KISMAYO, BAIDOA, ADAADO & MOGADISU — UNDP/StEFS project in the first quarter of 2017, supported series of inter-university essay competition and seminars across the emerging states of Somalia. The purpose of the intervention was to engage youth on federalism dialogue and sensitize them on the State formation process. The essay competitions were held in Kismayo, Adaado, Baidoa and Mogadishu where students from the local universities participated.

In Kismayo, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Jubbaland State took the lead and launched the inter-university essay competition on 14th February where 65 students participated from 8 universities based in Jubballand. Similarly, from 20th to 21st February 2017 inter-university essay competition was held in Baidoa organized by the Southwest State Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. A total of 52 participants (36 men and 16 women), including university students from selected universities in Southwest State, local NGOs and senior officials from South West Ministries, participated in the event. In Banadir region, Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs, Federal Government of Somalia organized the Inter-university essay competition on 27th of February 2017, where students from 14 universities participated.

The finalist from the above events were invited to represent their State and the University at the National level competition which was held on 13th of March 2017 in Mogadishu. The youth from the three states (Jubbaland, South West and Galmudug) and Banadir region assembled peacefully to debate the federalism and governance options for their country. 100 participants from the universities, along with senior officials from Federal Government of Somalia and NGOs representatives attended the event. Overall, the essay competition conducted across the three emerging states, engaged around 40 universities and over 300 students to discuss and debate on federalism and good governance process in Somalia. The intervention not only sensitized the youth on the concepts of governance, federalism and its relevance in Somalia, but also provided them with an opportunity to discuss ways forward with FGS representatives.

“It was a great learning for me, I researched different federalism models in the world and what we are doing in Somalia to prepare for my essay competition” says one of the contestant.

Prof. Yahye, Permanent Secretary, MOIFA, FGS said “I am thankful to UNDP for the support. This was a great campaign on federalism and we need to do more such events to engage youth in the Somalia State building process”

Inside the Issue:

- National Inter-University Essay Competition on Federalism .......................................................... 1
- BFC Facilitates Boundary Disputes Issue Mapping ............................................................................. 2
- Capacity Building Trainings for FGS Civil Servants ........................................................................ 2
- UNDP/StEFS Highlights Q1 – 2017 Highlights ................................................................................. 2
- Reconciliation Conference in Gadoon District of Galmudug ................................................................. 3
- Reconciliation Conference for Somali Minorities of Southwest .......................................................... 3
- Handover Vehicles to JSS and SWS ................................................................................................... 3
- Completion of JSS Multi-Purpose Facility and Rehabilitation of Civil Service Commission .................. 4
- Facilitating Peace and Reconciliation in Galkayo .................................................................................. 4
- International Women Day Celebration in Galkayo ............................................................................. 4
- Regional engagement on Aid Coordination and NDP Awareness Workshop Campaign ....................... 5
- Conflict Management training for JSS .................................................................................................. 5
- In Conversation with our Partner: President South West State ............................................................ 6

Contributing Donors:
MOGADISHU—On 11th March 2017, the Boundaries and Federation Commission (BFC), with the support of UNDP/StEFS project, facilitated a workshop on Galkayo boundaries dispute issue mapping. The purpose of the workshop was to identify and discuss core issues related to the Galkayo boundary issue in Mudug region. The event brought together 20 stakeholders (18 men and 2 women) from lower house of Parliament from both Galmudug and Puntland, upper house senators of the Federal Republic of Somalia, civil society, youth groups, women’s organizations, politicians and elders from Galkayo. The communities in Galkayo have been in conflicts over the ownership of grazing land and water points for over half century. The current conflicts are centred on administrative boundary dispute between Puntland and Galmudug. The consultation process such as this pave the way for reconciliation opportunities that can contribute to conflict resolution and state building process, at large.

The BFC was tasked at the workshop to study the boundaries issues between Puntland and Galmudug and submit a report of its findings with recommendation to the House of the People of the Federal Parliament. The findings from the study will also help BFC to formulate their plan to establish federal level taskforce committee on the boundaries disputes issues mapping.

