



PUNTLAND NON-STATE ACTORS ASSOCIATION



*2017 - 2021
Achievements*

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Acronym

| | |
|--------|---|
| CSOs | Civil Society Organisations |
| EISA | Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa |
| ELGE | Early Local Government Elections |
| ESR | Election Situation Room |
| EU | European Union |
| FCG | Finish Consulting Group |
| LGE | Local Government Elections |
| LTOs | Long-term observers |
| NSA | Non State Actors |
| ODK | Open Data Kit |
| PDRC | Puntland Development and Research Center |
| PUNSAA | Puntland Non-State Actors Association |
| PWD | People With Disabilities |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SMS | Short Message Services |
| SSF | Somalia Stability Fund |
| STOs | Short-term observers |
| TPEC | Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission |
| WSR | Women Situation Room |



FORWARD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

top priority was advocating for and coordinating Puntland Civil Society's interests and voice. We have made tremendous changes and improvements over the last Five years, beginning with the staff and progressing to the way we operate. We have formed new alliances with various organizations and secured funding for the platform's core functions. By training and deploying 68 local observers to all polling stations in Qardho, Eyl, and Ufayn, PUNSAA played a critical role in Puntland democratization and early local elections.

PUNSAA involved in indirect elections dispute resolution at the federal government of Somalia (FGS) level, federal member states (FMS) level in Dusamareb one and two, and 17 September agreement in Mogadishu. During the long-awaited election process, PUNSAA coordinated the Somalia Civil Society Coalition (CSOs).

PUNSAA has developed targeted advocacy strategies, formed thematic working groups to conduct work on thematic areas identified by PUNSAA members, and increased member capacity to carry out advocacy initiatives. PUNSAA also signed an agreement with the Puntland State Parliament to involve citizens in the legislative drafting process.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Secretariat, the Board of Directors, and our partners (Diakonia, EISA, SSF, Creative Associates, Interpeace, and the EU) for their contributions to our recent successes.

Faysal Ahmed Warsame
Chairman

Executive Summary

Puntland Non-State Actors Association (PUNSAA) proudly presents its accomplishments over the last five years (2017 and 2022). The booklet captures achievements, challenges faced and recommendations for improvement areas. Below are key areas the report focuses:

- 1- Organizational Capacity Development
- 2- Key activities implemented;
- 3- Advocacy; and
- 4- International visits.

Organizational Capacity Development

PUNSAA reviewed and amended all policies and manuals and created new ones in collaboration with Finish Consulting Group (FCG), including Monitoring and Evaluation, Risk Management Plan, and three-year strategic plan. The platform emphasized building staff capacity by providing training on topics relevant to their day-to-day work, such as monitoring and evaluation, financial management, advocacy, and project planning. Finally, PUNSAA has purchased land (30 x 70 meters) for office use and meeting halls to ensure the platform's sustainability.

Key activities implemented

During the reporting period, PUNSAA was awarded a three-year project titled «Somali Election Governance Transparency & Accountability Project» (SEGTAP) funded by the European Union

PUNSAA was also awarded a new grant from the Somalia Stability Fund (SSF) to support Puntland's early local elections by providing technical and financial assistance to domestic election observation missions and training political association cadres to participate in local elections.

PUNSAA has been awarded a three-year project titled «Support Peaceful Elections (PEACE) in Somalia and Somaliland Program» funded by the European Union through EISA. The project established a joint Somali civil society Election Situation Room (ESR) to monitor and document the election process.

Similarly, the Swedish Embassy funded PUNSAA through Diakonia to implement a two-year project titled «Democracy, Human Rights, and Resilience» (DHRR), which focused on citizen engagement on a variety of issues, including district development planning, civic and voter education, policy dialogue, and bringing policymakers and citizens together to discuss issues that affect their lives.

Advocacy

PUNSAA has transformed Puntland's civil society advocacy from briefing papers and statements produced on issues to face-to-face meetings with policymakers accompanied by briefing papers. PUNSAA attended Dhusamareb 1, 2, 3, and Mogadishu September 17 agreement pressuring the federal government and federal member state leaders to set aside their differences and reach an agreement to hold elections and move forward for the country elections. Similarly, PUNSAA played an important role in the Puntland local elections by facilitating a dialogue between political associations and other stakeholders to avoid an election delay. Finally, PUNSAA signed an agreement with the Puntland State Parliament to involve citizens in the legislative process.

