



# The Role of Decentralization and Good Governance on Resource Distribution in Somaliland Regions.

## QUATERLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Duration: One day

Target group: 35 participants

18, June 2026

Burao,  
Somaliland

## Introduction



The Institute for Strategic Insights & Research (ISIR), through its DAWLAD-KAAB (Strengthening Inclusive Governance) Project, organized a one-day discussion forum on 18 June 2026 in Burao, Somaliland. The forum focused on examining the role of decentralization and good governance in promoting equitable resource distribution across Somaliland regions.

The event brought together representatives from government institutions, parliament, local authorities, civil society organizations, academia, youth groups, development practitioners, and community leaders. The discussion provided an opportunity for stakeholders to exchange views, identify challenges, and propose practical solutions to strengthen governance systems and improve resource allocation mechanisms.

## Background

The DAWLAD-KAAB Project seeks to strengthen inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance in Somaliland by fostering constructive engagement between public institutions and citizens. Recognizing the importance of citizen participation and parliamentary oversight, the project creates platforms for dialogue on governance-related issues affecting communities.

Despite progress in decentralization and democratic governance, concerns remain regarding disparities in resource distribution among Somaliland regions. Variations in infrastructure development, access to public services, and government investments continue to generate debate about fairness and effectiveness in resource allocation. The discussion forum was organized to address these concerns and facilitate dialogue among key stakeholders.



## Objectives of the Discussion

The general objective of the debate was to promote understanding of the role of decentralization and good governance in ensuring equitable, transparent, and effective resource distribution across Somaliland regions.

### Specific Objectives

- To examine the contribution of decentralization to equitable resource allocation and local development.
- To explore the role of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in public resource management.
- To identify challenges affecting effective resource distribution among Somaliland regions.
- To strengthen dialogue and collaboration among government institutions, local authorities, civil society organizations, and citizens.
- To generate practical recommendations for improving resource allocation systems and reducing regional disparities.
- To enhance awareness of good governance principles and their importance in promoting inclusive development.

### Activity Implementation and Methodology

The discussion forum was conducted using a participatory and interactive approach. Participants engaged in expert presentations, moderated discussions, plenary sessions, and question-and-answer sessions.

The debate was introduced and opened by Mr: Abdikadir Mohamed the Program Manager of ISIR after welcoming and thanking the participants their participation he has started the session about the purpose and objectives about the project specifically Dawlad-Kaab project.

The second session has started a PPT presentation and introduction of thematic issues on understanding of key words from the debate variables under discussion. This empowering style of facilitating the debate enabled the participants to be active in the discussion and to become more aware of themselves in terms of capacities and understanding the topic under discussion. This participatory methodology was selected in order to guarantee that basic concepts are understood and learnt by the participants.

As per the plan the third session was run by the moderator and panelists to answer more critical and practical objective based questions about the topic under discussion

The discussions focused on the following areas from the topic:

- Fiscal decentralization and local government financing.
- Accountability and transparency in public expenditure management.
- Citizen participation in planning and budgeting processes.
- Challenges affecting equitable resource distribution.
- Mechanisms for addressing regional development disparities.
- Strengthening coordination between central and local government institutions.

### **Objective Based Questions for the Discussion**

During the discussion the following question were distributed the Panelists to share their experiences for the participants:

What is the role of decentralization in improving equitable resource allocation and balanced regional development in Somaliland?

#### **Questions**

1. To what extent does decentralization improve resource distribution among Somaliland regions and districts?
2. What are the major successes and shortcomings of Somaliland's decentralization process in promoting regional development?

3. How can local governments be empowered to better identify and respond to community development priorities?
4. What lessons can Somaliland learn from other countries that have successfully implemented decentralization?

How Does transparency, accountability, and citizen participation contribute to effective public resource management and service delivery?

#### **Questions**

1. How transparent are current resource allocation and budgeting processes in Somaliland?
2. What accountability mechanisms exist to ensure that public resources are used effectively and fairly?
3. How can citizens be meaningfully involved in planning, budgeting, and monitoring public expenditures?
4. What role should civil society organizations and the media play in promoting transparency and accountability?

