



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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WIMISomalia

# Annual Report 2023

## Abbreviations

<b>BOD</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>
<b>GBV</b>	<b>Gender-Based Violence</b>
<b>CSO</b>	<b>Civil Society Organization</b>
<b>FGM</b>	<b>Female Genital Mutilation</b>
<b>UNSOM</b>	<b>United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia</b>
<b>NED</b>	<b>National Endowment for Democracy</b>
<b>MOWDAFA</b>	<b>Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs, Puntland</b>
<b>LGEs</b>	<b>Local Government Elections</b>
<b>IDPs</b>	<b>Internally Displaced Persons</b>



## Foreword from the Executive Director

It is an honor to present the WIMISOM 2023 annual report. We are grateful for an engaging, productive and impactful year, in which we have made great strides toward our vision and in which we saw consolidation of the work we have done in the past.

To foster a culture of excellence in the media industry and in wider society, we have inaugurated an award program which celebrates the achievement of journalists and other individuals who have made significant contribution to the society. It was a watershed moment when we concluded a long-term mentoring program for female journalists, which contributed to the nurturing and growth of the next generation of competent and impactful female journalists. Building on the need for enhanced competency of journalists, we have made an organized effort to impart in journalist's knowledge and skills toward range of topics including effective reporting on gender-based violence, countering hate speech and facilitating of debates and public forums.

Under the auspices of our WIMISOM Stage initiative, we are very proud that we have made contribution to the culture of open dialogue, civic engagement and citizen participation in governance through the inclusive and engaging forums we organized in many districts in Puntland.

In an election year, where people in Puntland elected their local council representatives, we are confident that our targeted skill trainings contributed to the empowerment of women especially aspiring women candidates, also we continued our work in advocating for investment in the education, economic development and women political participation along with awareness raising aimed toward ending violence against women, girls and children.

I am very proud of the hard work and the commitment of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors, who made our work feasible.

I would like also to extend our appreciation for the support and cooperation of our partners including National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). We are also thankful for the collaboration of Puntland line ministries, civil society organizations, women's organizations, and all those who have contributed to our work in any way.

We are more than ever committed to our vision, and we are optimistic of the positive impact we can affect.

**Nasro Abdirisak Ahmed**  
Executive Director, WIMISOM

## **Executive Summary**

This report highlights WIMISOM's work for the year 2023 including projects, activities, and initiatives undertaken pursuant to our vision, and according to our strategic direction.

The report covers our work under the project "Enhancing the Capacity of Women in Media" which is being implemented with support from the National Endowment for Democracy NED. This extensive work includes the successful conclusion of long-term mentoring program, organizing an award program for journalists, and training for mid-career female journalists.

The report also covers the impactful work we did through the project "Improving the Awareness of Female Genital Mutilation in Puntland", these interventions include training for journalists on FGM reporting, stakeholder discussion for enhancing awareness on FGM, and advocacy effort toward parliamentarians for passing the FGM Zero Tolerance bill in Puntland.

The report also documents our comprehensive work aimed at ending violence against women and girls, fostering inclusive debate and civic engagement, and toward a culture of free elections in Puntland with the strategic support of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Somalia UNSOM. These activities included public forums, skill training for journalists, and workshops for women in politics.

The report is organized under four thematic areas which are Media Enhancement, Women Empowerment, Promotion of Human rights, and Civic Engagement.

## **Background**

Women in Media Initiative Somalia (WIMISOM) was founded on June 2017 to give voice, provide networking and capacity-building opportunities for Somali women in media, and highlight the socio-economic challenges facing women, children, and vulnerable groups through media and communication. We are a non-profit and non-governmental organization that works to empower women in and through media.

Using evidence-based research and employing media and communication, we advocate and stand for social change through the promotion of human rights capacity building of women journalists, gender equality, good governance, women's political participation, and elimination of gender-based violence.

WIMISOM is legally registered with relevant authorities including MoPEDIC as a non-profit, non-political, non-religious non-governmental organization (NGO).

## **Vision**

Empowered women in journalism who can affect change in Somali women's lives.

## **Mission**

To enhance the impact of women journalists; ensure women's voices are heard and their human rights are being protected using media, research, advocacy, awareness-raising campaigns, capacity-building, mentorship, and coaching.

