



TERMS of REFERENCE
S2S: Local Governance Specialist
Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation

Duty Station: Mogadishu, Somalia
Position Title: Local Government Specialist
Duration: 1 year, with possibility of extension

Background

Over the last few years, a particular focus in Somalia has been on the Federal Member State (FMS) formation process. As the regional state building process concluded, there is a renewed pressure to begin moving towards the re-establishment of district councils and administrations. The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) recognized this priority early on and as a result, in July 2013 the Parliament passed relevant legislation (Law for the Administration of Districts and Regions in Somalia). It provides a rapid pathway to formation of permanent local administrations, and this legislation along with adoption of National Wadajir Framework for Local Governance. Further, the majority of the States have also approved their local government legislation based on the provisional constitution that outlines the three tiers of Government; Federal, State and District levels.

Somalia has experienced over two decades of conflict and civil wars that not only eroded the trust and cohesion in communities and also destroyed economic infrastructure and public service delivery capacity. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), the FGS and FMSs are committed to establishing the foundation for lasting stability and establishing of inclusive and elected district councils, through agreed frameworks to improve social contract between government and population through provision of service delivery.

Expediting the district council formation process is a key priority for MoIFAR and its State Ministry of Interior counterparts. Local government at the district level is the first interface between citizens and their Government under the provisional constitution. Therefore, district council formation is an essential element of the overall perception of legitimacy of the Government within the overall goals of the Transition Plan.

The second phase of the Support to Stabilization (S2S) project builds upon the first phase, which ran from 2015 to 2018, involved the establishment of initial caretaker administrations and the provision of operational costs to support the caretaker

administrations, as well as support to community engagement to lay the foundations for the formation of elected district councils.

It is within this context that MoIFAR and the Ministries of Interior (MoI) of the FMS engage in a coordinated range of initiatives that will establish inclusive and accountable district administrations overseen by elected district councils. The goal of these initiatives and processes is to overcome the socio-political barriers that are hindering the re-establishment of district councils and administrations across the States of Jubaland, South West, Hirshabelle and Galmudug. It is recognized that community leaders and the citizenry at large needs to support the district formation process for any district administration to have a chance to build and enhance their legitimacy. Local reconciliation initiatives and civic dialogue with communities are therefore seen as an essential pre-requisite to building the social cohesion necessary for district council formation processes to succeed.

Deliverables

Under the overall guidance of MoIFAR and in close coordination with the leadership of State MoIs, the incumbent will be responsible for supporting implementation of all district council formation activities in the S2S Phase II project. The expert is expected to lead the coordination and provide technical direction to ensure coherence between MoIFAR and the State MoI's and Banadir region in matters related to local governance initiatives and district council formation processes. This role will also involve ensuring coordination and the development of synergies with related programmes under the overall implementation of the Stabilization Strategy and the Wadajir Framework. The individual will be based in MoIFAR and will work closely with the Director General of MoIFAR and S2S project team. The role will also involve frequent travel to the Federal Member States and districts.

The individual's responsibilities will include, but not be limited, to the following duties:

- Strengthen institutional capacity at MoIFAR, FMS MoI, and district level to ensure effective implementation of S2S project activities,
- Work in close coordination with FMS MoI district council formation implementation activities, including civic engagement, community dialogue, and local reconciliation,
- Contribute in design and support implementation of the S2S project activities aiming at enhancing local participation, inclusion, transparent and accountability of local government,
- Coordinate/provide support in organizing trainings, consultative meetings, workshops to promote local council formation at FGS and FMS level,
- Coordinate and support capacity development activities, and design and delivery of technical assistance to local administrations at FMS level including supporting mediation and facilitation of social cohesion events with MoI counterparts,
- Support coordination with other local governance partners toward synergetic and consistent local governance development assistance,

- Provide leadership and direction for project focal points with MoIs, setting an effective agenda and ensuring project performance goals are established and met,
- Prepare monthly and quarterly project progress report regarding to local governance activities at all levels FGS/FMS,
- Ensure adherence to the principle of inclusivity and active participation of women and minorities and other marginalized groups on every aspect of the S2S project, from community-based reconciliation dialogue to civic dialogue, to decisions on community-driven peace dividend projects, and the election of the district councils,
- Support the project and overall Local Governance process in mainstreaming gender equality,
- Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the MoIFAR Director General.

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in public administration, governance, social sciences, development studies, programme management or related field.
- Minimum of 7-10 years' experience in community engagement and local governance, combined with comprehensive understanding of Somali society and dynamics.
- Experience in facilitating mediation efforts and demonstrated integrity that engenders trusts from all sides.
- Strong interpersonal skills and an ability to work harmoniously as part of diverse team.
- Excellent communication, including ability to communicate fluently, both reading and writing in English and Somali.
- Willingness to work long hours and ability to multi-task in a high-pressure, rapid deadline-oriented environment.
- Excellent computer skills, including MS Office suite.
- Willingness to travel in Somalia as needed, some of which are considered a high security threat environment.

Functional Competencies

- Professionalism including integrity and respect for diversity
- Leadership, empowering others and team work
- Managing performance, accountability and sound judgement / decision making
- Planning and organization
- Building Trust and Communication.

To apply, please send your updated CV, cover letter and academic certificates to: Info@moifar.gov.so or more details, please contact this email. Closing date March 2, 2019. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.