

# SAACID



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

### **Shingani District**

**28 December 2008 – 1 January 2009**

#### **Summary**

Thirty people from Shingani 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.

#### **Day 1**

**Sunday, 28 December 2008**

#### **TOPIC: Conflict Resolution**

As part of the NED-funded SAACID-implemented project on educating Mogadishu's 16 districts on conflict resolution and management, good governance, federalism, the rule of law and the principals of democracy, 30 people from Shingani District today (December 28, 2008) in a five-day-long seminar.

The district is one of the oldest residential areas of Mogadishu. Situated in the city centre, it has a population of 45,000; and the bulk of them seemed to be people who moved to the area for the sake of security - leaving their original habitat. A considerable number of the original Shingani residents left the country, like their fellow countrymen, due to the prolonged civil war. The district houses numerous IDP camps residing in 4 sub-districts:

- Midnimo
- Moyale
- Hawd
- Djibouti

As usual, participants set forth ground rules to be followed during the 5 days, while one of them recited verses of the Koran to guide the day's work.

Facilitators explained about the subjects covered in the workshop series and their importance towards their district when it comes to the implementation stage. All these subjects should reflect their daily work in their district. These subjects, if implemented properly, would heal the scares of the civil war.

Dividing into groups, participants responded the questions of what is conflict and how it could be solved in Somali context

#### GROUP 1

- Misunderstanding within societies
- Differing ideas
- Discord
- All issues that may led to confrontation
- Conflict is refusing to accept pleas

#### GROUP 2

- Misconception on prevailing burning issues
- Not for striving to look for a viable solution
- Differing ideas and aims

#### GROUP 3

- Misunderstanding between quarrelling parties
- Stalemate
- Confusion
- Failure
- Disunity
- Undue uttering

#### GROUP 4

- Conflict is confrontation between two or more parties
- Chaos
- It may inter-personal
- Between nations/countries

## GROUP 5

- Conflict is confrontation between different parties equipped with differing aims competing each group to win the battle
- Conflict is someone's righteous to other wrongs
- Disagreement over issues
- Different aims

How the conflict could be solved?

### Group 1

- Through concession and compromise
- Mediation
- Patience and forgiveness
- The wrong side should heed the verdict
- Looking for different options for solutions
- The Islamic teachings should be the best avenue for solution

### Group 2

- The mediating side should enjoy the confidence of the conflicting parties
- Suitable and cordial venue which satisfies the warring parties
- Bringing the 2 sides at the conference table
- The mediators should make an in-depth analysis on the conflict's history
- To put all cards on the table without hiding anything
- Compromise

### Group 3

- Understanding
- Justice
- Compromise
- Facing the reality on the ground
- Unbiased mediators

- Wise men

#### Group 4

- Religious people who have the ability to interpret the teachings of Islam on conflict resolution
- Mediators should have the confidence of the parties
- Mediators should have resources that do the job
- Justice

#### Group 5

- Unity
- Loyalty
- Justice
- Confidence
- Wise men who are well-known on conflict resolution

After the group work presentation, facilitators gave participants about the definition of conflict saying:

“Conflict involves struggle between two or more people over values, or competition for status, power or scarce resources, while mediation is a way of helping people to resolve conflicts by reaching mutually acceptable agreements.

### **Day 2**

**Monday, 29 December 2008**

#### **Topic: Democracy**

After the morning preamble, participants were asked if they have heard of the word democracy. The older participants said that they had heard of democracy during the civilian rule when elections were held in Somalia in 1964 and in 1968. Also, they said they had heard of another version of democracy in Socialist Somalia during the 21-year-old military dictatorship. After those small remarks, participants divided into groups and came up with following:

#### GROUP 1

- True democracy is the administration of Islamic tenets and the teachings of Prophet Mohamed (May Peace Upon Him)
- Democracy is freedom of expression
- Democracy is based on no-violation of all sorts
- Democracy is abiding by the majority wishes
- Democracy is freedom of casting one's vote

#### GROUP 2

- Democracy is total independence
- Freedom of holding opinion
- Freedom of worship
- Satisfaction for the majority
- Democracy is unity and independence

#### GROUP 3

- Democracy is no constitution, no system and no religion
- Western independence
- Laws prescribed for the western countries
- Infidelity towards Allah
- An idea that falls apart to the Moslem world

#### GROUP 4

- No violation
- Each individual should live with freedom
- Each region should have its own administration
- Independence
- The rule of law
- Equality
- A system for the infidels

## GROUP 5

- Freedom
- An open independence
- Individuals should express their opinions freely
- Equality for casting votes for determining future plans
- Justice

Then the facilitator explained the meaning of democracy saying it derived from the Greek word of **DEMOS** and **KRATOS** which means *people* and *power*.

He further explained that democratic principals consist of direct democracy, representative democracy, constitutional and liberal democracy and economic and social democracy.