What are the key challenges affecting resource distribution among Somaliland regions and districts?

#### **Questions**

1. What are the main factors contributing to disparities in resource allocation across Somaliland regions?
2. Are current resource distribution mechanisms based on population needs, economic potential, political considerations, or other factors?
3. What institutional, financial, or political barriers hinder equitable resource allocation?

What method and strategies are suitable for strengthening, collaboration and policy dialogue among government institutions, local authorities, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, academics, and citizens on governance and resource allocation issues?

#### Questions

1. How effective is coordination between central government institutions and local authorities in resource allocation decisions?
2. What role should Parliament play in overseeing equitable resource distribution?
3. How can cooperation between government, civil society, and local communities be strengthened?
4. What platforms or mechanisms are needed to improve stakeholder dialogue on governance and development issues?

To develop practical and evidence-based recommendations for improving resource allocation systems, reducing regional disparities, and enhancing local development outcomes.

#### Questions

1. What reforms are needed to improve the current resource allocation framework?
2. How can fiscal decentralization be strengthened to support local development priorities?
3. What criteria should guide equitable allocation of national resources among regions and districts?
4. What practical actions can government institutions and development partners take to reduce regional inequalities?

To raise awareness of good governance principles and their importance in promoting fairness, accountability, and inclusive development across Somaliland.

#### Questions

1. What does good governance mean in the context of resource distribution in Somaliland?
2. How do transparency, accountability, participation, and equity influence development outcomes?
3. What are the consequences of poor governance on regional development and social cohesion?
4. How can governance institutions promote greater public trust and confidence in resource allocation processes?

However, participants actively shared experiences and perspectives from their respective institutions and communities, contributing to a rich and constructive dialogue.



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## Key Discussion Highlights

Participants acknowledged that decentralization remains an important mechanism for promoting local development and improving service delivery.

However, several challenges were identified, including limited fiscal autonomy for local governments, insufficient institutional capacity, weak accountability mechanisms, and inadequate coordination between different levels of government.

The discussion further highlighted the need for greater transparency in public resource management and stronger citizen engagement in planning and budgeting processes.

Participants emphasized that equitable resource allocation should be guided by objective development needs and supported by effective governance systems.

There was broad consensus on the importance of strengthening local government capacities, enhancing oversight mechanisms, and promoting inclusive decision-making processes to improve development outcomes across Somaliland regions.

## Outcomes Achieved

The discussion forum achieved the following outcomes:

- Increased awareness among participants regarding the relationship between decentralization, good governance, and equitable resource distribution.
- Enhanced dialogue and collaboration among government institutions, Academicians, local authorities, civil society organizations, and community representatives.
- Improved understanding of challenges affecting resource allocation and service delivery.
- Identification of practical measures for strengthening fiscal decentralization and accountability systems.
- Development of recommendations aimed at improving transparency and citizen participation in governance processes.



## Recommendations

Based on the discussions, participants recommended:

1. Strengthening fiscal decentralization to enable local governments to effectively plan and implement development priorities.
2. Enhancing transparency and accountability mechanisms in public resource management.
3. Increasing citizen participation in planning, budgeting, and monitoring processes.
4. Building Platform discussions for enhancing public awareness on governance
5. Improving coordination and communication between central, local government authorities and citizen participation
6. Establishing equitable criteria for resource allocation that reflect regional development needs.
7. Promoting continuous stakeholder dialogue on governance and development issues.

## Conclusion

The discussion forum provided an important platform for stakeholders to exchange views on decentralization, governance, and resource distribution in Somaliland.

The event reinforced the importance of transparent, accountable, and participatory governance systems in promoting equitable development and reducing regional disparities.

The recommendations generated during the discussion will contribute to ongoing efforts to strengthen governance institutions, enhance citizen participation, and support inclusive development across Somaliland regions.





## GOLE WATCH

Gole watch is a parliament monitoring initiative in Somaliland that bridges the gap between the parliament and citizens by providing accurate and visualized information.



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