At the end of the workshop, the State government of Galmudug and the Galkayo community leaders resolved to form a standing committee that will deal with the issues and disputes in Mudug region. The workshop further enabled the political leaders from both the upper and lower house of the federal parliament to take the lead in the peace building process. The workshop contributed, temporarily, in restoring peace and stability in Galkayo.

The Federal Government along with Galmudug and Puntland are keen to resolve the Galkayo issue and bring long lasting peace in the region.

The Federal Parliament and Senators having a discussion on the Galkayo boundary disputes issues.

KISMAYO — On 8th March 2017, a capacity building training workshop on administration and office management was organized by State Ministry of Planning and International Relations of Jubbaland State of Somalia (JSS) with the support of UNDP StEFS project. The workshop brought together 60 civil servants from various ministries (50 men and 10 women), including: administrative assistants, office managers, executive secretaries, personal assistants, secretaries and other senior government officials from key ministries in JSS.

The training focused on developing administrative and office management skills of the civil servants. The civil servants received inputs on a range of topics — including effective communications, time management, PowerPoint presentation, intra-inter personal relationships management and emotional intelligence. The participants of the workshop also gained insight on feedback giving and receiving process which is an essential part of communication and coordination skills.

The capacity development of the civil servants in Jubbaland government is one of the key priorities for the JSS so that they can deliver their function and meet the Citizens expectations.

Further, the workshop provided the civil servants with tools and concept on administration and office management. The workshop concluded with group discussion, questions and answers session, which allowed the participants to share their learnings and clarify any doubts on covered topics.

“The workshop is important and would not only help the civil servants in solving challenges regarding office management but have been useful to me and my colleagues’ government officials on how to manage office communication.” The State Minister for JSS.

The capacity building training for JSS Civil Servants.
Reconciliation Conference in Gadoon District of Galmudug

GADOON—A three-day reconciliation conference for clans and sub-clans from Gadoon district was organized and facilitated by Galmudug State of Somalia with the support of UNDP StEFS project. The conference took place from 8th to 10th February and was participated by 100 people, comprising; GSS ministers, religious leaders, elders, community leaders civil society and women groups, with relatively lower percentage of women (14%) participants from the Gadoon district.

The conflict between the two major sub-clans in Galmudug State is due to a dispute over ownership of grazing land and water wells. This has resulted in loss of life and the disruption of peace in the district. The objectives of the conference were to inspire the community to deal with intergenerational conflict and also to ensure the two sub-clans reached a peace agreement. The spillover effects of such initiatives would positively impact reestablishment of cohabitation and harmony in Galmudug and particularly in the district of Gadoon which was affected by the armed conflicts. This peace agreement is essential for achieving stable and peaceful Galmudug so that the recovery and development programs can be implemented in the State.

During the conference, viable solutions for managing the unresolved and active conflicts between the two sub clans were explored by the participants. The conference offered an opportunity for the state government and other representatives from women, youth and traditional clan elders to agree on addressing the key conflict drivers in the region such as land disputes, revenue collection and cutting of trees for charcoal. The conference enabled the two sub clans to reach a temporary peace agreement, and has, in addition to other public outreach programmes implemented in previous quarters, helped to reduce the political tension in the region.

Reconciliation Conference for Somali Minorities of South West State

MOGADISHU & BAIDOA—Inclusion of minority clans and sub-clans in political and economic life is normally cited as a plausible mechanism to solve the conflict in Somalia. Minority clans are often the ones most negatively impacted during civil conflict as they are not as well represented as majority clans in the state building process. Recognizing this, the Ministry of Reconciliation and Constitutional Affairs of SWS with support of the StEFS project spearheaded series of workshops in Mogadishu and Baidoa to advocate for inclusive governance and involvement of minorities, including discriminated groups, in the state formation and peacebuilding process.

The workshops were attended by representatives from minority sub-clans and groups in Southwest, CSOs, SWS parliamentarians, and other senior government officials, as well as individual community leaders and members of public. By fostering knowledge and experience sharing, participating minority clan members became more aware of of their roles in political process. Beyond awareness raising, capacity development is also needed to empower members of minority sub-clans to become political leaders and change-makers. The sensitization workshops in Mogadishu and Baidoa were initial step in strengthening and broadening the engagement of minorities, including groups discriminated for decades.

