ADAADO & BAIDOA — On 8 March, Galmudug and South West joined the rest of the country and world to commemorate International Women’s Day (IWD). Celebrations were held in Adaado and Baidoa, where representatives from government, civil society organizations and the United Nations, as well as religious leaders, clan leaders, women and youth, gathered to mark the contributions of women to social, economic and political achievements.

The Galmudug Ministry of Women’s Affairs organized the event in Adaado, which served as a platform for the 200 invitees (90% women) to advocate on gender issues, show women their potential in leadership and promote the involvement of women in all spheres of public life. Nim’o Abdirahman Sayrar, Galmudug Minister of Women’s Affairs, urged women in influential positions to commit to supporting the empowerment of their fellow women, particularly those who may be less well endowed. The Galmudug Vice President, Mohamed Hashi Abdi Arabey, recognized that more needs to be done to translate policies into action where inclusivity is concerned.

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Contributing Donors:
Conference Brings Together Youth from All Regions of Somalia

KISMAYO — A conference for Somali youth held in Kismayo from 28 to 31 March brought together 64 youth representatives (49 young men and 15 young women) from Jubbaland, South West, Banadir, Galmudug, Puntland, Somaliland and Hiraan and Middle Shabelle.

The conference provided a forum for youth to independently discuss and debate a range of issues important to them and the future of Somalia, including the role of youth in politics, good governance, and peace and reconciliation efforts. On the last day of the four-day conference, the youth participants declared to unite and ensure the representation of youth in Somali political matters. A 14-point communiqué was released that includes a call for the involvement of youth in consultations, political processes and decision making. Conference participants also agreed to set up a youth committee, with representatives from all regions of Somalia, to prepare a youth-owned and youth-driven national political view.

The conference was supported by the Jubbaland Ministry of Social Services, Jubbaland Youth Union, UNDP/UNSOM and others.

Above: Young Somali women and men unite at a youth conference held from 28 to 31 March in Kismayo.

BFC Holds 2nd Consultative Workshop in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU — On 9 February, the Boundaries and Federation Commission (BFC) held its second consultative workshop in Mogadishu to work towards a strategic framework on federalism that suits Somalia’s needs. The workshop engaged more than 40 people (17% women) in dialogue on the BFC’s role in the federalism process — including officials from various federal government ministries, development partners, academics, civil society members and others. It is part of a series of ongoing initiatives on boundaries and federalism matters organized by the Federal Government of Somalia’s Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs, with the technical and financial support of UNDP/UNSOM.

Khalif Abdikarim Mohamed, the BFC Chairman, commented on the open and collaborative approach being taken to set the BFC’s priorities: “This is not a predetermined exercise. Therefore, the outcome of this BFC consultation should come from the public. The recommendations of the members of the public will be executed in order to create boundaries for the federal states and the best model of federalism for Somalia as it is for the public to decide which model they prefer.”

David Akopyan, UNDP Deputy Country Director (Programmes), stressed that there is not only one model of federalism that provides all the answers and urged participants to work together in coming up with the best system for Somalia. Shakti Sinha, UNDP’s federalism expert in Somalia, said there is a need to develop synergies and clarify of purpose amongst the many actors involved in the process. He reiterated that the process must be inclusive and people-driven.

The nine-member BFC is responsible for deciding the boundaries of newly-formed and soon-to-be federal member states of Somalia. The Commission has so far developed its proposed vision and a tentative work plan for the federalism sub-committee, covering the period January to July 2016.

Above: Participants at the 2nd BFC consultative workshop held in Mogadishu on 9 February.

