

SAAACID



NED-Funded District Education on Democracy, Rule of Law, Conflict Resolution and Conflict Management, Good Governance and Federalism

Deynile District

9-13 November 2008

Thirty people from Deynile District completed a five-day-long seminar to educate them on the principals of democracy, conflict resolution and conflict management, federal system of government, the rule of law and good governance.

The District, situated at the outskirts of Mogadishu, has 4 sub-districts:

- Barwaaqo
- Kurdama
- Horseed
- Radaar

The district is traditional a military district, where many of the old Somali military units were based and housed. Now, the district hosts IDPs, who have fled from the urban guerrilla warfare that has engulfed the capital city.

It has rural characteristics, as residents' rear their animals, e.g. camels, goats, sheep, cattle, etc. Deynile overlooks the capital and the river Shabelle in Afgoye District, Lower Shabelle Region, and has a very beautiful landscape.

Day 1

Sunday, November 9 2008

Theme: **Democracy**

After morning prayers, participants worked out a set of code of conduct for the workshop; and the facilitator gave them an outline on each of the topics that would be covered, and how these subjects affect their district if it implemented properly.

Before not going deeply on the topic, the facilitator asked the participants to splinter into groups and come with due responses on their personal understanding about democracy.

Group 1

- Agreement
- Independence
- Justice
- Elected people and electorate
- The rule of law
- Pragmatic leadership
- Democracy isn't demagoguery

Group 2

- Democracy is anti-religion
- An independent person without borders
- Is something that is anti-Islamic
- Isn't good for our problems
- Isn't good for Islamic faith

Group 3

- Freedom
- Independence
- Various forms of democracy and selective leadership
- It's for the people
- It's a culture

Group 4

- Is a system chosen by a given people
- It has a different interpretation by the communists and the capitalists
- It's people driven
- If used properly it produces good results

Group 5

- Independence
- Freedom
- It doesn't mean to walk nude (doesn't give unlimited freedom)
- It's doesn't mean same sex marriage
- Same sex marriage is sickness
- Different opinions but the same goals
- We want to know more about democracy
- We hear from our local media about the democracy e.g. DR Congo

After the exercise, the facilitator explained to his audience about democracy, saying the term's origins goes back to ancient Greek, which means **DEMOS** and **KRATOS** - which means "people" and "power" respectively.

Democracy can be classified into 4 main categories, namely:

- Direct democracy
- Representative democracy
- Liberal or constitutional democracy
- Economic and social democracy

The facilitator then further explained that the types of democracy are not mutually exclusive.

1. A form of government in which people hold the power, either by voting for measures directly or by voting for representatives who vote for them
2. Government by the people, exercised directly through elected representatives

3. Democracy is a political system which has many different meanings and can take different forms. It is often incorrectly used as a synonym for capitalism; fundamentally, it means a government of, by and for the people.

The opposite of democracy is dictatorship, which controls a country by one person or a group with absolute power.

Full democracy means government by the people and in the 20th century it has been a half-finished thing. In the 21st century, it would grow to its full height, says Brian Beedham, author of an article appeared in the Economist.

The facilitator reminded the participants of how the Islamic world is debating about the relationship between Islam and democracy at the current time.

The session ended successfully and as planned.

Day 2

Monday, November 10 2008

Theme: **Conflict Resolution**

After morning prayers and a recap of the previous day's session, participants divided into groups, coming up with the following results as far as conflict resolution is concerned.

Group 1

- Conflicts arises from greediness
- Misunderstanding between 2 people, or inter and intra-nation and between tribes/clans

Group 2

- Misunderstanding between 2 people or groups
- People which have no principals
- Mistrust
- An infinite to much argument
- Doubtfulness

Group 3

- Conflict make people to fall apart
- It sparks from 2 people who share different values or 2 neighbours
- It brings death between 2 siblings

- Armed attack between 2 clans
- Conflict results between different groups having grudges and animosity among themselves

Group 4

- Conflict occurs between clans
- Conflict emanates from contradictions
- Armed confrontation between 2 governments
- Conflict may arise from sectarian matters
- Constitutional misinterpretations

Group 5

- Conflict happens between 2 married couples
- Conflict happens between 2 clans
- Conflict happens between shareholders
- Conflict happens between merchants and consumers
- Conflict happens with vote rigging

Later on, the facilitator gave participants the definition of conflict resolution and how the subject affects the Somali multi-faceted political crisis. He noted that conflict doesn't explode suddenly, but it gradually builds over the years, and once it bursts into flames it is very difficult to resolve.

There are 8 Steps for Conflict Resolution

1. Know thyself and take care of Self
2. Clarify personal needs threatened by the dispute
3. Identify a safe place for negotiation
4. Take a listening stance into the interaction
5. Assert your needs clearly and specifically
6. Approach problem-solving with flexibility
7. Manage impasse with calm, patience, and respect
8. Build an agreement that works

The session ended successfully and on time.

Day 3

Monday, 11 November 2008

Theme: **Federalism**

Before going deeply into the topic, the facilitator asked the participants if they have ever heard the term federalism. A considerable number of them responded that they heard of it during the present government - as most of the participants were young.

