

Institute for Strategic Insights and Research

Quarterly Report

Date: 10/10/2024

Reporting period: May-September 2024

1. Short Introduction

Provide short description of the report, timing and purpose not more than one paragraph

This report covers the project's first quarter the key achievements during this quarter were establishing the "Gole Watch" platforms, including a dedicated website and social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook.

These platforms are not designed to cover breaking news like other social media. Instead, they are a source of in-depth analysis and educational content. They aim to equip citizens with a better understanding of the parliament's work, enabling them to actively participate in public debates. The report acknowledges that the first quarter timeline was tight, which limited the scope of activities that could be accomplished during this initial period.

Overall, the project's focus in this first quarter was on setting up the core Gole Watch communication channels to amplify the house of the representatives' work and foster greater citizen engagement, though the limited timeline constrained the full range of planned activities.

The other important activities focused on this quarter were mapping out the CSOs working with the parliament, meeting with the secretary to highlight the project overview, and coordinating meetings with COSs working with the parliament.

Project Updates

2. Key Activities Completed/Achievements (bullet points)

- Activity 1 Developed Online Portal (Gole Watch Website)
- Activity 2 Mapping CSOs working with the Parliament
- Activity 3 Meeting CSOs working with the parliament
- Activity 4 Meeting secretary of HOR
- Activity 5 Introduction meeting with women and youth caucus

3. Stakeholder Engagement

- **Meetings/Events: List significant meetings, workshops, or events organized /attended with CSO, parliament or citizens**

Developed Online Portal (Gole Watch Website)

An online portal was established and developed to spread information about the House of Representatives. Ilyas company designed and completed the website. After the website design was completed, Ilyas provided the staff with online training to manage the website and post information without external support.

Developed Facebook and Twitter X pages

To provide citizens with knowledge and facilitate understanding of the essential work of the House of Representatives, Facebook and Twitter pages were established to post information that demonstrates the basic knowledge about house of the representatives and become a bridge between citizens and the House of Representatives.

Meetings

As project indicates to engage the CSOs working with the parliament. Initially starting to map the CSOs working with parliament and made a list those involved the work of parliament.

Institute for Practical Research and Training:

IPRT plans to discuss its role within the parliament and arrange a one-on-one meeting to gather comprehensive information about its activities. IPRT focuses on organizing public debates that encourage citizens and members of parliament to engage in discussions about current issues in their constituencies.

Center for democracy and governance

CDG has been engaged with the House of Representatives (HoR) and its subcommittees, likely offering training and other forms of support. CDG committed to fostering collaboration among civil society organizations (CSOs) working with the parliament, which is anticipated to yield significant benefits by preventing duplication of efforts and overlaps.

Director Abdirahman also expressed support for the launch of a parliamentary oversight project and the creation of social media platforms, which are expected to improve transparency and foster engagement between the parliament and the public.

House of representative's Secretary Office

The team held a meeting with the Secretary of the House of Representatives (HoR) to talk about the work of the HoR and the civil society organizations (CSOs) collaborating with it. The Secretary emphasized the significance of partnerships to improve the parliament's effectiveness and visibility. Both the Secretary and the planning director discussed NIMD's cooperation and outlined the project that NIMD is funding for the HoR. Additionally, the team presented their activities related to parliamentary oversight, aiming to align them with the collaborative efforts to enhance the project's visibility.

Civil Society Coordination Meeting

Before the coordination meeting and the commencement of the activities related to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working with the Parliament (House of Representatives - HOR), a mapping exercise was conducted to identify and gather information on the CSOs specifically working with the HOR. Four CSOs were identified: IPRT, SOYDAVO, CDG, and SIRAAD Initiatives, all of which collaborate with the Parliament and implement various activities for the House of Representatives.

On Thursday, September 12, a physical meeting was organized with the CSOs to discuss the activities carried out in Parliament and to establish a network for sharing information. The group agreed to hold coordination meetings quarterly. The meeting was productive, with each organization sharing its contributions to the House of Representatives. All members participated actively.

IPRT

IPRT has been working with both the House of Representatives and the House of Elders for 25 years, focusing on democracy, good governance, and transparency. In recent months, IPRT conducted two public debates in which members of the House of Representatives participated. These debates were held in all regions, involving the MPs elected from each area.

CDG

The Center for Democracy and Governance works to train sub-committees that guide each community in developing their own Terms of Reference (TOR), which outline the committee's responsibilities. They also facilitate public debates involving the House of Representatives.