We advocated for the private sector in fundraising tactics and supported the Somali Fishery Forums 1 and 2, which were held in Garowe in 2017 and 2019, respectively. We also advocated for a Puntland date palm growers conference in Garowe in 2020 to boost their capacity and development. The PUNSAA played a critical role in supporting people affected by natural disasters that happened around the country, such as the Zoobe explosion and floods in Beledweyne and Gardo.

International visits

In July 2021, PUNSAA organized a three-day capacity-building and experience-sharing workshop for Puntland election stakeholders in Addis Abeba. The workshop invited Somaliland civil society to share their experience with TPEC and political associations in domestic election observation.

At a retreat in Nairobi in December 2021, the PUNSAA Secretariat and Board members, including the Chairman, presented a draft domestic election observation report and lessons learned from the early local council elections to Puntland election stakeholders.

Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) invited the Chairman of PUNSAA to participate in the Gambia International Election Observation Mission in December 2021. This was a significant achievement for Puntland CSOs as well as Somali civil society in general.

Introduction

1.0 Background

The Puntland Non-State Actors Association (PUNSAA) is a nongovernmental, non-political, and non-profit organization that brings together Puntland's non-state actors (NSAs) into a single platform/network. With assistance from the European Union, it was founded on May 14, 2008 to provide a forum for local NSAs to participate in and influence policy and decision-making processes at the local, state, regional, and international levels. PUNSAA brings together a diverse range of NSAs from Puntland, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, business associations, and various professional categories such as teachers, lawyers, and doctors.

PUNSAA's work creates a space for people to debate ideas and organize in order to promote common goals and values. PUNSAA gives citizens a voice so they can be more effective participants in political life, and it holds governments accountable. By doing so, NSAs supplement the work of representative bodies such as parliaments, as well as the media's role as a watchdog. While PUNSAA seeks to harmonize Puntland's various NSA groups, it has drawn membership from four categories, which include seven NSA sectors: civil society (including youth networks, women's networks, and local NGOs); professional networks (including media associations, lawyers, doctors, universities, and consultancy firms); the elders' Association; the private sector; and business associations under the chamber of commerce. In bringing together such a diverse range of actors, PUNSAA requires that members pursue their agenda while adhering to strict professionalism, ethics, and respect for the people and their rights. Simultaneously, PUNSAA was established to act as a watchdog over the government and other public entities. While the government intends to promote what is good for its citizens, there is a need for an independent entity to keep it in check in the event of any unforeseen excesses or slips in service delivery to the country. However, this role is played in a collaborative spirit, with PUNSAA working alongside the government, local authorities, and the international community to ensure the best possible outcome for Puntland.

1.1 Introduction to Non-State Actors Association (PUNSAA)

The structures of PUNSAA encourages transparency, democracy and accountability. PUNSAA's leadership is democratically elected on a biennial basis as indicated in its by-laws and governing policies. Below is a brief introduction to the platform's structure:

1.1.1 General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) is made up of representatives from all 99 PUNSAA member networks, umbrellas, and consortiums. The GA establishes the policies and primary work areas for PUNSAA. It votes on proposals submitted by the Board of Directors. The GA has the authority to adopt, add, modify, or amend the Association's bylaws, internal policies, and procedures. It also elects

the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, members of the Board of Directors, and members of supporting committees based on sector, geographical, and gender representation. The General Assembly will approve the Association's Chairman's long-term plans, audited financial statements, annual budget, and progress activity report. It also compares institutional accomplishments to the plans laid out at the previous GA session.

1.1.2 Board of Directors (BoD)

The Board of Directors of PUNSAA are volunteers who serve as trustees for the Association and represent the various NSAs in Puntland, as well as other stakeholders, communities, and donors. The Board of Directors has 17 members, including the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary-General, Treasurer, regional focal points and members, and 25% of the 17 members are female representatives. The current Board of Directors is made up of 53% male and 47% female representatives, far exceeding the minimum quota of female representation. Members are distributed proportionally to the GA and drawn from Puntland's various regions based on the four NSA categories (private sector, civil society, professional and religious leaders, and traditional elders).

