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Message from the Executive Director

Throughout APD’s work we have been committed to living by our Mission of building a center for excellence and leadership dedicated to peace and state building and the achievement of a just and prosperous society in Somaliland. To this end I am happy to share with you APD’s annual report documenting our achievements for 2014.

In 2014 the Academy recently celebrated its 16th anniversary. This has been a remarkable year for APD, where we have reached unimaginable heights of progress and genuine accomplishments. Such progress is visible from the significant and highly relevant research activities undertaken by our exceptionally trained and dedicated APD staff. This research continues to aid governmental and non-governmental bodies hoping to utilise APD’s relevant and timely information as both a source of reliable facts and to influence policy development.

This year APD has successfully held its 5th National Program Group Meeting (NPGM). The meeting was attended by representatives from different regions and stakeholders from various segments of Somaliland society such as: women, elders, youth, and minorities. We at the Academy hold dear the belief that only through an all-inclusive process with all stakeholders can real issues be tackled. After going through a process of long deliberations and discussions during the meeting, the outcome was an agreement of invaluable recommendations, covering actual areas of national importance as well as highlighting the most plausible avenues for tackling challenges to bring about tangible change. Furthermore, the meeting ultimately lead to the development of a two year roadmap on key areas APD would focus on.

To further ensure that our work has far reaching impact, the Academy with gratitude and appreciation to INTERPEACE, established a Mobile Audio Visual Unit (MAVU). This new unit provides film screenings and open-forum discussions to the most distant, isolated locations of Somaliland and is used as a tool for disseminating information.

Another highlight this year was APD successfully fulfilling its mediation role in finding a conclusive agreement on the Civil and Voter Registration law between the three political parties. This was all achieved diplomatically at a time of real tension and uncertainty as to whether the deadline for a fast approaching national elections would take place. We at APD are proud to report that with the support and partnership of other local organisations we were able to create an environment of calm and understanding between all three parties.

The Academy for Peace and Development, through the generous support of our partner INTERPEACE, strengthened its relationship with international organisations ever more so this year. With multiple international communities in attendance at the 5th National Program Group Meeting in which, representatives arrived from several countries, it has been our goal to place additional focus on ensuring international bodies interested in our work are provided with clear methods of establishing a cooperative relationship. These methods included: the creation of a website www.apd-somaliland.org and displaying our research and documentaries produced by our staff for national and international viewing. With a number of organisational highlights described in this Annual Report, it was difficult for me to choose
only one specific task worthy of mentioning; indeed all three pillars (Democratisation, Decentralisation and Social Reconciliation) are independently praiseworthy. However, the most applauded activity APD undertook this year is the mediation role played in finding a conclusive agreement on the Civil and Voter Registration between the three main political parties. Painstakingly so, this issue prolonged due to the stark difference of opinions between both sides of the issue; furthermore, the approaching, predetermined date of elections was looming overhead. Nonetheless, the parties and their representatives reached an agreement and APD continues to play a key role in the facilitation of such issues.

On a more personal note, The Academy for Peace and Development is committed to objectives such as promoting development and sustaining peace and it is my personal objective as the Director to guarantee that we only take the most effective, efficient and productive pathways to reach our organisational objectives. Finally, allow me to conclude this message by expressing my appreciation towards The Board of Directors, APD Staff, our Donors, Interpeace and Somaliland people. Also that we will work with civil society and the general public who are engaged in our efforts of placing this great country on a steadfast course towards progress and development through peace-building initiatives.

“The Academy for Peace and Development, through the generous support of INTERPEACE strengthened its relationship with international partners ever more so this year”

About Us

The Academy for Peace and Development (APD) is a research institute that contributes extensively to the peace and stability of Somaliland with international, technical and financial support from our partner, The International Peace Building Alliance (INTERPEACE). APD’s Pillars of Peace (PoP) program, funded by INTERPEACE, is an initiative aimed at consolidating the achievements of the preceding Dialogue for Peace program. The first phase of the program was officially launched in April 2009 and ended in June 2012, followed by the current (POPII) program as the second phase.