UNDP STATE FORMATION PROJECT: Q1-2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- Three (3) reconciliation processes in Galmudug, Jubbaland and Lower Shabelle were enabled through logistical and technical support provided by the project.
- Federalism/state formation promotion workshops for civil society organizations and media, as well as consultative meetings to enhance coordination and communication between the Federal Government of Somalia Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (FGS/MoIFA) and the interim regional administrations (IRAs) were organized in Kismayo, Baidoa and Adado, with more than 580 participants in total (25% women).
- 8 of 9 BFC members (7M:1F) participated in governance and leadership training in Nairobi organized by the UN.
- More than 80 IRA officials/staff were trained in basic management functions (25% women).
- Two (2) technical advisors were embedded at FGS/MoIFA to support operations and monitoring and evaluation functions.
- Three (3) interns (2M:1F) were placed at the BFC and 10 interns (6M:4F) joined the Galmudug Interim Administration (GIA).
- Rehabilitation of office/meeting space for the Interim South West Administration was initiated in March.
- Nine (9) vehicles were provided to the BFC, and the GIA was supplied with office furniture and equipment.
Commissioners and Ministers Enhance Their Leaderships Skills

NAIROBI — Together with the Joint Programme for Support to the Electoral Process, the State Formation project organized a workshop on governance and leadership in Nairobi from 22 to 25 February for Commissioners of the Boundaries and Federation Commission (BFC) and the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), as well as federal government and emerging state ministry representatives (20 men and 3 women participants).

The four-day workshop aimed to enhance the leadership skills of participants, underscore the importance of governance structures and frameworks and promote collaboration and the exchange of ideas across the different participating institutions. It started with a general overview on governance, followed by sessions on governance structures, the cross-cutting theme of gender and the development of tangible tools for the assessment of participants’ governance/leadership mandates. Such platforms for individual capacity development help to cultivate Commissioners, Ministers and other leaders who are accountable and effective in the establishment of professional and credible institutions in Somalia.

FGS/MoIFA Holds Series of Federalism Awareness-Raising Workshops and Consultative Meetings

KISMAYO, BAIDOA & ADAADO — In February and March, the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MoIFA) of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) conducted a series of workshops and consultative meetings/roundtable discussions, targeting civil society organizations (CSOs), media and interim regional administration officials in Kismayo (22 February), Baidoa (6 March) and Adaado (23-24 March).

The CSO/media workshops focused on promoting the understanding of federalism, governance and state formation/building in Somalia, and included discussions on the role of media and civil society in raising public awareness. Roundtable discussions between FGS/MoIFA and Jubbaland, South West and Galmudug officials aimed to strengthen cooperation and communication approaches between the federal government and the emerging member states.

More than 500 representatives of youth organizations, women’s groups, other CSOs, local media and government officials participated in the workshops in Kismayo and Adaado (26% women). The turn out in Baidoa was comparatively low at 56 officials and media representatives (20% women) due to security concerns following the 28 February attack by al-Shabab that killed at least 30 people. Participants expressed to third-party monitors that the workshop helped to improve their understanding of federalism and governance, but more needs to be done to strengthen public awareness, understanding and acceptance of a federal system.

In addition to the CSO/media workshop and consultative meeting, a friendly football match, supported by the Galmudug Ministry of Sport and Youth, was held in Adaado as part of efforts to promote peace and integration between Abduwak and Adaado districts. The UNDP’s State Formation project provided financial and technical support for these events in the three emerging states.

Above (from left to right): (1) Participants at the understanding and promotion of federalism and state formation/building workshop in Adaado; (2) Participants at the consultative meeting between MoIFA and the Interim South West Administration in Baidoa; and (3) Participants at the understanding and promotion of federalism and state formation/building workshop in Kismayo.

“I have acquired knowledge on integrity in governance which I will put into practice.” — Participant at the consultative meeting/roundtable between FGS/MoIFA and government officials in Baidoa

“I now understand federalism better and I believe it does offer a solution that will bring back the dignity of our country.” — Chairperson of the Association of General Business, Galmudug

“Such workshops are very important. It has changed my belief on federalism but workshops alone cannot change the society’s understanding and appreciation of the system; more needs to be done.” — Member of the Galmudug Women’s Union

Emerging State Formation and Building Project

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ADAADO — The Boundaries and Federation Commission (BFC) implemented public awareness-raising and consultative workshops in Adaado, the administrative capital of Galmudug, from 21 to 22 March. The workshops, which focused on building understanding on boundaries and federalism matters among Galmudug government officials and civil society, were attended by more than 100 people (17% women).