## **Goals**

- Increasing the participation, role, capacity, output, and impact of Somali women in media.
- Raising awareness for social, economic, and political challenges and achievements of women
- Promotion of human rights and fighting all types of violence against women, girls, and children through media
- Creating media workplaces and newsrooms which promote gender equality at each level of decision making

## **Values**

- Transparency and accountability: we strive to operate in an environment of openness in relation to our partners, benefactors, and beneficiaries.
- Creativity: innovative ideas and progress toward perfection are the core part of ensuring the success of our organization.
- Objectivity and independence: we endeavor in all our programs to be objective and independent. We hold to ourselves the highest of standards, we are free from any intervention from other parties.
- Do no harm: we endeavor to make sure that all our programs, activities, and initiatives do not cause any harm to our employees, beneficiaries, communities, and partners
- Sustainability: we strive to ensure the changes made through our work will have a positive and long-lasting impact.

# Activities

## Theme 1: Media Enhancement

### 1.1 WIMISOM Awards

We organized the first of the annual WIMISOM Awards. This is a pioneering award program which recognizes and celebrates female journalists in Puntland who have done outstanding journalism work. The award is composed of three categories—Best female photographer, best producer of an audio story, and best producer of a visual story. Winners are selected by a panel of independent experts with extensive experience in the field of journalism. The competitors were evaluated on several categories including: topic selection, storytelling, presentation skills, production quality (Based on content whether picture, audio or video).

This award is intended to create a culture of excellence in the media environment in Puntland. The Award ceremony brought together government officials, journalists, media house managers, civil society representatives, women, youth and other dignitaries.

The award which we have held for the first time this year, is intended to reward those in the field of media who have shown outstanding performance especially producing programs concerning social issues such as essential services, peace building, justice, innovation, and the humanitarian issues.



### 1.2 Training on Communication and Social media Utilization for Mid-career Female Journalists

We organized in Garowe a training on Communication and Social media Utilization for Mid-career Female Journalists. This training brought together 15 female journalists from Puntland and Galmudug state. The training aimed to empower female journalists by leveraging the opportunities presented by the digital world and online journalism. Through this initiative, participants were equipped with skills to utilize digital platforms for career advancement, networking, and increasing their chances of winning awards, grants, fellowships, and international training opportunities.

The training covered various aspects essential for becoming a reputable source of information online, including staying informed, reacting promptly to trending and time-sensitive stories, ensuring relevance, creating timely content, employing hashtags, utilizing story features, cross-promotion strategies, tracking performance metrics, and collaborating with influencers. This comprehensive approach aimed to lay a solid foundation for enhancing female journalists' digital literacy and social media utilization skills, ultimately enabling them to effectively capitalize on the potential of technology in their professional endeavors.





### 1.3 Successful Conclusion of Long-Term Mentoring Program for Early Career Female Journalists

We successfully concluded a mentoring program for 15 early-career female journalists which was ongoing for two years. This program aimed to tackle gender disparities in journalism by providing mentorship from experienced industry professionals. Mentees received tools, resources, and on-the-job training with feedback throughout the program to enhance their skills and thrive in the field. Follow-up assessments, experience sharing among mentees, and benchmarks ensured their growth and application of learned skills. The program led to significant improvements in the quality of news, programs, and reports produced by mentees, attributed to enhanced competency in various areas such as interviewing, ethics, digital journalism, and photography. Additionally, mentees demonstrated improved confidence, time management, communication, negotiation, and self-leadership skills.

Overall, the mentorship program played a pivotal role in the mentees' career development and personal growth, while also enhancing their capacity and output in journalism.

It served as an eye-opening experience, providing crucial support and guidance to aspiring female journalists, thereby contributing to narrowing the gender gap in the field and fostering a more inclusive and skilled journalism community.



#### 1.4 Training of Journalists on Conflict-sensitive Reporting and Countering Hate Speech during Elections

To enhance the media's contribution to electoral processes and mitigate the spread of hate speech and misinformation, we organized a series of training sessions conducted in Garowe, Galkayo, and Bosaso, engaging sixty journalists. These sessions, held ahead of the 2023 Puntland local government elections, aimed to equip journalists with the skills to recognize and counter hate speech and misinformation while fostering responsible reporting during the electoral period. Covering topics such as conflict sensitivity, peace journalism, and the identification of hate content, the training empowered participants to engage in civil discourse, promote inclusivity, and mitigate the potential for incitement and inflammatory reporting in the politically charged environment.