The vision of Pillars of Peace (POP) is to assist Somaliland in consolidating its two decade long experience of peacemaking for sustainable socio-political harmony and progress. It is premised on the assumption that Somaliland has successfully emerged from the state of emergency which prevailed in the early and late 1990s, and now ready to contemplate how to strengthen the basis of peace, security and stability through integrated approaches and participatory processes in which all groups, including women, youth, minorities and the diaspora have a say in consolidating peace. Therefore APD conducts pillar mapping through Participatory Action Research (PAR) every three years.

This process seeks to map the current context and state of affairs in the three focus areas of the Pillars of Peace (POP) program (Democratisation, Decentralisation and Social Reconciliation). It does so by embarking on a Somaliland-wide research tour, holding focus group discussions and key informant interviews in towns and villages in all the regions, and using these findings to build a narrative on the key issues that people perceive to be important in the three thematic areas. This process culminates in a National Program Group Meeting (NPGM), in which the research findings are shared with stakeholders from all regions representing the different sectors of the society and respective institutions. The participants discuss findings and prioritise the identified peace challenges, targeting those that require immediate attention and setting achievable and sustainable goals and solutions that are adapted to the Somaliland context.
The Academy for Peace and Development held its 5\(^{th}\) National Program Group Meeting in order to discuss and validate upcoming programs; in addition to offering an open forum to discuss prospective plans in order to validate and prioritise entry points for the three Pillars of Peace programs. Attendees included Speaker of the House of Parliament, Chairmen of all three political parties, cabinet ministers, and representatives from local and international organisations and a wide array of other distinguished guest from all six regions of Somaliland.

The preliminary phase of the program, the Pillar Mapping Exercise constitutes a wide consultation exercise where representatives of the Somaliland people actively participated in the research on key impediments to the three identified pillars. Internal mapping was conducted to identify the key stakeholders for each pillar. After the internal mapping we consulted the government, which included the Ministers, Parliament, and Guurti, members in the political parties and the National Electoral Commission (NEC). Furthermore we also had conversations with civil society, traditional elders, marginalised groups, business community, religious groups, media, women, youth, and all other segments of the Somaliland society. Not to ignore our discussions with the pastoralists, farming and fishing communities. The mapping exercise covered all six regions of Somaliland and took place between the periods of September 2013 to November 2013, culminating in over 1700 participants who took part in focus group discussions and interviews.

The three-day meeting focused on the Pillars of Peace Program; Democratisation, Decentralisation and Social Reconciliation. Firstly the Democratisation Pillar was presented to the participants followed by the Decentralisation and Social Reconciliation Pillars on the second and third day in order to validate and prioritise their entry points. Speaker of the House of Parliament Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi opened the 5\(^{th}\) NPGM by emphasising the necessity of national consultation on challenges faced. The Speaker commended APD for holding the conference; and expressed appreciation for the representatives from all regions of Somaliland that was in attendance. Other speakers included the chairmen of the other two political parties Faysal Ali Warabe (UCID), Muse Bihi Abdi (KULMIYE), from INTERPEACE Abdirahman Raghe and Peter Nordstrom and APD Executive Director Mohamed Farah. Also present were Vice Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Shukri Xariir Ismaacil and many other respected speakers.

Due to representatives deriving from all regions of Somaliland, they held both similar but also differing views on a range of topics.. The NPGM in its entirety focused on guaranteeing all perspectives were heard; concerns addressed and recommendations conveyed.
Abdirahman Raghe from INTERPEACE stated

“If you set your goals high and work hard to achieve them you could become a role model or have a goal to become a Minister like our distinguished guest Shukri Xariir Ismaaciil”.

Interpeace Representative Peter Nordstrom stated:

“The Program builds on a mapping exercise carried out by APD across Somaliland using the Participatory Action Research (PAR) Methodology. The mapping exercise identified decentralisation, democratisation, and social reconciliation as the three Pillars of Peace that can improve state building in Somaliland.”

APD Executive Director, Mohamed Farah stated:

“It is humbling to be able to come together like this and collectively try to come up with solutions or progress in current and future issues that affect all of us and the entire population of Somaliland.”