Handover Vehicles to JSS and SWS

KISMAYO & MOGADISHU—UNDP/StEFS project in the first quarter 2017, procured and handed over vehicles to Jubbaland and Southwest Administrations. The vehicles support to the emerging states is part of the project’s capacity development package.

On 21st of February 2017, UNDP handed over a Toyota Hilux vehicle to the Southwest State administration/Ministry of planning and International Corporation (MOPIC) to strengthen it’s operational and functional capacity. The handing over event took place in Mogadishu and was gracied by H.E. Sharif Hassan, President of Southwest State. Minister Nasir Arush, SWS MOPI; Chief of Staff , SWS; Mr. David Akopyan, Deputy Country Director along with other prominent representatives from the UNDP/StEFS project. Were present. Mr. Akopyan seized the opportunity to discuss SWS priorities with the President and assured UNDP’s continued support to the State. He expressed ‘UNDP is committed to the people of Somalia to bring peace, development and effective governance’.

H.E. Sharif Hassan, in his remarks appreciated UNDP’s contribution in formation of South West State of Somalia and continued capacity development support to the administration.

Similarly, UNDP/StEFS project handed over Tooyo Land cruiser vehicle to Jubbaland Administration to create the conditions under which the State can extend the coverage of its administrative activities. The UN-procured vehicle was handed over at a ceremony held in Kismayo; where the Jubbaland State minister expressed his appreciation for the support given by the StEFS project to the Jubballad Administration.

“UNDP is our lead partner in development and governance strengthening of the State. It’s a delight to work with UNDP team and their contribution in state building process is remarkable” His Excellency Sharif Hassan, President of Southwest.
Completion of JSS Multi-Purpose Facility and Rehabilitation of Civil Service Commission

KISMAYO—The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)/StEFS project supported rehabilitation of Jubbaland Civil Service Commission office building in the first quarter of 2017. The facility was built with the funding support of international donors, Sweden, Italy, the United Kingdom, Norway and Denmark.

The official handover ceremony is expected to take place in the second quarter of 2017 and is to be attended by a cross section of representatives from donor communities, UNDP, UNSOM, CSOs, State MPs and other international partners.

Further, the project supported construction of the multi-purpose conference facility for Jubbaland State Cabinet. The construction is at the final stage and is planned for completion in the next quarter. The JSS Conference hall and Civil Service Commission multi-purpose office facility are both situated at Kismayo where most of the Jubbaland administrative ministries are based.

The multi-purpose facility will enable the state government to improve work processes and coordination among themselves. The conference hall would be open to other government entities for various activities including meetings and trainings.

Facilitating Peace and Reconciliation in Galkayo

GALKAYO – Following the most recent outbreak of violent conflict between north and south Galkayo in November 2016, the Somali region and the international community’s attention turned once more to the city of Galkacyo. In this context, during first quarter of 2017, on the request of and with support from UNDP and UNSOM, Interpeace brought together a multidimensional team and launched engagement in Galkayo. This engagement aimed firstly to respond to the recent outbreak in violence by supporting the Joint Ceasefire Committee (JCC), and secondly to consider long-term peacebuilding needs in the city. UNDP/UNSOM also supported IGAD to facilitate political dialogue between the groups from north and south Galkayo.

Responding immediately to the escalation of violence in Galkayo as well as laying the foundation for longer-term peacebuilding efforts, UNDP/UNSOM through Interpeace provided support to the Joint Ceasefire Committee (JCC). This joint body aims to bring the most recent outbreak of violence to an end, lay the foundation for initial discussion between both sides, and establish a degree of stability. Interpeace, and PDRC provided both logistical and substantive support to the JCC in organizing, facilitating and mediating meetings between the two sides of the conflict.

While this work with the JCC addresses the urgent work in Galkayo of preventing the immediate risk of further violence. Conflict assessment was launched to more deeply examine the conflict and develop recommendations for future action to establish lasting peace. The assessment draws on work of the JCC as well as findings of key informant interviews and focus group discussions in north and south Galkayo. The assessment will provide strategy for the long-term support to mitigate the conflict in the region.

