Regulation for the Accounts of the State and National Tender Board Regulations;
- Appointment a Procurement Committee and designation of an official in Administration and Finance as a Procurement Officer;
- Placing all financial management functions, including management of donor funds, under the Director of Administration and Finance;
- Keeping separate accounts for Treasury allocation and donor funds (mostly direct payments); and
- Policy decision to appoint an Internal Control Unit to serve as internal audit.

By adopting international best practice in its public financial management and governance systems, the HoR Secretariat is on the path to improving its internal accounting controls and promoting transparency and accountability.

The feedback Austin has received is that the HoR Administration is very pleased with the contribution he has so far made to improve systems and processes and to build capacity of the HoR Secretariat.

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**PL HoR receives M&E Training**

On 13th-18th May 2015 a training on Monitoring and Evaluation was organized in Garowe. The training was attended by 23 staff (16 male and 7 female) of the Secretariat of the Puntland House of Representatives including the directors, heads of the sections and the secretary general. 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 the Puntland HoR against their approved five year strategic plan (2014-2018). The training was also an opportunity to discuss the need to elaborate a monitoring plan for the PL HoR. As one outcome of the training it was agreed with the HoR senior management that an M&E plan shall be elaborated for the 2014-18 Strategic Plan during a follow up training workshop.
22 MPs from Somaliland Attend Transformational leadership for results in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

22 MPs from Somaliland House of Representatives (21 Male and 1 Female MPW), and 9 senior government officials (3F; 6M); participated 5 days’ workshop on leadership for results held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The aim of the training was to enhance the existing capacities and develop leadership skills, by supporting participants to conceive new ‘breakthrough initiatives’ which leads to more gender sensitive policy reforms and representation at all levels of the government. The participants agreed at the end to generate and sustain long-term interactive dialogue around issues linked to gender equality and women’s empowerment to initiate and maintain profound changes.

In the closing remarks, the Speaker of the Somaliland House of Representatives stated that the training was extremely beneficial and commended UNDP for supporting this kind of trainings.

Head of the delegations from the Parliament and the Executive branches held joint press conference at Hargeisa Airport. Both the Speaker and the Deputy Minister of Information thanked UNDP for supporting the training and they highlighted that they will work together to achieve their breakthrough initiatives. The speaker concluded, “Inclusive governance is a cornerstone for sustainable development”.

In collaboration with Parliament and HIV projects, the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment project supported this training. This training was a prototype of making use of internal synergies in UNDP projects.

Delegation from Puntland HoR Participated in Gender and Elections Training in Tunis

One female MP and one female staff from the Puntland HoR Secretariat (both Arabic speaking) participated in a Training on Gender and Elections for Arab Women held in Tunisia 19-25 April 2015. The training was arranged by UNDP Tunisia and participants were 28 women from eight Arab countries and Somalia:

The BRIDGE workshop offered training to participants which should enhance their understanding of electoral systems and processes from a gender perspective. The high level of active participation throughout the 5-day training showed the level of interest among participants.

Key messages that emerged from the discussion were:

- Train women’s groups in advocacy to advance gender engagement in political life
- Build political networks for women in their respective local governments.
- Disseminate successful experiences to promote women’s participation in politics and development.
- Provide civic education for women so they better understand their rights and responsibilities as voters.
- Advocate and support women participation in national elections at national level

Participants identified a number of challenges that women face when entering political life in particular related to security, cultural, economic or of political nature.

As Maimun Abdikani Dirie from the Puntland HoR Secretariat stated: “This capacity building was very crucial for me and training was so motivating and participatory. It was an eye opener for new ideas and how you can move forward for gender and election issues”.

Both participants plan to share their newly acquired knowledge with MPs and women organizations in Puntland.
The Republic of Somalia was only formed on July 1, 1960 when British Somaliland united with Italian Somaliland. However, Somalis’ experience with parliament elections date back to the pre-independence period. In 1956, multi-party general elections were held in the Italian Somaliland under universal suffrage whereby sixty members were elected for a three-year term. Four political parties - Somali Youth League (SYL), Hizbia Digi Mirifle (HDM), Somali Democratic Party (SDP), and Mareehaan Union—succeeded in the 1956 elections to gain 43, 13, 3, and 1 seats. In March 1959 the second election was held in Italian Somaliland with only men above 21 years allowed to vote. The SYL won 83 of the 90 seats in the Legislative Assembly whereas HDM won five and the Somali Liberal Party (SLP) 2.

The first parliamentary election in British Somaliland took place in February 1960. The Council had 33 members and the right to vote was limited to men above the age of 21 years. Political parties who won seats were the Somali National League (SNL, 20), United Somali Party (USP, 12), and the National Unity Front (NUF, 1).

British Somaliland united with Italian Somaliland in July 1960 and the two parliaments merged holding together 93 seats. On March 30, 1964, Somalia held the first parliamentary elections after independence. All Somalis citizens of both sexes were allowed to vote. SYL won 69 seats; the Somali National Congress won 22, while Somali Democratic Union won 15, and six other parties won 17 seats.

The second general elections since the independence were held on March 26, 1969. Sixty-four parties contested over 123 seats of the Legislative Council. The SYL won 73 seats, while 22 parties won either one or two seats.

In October 1969, the military launched a coup d’état, dissolved the Legislative Council and abrogated the constitution that allowed multi-party elections. In 1976, the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP), the country’s sole legally permitted political party, was formed. The new August 1979 Constitution (approved by referendum) established a 177 member strong People’s Assembly including six members appointed by the president. Two one-party elections were held over the two decades of the military regime and in 1979 for the first time, six women were elected as MPs. In the 1984 election their number increased to 25.

In August of 2000, Somali clan leaders and other delegates gathered in a conference held in Djibouti (in the small town of Arta). At this conference, they established a Transitional National Government (TNG), and a Transitional National Assembly (TNA) for a three-year term. The TNA comprised 245 members appointed by clan chiefs. The terms of the TNG expired in 2003 paving the way to the Nairobi peace conference in 2004.

The Transitional Parliament formed in August 2004 was the second one after the state collapse. 275 MPs were selected by the sub-clan leaders during a meeting in Nairobi. Seats were allocated according to a “4.5 formula” to the four major clans (Hawiyi, Darod, Dir, Digil & Mirifle) and 0.5 positions given to a coalition of smaller clans. In 2009 the term of the parliament was extended by two years.

In August 2012, a new Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia was endorsed. The new Constitution stipulates a bicameral National Federal Parliament (NFP) that comprises of an Upper House and a House of the People. Using the same 4.5 formula as in 2004, 275 MPs (including 38 women) were selected by 135 clan elders and subsequently vetted by a Technical Selection Committee for a four years term. The current Parliament therefore is the 10th parliament.

Puntland
In August 1998, Puntland was formed with a Legislative consisting of 66 members incl. five women. Subsequently, Puntland traditional elders selected 66 members of parliament (MPs) in 2004 and 2009 with each clan and sub-clan allocated a number of seats according to its (perceived) regional representation. The current 66 MPs (64 males and 2 women), were selected in December 2013 for a five-year term.

Somaliland
The first parliament of Somaliland after the state collapse was established in May 1993 and apportioned by 150 clan elders according to beel system of proportional representation. On September 29, 2005, Somaliland held the first democratic multi-party parliamentary elections based on universal suffrage where 82 members of the House of Representatives were elected (UDUB party 33, Kulmiye 28, and UCID 21). According to the constitution the term of the parliament ended in October 2010. However, the terms of the MPs were extended twice in (2009 for 3 years) and (2013 for 2 years).