The first session on day one was opened by the Galmudug Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Osman Dheere. The Minister confirmed Galmudug’s commitment to working with the BFC, particularly towards a solution to long-standing issues on boundaries.

BFC Commissioner Hussein Hashi explained that boundaries are a sensitive matter, but facing challenges head-on will help to mitigate fears and get at the right way to address historical issues. He emphasized that boundaries are not only technical aspects but said that the political, social and economic dimensions are also important.

The second day of the workshop involved a roundtable discussion with Galmudug officials, including parliamentarians and representatives from key line ministries. Selected women’s groups, youth and former politicians were permitted to join the roundtable as observers. The Galmudug Minister of Interior Affairs, Omar Mohamed, opened the session, which focused on strategies to entrench and advocate for federalism, mitigate challenges in the process of federalization and resolve boundary issues.

The BFC is an independent body mandated only to consult, discuss and document all views and present them to the federal parliament at the end of its mandate. This workshop, which was the second of its kind outside of Mogadishu, was enabled through the financial, logistical and technical support of the UNDP’s State Formation project.

MOGADISHU — On 7 February, the UNDP handed over nine vehicles to the Boundaries and Federation Commission (BFC), through the federal Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MoIFA), in an effort to further support the Commission become operational and create the conditions under which it can perform its duties. The UN-procured vehicles were handed over at a ceremony held in Mogadishu, where Dr. Yahye Ali Ibrahim, Permanent Secretary of MoIFA, expressed his appreciation for the State Formation project’s support for the federalism process and said the provision of the vehicles will help to extend the coverage of the Commission’s activities to all regions. BFC Chairman, Mr. Khalif Abdikarim Mohamed, welcomed the vehicles, which were particularly timely as the BFC embarked on the drafting of a strategic framework on federalism through a consultative process.

The BFC Secretary General, Liban Sahal, led the second session on the first day, where he talked about federal systems in other countries and noted that this consultation will lead to recommendations to the federal parliament on a suitable system for Somalia. This was followed by a plenary session that opened the floor to participants to express their views, seek clarification and develop their understanding of federalism and boundary issues. Participants debated the merits, motivations and implications of a federal system. Some participants voiced their concern that federalism matters could present a new front for conflict and held the view that federalism is a foreign concept that will benefit only a few interest groups.

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MOGADISHU — The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MoIFA), with the technical and financial support of the UNDP’s State Formation project, organized a team-building session on 29 March in Mogadishu. The session aimed to strengthen team communication and effectiveness, with a vision to improve productivity and build trust and support amongst members of the ministry. It was attended by 59 ministry officials/staff, including the Minister, the Permanent Secretary, directors, advisors and junior staff (17% women).

Abdirashid Mohamed Hidig, FGS/MoIFA Minister, noted the importance of the session for bringing together all staff and contributing to building a strong team. He encouraged such events to occur on a more regular basis.
The state formation process in Galmudug, Jubbaland and South West have led to formal agreements on the charters and the establishment of the administrations. However, differences between the various groups within each emerging federal member state persist and continued reconciliation efforts are required to address them. In the first quarter of 2016, these efforts concerned: clans in Galinsor and surrounding areas; the Jubbaland government and Marehan stakeholders; and Habar Gidir and Biyomaal sub-clans in Lower Shabelle. In Hiraan and Middle Shabelle, the state formation process was launched in Jowhar on 12 January but immediately stalled over the clan distribution formula of Genuine Traditional Leaders.

GALINSOR/ADAADO — From 24 to 30 March, Galmudug Interim Administration leaders, with the logistical and technical support of the UNDP’s State Formation project, organized a reconciliation conference between clans in Galinsor and surrounding areas. 100 participants, including elders, women’s groups, educators and political representatives, took part in the meetings (20% women). At the end of the seven-day meeting, it was agreed unanimously to restore communities, stop creating new villages, obey rules and regulations, prevent crimes and support the government on development issues, as well as to apply the agreement that came out of the conference. Twenty-six elders signed the ten-point communique.