1.1.3 Secretariat

The PUNSAA Secretariat is in charge of carrying out day-to-day operations. It is led by the Executive Director and is supported by a program coordinator, advocacy and fund raising officer, finance and operations manager, communications and information technology officer, and administration officer. It serves as a liaison between the Board of Directors and international and local partners; communicates with member networks, umbrellas, and consortiums on a regular basis to keep them up to date on the Association's activities; and plans and coordinates the advocacy and thematic working group priorities. The Secretariat follows up on proposals and requests made to donors and partners, and develops action plans that are presented to the Board of Directors.

1.2 OUR VISION

A vibrant and credible platform for participation in Puntland's decision-making and policy formulation processes that brings lasting peace and sustainable good governance, where citizens' rights are equally protected, and holds government accountable.

1.3 OUR MISSION

A multi-sectoral and unbiased platform that coordinates members to engage in continuous triangular dialogue with government and the international community through advocacy, lobbying, and coordination of the various sectors of NSAs.

1.4 Our Objectives

Overall, PUNSAA seeks to increase the participation of non-state actors in Puntland in order to contribute to more inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance, improved service delivery, and improved state-society relations. It encourages sound decision-making, policy formulation and reformulation in areas such as peacebuilding, state building, aid effectiveness and service delivery, and overall development of the country.

Specifically, PUNSAA pursues the following objectives.

- Coordination of non-state actors and citizens in the policy-making culture (dialogues) with governments and international actors.
- Increase the capacity of member networks, umbrellas, and consortiums to understand fully, formulate, and influence policy.
- Provide a forum for collective voice and unified action on issues of public interest as well as the causes of the NSAs.
- Enable the private sector, communities, and individuals to benefit more effectively from local and international trade, social, and political initiatives/mechanisms.
- Encourage and facilitate access to the sharing and dissemination of information, ideas, experience, and resources among Puntland's non-state actors.
- Facilitate the non-state-actors in identifying, monitoring and analyzing the needs of the people living in Puntland.
- Develop policy framework and procedures that improve coherence, coordination, and work responsibilities among the NSAs.



2

Achievements

2. Achievements

2.1 Organizational Capacity Development

During the reporting period, PUNSAA reviewed and amended all policies and manuals and created new ones in collaboration with Finish Consulting Group (FCG). The below summarizes the policies and handbooks:

Specifically, PUNSAA pursues the following objectives.

- ✎ Human Resource Policy
- ✎ Financial Policy
- ✎ Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- ✎ Risk Management Plan
- ✎ Procurement Policy
- ✎ Safeguarding Policy
- ✎ PSEA Policy
- ✎ Advocacy Strategy
- ✎ Conflict Management Framework
- ✎ Three years Strategic Plan

The below table summarizes the trainings received by PUNSAA Secretariat during the reporting period.

| Training name | Provided by |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Advocacy and Risk Management | Care International |
| Strategic plan development | FCG |
| Resource mobilization and fundraising | FCG |
| Financial Management | FCG |
| Monitoring and Evaluation | FCG |
| Domestic Election Observation | SSF |

Puntland's vice president, His Excellency Ahmed Osman Elmi, laid the groundwork for PUNSAA's new land, which will be used for office space and meeting halls (30 x 70 meters). PUNSAA purchased this land as part of the platform's long-term viability.



2.2 Key activities implemented

This section outlines PUNSAA's key activities as part of the projects implemented throughout the reporting period. The following activities were carried out during the reporting period.

Civil society election observation training:

PUNSAA provided two days of election observation training to civil society representatives in Qardho. The workshop aimed to provide information and comprehension of election observation norms, the code of conduct for observers, and the electoral





Civil society electoral system and laws training:

Between May 29 and 30, 2021, PUNSAA held a two-day training in Bosaso for Somali Non-State Actors on the electoral system and laws. Twenty NSA attended the training, and topics covered included an overview of systems and laws, the Puntland electoral commission law (Xeerka Dhismaha Guddiga Doorashooyinka), the Puntland political associations act (Sharciiga Ururada/Xisbiyada siyaasadeed ee Puntland), the Puntland local council elections law (Xeerka Doorashada Golayaasha De (Xeerka Anshaxa iyo Habdhaqanka koorjoogtada doorashada)

A similar training was held in Galkacyo between June 16 and 17, 2021, with twenty one persons representing the NSA in Galkacyo attending.



