



Republic of Somaliland
8th High Level Aid Coordination Forum



Government Expansion Strategy Towards Enhanced Decentralized Service Delivery in Somaliland 2016----2017



Purpose and Structure

- The Somaliland Local Government Reform is an integrated part of the general Somaliland governance reform policies supporting better governance, peace and socio-economic development in Somaliland
- The Somaliland Local Government Reform is based on decentralisation, better governance and local economic development.
- The Somaliland constitution and Law No. 23 lays down the legal framework for decentralization and provides sufficient room for decentralized service delivery
- Decentralization Policy (2014) describes the process for decentralized service delivery
- The objective of these rules is: to have:
 - *To improve the provision and effectiveness of the public services, resource allocation and transparent and accountable administration at local level*



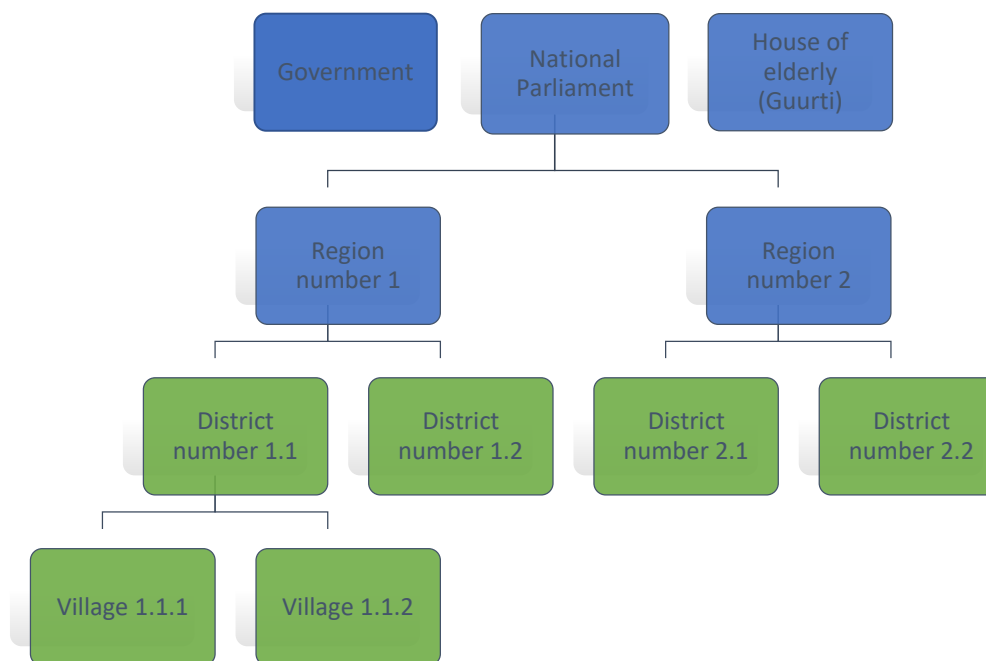
Purpose and Structure

- The current system of government in Somaliland consists of the following four tiers: Central government, regional administrations, districts and villages.
- Central Government and districts represent real government structures, whereas the regions are administratively subordinated to the government, and villages are subcommittees under the district councils.
- The districts constitute the only real local government tier,



Purpose and Structure

Government tiers in Somaliland



Central government structures including Deconcentrated regions



Local government structures including villages



Purpose and Structure

NO	GRADES	# of DISTRICTS
1	A	7
2	B	5
3	C	11
4	<i>Total</i>	23



Purpose and Structure

- As a testing ground for some of the reform activities the ongoing Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery (JPLG) introduced various activities related to good governance on an experimental basis.
- JPLG is working with 8 districts (Berbera, Borama, Burao, Gabilay, Hargeisa, Odweyne, Sheikh and Zaylac)
- The purpose of the JPLG is
 - ✓ to contribute towards peace by enhancing local governance and
 - ✓ the delivery of equitable priority decentralized services to the Somaliland.



Achievements

- A considerable progress has been made in the selected JPLG districts as well as at the central level with regards to
 - **Policy reform,**
 - **Capacity development,**
 - **Improvements in service delivery,**
 - **Governance and administration,**
 - **Public Planning and expenditure management**
 - **Civic education, etc**
- Furthermore, the piloting of service delivery in these districts of Somaliland – supported by the UN – shows that devolution of some functions are feasible and provides opportunities to build further on these lessons learned.



Achievements

- However, Progress being made in selected districts has left a big capacity gap between JPLG and non-JPLG districts
- The Ministry of Interior in collaboration with central and local governments developed **expansion strategy**, that will support the implementation of the Decentralization Policy
- The aim of the expansion strategy is to have uniform Local Government framework for good governance practices for all districts (15 districts remaining).
- The tools, systems, policies and regulatory frameworks have been tested sufficiently and that they can now be used to fill the gap for districts who have not yet benefited from being part of JPLG.



Achievements

- The strategy provides for an initial two years process 2016 – 2017, ending at the completion of the JPLG II programme.
- It will be expanded to 2020 following assessment of implementation of Decentralization Policy (lessons learnt)
- The ultimate goal is to have one uniform system of local governance for improved accountability and service delivery for all.



Challenges

- limited availability of central government funding
- Increasing number of D districts being created without sufficient resources to provide decentralized service delivery
- Reform of the intergovernmental transfer grant with more objective and transparent criteria for the districts to support their functions is not achieved.
- There are a few internal inconsistencies in the local government legislation concerning functions and powers.



Challenges

- Some tools including: training manuals, guidelines, need to be handed over from UN/JPLG
- Lack of service delivery Fund for projects prioritized by the communities in line with the Districts' Development Framework and the Somaliland National Development Plan
- Lack of funding that could finance the training and capacity building for district administration staff to implement their expanded roles in providing increased and accountable service delivery to the people at the local level.



Way forward

- Necessary revisions of Local government Laws (particularly revision of Law No 23) to harmonise these laws according to the policy principles stated in the decentralization Policy .
- Harmonisation of sector legislation with the revised local government legislation in order to develop a coherent legal framework for all local government activities.
- Technical and financial support for the expansion strategy implementation
- Creating awareness among different stakeholders towards expansion strategy



Way forward

- Establish capacity baselines against which to measure, monitor and evaluate progress
- Improving capacities at central and local levels to support the decentralisation policy and to develop trust and political legitimacy among the district based citizens.
- Development of sector Strategic Plan for Local Government Reform. The Strategic Paper will identify all required means and steps to reach the goals of the Policy Paper and provide thorough explanation on how to reach these goals:
- Establishing and maintaining a coordinated system of conditional, equalisation and unconditional grants based on objective criteria for the districts to support their functions.

Thank you