Shukri Hariir, Vice Minister of Labor and Social Affairs stated:

“We should collectively try to come up with solutions or progress in current and future issues that affect all of us and the entire population of Somaliland.”
In fulfillment of previous preconditions, the National Electoral Commission (NEC) conducted a field study, with two main objectives; firstly to use the study to inform voters on the technologies being used and secondly to prove the efficiency of the new technology in identifying voters who registered more than once. The study was conducted by NEC between the 21st and 25th of June 2014. The field study was conducted in two districts; one in the urban setting of Hargeisa, and the other in the rural setting of Baki. Finally over 300 people from each locality participated in the field study.

APD was invited to take part in the field study to raise awareness as well as to conduct a survey to measure the opinions of people in the rural setting of Baki. Over 300 people from each locality participated and their first role was to produce simple messages for the Somaliland public inviting them to participate in the voter registration field study. The other was to inform the public that they should use their mobile phones to register to participate in the study in order to get ahead in the queue. APD was also tasked with including a message to raise awareness for the voters to give special care and attention to people with special needs.

Participatory Polling Survey using First Mile Geo

APD used an advanced online survey tool called First Mile Geo to analyse the surveys that it has conducted. This vital survey tool enables APD to collect, manage and use information from reports to create better-informed decisions. The Academy for Peace and Development (APD) used qualitative analysis through Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology in its research activities. Recently APD in collaboration with INTERPEACE conducted participatory polling surveys to complement its PAR using quantitative analysis.

Using this tool APD conducted its First Mile Geo for the Voter and Civil Registration, Participatory Polling Survey and Somaliland 2015 Elections Poll that took place between April and September 2014.

We first collated information from the public to ascertain their perspectives regarding voter
Selection and Determination of the Civil Registration and Voter Registration

Since the beginning of its democratization process, Somaliland has had recurrent political contestation over the stability and structure of its democratic process.

APD continues to play a significant role in mediating and facilitating political conflict resolutions in order to help achieve solutions into electoral disputes. In this context, APD is able to act as a neutral arbiter that supports dialogue processes that enable the stakeholders discuss the issue, debate and agree on a final solution. Over the years, APD has been instrumental in facilitating processes by which the issues at stake are resolved by utilizing internally developed approach to dispute resolution known as “political space management.” This approach is based on the premises of institutional neutrality, knowledge of the issue and the employment of a broad and trusted network of contacts. These elements have been successfully used to facilitate successful dialogue, which has brought about institutional change and electoral harmony. The Academy for Peace and Development conducted more than eight consultative meetings attended by various political parties; National Electoral Commission (NEC), Ministry of Interior and the Office of the President were comprehensively briefed. Furthermore they were also consulted with in order to find out their options on the issue of Civil Registration and Voter Registration. The objective was to create an enabling environment for conducting a fruitful discussion on the issue of Civil Registration and Voter Registration. The stakeholders formed a task force which was assigned to deeply analyse the report prepared by the external experts and to come up with a viable solution. The task force examined the disadvantages and advantages of the three scenarios. APD continues to be committed and was a key player in resolving the issue with the Civil Registration and Voter Registration.
The Academy for Peace and Development played a significant role in assisting the Somaliland government during its five constitutional elections after the referendum brought by the national constitution in 2000. With the tireless work of our Democratisation researchers, APD assisted in the following constitutional elections; two Local Councils, National Electoral Commission (NEC), Ministry of Interdentally elections in 2003 and 2010 and the House of Representatives election in 2005. The multi-party political system combined with democratic election practices brought about the realisation of the existence of electoral legal framework fissures. Loopholes were practically visible during the election periods resulting in political chaos among the political parties. APD in collaboration with the Parliament and the National Electoral Commission (NEC) supported numerous democratic initiatives both financially and technically focusing on the following legislations; Voter Registration Law, Presidential and Local Council Elections Parliamentary Elections and the NEC Act.
The Academy for Peace and Development has been working with the three national political parties for almost a decade and with the support of INTERPEACE assisted the political parties during a visit to Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. The main objective of the trip was to meet with the donors who provide financial and technical support to the electoral process of Somaliland and further Somaliland’s national interest. The Director of APD, Mohamed Farah, accompanied the delegation on their productive meetings with the different donors and embassies interested in the electoral process of Somaliland. With the knowledge that Somaliland is planning to hold elections in 2015, the parties discussed vital information with donors about elections and the preparations that the stakeholders would take. In addition, they also discussed issues that concerned the national interest of Somaliland.
Public Opinion Polling For The 2015 Elections

