

Joint Justice and Corrections Programme

QUARTERLY PROGRAMME BRIEF: Q1 2025

SPOTLIGHT STORY

Ahmed, a 25-year-old inmate at the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex, shared how his participation in vocational training in plumbing, facilitated by the JJCP, allowed him to experience self-efficacy and develop the important core belief that he could overcome certain challenges. This strengthening of his personality, combined with the acquisition of market-relevant skills, increases his chances of successful reintegration into society upon release.



"I never imagined that being behind these walls would lead me to something so valuable for my future. Plumbing may seem like just fixing pipes and tanks, but for me it's so much more. When I started this course, I thought it was just another skill that would help me pass the time. But now that I'm working on the very water system that keeps this facility running, I see it differently."

This training means I am taking control of my future. The pipes I'm fixing aren't just for the prison; they symbolise something deeper. They are a reminder that even in the toughest of situations, we can find a way to build, to fix, to improve. Every turn of the wrench, every pipe I install is a step towards rebuilding my own life."

"Before, I felt like I was just one of many people who had lost their way. Now I am learning a trade that will help me stand tall when I leave here. The skills I'm gaining are practical and in demand, and knowing that I can help others with the same tools that helped me turn my own life around is empowering."

More than the job itself, this training has shown me that I'm capable of more than I ever thought. It has given me a sense of purpose and pride, something I lost a long time ago. Repairing these pipes isn't just about maintenance, it's about rebuilding, both for the facility and for me personally. It's not just the pipes I'm fixing here. It's my future."



Activities under Outcome 1 - Political Dialogue and Formal Institution Building



Annual Judicial Conference:

The Joint Justice and Corrections Programme (JJCP) funded the Seventh Annual Judicial Conference, convened by the Supreme Court in Mogadishu on 15-16 January. Themed "Modernising the Judiciary is Enhancing Justice", the conference brought together over 350 judicial officials, government representatives, and civil society actors. Participants reviewed achievements and addressed persistent challenges within the judiciary. Outcomes included a commitment to implement an electronic case management system, modernise legislation, establish a Law Reform Commission, finalise constitutional chapters related to the judiciary with a focus on judicial independence and the establishment of a Judicial Service Commission, and increase national budget allocations for the judiciary.

JUDICIAL ACHIEVEMENTS	JUDICIAL CHALLENGES
Increased capacities of 893 judicial personnel through the Judicial Training Institute	Inadequate infrastructure
Increased transparency through livestreamed court proceedings	Outdated laws
Development of the Judiciary Communication Strategy	Significant salary disparities within the judiciary
Launch of the Justice Sector Strategy 2025-2029	



Justice Sector Strategy (MOJCA Retreat):

With the JJCP's support, the FGS Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MOJCA) organised a two-day retreat in Mogadishu on 17-18 February 2025. More than 180 staff, including MOJCA leadership, focused on enhancing efficiency, collaboration, and accountability within MOJCA. Key outcomes included clarifying departmental roles, fostering open communication, and addressing workplace challenges through sessions on non-violent communication (NVC), active listening, and public financial management. Participants emphasised the importance of aligning MOJCA initiatives with the Justice Sector Strategy and the National Transformation Plan. The retreat reinforced a culture of transparency, teamwork, and accountability, and laid the foundation for the implementation of the 2025 Annual Work Plan.



Prison Rehabilitation Programmes – Vocational Training:



With the support of the JJCP, vocational training courses are being expanded throughout the country. In January and February, vocational training in construction, electricity, plumbing, and welding was provided to prisoners in Bossaso and Garowe, Puntland, Mogadishu Central Prison, and Mogadishu Prison Court Complex. In March 2025, welding, electrical, and plumbing training started in Baidoa Prison, South West State, and electrical training started in Beletweyne Central Prison, Hirshabelle. These trainings provide more than 125 prisoners with marketable skills and economic opportunities when they leave prison, helping to break the cycle of violence.

Picture: Vocational training on plumbing, welding, and electricity, Baidoa



Prison Rehabilitation Programmes – Basic Education and Literacy Training:

In January and February, basic education and literacy training was conducted in Garowe Prison, Puntland, and the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex. Improving basic education and literacy levels increases life management skills and employability of newly released prisoners, thereby facilitating their reintegration and reducing recidivism. So far, 461 male and 19 female inmates have participated in literacy and numeracy courses.