International Women Day Celebration in Galkayo

GALKAYO—On 8 March, representatives from the federal government institutions, civil society organizations and the United Nations, as well as religious leaders, clan leaders, civil society actors, women and youth groups commemorated the International Women’s Day (IWD) at Embassy International Hotel in Galkayo. The event was co-organized by UNSOM with the support of UNDP’s Support to Emerging Federal States (StEFS) project.

The IWD is celebrated worldwide every year to mark recognition and celebration of respect and love towards women. The peace gathering event to mark the celebration of the International Women’s Day Celebrations at Galkayo was first of its kind over 8 years. Theme of the IWD event was “Peace Unity and One Galkayo”. The participants took this year IWD celebration as an opportunity in getting both South and North Mayors of Mudug to commit to remove the road blocks and to promise communities in both North and South Galkayo to the peace-building process.

With the support of the local community, local authorities and International Partners, the women of Galkayo at the event pledged to take lead in peacebuilding process, hold their men accountable and pledged as wives, mothers, and sisters to disarm the men. The women and the government officials made their way to spend peace gathering in the afternoon at Awale Stadium where a friendly football matches was played between the South and North Galkayo. The event was first of its kind in the past 8 years of continuous dispute between North and South Galkayo in bringing over 400 participants from both South and North Galkayo together peacefully.
Regional Engagement on Aid Coordination and NDP Awareness Campaign

ADADO—On 31st January and 1st February 2017, the Aid Coordination Unit (ACU) of FGS was jointly supported by UNDP/StEFS project and the Strengthening Institutional Performance (SIP) project to facilitate a two-day regional engagement on aid coordination and National Development Plan (NDP) awareness forum. The two-day forum was to ensure collaborative stakeholder engagement for aid coordination and implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP). The forum brought together 50 stakeholders (40M:10W) comprising senior representatives from the aid coordination unit of FGS, state ministries, community leaders and civil servants from Galmudug State.

The National Development Plan (NDP) of Somalia, has replaced the New Deal Compact and will form the basis for the long awaited National Development Frameworks. The federal states will be supported to have optimal organizational structure, mandates, operational guidelines, strategic plans and implementation framework in line with the National Development Frameworks. The federal states will be supported to organize public accountability forums to enhance trust and accountability between the state and the citizens.

Second round of Infrastructure/office space construction initiative will be initiated in the emerging states.

The following points were discussed during the meeting.

⇒ The NDP will provide a framework for stakeholders to map key issues and action plan on conflict management and prevention, federalism and peace building process in the Jubbaland State.
⇒ The national level consultative workshop on reconciliation is planned in Q2 of 2017 under the leadership of MOIFAR. The workshop will bring together stakeholders from the Federal member’s states to map key issues and action plan on reconciliation and political dialogue.
⇒ Federalism Mapping/Institutional Arrangement Study is planned jointly with the World bank to provide base line for Federalism dialogue.
⇒ The federal states will be supported to have optimal organizational structure, mandates, operational guidelines, strategic plans and implementation framework in line with the National Development Frameworks.
⇒ The project will support the federal states to organize public accountability forums to enhance trust and accountability between the state and the citizens.
⇒ Initiate formation of inclusive government taskforce to support BFC in dealing with the emerging boundary issues.

⇒ The StEFS project will expand the capacity training initiatives on conflict management and political reconciliation in Jubbaland, Southwest State, Galmudug and HirShabelle.
⇒ A National Level Consultative Workshop on Reconciliation is planned in Q2 of 2017 under the leadership of MOIFAR. The workshop will bring together stakeholders from the Federal member’s states to map key issues and action plan on reconciliation and political dialogue.
⇒ Federalism Mapping/Institutional Arrangement Study is planned jointly with the World bank to provide base line for Federalism dialogue.
⇒ Second round of Infrastructure/office space construction initiative will be initiated in the emerging states.
⇒ The federal states will be supported to have optimal organizational structure, mandates, operational guidelines, strategic plans and implementation framework in line with the National Development Frameworks.
⇒ The project will support the federal states to organize public accountability forums to enhance trust and accountability between the state and the citizens.
⇒ Initiate formation of inclusive government taskforce to support BFC in dealing with the emerging boundary issues.