The first forum APD held in 2014 focused on the question; “What is the way forward for the 2015 Elections?” The way forward for the 2015 Elections was firstly to establish space for public dialogue to discuss the opportunities and challenges that may affect Somaliland Parliamentary and Presidential elections planned to be held in 2015.

Another public forum was held to share findings from the opinion poll survey. APD held this forum to establish people’s understand of the political context and to engage with them before the upcoming elections in 2015. After analysing the findings, APD presented this information in its monthly public forum as way of sharing findings with the public and hearing their response.
Strengthening the Role of Women in Somaliland’s Electoral Process

(A meeting between representatives from local communities and elected councils)

In 2012, Somaliland had succeeded in holding its second local council elections in which 2368 candidates from seven political parties and associations were competing for 379 seats. Compared to the 2002 local elections, the number of female candidates increased from five candidates to 140 candidates, however, only 10 women secured seats in 7 districts. During the Decentralisation Pillar Mapping exercise in the beginning of 2013, some female councilors expressed their need in having consultation sessions to foster closer ties with their constituents.

As a result, APD organised highly successful consultation meetings for three female councilors in two districts; Borama and Gabiley. These female councilors were given an opportunity to reflect on what qualities and skills they possess. This engagement allowed them to successfully win the local council seats within their constituency. This was a landmark success for the Academy. This was the first time that women living in these districts were able to meet with their elected female councilors. An additional benefit from this exercise was that the good news reached wider audiences through the power of TV broadcasting in both local and International Somali speaking channels.

A Civic Dialogue

(A meeting between representatives from local communities and elected councils)

The Academy for Peace and Development held a one-day consultative meeting in Burao, whereby one of our own moderators facilitated a discussion between representatives from the constituent community and the local government authorities. The purpose of the meeting was to promote mutual understanding and interaction between citizens and local governments. The face to face engagement allowed participants to explore new avenues of participation and communication between local authorities and the communities they represented.

These meeting were important in opening up new avenues and exploring areas of collaboration between the two parties.
Establishing Relations with the Champion Office

During 2014, The Academy established amicable relations with the National Secretariat for the decentralisation process under the champion office. This newly formed relationship has given APD an opportunity to gain support for the implementation of its initiatives. During that year APD and the decentralisation secretariat have forged an agreement in the Memorandum of Understanding. This gave APD an opportunity to work with stakeholder institutions in the decentralisation process under the auspices of the champion office. The improved relations were particularly evident in the preparatory phase of the Local Governance Barometer (LGB) project. The Vice-President of Somaliland, as the Champion for decentralisation and Local Governance provided political support to the implementation of the Local Governance Barometer and its contribution to the decentralisation process in Somaliland. The relations were also instrumental in establishing a steering committee chaired by the National Secretariat for decentralisation with representatives from national and local government, civil society, academia and other key stakeholders. This enabled local ownership and strategic guidance for the Local Governance Barometer process. The design and implementation of the Local Governance Barometer (LGB) will be supported by the UN Joint Program on Local Governance (JPLG) and the International Peace-building Alliance (INTERPEACE), both bringing diverse technical expertise and experience. The role of the partners will be focused on technical development and advice, while the shaping and implementation of the Local Governance Barometer (LGB) will be driven by Somaliland national stakeholders.
The Decentralisation Policy Public Awareness Campaign provided citizens across Somaliland with a platform to learn about the decentralisation policy and discuss their views and expectations on local governance and decentralisation with their local government authorities. The Academy in agreement with the Ministry of Interior has successfully implemented this important Public Awareness Campaign.