Justice & Corrections Activities under Outcome 2 - Integrative Justice Solutions and Community-based Corrections Systems



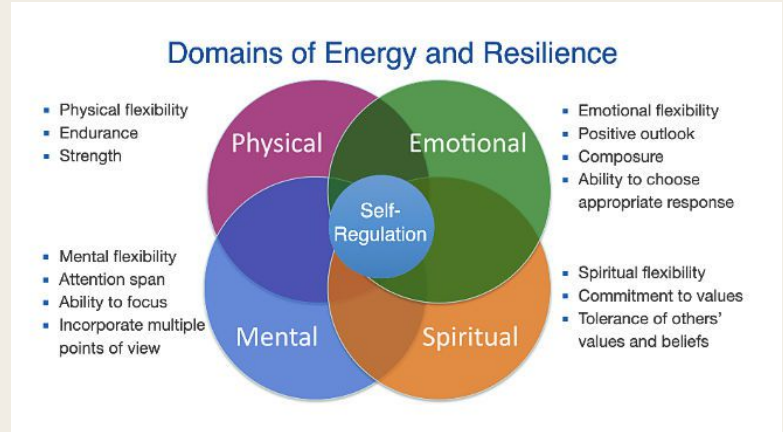
Non-Violent Communication (NVC) Training:

In coordination with the Southwest Ministry of Justice, the JJCP held a non-violent communication (NVC) training in Baidoa from 12-15 March 2025 with 40 new Generative Dialogue participants (28M; 12W) from formal and informal justice institutions. Using a culturally contextualised methodology, the sessions fostered a deeper understanding of conflict resolution through empathy, with participants reporting improved communication, emotional awareness, and a commitment to integrate NVC into their homes, workplaces, and communities through individual action plans.

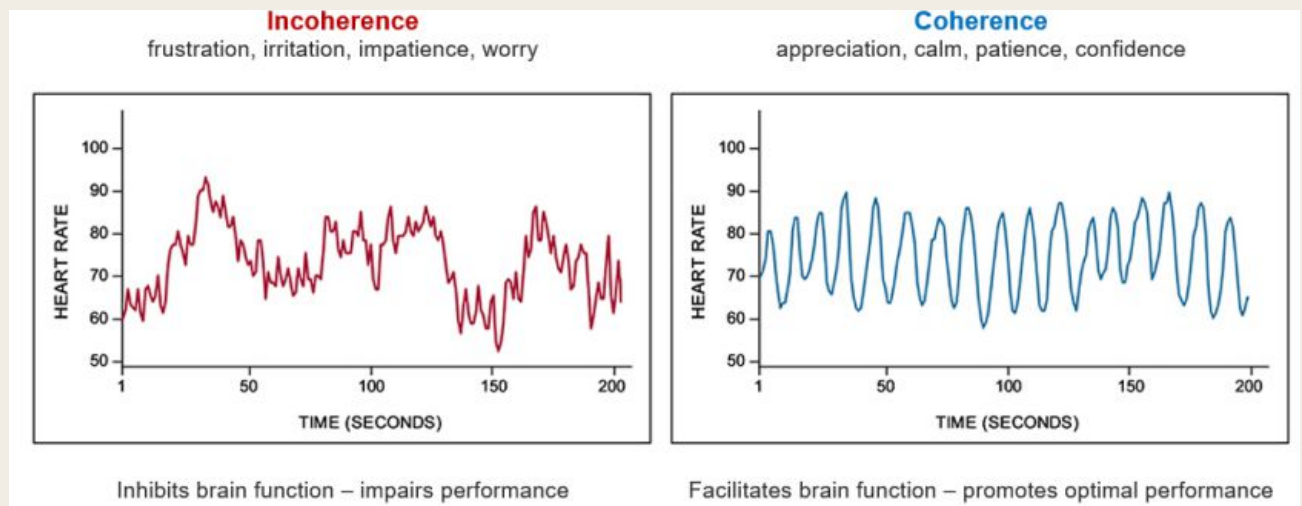


Improved Transformative Leadership Skills through Heart Coherence:

On 16-17 March, the 60 participants in the Generative Dialogue received a two-day training on Heart Coherence, delivered by a HeartMath Institute's certified trainer. Founded in 1991, the HeartMath Institute (HMI) has been researching for over three decades heart-brain communication, the impact of emotions on physiology as well as cognitive and emotional systems, their relationship to stress management, enhancing mental functions including strategic thinking and decision making, creativity, and self- and social awareness.



During the training, participants learned about the different domains of resilience (physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional), the impact of emotions on energy levels and resilience, the concept of heart coherence and how it relates to high performance. Participants learned scientifically validated techniques to increase self-coherence and self-regulation, and were able to experience the impact of these techniques live by measuring their heart rate variability. At the end of the training, each participant developed a personal plan to implement these techniques and chose an accountability partner.