SOYDAVO

SOYDAVO collaborated with the House of Representatives during the 2021 elections and provided training sessions for various sub-committees.

SIRAAD Initiatives

SIRAAD Initiatives focuses on gender issues within the House of Representatives and has conducted debates specifically addressing these topics. They work closely with the House of Representatives on policies related to Female Genital Mutilation.

After the CSOs highlighted their activities, the ISIR Institute shared insights about the project on parliamentary oversight, detailing the debates conducted by all organizations and how to prevent overlapping efforts. ISIR also demonstrated the Gole Watch digital platform to the CSOs and provided links to pages and websites for following up on information related to the House of Representatives and CSO network meetings.

The meeting concluded with the following action points:

Create a network for exchanging information and avoiding overlapping activities.

Schedule quarterly meetings to share updates.

Arrange for CSOs to meet with the Secretary of the House of Representatives to discuss staff accessibility during work activities.

- **Stakeholder Feedback: Summary feedback from stakeholders,**
The feedback from stakeholders was positive. They expressed support for the project and set up social media platforms, including Gole Watch, Twitter, and Facebook. The Secretary of the HoR and the planning department endorsed the parliamentary oversight project and committed to collaborating closely while providing all necessary support for the staff.
CSO are welcomed to establish network of coordination and exchange ideas to avoid overlapping activities.
- **Collaboration: state if there any collaboration efforts with other CSO**

Civil society organizations (CSOs) agreed to work together to improve their efforts. They planned to hold monthly coordination meetings to review and discuss ongoing activities.

Supporting Women and Youth Caucus

Supporting women and youth caucuses is important to engaging women and youth. At the events we organized and the discussion. The meeting discussion focuses on democratization and peacebuilding and youth and women's contribution to engaging stakeholders in peace and democratization. This is the first engagement of the youth caucuses meeting; the other meetings are to be more involved and gain more discussion about Supporting women and youth caucuses, which is important to engage women and youth.

The first meeting was for the introduction and exchange of ideas on how to continue supporting women and youth caucuses in their activities and engage quarterly in collaboration on the engagement that they are involved in.

4. Communication & Visibility

- Publications/Media: indicate if there are any articles published or media coverage (provide links here)

No article is still published.

- Social Media Activity: Summary of social media activity related to the activity

Infographics: To enhance public awareness, infographics outlining the functions of the House of Representatives and general information about its operations were created and shared on Facebook and Twitter, making it easier for citizens to understand HoR activities.

Disseminating Information: The HoR's communications, including letters, approved acts, and agendas, were amplified to ensure that citizens receive important updates and information.

- Branding/Visibility: describe if there are any visibilities being used, approved received from NIMD (provide photos of the visibilities printed)

No visibilities

5. Limitation/challenges

Collection information may take a time due to the coincident of other works specially getting members of house of the representatives.