A PD held town hall meetings in Borama and Hargeisa. A facilitator from APD guided discussions between the local government authorities and the local communities, which enabled face to face engagement between the two parties. The meeting also served as a platform for the citizens to voice their specific concerns or make suggestions on local governance as well as providing the same opportunity to local government authorities through the Joint Program Local Governance (JPLG). The implementation of the Campaign started on August 1st. The first phase of the campaign was carried out between August 1st and September 4th, 2014. As per the agreement between The Academy for Peace and Development and the Ministry of Interior, a progress report has been compiled covering the end of the first phase.

The Implementation of the Pilot Local Governance Barometer (LGB)

The Academy for Peace and Development was endowed with the citizens’ perception component in the Local Governance Barometer (LGB) partnership structure; the aim was to examine local governance performance as seen from the perspective of service users, with special attention given to questions concerning accountability, participation, rule of law, equity and efficiency and effectiveness. The decentralisation pillar team with the help of APD management has recruited 45 enumerators and dispatched them to collect data from 192 sample locations spread across three districts (Borama, Burao and Salaxley) selected for the Local Governance Barometer pilot phase. Besides assessing the public’s own understanding of citizenship obligations as well as rights, the team also aimed to explain circumstances surrounding the local authorities own duties to the public. Both representatives from local government authorities and the local communities acknowledged that the Town Hall meeting has the potential to provide channels of communication for the public as well as...
allowing the local councils to gain legitimacy from their constituent communities based on enhanced mutual understanding. Sample questions asked of the interviewees were; “To what extent do citizens perceive that elected councilors are qualified in undertaking local government functions?” And “How accountable are council officials seen to be in informing, consulting and involving citizens in the management of local affairs?”

Our Commitment to Conflict Resolution

Anti-Tribalism
On the 7th of January, the Social Reconciliation Pillar (SRP) held a forum at Deero Hotel in Burao to spread awareness on the negative impact of tribalism and to promote the benefits of social cohesion in the region. The aim for the forum was primarily to address clan segregation and youth violence in Burao’s secondary schools.

Revenge-Killing Prevention
The Social Reconciliation Pillar conducted the revenge-killing prevention workshop at Deero hotel between the 10th and 12th of April, in Burao. The workshop was held after numerous consultation meetings were facilitated by the Burao Satellite office, which highlighted the need to mobilise immediately to find a solution to this peace threatening recurrent issue.

Women Peace Activists
The Women Peace Activists workshop was conducted on the 9th and 10th of April 2014, in Burao, Togdheer. This workshop aimed to support (WPF), a local women peace activist to discuss ways to increase the role of women in the following areas; trust building amongst the community, women’s participation in peace-building activities, tackling tribalism and discrimination in all its forms, and to develop a strategic work plan of activities.

Conflict Analysis
The Social Reconciliation Pillar conducted conflict analysis workshops in the Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag regions between February and March of 2014. The forum topic was; “What are the major threats to peace and stability in the light of local and regional developments?” The primary aims of the workshops were to analyse conflict and present a comparative approach to discussing social reconciliation issues.
Supporting Customary Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Revenge killings are the most persistent type of conflict because of clans competing for supremacy. We encouraged a healthy approach to discussing social reconciliation issues in Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool regions. It is important to tackle this delicate issue because revenge killings create a chain of killings and are of significant concern to the entire Somaliland community. Furthermore, the Sanaag and Togdheer regions have witnessed several incidents of conflict between clans and sub clans in recent history. Moreover, minority clans have reiterated the difficulties they face in collecting the compensation price attached to customary dia/mag (blood payment). This has led to revenge killings being carried out by the aggrieved parties after non-payment of the compensation price. A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) participant stated: “We need assistance from all stakeholders, there are many dia-payment processes which we must pay forthwith, however we cannot collect the funds like the larger clans. For this reason, minority clans are especially vulnerable to revenge killings, which can escalate into larger conflicts if outstanding issues are not addressed. A member of a minority clan that resided in the Togdheer region informed the Burao Satellite Office that they are overdue on a Dia payment that they agreed with another tribal clan. The payment was scheduled to have been paid on January 2nd, 2012, and there are concerns that the other tribe may carry out revenge killing, as a result of the non-payment of the blood compensation. The minority clan approached the government, civil society, and other clan’s in the region to pledge a contribution towards the agreed upon compensation price.
Bali-Diriye conflict

