

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

**Ministry of Planning, Investment and
Economic Development**

9th National Development Plan

Consultation with Hirshabele

Mogadishu, Somali

12 – 15 February 2019

OVERVIEW

With the ninth National development plan being under way, the first round of the consultations is currently being carried out in the federal member states. The National development team of the Ministry of Planning, Investments and Economic Development (MOPIED) have conducted the consultations in Kismayo and Jowhar, the two capital cities of Jubbaland state and Hirshabelle state. In order to gather as much information as possible and gather views on poverty by different groups, several sectors of the society have been consulted. Starting with the civil society, followed by the private sector, representatives from the line ministries, and the federal state members of parliament.

The objectives of the consultations were broad, open and welcoming the different outcomes, findings and learnings that would occur from the consultations, in the same time, as the first round of consultations is specifically focusing on poverty and poverty reduction, the agenda of the consultation was narrowed to that specific topic. The consultations took place over the course of four days and were structured to include presentations of the National Development plan (NDP) by the NDP team of the ministry. Plenary sessions, and focus group discussions, mixed in groups that represented all the different stakeholders.

This report offers the outcome obtained from the discussions on poverty from the line of consultations in the capital city of Hirshabelle State, Jowhar.

DAY ONE: CIVIL SOCIETY

The consultation in Jowhar of Hirshabelle state was opened by the Hirshabelle Minister of planning. The Hirshabelle minister of Planning encouraged the participants to be as contributive as possible as the outcome will be translated into the national development plan.

The consultations in Hirshabelle were initiated with the civil society.

In his opening remarks, the Director General Asad, gave a brief elaboration on the national development plan, the history, the objective, future vision and concept of the NDP, and ways it is going to be drafted and implemented. Mr Asad also highlighted the importance of the national development plan and emphasized that it will be drafted for Somalis by Somalis, based on the outcomes of the consultations throughout the country.

Besides Mr. Asad's opening remarks, other senior members of the NDP team also elaborated the purpose of consultations, to solicit the Somali civil societies views on poverty and poverty reduction. Emphasizing that under the current NDP lies the strengthening of the linkage between sustainable development, poverty reduction and economic development. The policy and the recommendations therein are being implemented, through the completion and application of the NDP in the country.

The participants all described a chain of events to be the causes of poverty, a great concern about the emerging poverty and displacement in the country and stressed the importance of an efficient national development plan in order to identify and counter, the different key triggering causes of poverty.

In the state of Hirshabelle, a great optimism was manifested by the consulted participants, many participants from all the consulted groups appreciated the presence of the NDP team and there

was a general sense of optimism and appreciation of the NDP and expressed a particular appreciation of the Ministry of Planning starting the line of consultations in Hirshabelle. Many participants noted that Hirshabelle is the youngest state established and needs strong support from the federal government.

On poverty in Hirshabelle State, it became very apparent, regardless of which sector of the consulted parties, some issues were of the highest priority regardless of sector consulted. Recurring continuously was the reoccurring river Shabelle drying up, and in the same time the floodings of the same river. In Hirshabelle, particularly Jowhar it is very apparent that the management of the river Shabelle is extremely problematic and disaster prevention of the river are nonexistent. With the river floods in rainy season and low levels of flow during droughts causing immense problems, buildup of rubbish and mud accumulated in the river bed over the past 30 years considerably increases the flood risks. On the other hand, flow fails rapidly in dry seasons due to dams and overuse in upstream, in Ethiopia.

Displacement caused by flooding and droughts force local people into impoverishment and forced migration to IDP camps. Government must help local community and local state authorities to desilt river, but also raise issues of diversion and excess water abstraction in Ethiopia. Repair of old water infrastructure, including dams, were identified as a possible solution to both reduce floods and drought impact on agriculture and livestock production. Interestingly, however, some members of the local community indicated that floods are sometimes caused deliberately by local people to fabricate crisis in order to make living out of the misery caused. Employment created by emergency responses and distribution of humanitarian given to the affected are the main motivator of act of sabotage consisting of people who wreck the banks to flood their land.

The participants all mentioned that Jowhar, and the region of Hirshabelle state in overall is a very resourceful state, with agricultural sector being one of the highest in the country, and fishery sector also being very wide, however, exporting produce to the rest of the country or surrounding cities has proven to be difficult due bad roads and security issues.

Main towns and cities of the region are in the hand of government but surrounded by insurgent groups, roads are unsafe, causing a great deal difficulties for people and business to travel between cities and towns. The main road to Mogadishu is by far the most critical road for access to markets and services (health and education). The security of the region needs to be improved urgently.