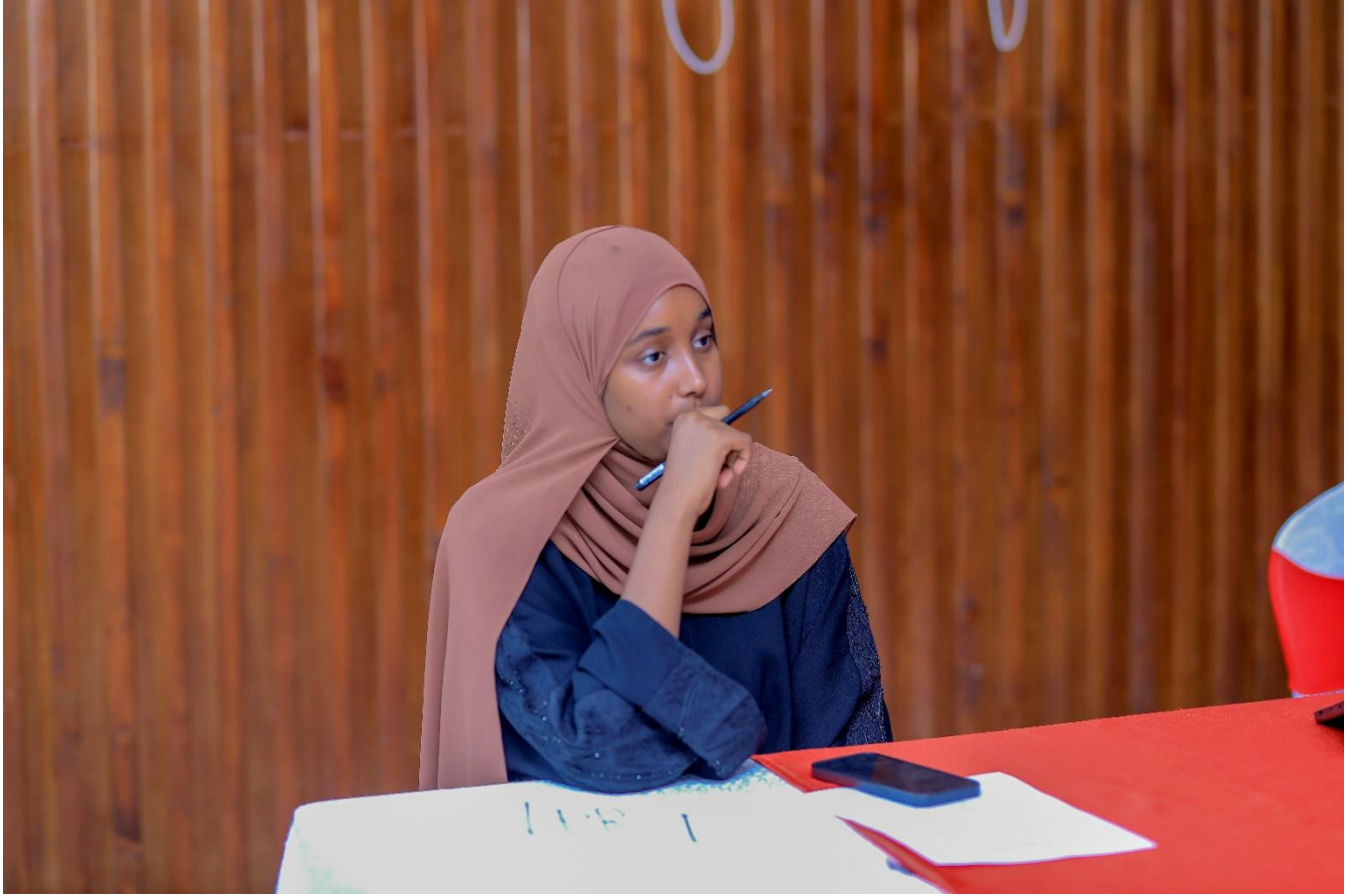
6. Recommendations/next activities

- **Planned Activities: here provide the planned activities for the next reporting period**
 - Quarterly coordination meeting
 - Fast facts statement
 - Quarterly debate/ Xildhibanka la shaah
- **Recommendations: provide any recommendations**
- To look closely the visibility and communication guideline during preparation of events.
- The recommendation is to enhance inclusive work with the partners to identify gaps that can arise during project implementation.

7. Annexes

- Annex. Success stories
- Annex. photos (provide high quality photos, printed visibility material)


















Material Printed.

Gole Watch information office visibility.



GOLE WATCH

Nurturing transparency in legislation

GOLE WATCH WEBSITE

GOLE WATCH IS A PARLIAMENT MONITORING INITIATIVE IN SOMALILAND THAT BRIDGES THE GAP BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENT AND CITIZENS BY PROVIDING ACCURATE AND VISUALIZED INFORMATION.

MONITORING LEGISLATIVE OPENNESS

GOLE WATCH AIMS TO ENHANCE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION AND LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS TO IMPROVE THE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS. ITS GOAL IS TO FOSTER GREATER INTERACTION BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS BY UTILIZING VARIOUS MECHANISMS. THIS INVOLVES PROMOTING LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND OVERSIGHT, AS WELL AS CLOSELY MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF DEBATES AND BILLS.

PUBLICATIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

PUBLISHING MONTHLY AND BIMONTHLY FAST FACT STATEMENTS ON THE PORTAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSIONS AND DEBATES.

PROMOTING CSOS ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PARLIAMENT

CSOS HAVE OVERSIGHT OVER PARLIAMENT AND PLAY A MORE CONSULTATIVE ROLE IN DEVELOPING TOOLS OF PARTICIPATION AND COORDINATING CIVIL SOCIETY WITHIN THE PARLIAMENT, UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF CSPEN.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUB-COMMITTEE, WOMEN AND YOUTH CAUCUS

PROVIDING TRAINING PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF PARLIAMENT SUB-COMMITTEES, AS WELL AS WOMEN AND YOUTH WHO REPRESENT THEIR ASSOCIATIONS. IN ADDITION, WE FACILITATE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS AND PROVIDE MENTORSHIP FOR PEER LEARNING EXCHANGES.