Early August 2014, a conflict took place in Bali-Diriye village, which is around twenty kilometres north east of Burao, between two sub clans. According to the regional governor’s statement, the root cause of the conflict is land based. Land based conflict has been a prominent problem throughout the history of Somaliland. Although urbanisation has already taken place in Somali inhabited areas, yet dispute on land ownership in the rural areas is a persistent problem. One of the main reasons why land ownership is an issue in the Somali context is because most of the Somaliland livelihoods are dependent on the provision of grass and water for livestock.

It is important to note that back in 2007 the Somaliland government ruled that an area of land called ‘Dindinta’ could not be owned by anyone. An agreement must be made in which the two sides must share the grass and water equally. Since the agreement there have not been violent clashes between disputants.

**Restoring Peace and Stability**

There was a real possibility that serious violent conflict might have destabilised the region, whereby two parties that were in a dispute were in the process of preparing themselves for a clash. This would have had tragic consequences and led to an inter-clan conflict to erupt in Togdheer regions, Saahil region, and Maroodi-jeex region.

However, the regional governor, members of house of elders and other traditional leaders like Aqil’s, and Sultans approached the Buroa office to intervene and take part in the ongoing mediation efforts. This request is a good indicator and an acknowledgement of APD’s mediation role. Therefore, The Academy is currently working on plans to hold National Land Management Conference and commence a discussion on establishing effective land management regulatory mechanism in Somaliland, such as creating a licensing system as a pre-requisite for establishing new villages and water points.

In conclusion the Social Reconciliation team put all of their efforts into sustaining the pressure for bringing about peace in the region. It was also highlighted that the regional governor requested APD to support the mediation team of elders with logistics and financial support until the first face-to-face meeting is held.
A conflict occurred in the Haji-Salah Village after a police officer was murdered by a militia group from a sub-clan. This police officer was killed as a retribution for the killing of a businessman who was murdered by the clan to which the deceased police officer belonged, making this killing the fifth death directly linked to this conflict between the two clans. Approximately two years later a business man was also killed by the two men from the other tribe in retaliation of the previous police killing. During the initial stages, some attempts were made at local level to moderate the violence, but with no success. Consequently, five people lost their lives within a three-year period of tit-for-tat slaying, two killed from one tribe and three from the other clan. In the wake of the latest killing in March 2014, the two clans began mobilising their forces in earnest which disrupted the movement of people and goods in their respective neighbouring territories. This crisis disrupted the lives and the livelihoods of the pastoral nomads in the area, who predominately belonged to the two warring clans. It was these dire circumstances that prompted the Somaliland government to take action by initiating the Haaji-Salah conference. The Academy for Peace and Development contributed with financial, logistics and conciliation assistance and as a result of this intervention we were able to successfully resolve the conflict.
THE SOCIAL RECONCILIATION TEAM FROM THE BURAO SATELLITE OFFICE FILMED A SOCIAL COHESION FILM WITH LOCAL ACTORS.

The film based on the need to integrate all members of society and to overcome the stigma of clan disputes and tribalism.
The Academy for Peace and Development supported the initiatives led by Sub-office Director Omer Adan from the Burao Satellite office in conducting a series of consultations and meeting in Qorilugud and Buhodle districts. With assistance coming from the Somaliland Government, we were determined to keep the reconciliation officials representing Qorilugud and Buhodle in attendance in order to partake in the process of bringing together brotherly communities. The consultative meetings became a platform for strengthening and supporting the continuing peace processes. After a series of revenge killings and livestock rustling activities that took place between two communities, which almost resulted in an all-out conflict in the region, APD held a series of reconciliation meetings which are looking encouraging, with the latest one having been held in January this year.