Established and piloted the Somali NSA Observatory for Democratic and Electoral Governance (SNSA-ODEG) through Somali NSA collaboration

PUNSAA established the Somali NSA Observatory for Democratic and Electoral Governance during July 12 and 13, 2021. (SNSA-ODEG). SNSA-ODEG is comprised of 20 civil society representatives from all federal member states (Galmudug State, Hirshabelle State, South West State, and Jubbaland State) and was chosen by PUNSAA and SOCENSA. This group’s major goal was to document the federal election process and produce monthly reports and statements to enlighten the public.





Domestic election observers training

On October 21 and 22, 2021, PUNSAA provided thorough election observation training to 68 domestic observers for the three local early election districts of Qardho, Eyl, and Ufeyn. Domestic observers were provided the knowledge and skills they required to observe on Election Day, such as the observers' code of conduct, the observation process, reporting through SMS and Open Data Kit (ODK), and reporting using tablets.





TABABARKA KORJOOGTADA MAXALIGA AH EE DOORASHADA DEGMOOYINKA QARDHO, EYL IYO UFAYN

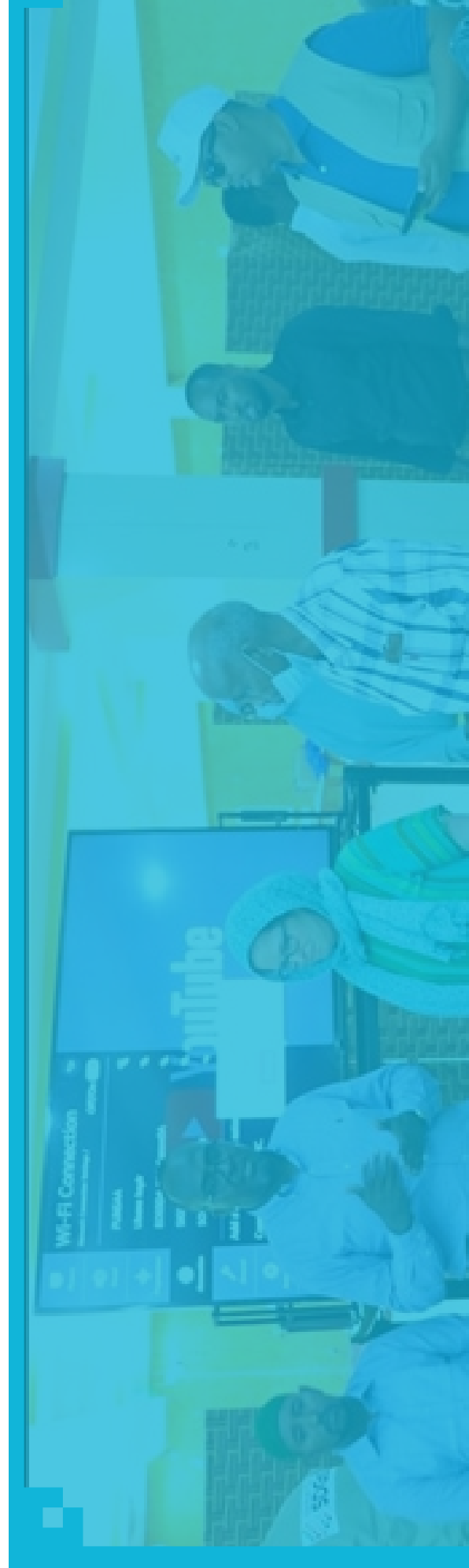
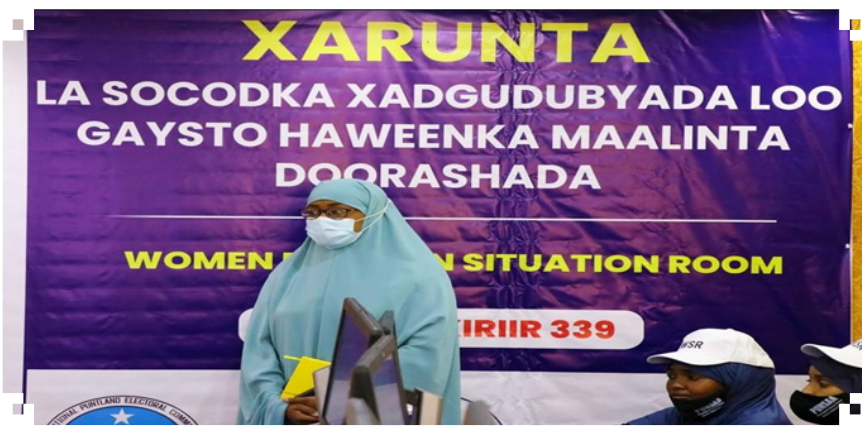
DOMESTIC OBSERVERS TRAINING FOR PUNTLAND LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN QARDHO, EYL AND UFAYN DISTRICTS




