



The Programme aims to strengthen local governments to respond to the needs and rights of all citizens effectively. By creating an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable governance systems at the district level, the project aims to enhance basic social service delivery, state legitimacy, and trust-building.



BACKGROUND

As Somalia transitions from institutional fragility toward a stronger federal system, local governments play a critical role in connecting the state with its citizens. Building on the success of the Joint Programme on Local Governance (JPLG)—implemented over 15 years in Puntland and Somaliland—Dowlad-Kaab expands these efforts to other Federal Member States (Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest, Jubbaland, and Banadir). The project strengthens decentralization and improves local service delivery, enhancing government efficiency, citizen-state trust, and long-term stability. The Dowladkaab Programme centers on community needs, and aspires for collaborative, participatory development and lasting change at the local level

QUICK FACTS

- Project Duration:** September 2024 - August 2029
- Total Budget:** \$25 million (Secured: \$5 million)
- Focus Area:** Local governance, participatory development, decentralized service delivery, inclusive development
- Implementing Partners:** Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MolFAR) and line ministries at FMS level
- Contributing Partners:** Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland
- Partner Agencies:** UNICEF and UN HABITAT



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS so far...

- Trained 606 local government officials (37% women) in HRM, Administration, PFM, Planning, and Procurement across four districts.
- Over 1 million people benefited from strengthened local governance and service delivery with the construction and rehabilitation of critical municipal, market, and community infrastructure.
- Implemented 8 LDF infrastructure projects enhancing municipal services, youth engagement, and flood mitigation.
- 1,200+ citizens took part in district planning consultations through the District Development Framework, resulting in the formal inclusion of women's priorities in district plans and strengthening inclusive decision-making.
- Developed and annually reviewed District Development Frameworks (DDFs) for Adado, Jowhar, and Kismayo.
- Integrated community-driven priorities into Annual Workplans and Budgets through participatory planning processes.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Strengthen Local Governments through the development of Local Government Institute (LGI) curriculum. The curriculum provides tailored training and capacity development for local government staff, as well as Councilors, across project target states
- Develop participatory planning process which ensures active citizen participation in governance. Ultimately, the aim is to produce District Development Framework (DDF). This is a five year living document containing selected community priorities along with Annual Work Plans and Budget.
- Improve the capacity of local governments to generate revenue, as well as proper management of these resources to improve services for citizens.
- Realize a fully functional decentralization policy that will give local governments the authority to deliver services at the local level.

GENDER INCLUSION

The project promotes gender equality through responsive local governments playing a vital role in fostering inclusivity, ensuring the rights of all citizens, including women and minorities, are upheld.



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