The insecurity has been linked to injustice and corruption within the local administration, the leadership of the region is seen as incompetent and corrupt leaders unable, or unengaged to serve public interest. The participants described the local politicians to be inaccessible by the local people, nepotism and inequality to attain jobs where mentioned, whilst the administration also were described as to be managing the public funds received in non-transparent way.

Enhancing the capacity of local leadership and institutions were seen as possible solutions. Accountability, transparency and service delivery of the local public institution is critical for public trust and support of government. The activities of public office must be evaluated and monitored to ensure that they perform as expected.

All though WFP is designed to function as crisis relief and engaging in distributing food, the public of Hirshabelle described the WFP as being one of the causes of poor production or poverty, many described WFP to be distributing their own imported rice and grains, rather than buying from the local businesses or farmers. This leads to local farmers not being able to sell rice and other grains to local businesses and businesses becoming unable to sell to the public. Essentially, food distributions with imported grains causes competition for local farmers and businesses. Some of the participants noted that WFP now is distributing cards with credit instead which allows the person to buy the products directly from businesses.

DAY TWO: PRIVATE SECTOR

On the second day of the consultation, the private sector was the group consulted, with the poverty reduction being one of the key objectives in the national development plan, the Somali business society are of particular interest.

The main issues brought to light in the consultations with the private sector were from an agricultural perspective. With Jowhar, and most of Hirshabelle state relying in agricultural produce from the region. A government policy limiting the import of rice is seen as necessary and a possible solution to the imported food aid problem regarding NGOS distributing imported rice.

NGOs were largely criticized by the vast majority of the private sector, referring to the NGOs as not prioritizing the interest of the said area or need, but rather adhering to their own interest, which often leads to aid and services not being provided in accordance with need, but rather strategically.

Trade of fruits and vegetables are also limited by the lack of access to market. The same issue affects livestock production, both meat and milk, as well as live animals. Frequent outbreaks of pest and disease in the limited capacity to control them complicates the situation.

Lack of market access and non-competitive production of the traditional crops have forced some farmers to grow marijuana supplied to Mogadishu.

The poor road infrastructure and the lack of security also increases the transport costs reducing further the competitiveness of the region. The participants of the private sector also described that lack of security, which was one of the three recurring areas that contributed to poverty. As mentioned by the previous consulted group, the mismanagement of the river Shabelle were also mentioned by the private sector. The private sector could be a large job creating with the proviso of promoting industrialization.

DAY THREE: PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OF BUDGET, PLANNING AND FINANCE:

Security appeared to be the major cause of lack of development and deprivation in the state of Hirshabelle. The parliamentary committee interlinked the lack of security in the region to be the causes and triggers of poverty and displacement. However, like all other previously consulted groups, the mismanagement of the river Shabelle was also identified as one of the major causes. The committee emphasized that collaboration between the public and the government security institutions were not functioning as desired as many of the public fear being targeted by the insurgent groups. The committee

also mentioned the alleged withdrawal of the AMISOM troops in the region sets to create a considerable impact on the little existing security in the areas in the control of the government. The parliamentary committee also highlighted that development in the region is hampered by poor governance and poor administration. The capacity of the security and justice institutions are weak due to lack of a strong police force, lack of prison space and overall a weak judicial institution present in the region.

Lack of education and strong educational institutions would lead to employment, and the committee describes, access to employment and self-sufficiency to be a prerequisite for alleviating poverty.

Frequent natural disasters, including floods and drought limit the productivity of two key economic sectors of the region- agriculture and livestock. Floods were linked to lack of maintenance in the river bed to remove debris and silt which accumulated over the last 30 years. As result, the river regularly breaks its banks causing immense losses to farmers and livestock sector. Droughts, which are becoming more frequent, also affect the productivity of the economic sectors. The two natural disasters also often cause displacements of the local community. Other structural issues, including fragmented markets due to poor transport infrastructure and refusal to accept the Somali shillings among local businesses cause hardships because difficulties in accessing affordable food supplies. This is happening in the context of chargeable EVC transactions and use of American dollars.

Finally, the lack of institutional capacity in the local government, including office, equipment and staff limits the state's ability to develop and implement effective policies and strategies to reduce poverty and promote growth. Training and access to scholarships administered by the federal government were seen as possible route to overcome the institutional challenges. Development of skills needed for governance, including teachers, planners, lawyers, administrators working across the sectors were considered important to build local capacity.

DAY 3 GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

The group composed of the Director Generals of the Hirshabelle line ministries all largely agreed with definition of the multidimensional poverty, indicating that the characteristics of poverty include lack of income to afford basic needs such as food, water and shelter, and other needs including education and health.

Poor security, environmental disasters, as mentioned previously by all groups, the mismanagement of the river Shabelle, causing floods in rainy seasons and drying out of the river in other seasons were described as causes of poverty. Poor access to health services, education and low level of vocational skills amongst youth were also mentioned.