Funded by European Union | GRAND HOTEL | 20 - 21, October 2021

Domestic election observers training

PUNSAA set out to observe the elections in three districts of Qardho, Eyl and Ufayn by deploying local observers to report on Election Day. As part of the process, PUNSAA also set up Women Situation Room (WSR) in Qardho to allow citizens to report any violence against women on Election Day. Citizens were provided with a dedicated number for each of the three districts, where they can call without charges. Similarly, PUNSAA set up Election Situation Room (ESR) in Qardho for the local observers to report and all data from the observers were coordinated at this center.





Election Day Observation

PUNSAA dispatched a team of local observers to the three districts of Qardho, Eyl, and Ufayn, where local councils were elected in Local Government Elections (LGE). For the first time in 53 years, Puntland experienced democratic voting. Eight long-term observers (four male and four female) were deployed in mid-September, and 68 short-term observers (44 male and 24 female) were recruited from civil society organizations (CSOs) and deployed on Election Day. The observation was carried out at the end of the pre-election phase and during the election, taking into account Puntland's political and administrative context. The observation of the election procedures is based on the constitutional and legal framework that governs Puntland's local government elections and the democratic election ideals outlined in the Puntland Electoral Commission (TPEC) III and validated in the Electoral Commission Law.

Civic Engagement and Awareness Raising

PUNSAA carried out civic engagement during the pre-election period for the three districts of Qardho, Eyl, and Ufayn. The objectives for the civic engagement were to enhance the communities to understand electoral process. Community groups including women, youth, elders and religious leaders were targeted to disseminate the information to their fellow citizens.



Launching election campaign

On October 20, 2021: PUNSAA in collaboration with Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission (TPEC) organized the launching event for the election campaign in Garowe. The political associations, government and civil society attended the launching ceremony. The President of Puntland H.E. Said Abdullahi Deni officially opened the campaign and encouraged the political associations to participate the campaign in peaceful way.



DAAHFURKA OLALAHA URURADA SIYAASADDA PL

““

Bilowga tartanka doorashadu wuxuu muhim u yahay hirgelinta dimoqraadiyadda Puntland. Waxaa muhim in bulshadu bixiso canshuurta si loogu adeegsado maalgelinta howlaha muhimka ah sida dhismaha kaabayaasha dhaqaalaha iyo qabashada doorashooyinka. Waa in ururadu siyaasadda ay ku qancaan natijada doorashada

””

CodkaaduWaaXaqaaga Martiisoor BILE BRANDING



Gender Inclusivity Training for Political Associations

PUNSAA organized three days of training for political associations in Garowe on gender inclusivity in the electoral process from September 7 to 9, 2021. The training's goal was to educate political association leaders on the importance of gender inclusivity in democratic elections, the role of women in political parties and associations, and to familiarize them with TPEC's gender inclusion standards. Thirty leaders of political associations attended the training.



Capacity building for Political Associations

Puntland Non-State Actors Association (PUNSAА) hosted a two-three-day capacity building workshop for Puntland’s nine registered political associations from September 18 to 23, 2021 at Martisoor Hotel. The first workshop had 40 participants (23 men and 17 women) representing political organizations, while the second workshop had 40 attendees (30 male and 10 female). Election preparation, political party structures, election campaigns, and leadership were among the topics covered in the trainings.



Training and support for duty bearers and CSOs on pro-poor budgeting and responsible spending

PUNSAA offered a two-day training and accompaniment on pro-poor budgeting and responsible expenditure for duty bearers in Dhahar, Bargal and Xafun districts. The program aimed at 120 district administration members (51 females and 69 males) to improve resource utilization, increase revenue sources, and increase accountability for spending expenditures for duty bearers at local government, local administrators, and local businesses. The primary goal of the training was to increase understanding of how to create pro-poor budgeting so that local districts can deal with budget deficits and financial pressures.