The comprehensive training emphasized the pivotal role of journalists in promoting diversity, fostering peaceful dialogue, and countering divisive rhetoric during elections. By equipping journalists with the necessary tools to navigate contentious issues responsibly, the initiative aimed to cultivate a more informed and constructive media landscape, conducive to fostering peaceful and civil political dialogue. Through a focus on conflict-sensitive reporting and identifying and mitigating hate speech, journalists were empowered to exercise their role effectively in facilitating inclusive and transparent electoral processes, contributing to a more informed and resilient democratic society.

#### 1.5 Workshops for Enhancing the Capacity of Journalists in Debate Moderation and Conducting Public Forums

Based on the need to enhance the skill set of journalists in holding

public forums and facilitating debates, we organized three workshops in Garowe, Galkayo, and Bosaso, gathering sixty journalists to enhance their proficiency in organizing and managing public forums and debates.

The objective was to foster a culture of openness and engagement within society, ultimately promoting accountability and empowering citizens in the governance system.



Through training sessions covering dialogue-based journalism, audience engagement, time management, and debate production, participants gained the necessary skills to facilitate political debates and public forums responsibly. Practical sessions, including mock debates, provided hands-on experience, enabling journalists to conduct debates constructively.



By equipping journalists with the tools to organize and moderate debates effectively, these workshops contribute to the development of a more informed and engaged citizenry. Through improved debate moderation skills, journalists play a vital role in fostering dialogue, promoting transparency, and holding those in power accountable. Ultimately, the training sessions aim to strengthen the foundation of democratic discourse and enhance the quality of public discourse within the communities served by these journalists.

## Theme 2: Women Empowerment

### 2.1 Workshops on Increasing Women Candidates' Communications and Media Skills.

In 2023, Puntland's democratization process expanded opportunities for women's participation in politics, including the chance to run for local council positions. Recognizing the importance of enhancing communication skills among aspiring female politicians, we conducted workshops in Garowe, Galkayo, and Bosaso, benefiting a total of forty-five candidates. These workshops aimed to empower women for the upcoming local government elections by providing training in media engagement, political debates, public speaking, and political messaging. Additionally, candidates received guidance on political branding, learning how to develop strong and memorable personas that would resonate with voters. Supplementary resources were also provided to aid candidates in further refining their campaign strategies and communication skills.



Furthermore, beyond skill-building, the workshops offered a valuable networking opportunity for candidates to connect and build relationships with other women in politics. Through these collaborative efforts, participants were able to establish connections that could potentially lead to future collaborations and mutual support within Puntland's political landscape. Overall, these initiatives were designed not only to empower women seeking political office but also to foster a more inclusive and diverse political environment, facilitating increased participation and representation of women in decision-making processes at the local level.

### 2.2 Workshop for Enhancing the Visibility of Women in Politics through Communication and Social Media Training

In response to the underrepresentation of women in local council seats following the May 2023 LGEs in Puntland, where only 15.5% of seats were won by women, we conducted a series of workshops in Garowe, Galkayo, and Bosaso to address the issue. Recognizing the significant role of media visibility in political success, especially for female candidates, the workshops aimed to empower women in politics by enhancing their communication skills and proficiency in social media. Participants included 60 women from various backgrounds such as political parties, women's organizations, activists, university students, and aspiring leaders, all coming together to learn how to leverage communication channels effectively.

The workshops focused on equipping women with the necessary tools to navigate press releases, statements, and press conferences, while also emphasizing the importance of building trust and credibility through communication. Additionally, training sessions delved into the strategic use of social media platforms for political advertising and outreach. By providing foundational knowledge in social media management and modern communication techniques, the intervention aimed to empower women to convey their political agendas with efficacy and efficiency, ultimately enhancing their visibility and influence among voters and the broader public.



### 2.3 Stakeholder Discussion on Women's Education, Economic Situation, And Political Participation

We organized a stakeholder discussion focusing on women's education, economic status, and political engagement to address pertinent challenges and formulate actionable strategies to bolster women's empowerment and gender equality. Regarding education, participants stressed the necessity for targeted interventions to guarantee equitable access for all girls, encompassing vocational training and STEM programs, along with advocating for mentorship schemes and scholarships to facilitate academic and professional pursuits unhindered by constraints. Economic empowerment discussions emphasized the imperative of removing barriers such as discriminatory practices and limited access to financial resources and entrepreneurship opportunities, urging collaborative efforts among governments, businesses, and civil society to foster a level playing field in the workplace. In terms of political participation, calls were made for electoral reforms to ensure gender parity in political representation and for political parties to actively recruit and support female candidates.