KISMAYO — The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) Ministry of Defense organized reconciliation meetings between the Jubbaland Government and Marehan stakeholders in Kismayo from 20 February to 16 March. More than 150 delegates (about 25% women) participated in the talks, which led to a 10-point communique released on 25 March that envisages fair representation of all clans in the Jubbaland administration and will pave the way for the formation of a new Jubbaland cabinet. Both parties agreed to a fair distribution of positions for all Jubba clans and an expansion of the Jubbaland Regional Assembly with the proposed 10 additional seats after consultations involving the concerned clans and communities. International partners, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), welcomed the communique as critical to the Jubbaland state formation process and in promoting inclusion. Traditional elders and community representatives also expressed support for the communique. Logistical support, including air and ground transportation, to enable the meetings to happen was provided by UNSOM/UNDP.

AFGOOYE — The first phase of the Lower Shabelle reconciliation conference for the Habar Gidir and Biyomaal sub-clans was held in Afgooye from 27 March to 30 March. The main focus of the conference, which was organized by the Interim South West Administration (ISWA) Ministry of Reconciliation and Constitutional Affairs, was on building trust between the two sub-clans and putting in place a framework for the implementation of commitments specified in previous agreements. The conference led to the signing of an enhanced inter-clan peace agreement on 29 March and vows from the leaders of the sub-clans of their readiness to implement the final agreement. It was attended by ISWA officials, traditional elders, businessmen, farmers and religious leaders, as well as women and youth representatives (14% women). UNDP and UNSOM are supporting the Lower Shabelle reconciliation process through the Peacebuilding Fund.

Construction of Multi-Purpose Facility for ISWA Underway

BAIDOA — With the financial support of the UNDP’s State Formation project, the rehabilitation of office and meeting hall spaces for the Interim South West Administration (ISWA) was officially launched on 21 March in Baidoa. The multi-purpose facility will accommodate the ISWA Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), together with some other ministries that do not currently have a premise. It will be situated at the interim statehouse of ISWA in Baidoa where most of the administration’s ministries are now based. The new facility will allow ministries to improve work processes as staff shift from working out of their homes to operating in a common location on a daily basis.

Right: Participants at a ceremony on 21 March to mark the start of construction of a multi-purpose facility for ISWA in Baidoa.
UNDP State Formation Project Team Meet with ISWA Interns

BAIDOA — In late January, the UNDP State Formation project team met with interns/young graduates placed within ministries of the Interim South West Administration (ISWA) in Baidoa. The meeting was part of a monitoring mission that also included a verification visit and discussions with ISWA Ministers and Deputy Ministers on the status of the project, including key results in 2015, the extension of the interim project to 31 March and the endorsement of the medium-term project document.

ISWA interns noted that their main challenges to carrying out their responsibilities include the lack of working space, limited supervision and direction and insufficient experience to function independently. While ISWA Ministers/Deputy Ministers are generally satisfied with the work of the interns, they emphasized that the young graduates need more hands-on support and training in various areas.

On 30 January, UNDP/UNSOM organized and conducted a full-day workshop for ISWA interns aimed at improving participants’ understanding of their roles and planning and reporting processes. The workshop also allowed ISWA interns to come together to share their achievements and learn about what their counterparts in other ministries have been working on. Eight of 10 interns attended the workshop, along with two ISWA advisors (10M:0F). This was an initial step to supporting training needs, and also to building a collaborative, team-oriented culture amongst these young graduates and future leaders.

UNDP Core Message:

Who We Are:

UNDP is the UN’s global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

The UNDP Somalia Country Office approach works directly with local authorities in a highly sensitive and complicated political environment. Although we implement across regional borders and seek access for communities throughout the country, we respect and recognize the complex and sometimes volatile nature of political affiliations and implications. Our counterparts in Puntland, Somaliland, and South Central Somalia are involved in our project creation and implementation in their respective regions.

Our Goals:

UNDP’s network links and coordinates global and national efforts in Somalia to reach the national development priorities. Our focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of: Democratic Governance, Poverty Reduction, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Energy and Environment, and Women’s Empowerment.

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Emerging State Formation and Building Project