Development and review of district taxation

PUNSAA trained three district leaders in Dhahar, Xafun, and Baargaal on developing and reviewing district taxations. Participants learnt how to create a decent taxation system in order to boost revenue, as well as how to harmonize an agreeable tax system that can contribute to district growth. They also studied methods and principles to follow when developing a taxation system that is appropriate for the local community.



Campaigns to boost spending on social sectors and basic services

The facilitator has provided examples of how increased social amenities have resulted in a remarkable development, which is the hallmark of improved health care services, quality education, and economic prosperity in the region. The facilitator has urged duty bearers to spend more on development rather than recurring expenditure, which has little or no impact on economic growth. This advocacy opened the eyes of both duty bearers and right holders to the benefits of investing more resources in development rather than wasting more money on less valuable and sustainable initiatives.



2.3 International trips

Somalia Partnership Forum

On the 16th and 17th of July 2018, PUNSAA attended the Somalia Partnership Forum in Brussels. Representatives from 58 countries and six international organizations attended this event. Inclusive politics, security, economic recovery, resilience, recovery, and humanitarian assistance, gender and human rights, and partnership were all discussed during the forums.



Knowledge sharing workshop for Puntland state election stakeholders

Puntland Non-State Actors Association (PUNSAA) in coordination with Transitional Puntland Election Commission (TPEC) organized a three-day knowledge-sharing workshop for Puntland State Election Stakeholders in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from July 15 – 17, 2021 at Raddison Blu Hotel.

The workshop was expected to enhance the participants' common understanding of the scope and rationale of election observation by creating an experience-sharing platform between Somaliland Non-State Actors Forum (SONSAF) and Puntland election stakeholders that will help in setting up of an effective Domestic Election Observer Mission (DEOM).

The workshop was attended by 27 participants (21 male and 6 female) representing political associations, TPEC and civil society. Two Somali election experts facilitated the workshop (Mr Ahmed Issack, former IEBC Chairman and Abdijalil Tahir the Director for Center for SDGs which closely works with EMBs in the region).





Puntland early local government elections reflection retreats

Transitional Puntland Election Commission (TPEC) organized a five-day reflection retreat in Nairobi from December 6 – 10, 2021 for TPEC and invited PUNSAA and PDRC to present their reports and reflect on the elections. PUNSAA presented a preliminary DEOM report to TPEC and other stakeholders.



Gambia International Election Observation Mission

Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), a partner for PUNSAA, invited the Chairman to participate in the Gambia International Election Observation Mission for the Presidential election in December 2021. This was a significant achievement for Puntland CSOs and Somali civil society in general.



The Leadership of PUNSAA who was elected by the 5th General Assembly in March 2017

01



Faysal Ahmed Warsame

Chairperson
March 2017 to June 2022

02



Mustafe Abdulahi Abdi

Vice-Chairperson
March 2017 to June 2022

03



Faysal Ahmed Warsame

Chairperson
March 2017 to June 2022

04



Farxiyo Xuseen Maxamuud

BoD member, Treasury
March 2017 to June 2022

05



Mahdi Ali Osman

BoD member, Secretary
March 2017 to June 2022

06



Abdirahman ABDULLAHI

BoD member, Journalist
March 2017 to June 2022

07



Mursal Mohamed Abdi

BoD member, Traditional Elder
March 2017 to June 2022

08



Yusuf Hussein Aden

BoD member, Focal point of Sool
March 2017 to June 2022

09



Saynab Haji-ayan

BoD member, Focal point of Sanaag
March 2017 to June 2022

10



Asha Abdi Husein

BoD member, Focal point of Mudug
March 2017 to June 2022

11



Abdulahi Gelle Mohamed

BoD member, Focal point of Karkaar
March 2017 to June 2022

12



Sahra Abdi Ahmed

BoD member, Focal point of Cayn
March 2017 to June 2022

13



Sakariye Ismail Jama

BoD member, Youth
March 2017 to June 2022

14



Abdihakim Ahmed Mohamed

BoD member, Focal Point of Bari
March 2017 to June 2022

3. Conclusion

PUNSAA has accomplished tremendous activities in the last five years. It would not have been possible to make the progress we did without the help of our partners and dedicated employees. Maintaining past accomplishments necessitates forging new partnerships and maintaining the existing ones.

PUNSAA must expedite the development of the additional office space as part of the platform's long-term sustainability.