This collaborative initiative not only facilitated informed dialogue but also yielded actionable outcomes, fostering cooperation and collective endeavors among stakeholders committed to advancing women's empowerment and cultivating a more inclusive society where women can flourish across all facets of life. By addressing critical issues in education, economics, and politics, the forum aimed to propel progress toward gender equality and empower women to participate fully and equally in societal development.



## Theme 3: Promotion of Human Rights

### 3.1 Roundtable Meeting Between Members of Parliament, CSOs, Health Workers, And Community Leaders in Advocacy for Passing the FGM Zero-Tolerance Bill.

In June 2021, the Puntland cabinet unanimously endorsed a zero-tolerance FGM bill aimed at prohibiting all forms of harmful practice, yet the bill was not passed by parliament. The proposed zero-tolerance bill seeks to criminalize all variants of FGM, holding accountable those perpetuating the practice including traditional circumcisers, healthcare professionals, parents, and accomplices. Offenders found guilty of promoting this harmful tradition will be subject to legal repercussions. Recognizing the urgency of this issue, a roundtable meeting we organized bringing together members of parliament, civil society organizations (CSOs), health workers, and community leaders to advocate for the passage of the Zero-tolerance FGM Bill.

The discussions at the roundtable centered on contrasting the current FGM bill with the pending FGM Zero Tolerance Bill. Parliamentarians acknowledged the necessity for comprehensive legislation that not only criminalizes and penalizes circumcision practices but also provides support and rehabilitation for survivors. It was collectively agreed upon to convene follow-up meetings in subsequent parliamentary sessions to further deliberate on the proposed legislation and ensure its eventual passage. This concerted effort underscores the commitment of various stakeholders to address the pervasive issue of FGM and safeguard the rights and well-being of affected individuals within the community.



### 3.2 Discussion on The Challenges of FGM Awareness Raising in Somalia

We organized an activity to analyze and assess the progress made in combating female genital mutilation (FGM) in Somalia, highlighting the persistent challenges hindering awareness and prevention efforts. Attended by representatives from civil society, academia, women's organizations, and government officials, the forum underscored entrenched social norms and misconceptions surrounding FGM. Despite growing awareness in urban centers regarding the harmful effects of FGM, the discussion emphasized the urgent need to extend awareness campaigns to remote areas where the practice remains prevalent. One of the key points raised was the importance of involving men and boys in the campaign against FGM, challenging the perception that it is solely a women's issue. It was noted that men have a crucial role in advocating for the abandonment of FGM, thus contributing to the establishment of social norms against its continuation.

The event highlighted the widespread belief in some communities that FGM is a necessary tradition promoting cleanliness and modesty among girls. Overcoming these deeply ingrained beliefs requires a multifaceted approach involving targeted awareness programs and community engagement initiatives. Participants agreed on the necessity of accelerating efforts to ensure that remote communities are adequately informed about the adverse effects of FGM. By amplifying outreach efforts and involving diverse stakeholders, including men and boys, it is hoped that progress toward the eradication of FGM in Somalia can be expedited. The forum concluded with a consensus on the imperative of sustained advocacy and collaboration to address the underlying cultural attitudes perpetuating FGM and to promote lasting behavioral change.

### **3.3 Training for Journalists on Program Production on Awareness Raising on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).**

We organized a specialized training for Journalists from local media houses in Puntland focused on program production and storytelling to raise awareness about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The comprehensive training covered topics such as the various types of FGM, its prevalence in the region, the legal framework surrounding the practice, and ethical reporting principles. Participants also learned strategies for approaching sensitive subjects like FGM and engaging with affected communities. Emphasizing the pivotal role of media in FGM awareness, the training highlighted how journalists can leverage their platforms to educate the public about the dangers of FGM and encourage communities to abandon the practice. By equipping journalists with the necessary skills and knowledge, the initiative aims to empower them to effectively advocate for the abolition of FGM and contribute to ending this harmful tradition.

The training underscores the importance of media in driving social change and addressing sensitive issues like FGM. Through the dissemination of accurate information and compelling storytelling, journalists are positioned to amplify the voices of those affected by FGM and challenge cultural norms that perpetuate the practice. By fostering a deeper understanding of FGM and its impact on the lives of girls and women, journalists are poised to catalyze broader community conversations and mobilize support for initiatives aimed at eradicating FGM. Ultimately, the training initiative seeks to harness the power of media as a tool for social advocacy and empowerment, leveraging journalism to advance the rights and well-being of individuals affected by FGM in Puntland and beyond.