Jobs are often attained by individuals without the capacity due to corruption, nepotism or social connections, this leads to the educated youth to seek themselves to other regions or even hazardous migration due to unemployment and frustration.

The Hirshabelle line ministries also mentioned other causes of poverty. NGOs were described as not implementing projects or missions in areas according to need but rather as deemed fit.

This leads to services being provided not being in alignment with the need and according to the local dynamics.

Political instability, weak justice institutions, poor infrastructure, and lack of security where the most recurring causes of poverty amongst the Hirshabelle government line ministries.

VICEPRESIDENT AND HIRSHABELLE MINISTERS

The stay of the NDP team in Jowhar was concluded with a dinner hosted by the vice president of Hirshabelle state H.E Ali Abdullahi Guudlaawe and the Hirshabelle regional government ministers, the vice president expressed appreciation of the NDP teams visit to the state as well as assuring the cooperation between the state and the federal government. Noting that the state is the youngest one of the federal member states, the vice president also emphasized that the state will need tangible assistance from the federal government in order to develop as desired.

With the Director Generals of the regional ministries having been consulted, the encounter with the vice president and the regional ministers was in an informal setting. However, the following points can be drawn from the informal event as Hirshabelle leaders concludes following points as highly pressing and in need of urgent attention.

- Security
- Management of river Shabelle
- Infrastructure
- Educational sector
- Health sector

ANNEX I. Agenda Consultation CSO's With Hirshabele12-02-19

Time	Agenda Points	Lead
9:00am – 9:10am	Arrival and Registration	All
9:10am – 9:20am	Opening Qur'an	Abees
9:20am – 9:30am	Opening Remarks -Minister of State -DG Directorate of Planning, and Economic Development Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development	- H.EAbdirahman Guled -Asad Yusuf
9:30am – 9:50am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDP 9 (Consultation Framework) presentation 	Dr Mohamoud
9:50am---10:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenary Q&A 	All
10:30am – 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tea Break 	All
11:00am—12:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Discussion And Presentation of Main Outcomes 	All
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Prayers and Lunch and	All
1:15pm – 1:30pm	Add Comments	Participants
1:30pm –1:45pm	Conclusion and closing	DG Asad
1:20pm – 2:00pm	Conclusion and closing	DG and Minister of state

II. ANNEX II. Agenda Consultation PRIVATE SECTOR With Hirshabele13-02-19

Time	Agenda Points	Lead
9:00am – 9:10am	Arrival and Registration	All
9:10am – 9:20am	Opening Qur'an	Abees
9:20am – 9:30am	Opening Remarks	-State Minister -DG
9:30am – 9:50am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDP 9 (Consultation Framework) presentation 	Dr Mohamoud
9:50am---10:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenary Q&A 	All
10:30am – 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tea Break 	All
11:00am—12:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Discussion And Presentation of Main Outcomes 	All
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Prayers and Lunch and	All
1:15pm – 1:30pm	Add Comments	Participants
1:30pm –1:45pm	Conclusion and closing	DG Asad
1:20pm – 2:00pm	Conclusion and closing	DG and Minister of state

III.ANNEX III. Agenda Consultation Government Institutions with Hirshabele14-02-19

Time	Agenda Points	Lead
9:00am – 9:10am	Arrival and Registration	All
9:10am – 9:20am	Opening Qur'an	Abees
9:20am – 9:30am	Opening Remarks	-State Minister -DG
9:30am – 9:50am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDP 9 (Consultation Framework) presentation 	Dr Mohamoud
9:50am---10:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenary Q&A 	All
10:30am – 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tea Break 	All
11:00am—12:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Discussion And Presentation of Main Outcomes 	All
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Prayers and Lunch and	All
1:15pm – 1:30pm	Add Comments	Participants
1:30pm – 1:45pm	Conclusion and closing	DG Asad
1:20pm – 2:00pm	Conclusion and closing	DG and Minister of state

III. ANNEX III. Agenda Consultation Parliament Committee With Hirshabele15-02-19

Time	Agenda Points	Lead
9:00am – 9:10am	Arrival and Registration	All
9:10am – 9:20am	Opening Qur'an	Abees
9:20am – 9:30am	Opening Remarks	-State Minister -DG
9:30am – 9:50am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDP 9 (Consultation Framework) presentation 	Dr Mohamoud
9:50am---10:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenary Q&A 	All
10:30am – 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tea Break 	All
11:00am—12:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Discussion And Presentation of Main Outcomes 	All
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Prayers and Lunch and	All
1:15pm – 1:30pm	Add Comments	Participants
1:30pm – 1:45pm	Conclusion and closing	DG Asad
1:20pm – 2:00pm	Conclusion and closing	DG and Minister of state