The three-day workshop trained the participants on a range of topics, including: peacebuilding, conflict management and prevention, federalism and good governance. The first day of the training deepen the participants understanding on concept of conflict management, resolution, types of conflicts, drivers of conflicts and levels of conflicts. On the second day, the participants were exposed to stakeholders’ analysis, conflict management and mapping tools.

The training workshop enabled the participants to develop an increased understanding of conflict management and peace building process and thereby contribute to the political dialogue and consultations around federalism and the ongoing state building process in the Jubbaland State.

The participants stated to third party monitors that they will share lessons learnt on the issues covered with others in their organizations and communities with whom they work.

Civil Service Conflict Management training for Jubbaland State of Somalia (JSS)

KISMAYO—A three-day workshop on conflict management training was organized for the Civil Servants and CSOs of Jubbaland State of Somalia (JSS). The workshop was organized by Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), JSS with the support of UNDP/StEFS project. The workshop was held at Agan Hotel in Kismayo from 26th to 28th February 2017, it brought together 50 participants (31M: 19W) from key ministries, civil society, youth and women groups from Jubbaland State.

The three-day workshop trained the participants on a range of topics, including: peacebuilding, conflict management and prevention, federalism and good governance. The first day of the training deepen the participants understanding on concept of conflict management, resolution, types of conflicts, drivers of conflicts and levels of conflicts. On the second day, the participants were exposed to stakeholders’ analysis, conflict management and mapping tools.

The training workshop enabled the participants to develop an increased understanding of conflict management and peace building process and thereby contribute to the political dialogue and consultations around federalism and good governance. Above: Participants at NDP and New Deal Review Workshop (Adado)

Above: The Minister of Planning of JSS attending the opening day of the Conflict management training (Kismayo)
In conversation with our Partner

SWS President Speaks on State Building and his State's Priorities

What do you think about the state building and federalization process in Somalia?

The state building process and federalization in Somalia is developing very well notwithstanding the challenges that were encountered during the initial stages of state formation. Conflict between the clans, administrative boundary dispute within State and misunderstanding surrounding the geographical composition of the States were common during the establishment of the Federal Member States. Progress has been made in the state building and federalization process and we have overcome some of the challenges through consultation and reconciliation initiatives with the support of UNSOM, UNDP and other partners.

The relationship of Southwest State with the federal government and between the federal member states is positive and promising. We will work with Federal Government, Parliament and other member states to formulate our federal system and model which will be inclusive and democratic.

Who are your key partners and what has been their contribution in supporting SWS to deliver its mandate to the citizens?

The United Nation Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the UNDP have played a crucial role in the state formation process by providing technical assistance and logistics support. UN is actively involved in building capacity of our institutional structures and helping us reach out to our citizens. The Somali Stability Fund is another key contributor to South West State building agenda. SSF is also engaged in developing our Public Financial system. Currently the key development and humanitarian partners include the UN agencies (like UNHCR,WHO,UNICEF,UNDP,FAO,UNOPS), United States of America, European Union, United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Norway, Canada, United Arab Emirates, and Turkey. We are grateful to our donors and international community for the support they have offered to our state so far.

What are the key priorities for SWS for 2017?

South West State priorities are spelled out in the State’s Strategic Plan, which is lined to National Development Plan but to be specific, the pressing priorities for 2017 are: responding to the drought affected population by providing shelter, health and livelihoods empowerment opportunities; making operational economic recovery and climate resilient plans for the population; improving security in Southwest State, opening the supply routes, increasing access and mobility of the population, and rehabilitation and improvement of the sea port in Lower Shabelle.

Institution building is another key priority for us, which means securing funding for the civil servants/human resources; staffing key vacant positions in the government ministries, strengthening regional parliament, ensuring efficient service delivery of primary healthcare and basic education. List is endless and each of them are the priority for our government. This is only possible by working collaboratively with private sector, civil society and international community.

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.

Contact For Further Information:

Atul Shekhar, Team Leader
Support to Emerging Federal States (StEFS) Project, UNDP Somalia
Email: atul.shekhar@undp.org

Samuel Awatey
Support to Emerging Federal States (StEFS) Project, UNDP Somalia
Email: Samuel.awatey@undp.org

Website: www.so.undp.org