### **3.4 Awareness Campaign on FGM**

We have conducted a comprehensive awareness campaign on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to educate communities about the severe risks and consequences it poses to the health, well-being, and development of women and girls. This campaign utilized a variety of mediums including video, audio, and print materials to disseminate messages effectively. Additionally, posters, stickers, and other awareness materials were developed and distributed to reach a wider audience. The campaign ensured the use of approved and harmonized messages on FGM awareness, which were formulated in collaboration with MOWDAFA and other stakeholders committed to eradicating this harmful practice.

Through the comprehensive awareness campaign, efforts were directed toward informing individuals and communities about the dangers associated with FGM, emphasizing its negative impact on the physical and psychological health of women and girls. By leveraging various communication channels and utilizing approved messaging frameworks, the campaign sought to foster greater understanding and engagement in efforts to combat FGM. By raising awareness and promoting dialogue on this issue, the campaign aimed to contribute to the broader movement toward the eradication of FGM and the promotion of gender equality and women's rights.

## **Theme 4: Civic Engagement and Citizen Participation in Governance**

### **4.1 Discussion on understanding elections, the local government system, and decentralization in Puntland**

In Garowe, we conducted a high-level public forum to delve into the decentralization process within Puntland, drawing together a diverse array of stakeholders including former mayors, civil society leaders, governance experts, and local council members. Key discussions emphasized the pivotal role of decentralization in empowering local authorities, acknowledging their nuanced understanding of community needs and their subsequent ability to address them more effectively than centralized bodies. However, participants underscored the essential nature of fostering robust coordination between local and national governments to ensure equitable and efficient distribution of resources. Central to the discourse was the consensus on the imperative of transferring power and resources from central authorities to local governments, with advocates asserting that such decentralization measures can catalyze enhanced accountability, local ownership, and innovative governance practices, ultimately yielding more responsive and efficient governance structures.

The forum in Garowe served as a platform for nuanced deliberations on the intricacies of decentralization within Puntland, elucidating the multifaceted benefits it could bring to local governance. Participants concurred that decentralization not only empowers local authorities but also imbues them with a deeper understanding of community dynamics, enabling tailored responses to local needs. Emphasis was placed on the symbiotic relationship between local and national governance, with calls for effective coordination mechanisms to ensure fair and efficient resource allocation. Moreover, the discourse highlighted decentralization as a catalyst for promoting accountability and innovation, heralding a paradigm shift towards more responsive and citizen-centric governance practices. Overall, the forum underscored the imperative of decentralization as a transformative mechanism capable of fostering inclusive and effective governance structures within Puntland.

### **4.2 Public Forum on Community Needs and Priorities for Badhan District**

We organized a public forum on community needs and priorities in Badhan district ahead of the local council elections. The forum aimed to advocate for and prioritize basic services required by the community, while also fostering civic education and awareness regarding the upcoming elections. Attended by various stakeholders including civil society organizations, women's groups, local authorities, council candidates, academics, youth, and community leaders, the discussion focused on pressing issues such as the need for improved infrastructure and services in the town. Participants emphasized the importance of better roads, access to clean water, and more reliable electricity, as well as urged for the resumption of the Ceeldaahir-Ceerigaabo road construction to further develop Badhan. This citizen forum provided a vital platform for community members to voice their concerns and contribute to shaping a collective vision for the future development of Badhan.

The forum provided a platform for diverse voices within the community to be heard and to actively participate in the decision-making process regarding local priorities. By bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, including marginalized groups such as women and youth, the forum ensured that the community's needs were thoroughly discussed and advocated for. Notably, the emphasis on infrastructure development and basic services underscored the importance of addressing fundamental requirements for sustainable growth and improved quality of life in Badhan.

# KULAN DADWEYNE: BAAHIYAHA HORUMARINEED IYO ADEEGGA BULSHO EE BOOSAASO

## Public Forum on the Developmental and Social Services Needs of Bosaso



### **4.3 Public Forum on the Developmental and Social Services Needs of Bosaso**

We have organized a public forum on the developmental and social services needs of Bosaso. The primary aim of this forum was to foster an inclusive platform where both the community members and prospective city council candidates could exchange ideas and insights, with the overarching goal of identifying and tackling the prevalent social challenges in Bosaso City. This event, organized just ahead of the Local Government Elections (LGEs), saw active participation from representatives of six political parties alongside residents. Key topics of discussion included the urgent need for infrastructure enhancement, improved access to education and healthcare facilities, and strategies for bolstering economic development in Bosaso, a pivotal commercial hub in Puntland. Throughout the discussions, there was a recurring emphasis on the necessity of collaborative efforts to effectively address the multifaceted challenges confronting Bosaso.