Generative Dialogue:

In coordination with the Southwest Ministry of Justice, the JJCP facilitated a Generative Dialogue Workshop in Baidoa on 18-19 March, attended by 60 participants (34 men, 26 women), including representatives from both formal justice institutions and community members. Through open discussions, storytelling, and group exercises, participants spoke candidly about justice, emphasising the need for deeper emotional connection and trust between formal institutions and communities.

Justice & Corrections Activities under Outcome 2 - Integrative Justice Solutions and Community-based Corrections Systems



Generative Dialogue (continuation):

Participants shared real-life experiences where justice systems had failed them, leaving a lasting emotional impact, or had succeeded, highlighting the role of empathy and deep listening in resolving conflict, and the importance of consistency and follow-through by formal justice actors. Participants concurred that trust is built when promises are honoured and all voices, especially those of marginalised groups, are included in decision-making, and called for a justice system that prioritises fairness, accountability, and accessibility.

Action points that emerged from the Generative Dialogue focused on building trust through emotional connection and mutual respect, inclusive participation, and strengthening transparency and collaboration between formal justice actors and communities through mechanisms that enhance community participation in justice processes.



Picture: Generative Dialogue participants in Baidoa, Southwest State, March 2025



Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms, including in Newly Recovered Areas:



Picture: ADR community centre in Harardheere, Galmudug

Under the JJCP, the FGS MOJCA conducted an **ADR assessment** in 11 locations across Somalia in January 2025 to evaluate the functioning of JJCP-supported ADR centres and identify challenges, opportunities, and ways to expand their impact. The assessment found that while ADR centres are widely trusted and play an important role in local dispute resolution, key operational challenges include limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and weak links to the formal justice system.

In response, a detailed **ADR improvement plan** was developed, proposing structured operating hours, clearer role definitions for coordinators and community liaison officers, integration of non-violent communication (NVC) and restorative justice, digitised case tracking, strengthened referral networks, targeted community engagement, and essential office infrastructure upgrades.

This plan was piloted in Baidoa, where a monitoring field visit found partial implementation, such as structured office hours and rotating schedules for ADR actors, case registration forms that had replaced physical logs, and active use of NVC by the community liaison officers. However, ADR actors largely reverted to customary practices, and infrastructural constraints remained, highlighting the need for further training in restorative justice and improved logistical support.

DISPUTE CATEGORIES	COMMON CIVIL CASE CATEGORIES	METHODS USED
Civil disputes	- Landlord-tenant disputes	- Mediation
Minor criminal incidents	- Forced marriages	- Restorative dialogue
	- Inheritance conflicts	- Negotiation
	- Dowry conflicts	- Application of customary law
	- Land disputes	- Application of Sharia law
	- Family disputes	

From January to March 2025, a total of **551 cases** (M: 236, W: 315) were resolved through JJCP-supported ADR mechanisms across Jubbaland, Southwest, Hirshabelle, and Galmudug in places such as Kismayo, Dhobley, Bahdo, Harardheere, Dhusamareb, Baidoa, Barawe, Hudur, Beledweyn, Moqokori, and Adan Yabal. The consistent monthly increase in recorded cases highlights the growing confidence in ADR mechanisms as a community-based solution for dispute resolution in Somalia's diverse justice landscape.

Activities under Outcome 2 - Integrative Justice Solutions and Community-based Corrections Systems



Psychosocial Support for Prisoners:

During the first quarter of 2025, the JJCP's collaboration with the Universities of Benadir and Bossaso remained active, as social work students and experts from these institutions continued to provide psychosocial support to prisoners. In January and February alone, a total of 161 inmates (153 men and 8 women) received support in Garowe Prison. These regular visits by university teams aim to address the mental health and well-being of prisoners, strengthen their family relationships, and assist in their reintegration into society.



Photo: Psychosocial counselling for male and female inmates in group & individual at Garowe prison



Community Oversight Committee:

On 13 and 14 February, members of the Community Oversight Committee met in Mogadishu for technical training facilitated by the JJCP, and engaged with representatives of MOJCA and the Somali Custodial Corps. By the end of February, committee members had conducted inspection visits to several key detention facilities, including the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex, Mogadishu Central Prison, the new and old prisons in Baidoa, and correctional facilities in Kismayo and Beletweyne.



The Community Oversight Committee, the first of its kind in Somalia and established by the FGS MOJCA with the support of the JJCP, consists of seven volunteer representatives from the FGS and participating Federal Member States. The committee's main task is to conduct regular assessments to ensure that prison management aligns with existing laws, regulations, policies, and procedures. Guided by the Nelson Mandela Rules, these inspections are crucial in safeguarding prisoners' rights while striving to meet the objectives of the correctional services.

Photo: Community Oversight Committee members' training in Mogadishu, February 2025



May 2025