The agreement between the two communities was set in two stages with a subsequent conference expected to be held in April. In the meantime, there are worries that assassinations, and livestock rustling might occur before the aforementioned conference commences, therefore an aggressive awareness program must be undertaken to inform pastoralists in both communities that the long-standing conflict will be handled accordingly, and that representatives from both communities are united towards achieving a local initiative to accomplish homegrown reconciliation devoid of political interference. Traditional elders and regional authorities including a Buhodle and Qorilugud district requested that the Academy for Peace and Development assist them both financially and logistically with an aggressive awareness campaign. The Academy for Peace and Development has always been committed to providing much needed awareness through workshops, forums, and consultation meetings.
The Land and Environmental Management Consultation meetings were held in all six regional capitals of Somaliland. The Academy for Peace and Development (APD) Burao Satellite office (Social Reconciliation Pillar) and took place on the 6th December and the 27th of January, 2015. The aim of the consultation workshops on land management was to generate reliable knowledge on the challenges and main causes of both rural and urban, land dispute resolution mechanism, and government policy and apparent legal gaps. The current status of land management in Somaliland is alarming to say the least, with land-based conflicts being further fuelled by a multitude of factors and drivers. Besides purely economic reasons, land conflicts are usually accompanied by political conflict and general socio-economic development. The main goal the Social Reconciliation Pillar team wanted to accomplish was to reach a widely accepted agreement on land management policy and legal framework; while the specific objectives were; to raise awareness on reoccurring/occurring land management issues. Another aim was to set up a land management policy, i.e. guiding policy for enacted laws and constituting a national coordination framework for the land management. The Audio Visual Unit will also have a short documentary produced for the Land and Environmental Conference based on findings they gathered from the Social Reconciliation Pillars consultation workshops. The existence of multiple laws that bestow land management and regulation responsibilities on different institutions is one of the greatest challenges facing land management in Somaliland. These highly productive consultation workshops provided a platform for stakeholders and members of civil society to address the challenges and opportunities that need to be discussed in order to work towards progressively improving effective land management in Somaliland. The lack of tools available to the government in order to ensure compliance is of great concern; however there is a noticeable need within Somaliland’s greater society to work towards progressively to eradicate post-civil war governance deficiencies which have led to the deterioration of the environment and social cohesion. During the consultation workshop process, a social declaration was agreed at every location, which is a testament to APD and the general public’s commitment towards finding lasting solutions to improve land management.
The Audio Visual Unit (AVU), at The Academy primarily focuses on the production of films. In particular, documentary films that complement the research work of the three Pillars of Peace (POP). The Multimedia Department was established in 2000 and was previously called the Culture and Communication Department. Since then it has produced quite a wide range of informative and remarkable documentaries.

Furthermore, this department also undertakes consultancies for the production of short films, videos and documentary films for local and international Non-profit Organisations that operate in Somaliland. The Multimedia Department has a team of creative, innovative and dedicated Audio Visual professionals with vast experience in the art of filmmaking and production.
The Academy for Peace and Development officially launched the Mobile Audio Visual Unit (MAVU) in August 2014. MAVU is an outreach tool that sends messages between rural communities and their decision makers through the use of mobile cinema. Consequently, improving the access of information to people residing in rural and isolated eastern and western regions of Somaliland. The initial Mapping Exercise took place in the Eastern Regions of Somaliland; Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool. There were over half-dozen districts that were visited and over 1,600 attendees took part in the film forums and subsequent discussions on areas of crucial importance for district’s residents. Notable participants also included senior public figures in Somaliland. MAVU carries out evening film screenings on relevant themes and this builds a platform for an open and constructive dialogue for all members of the community participating in the film based discussion. Thew participants predominantly consisted of the youth, women and other minority groups. This enables members partaking in discussions to have their voices heard. The launching of MAVU at APD began with a country-wide mapping exercise in rural areas and was successfully completed in the last quarter of 2014. MAVU aims to continue its objective of engaging rural communities and their leaders by improving good governance through media outreach. MAVU also initiated a nationwide mapping exercise of the regional and district level government officials, tribal and cultural leaders, religious scholars, intellectuals and renowned local figures; as well as a number of other distinguished guests. Our team was warmly received by communities throughout the exercise; this was partly due to our commitment to fully engage with members of the local population while modifying work to fit the local context of respective communities. Undoubtedly, there were a number of lessons learnt during the Initial Mapping Exercise which had a direct impact on work carried out in the 2nd Mapping Exercise. Therefore it is our belief that MAVU’s impact was greater due to this factor.
The 2nd phase of the Mapping Exercise took place in Sahiil, Awdal and Maroodi-Jeeh Regions with over a number of districts receiving film forums and discussions on key social issues relevant to respective districts. Similar to the previous exercise, prior to our arrival, the media provided the public with information pertaining to MAVU’s work and prospective plans for designated districts. There are over four television stations, Radio Hargeisa and popular websites which provided such services in the past and continued to do so during the 2nd phase of The Western Regions Mapping Exercise.