As groups they came up with the following:

Group 1

- Regionalism
- Unity
- People decided to have one goal
- People who lead themselves
- Different nationalities

Group 2

- Regional empowerment
- It's a system that every regional has its own affairs e.g. economic development
- Equality
- Cooperation
- Each federal state has its governor or president

Group 3

- People with different background
- It's a state
- United clans
- Different communities

- Regions with central federal government
- United federated units
- Federalism is like a menu with different meals

Group 4

- Unity of purpose
- People satisfied with their status
- Regionalism
- Justice-driven
- It's a system that used some parts in the world

Group 5

- Federal is different clans but united
- The 4.5 clan formula
- It consists of men and women folks
- Two regions with cooperation
- Federalism are a united people but different autonomous administrations

Then, facilitator told the participants about the meanings of federalism and other models of government structure, such as, a decentralized unitary state, a confederation and consociational systems.

“Federation is an association of states which agree to form union under a federal government, while retaining full control over their internal affairs. There are several different ways in which sovereignty can be divided between the centre and the regions or provinces, but the most usual is for the federating units to agree to a triple list of powers, e.g. those exercised exclusively by the regions or provinces; and a concurrent list of powers that can be exercised by both the centre and the regions. In this latter case, mechanisms have to be established for resolving conflicts of interests that may arise over the appropriate level for particular decisions”.

The present weak Transitional Federal Institution, formed in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2004 seems to be incompetent to implement federalism, or any other system of governance, because the bulk of the legislators haven't assumed their seats in the parliament through the proper channels of one-person, one-vote. Instead, they were handpicked by warlords.

The session ended successfully and on time.

Day 4

Tuesday, 12 November 2008

Theme: **Good Governance**

After the usual prayers and words of wisdom from the Holy Koran, and the previous day's recap, participants were asked how they perceived good governance. They divided themselves into groups producing the following responses:

Group 1

- Justice
- Equality
- Implemented decisions
- Cooperation
- Peace and prosperity
- Islamic faith

Group 2

- Governance begins at home
- Good mother
- Peace
- Effective and accountable leadership
- Responsibility
- Allah-fearing

Group 3

- People should work together for the preservation of peace
- To refrain from the embezzlement of public funds
- Effective social services, e.g. schools, hospitals, kindergarten, town planning, environmental conservation and development without destruction, clean shopping malls, water wells and electricity power
- Cooperation

- Islamic faith

Group 4

- Law and order
- Justice
- Transparency
- Confidence
- Tax payers

Group 5

- Loyalty
- Integrity
- Clean government
- Social development
- United family
- No confrontation

After the exercise, facilitators gave the participants an outline of Good Governance practices, taking into account the United Nations list of characteristics of good governance.

1. Participation
2. Transparency
3. Responsiveness
4. Consensus orientation
5. Equity
6. Effectiveness
7. Accountability
8. Strategic vision

The desired results achieved in the right way

Good governance is the process that will produce decisions that will achieve both the desired results and achieving them in the right way.

As previous workshops, facilitator enlisted the 8 points in the millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted at the Millennium summit in New York in September 2000.

1. Eradicate extreme poverty
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women

4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Comb at HIV/AIDS and other ailments
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop global partnership for development

The session ended successfully and on time.

Day 5

Wednesday, 13 November 2008

Theme: **The rule of law**

The group divided into groups and produced the following perceptions on the rule of law:

Group 1

- Justice-driven government
- Law-abiding citizenry
- Discipline
- Implementation of all laws
- The rule of law depends on Islamic Sharia

Group 2

- An effective central should be in place
- Justice
- Clean from all bad mannerism
- People live with peace
- The rule of law should be based on the Holy Koran and Prophet Mohamed (PUH) Sunnah

Group 3

- The rule of law are written in the constitution
- The rule of law means that all people should fulfil their responsibilities
- Law and order
- Justice
- The rule of law is the heavenly Allah one

- Islamic faith

Group 4

- The Holy Koran and the Sunnah
- The laws drafted by humans only serve the interest for those who drafted
- Whenever you live you should follow the rules in that part
- Confidence

Group 5

- Justice
- Law-abiding people
- Discipline
- People's verdict

The facilitator told his audience that the fountain of all laws flows from the national constitution, which is currently the Transitional Federal Charter, whose drafters advised all clauses not contained herein could be referred to the 1960 constitution that Somalia.

The Ministry of Justice, which supervises the running of judiciary, puts the judicial responsibility on the shoulders of the Supreme Court. There are also other courts the e.g. appeal court, regional courts, and district courts. There are also Sharia law courts, which deal with marriage, inheritances, civil cases, etc. All these courts have regional and districts seats. Every court has its judges. The State Attorney General is the defender of the state.

The police forces, traffic police, immigration office, the field force, the fiscal police, the prison guards the CID are part of the law enforcement agencies and all of them have office throughout the country.

The session ended successfully and as planned.

Participants Evaluation of the Workshop

Evaluating the overall performance of the workshop, the participants gave their views by scoring a scale 1 to 5:

None of the 30 participants have marked grades 1 or 2

Only 1 participant out of 30 has marked grade 3

A total of 9 participants out of 30 marked grade 4

A total of 20 participants out of 30 marked grade 5