The term of democracy indicates a form of government where all the state's decisions are exercised directly or indirectly by a majority of its citizenry through a far elective process. When these factors are met a government can be classified as such. This can apply to a multitude of government systems as these concepts transcend and often occur concomitantly with other types.

Democracy is 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.

The session ended.

## Day 3

**Tuesday, 30 December 2008**

### **Topic: Good Governance**

After a recap of the previous day's proceedings, and the daily preamble, the facilitators divided the participants into 5 groups to discuss good governance.

## GROUP 1

- Good governance is justice that starts from family
- Faire distribution of national wealth
- Consultation among the society
- Effective planning on productive sector
- No embezzlement of public funds

## GROUP 2

- Good governance starts from disciplined family
- Justice
- Effective planning for public opinion formation
- United government which enjoys public support
- United people and government

## Group 3

- Broad based government that won the support of the people
- Justice-driven
- Governance based on justice
- Difference should be referred to Islamic thoughts – the Holy Koran and the teachings of Prophet Mohammed (May Peace Upon Him)
- In the service of people's interest

## Group 4

- Starts from the father and mother
- Goes through neighbours
- Through sub-districts
- Through districts
- Through regions
- Till government
- Going through these stages could be reached to good governance

## Group 5

- Good governance is justice
- Respect
- Rule of law
- Good governance leads people to social and economic development
- Good governance is broad-based one

After this exercise, the facilitator gave the participants the following definitions of good governance:

The terms governance and good governance are being increasingly used in development literature. Governance describes the process of decision-making, and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented). Hereby, public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources, and guarantee the realization of human rights. Good Governance accomplishes this in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption, and with due regard for the rule of law.

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 participants has also been briefed about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

All office bearers in the district of Shingani should be equipped with the above-mentioned points when they discharge district work.

The session ended as planned.

## **Day 4**

**Wednesday, 31 December 2008**

### **Topic: the rule of law**

After a recap of the previous day's proceedings, and the daily preamble, the facilitators broke the participants up into 5 groups to discuss issues surrounding the rule of law.

#### Group 1

- The rule of law's base is the Islamic Sharia
- Follow the rules governing the area where one side
- The rule of law leads to development
- Respect human rights and no violation to the nationals
- To respect that governing structure

## Group 2

- Hierarchical order of authority
- Respect
- To follow the teaching of holly Koran and the Sunnah of Prophet Mohammed (May Peace Upon Him)
- To respect the country's laws
- No all sorts violation

## Group 3

- The rule of law is the Islamic Sharia
- The Somali customary laws should be respected
- It leads to peace and prosperity
- It leads to speedy development
- The rule of law covers from home up to national level

## Group 4

- Follow the prescribed and endorsed rules
- It should be all its clauses
- It should have an Attorney General
- It should have a leader
- People should respect the laws

## Group 5

- The laws should be respect by all
- The laws should equal for all
- Justice-driven leaders
- It leads the people to the right path
- It should be something to be referred to all crimes
- It should lead people peace and prosperity and prevents problems

After the completion of the group presentation, the facilitators informed the participants about the rule of law, which is the corner stone of good governance. Without the rule of law, no governmental structure could work properly, and anarchy with failure would be the final result.

Like previous workshops, the facilitators spoke about the rule of law components which comes under an independent judiciary, which's one of the three government branches of power.

## **Day 5**

**Thursday, 1 January 2009**

### **Topic: Federalism**

After a recap of the previous day's proceedings, and the daily preamble, the facilitators broke the participants up into 5 groups to discuss issues surrounding federalism.

#### Group 1

- Sharing national resources
- Sharing administration
- Regional independence
- Each province/region should have the right to administer its economy

#### Group 2

- Federal is people's choice
- Regional government
- Federal should not be imposed
- It should be based justice

#### Group 3

- Federation is amalgam of federated units
- The rich unit should subsidize the poor regions
- The central government supports the poor regions

#### Group 4

- Federal system is united provinces, but have different administration
- People who decided to establish an administration based on good governance
- Federal is a system decided to form a central government
- Federal is power sharing
- Federal is provincialism

#### Group 5

- United different entities
- It leads to development
- Each unit is independent to its own affairs
- Understanding among the society
- Federal is bringing together all different ideas among the federated units

As with previous workshops, the facilitator told the participants about the meanings of federalism and other models of government structure such as decentralized unitary state, 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”.

Participants were given copies of conflict resolution manuals.

#### **Participant Feedback**

After the workshop was successfully concluded, the facilitator asked the participants to give their view and input on they value and rate the workshop individually by putting one cross on the most relevant box after each statement:

None of the 30 participants marked grades 1 and 2.

A total of 3 participants out of 30 marked a grade of 3

A total of 4 participants out of 30 marked a grade of 4

A total of 23 participants out of 30 marked a grade of 5

The session ended as planned.