Participants in the forum openly and constructively engaged in dialogues centered around pressing issues, underscoring the collective commitment towards finding viable solutions. With a concerted focus on cooperation and synergy, the forum highlighted the community's proactive stance in advocating for positive change and development initiatives. By fostering an environment conducive to robust discussions and idea exchange, the forum catalyzed encouraging stakeholder involvement and mobilizing collective action towards addressing the identified socio-economic needs of Bosaso.

#### **4.4 Public Forum on the Challenges Against Effective Decentralization in Puntland**

We organized a public forum in Garowe to discuss the challenges faced in achieving effective decentralization in Puntland. The activity aimed to reflect on the decentralization process in Puntland which was ongoing for over 13 years. Esteemed panelists from diverse backgrounds including government officials, scholars, and practitioners were invited to share their expertise on the matter. Throughout the event, a range of challenges were scrutinized, such as the limited capacity of local authorities, ambiguity in roles and responsibilities, insufficient financial resources, and weak institutional frameworks crucial for the successful implementation of decentralization. The consensus underscored the necessity for a multifaceted approach involving various stakeholders, with proposed interventions encompassing capacity building for local governments, institutional reinforcement, fiscal decentralization reforms, and the promotion of transparency and accountability at both the state and municipal levels.

The discourse at the forum in Garowe centered on the protracted journey towards effective decentralization in Puntland, acknowledging the complex landscape of challenges impeding progress. Panelists provided valuable insights into the intricacies of decentralization, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts to overcome the identified hurdles. Key challenges highlighted encompassed not only the technical aspects of governance but also the broader institutional and financial constraints. Participants concurred on the imperative for holistic solutions, advocating for strategies that encompass capacity enhancement, institutional fortification, fiscal reforms, and a culture of transparency and accountability. It became evident that addressing these challenges demands collaborative endeavors involving diverse stakeholders committed to

#### **4.5 Citizen Engagement Forums in Galkayo, Gardo, Bosaso and Galdogob**

The democratization process in Puntland carried huge promise for widening political space and creating an open society that engages in constant dialogue which is a constant in the civic and political life of a democratic society. To foster this culture, citizens needed to gather, listen to each other, debate with their leaders, and contribute to the public policy and decision-making processes.

To this end, we have organized four public forums in Bosaso, Gardo, Galkayo, and Galdogob between the mayors of these towns and the community. These forums served as platforms for citizens to convene, exchange perspectives, engage in debates with local leaders, and contribute to public policy and decision-making processes. Each forum brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including community leaders, residents, business owners, municipal officials, NGO representatives, minority groups, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), ensuring a comprehensive discussion that reflected the multifaceted needs and concerns of the communities. The discussions encompassed various issues such as waste management, public safety, infrastructure development, access to basic services, anti-corruption efforts, and transparency initiatives, addressing town-specific challenges and priorities.

The forums yielded tangible outcomes by establishing feedback mechanisms for ongoing community input on service delivery, facilitating collaboration with local businesses, NGOs, and other stakeholders to leverage additional resources and expertise, thereby enhancing the municipality's capacity to address community needs effectively. Moreover, these initiatives fostered a culture of openness, transparency, and accountability among those in positions of power, as well as promoted collective action towards community-driven solutions through inclusive dialogue that actively involved all sectors of society. By pioneering these inclusive engagement strategies, Puntland took significant strides toward realizing its democratic as-

## Conclusion

The past year was a very eventful and impactful year for WIMISOM, we have done great work in our areas of work ranging from enhancement of media, women empowerment and promotion of human rights and ending violence against, women, girls, and children. This year, we have made a great impact in a new frontier which is civic engagement and citizen participation in governance, this came at a time when Puntland witnessed popular elections in which people elected their local councilors in 30 districts in the elections held in May of 2023.

In doing this significant work, we have collaborated with Puntland government authorities, civil society organizations, local NGOs, women's organizations, female journalist unions, activists and community leaders.

We remain steadfastly committed to our vision, and this is reflected in our work and its impact, we are also confident that our approach and modus operandi which is signified by professionalism, attention to detail, and orientation toward the sustainability of results in the long term. However, we are mindful of the challenges, and as we go forward, we will make sure to bring new insights, expertise to make sure that we are adopting to the circumstances and using innovation to make our work more impactful and sustainable.

## Partners



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