A community Elder said:

“I had never seen this display that you presented; it seems like magic on a wall. How is it possible to see people speaking who are not present? I have learnt about the merits of a film screening; something I have never witnessed or heard of prior to your arrival”.

“
On August 19th, 2014 the MAVU team embarked on their initial project of conducting a Mapping Exercise at Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer Regions of Somaliland. During this exercise, on August 28th, a film screening took place at night in Oog District of Sool Region. At which time, for a period of about nine months there were tribal feuds which escalated into violence and the immediate result of several casualties from both sides; two deceased from each side. Armed with this knowledge, and recognising APD’s mandate in social reconciliation efforts, we met with local government officials, tribal leaders and other notable community members in order to gain a better understand of the potential role that MAVU could play in bringing about more sustainable peace between both tribes. It was at that moment that we understood our role should be to implement the fundamental objective of MAVU which were, to disseminate information and provide a medium of awareness to those otherwise incapable of receiving such vital information. We began by recording a message from the tribal and community leaders of one tribe; the message was a blanket for peace highlighting the urgency of resolving differences without resorting to violence. MAVU travelled back to APD headquarters in Hargeisa and concluded the final version of the film detailing the powerful message from one tribe to another at a sensitive time.
The Academy for Peace and Development conducted a successful two-day journalism workshop entitled ‘Bridging the Gap between Media and Community’. The journalism workshop provided a platform for participants to share information and an opportunity to receive training on methods of placing focus and attention of news items on community-related issues. During the MAVU mapping exercise, the accompanying Journalists were provided with a chance to study methods of acquiring vital concerns from residents living in the districts that they visited. The information would be collated through open-forum and focus group discussions and they were taught skills on how to relay these messages through all sources of media outlets.

The Academy invited nine television stations, fifteen newspapers, Hargeisa radio station, about a dozen website hosts and Journalism students from various Universities focusing specifically on Somaliland social and community related affairs. APD were fortunate to have two highly distinguished guest speakers, Hussein Ali Nour and Hassan Heis to provide their expertise and knowledge on the roles and responsibilities of Journalists and their responsibility to report issues concerning all communities in Somaliland.

The journalism workshop was opened by the Deputy Minister of Information, Abdiwhab Abdiqader Abdirahman who welcomed journalist and students from various Universities focusing specifically on Somaliland social and community related affairs. APD was fortune to be able to contribute to closing this gap and inspiring the participants in becoming socially productive for both themselves and their respected communities.

The two-day journalism workshop concluded with all participants having had an opportunity to go onstage and present their recommendations and evaluations of the entire workshop.
Excutive Director of APD, Mohamed Farah with Former President of Ghana John Kufuor

Excutive Director of APD, Mohamed Farah with President of Somaliland Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud (Silanyo)

APD at Staff-Retreat Workshop in Borama

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Special Thanks to Our Donors
The Academy for Peace and Development is proud to have thirty-four highly trained members of staff ranging from different departments. Our facility is currently in the last phase of the upper level construction. Our goal is to use this expansion to endorse our School of Public Policy and other research method courses. Due to the generous support of our partner INTERPEACE and our Pillars for Peace Program (POP), we have been able to successfully continue our mission to improve the peace and development of Somaliland. Our APD expenditures for the financial year of 2014 were a total of $1,354,070. KPMGN is an independent body that audits our financial reports. We are proud to have acquired clean audits from KPMG since 2004.
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