

DRIVING REVENUE COLLECTION IN WARSHEIKH

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OUTREACH ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING IN WARSHEIKH DISTRICT, FOCUSING ON STRENGTHENING THE CONNECTIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE DISTRICT COUNCIL ON THE TOPIC OF REVENUE COLLECTION.

The Somali Youth Development Network (SOYDEN - part of the Finn Church Aid (FCA) consortium) led outreach activities in 21 villages in Warsheikh District to bridge the gap between the District Council and the local community. Discussions aimed to improve citizens' understanding of the vital role that taxpaying plays in enabling the government to deliver essential public services, such as healthcare, education, and the rebuilding of civic infrastructure.

Prior to the District Council's election in January 2024, community members were subjected to informal and unregulated taxation at checkpoints. Post-election, the continued absence of a systematic tax collection mechanism severely undermined the Council's legitimacy and trustworthiness in the eyes of the community. Therefore, outreach activities were considered vital in order to improve this relationship and to aid tax collection.

Outreach activities culminated in a high-level meeting, chaired by Mohamud Noor Ga'al, the Honourable State Minister of Interior and Local Government of Hirshabelle and Abdullahi Salah Muudey, the Director General (DG) of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of Hirshabelle State. The meeting was attended by the District Council of Warsheikh, the Development Committees from 21 villages, as well as local leaders and business owners. The Federal Government of Somalia was represented by a tax expert from the MoF.

As a result of this meeting, each village established a voluntary Village Development Committee (VDC), which will improve representation at the village level by maintaining communications between the community and the local council.

The Honourable State Minister of Interior and Local Government emphasized the importance of local council outreach to ensure that council members become better acquainted with the communities they represent and to strengthen cooperation around tax collection.

Mr Muridi, a member of the VDC, and a prominent religious leader and businessman in Warsheikh, stated, "As much as we were ready to pay



WORKSTREAM 3: DEMOCRATISATION & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

AT A GLANCE

PARTNER

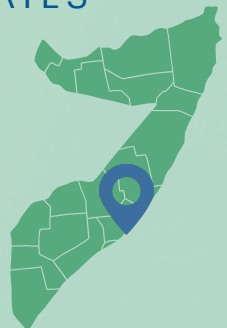
- Somali Youth Development Network (SOYDEN) through Finn Church Aid (FCA)

ACTIVITY DETAILS

- Community outreach to discuss the importance of tax collection

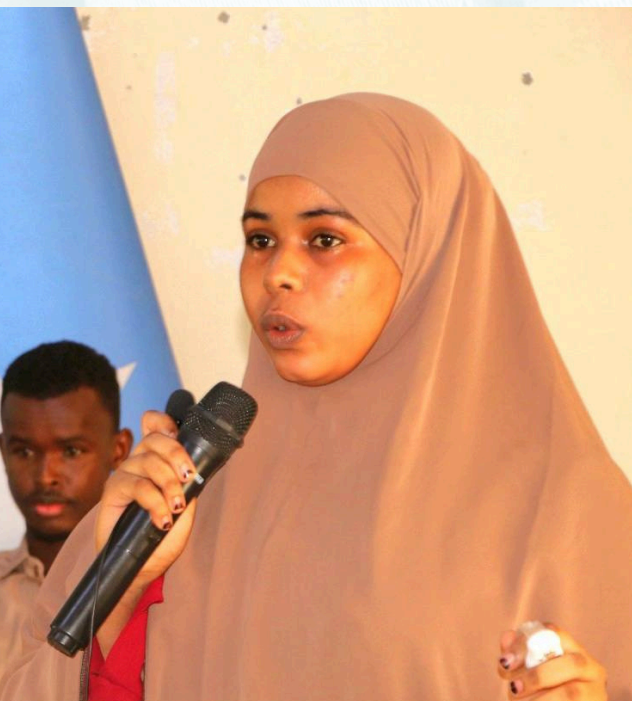
LOCATION

- Warsheikh District | Hirshabelle



MOHAMED HASSAN MATAN Mayor of Warsheikh

"We shall hold quarterly town hall meetings where residents ask questions directly to officials about the financial status of the District."



Saadia Abdullahi Ahmed
Warsheikh District Council Member

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE MADE:

- **Initiation of tax collection:** Warsheikh District administration will begin structured tax collection, monitoring, and expenditure processes.
- **Community consent on taxation:** Community members expressed their willingness to pay taxes to the government.
- **Formation of working committees:** Three working committees were established within the District Council to support effective governance.
- **Enhanced coordination:** VDCs will help to strengthen collaboration and coordination across all administrative and community levels. Regular stakeholder forums, or the formation of 'tax clinics', were proposed as a direct follow-up activity.
- **Continued Support from SSF III:** SOYDEN was requested to continue supporting outreach activities to promote local tax collection.

taxes to our government, we were worried about accountability. Now that our State and District leaders are willing and committed to deal with our concerns, we promise to work closely with our District administration and council members to pay taxes as required by law".

The DG noted that the MoF is working to strengthen tax administration systems to ensure that structured tax collection, monitoring, and expenditure processes are transparent and embedded at the District-level. The DG pledged that this tax revenue would go towards improving basic services in the State. He hopes that community engagement and improved transparency will encourage business owners to embrace these systems to increase the revenue of the state of Hirshabelle.

Echoing this commitment to transparency, the Mayor of Warsheikh stated, "We understand the importance of clear and transparent communication regarding revenue generation. All revenue and expenditure reports, including budget proposals and updates, will be publicly available and updated regularly. We shall hold quarterly town hall meetings where residents ask questions directly to officials about the financial status of the District."

WHY IS THIS WORK IMPORTANT?

Institutionalised revenue collection plays a crucial role in improving state legitimacy and fostering stability. When local administrations are able to collect taxes effectively, they gain the financial resources needed to provide essential public goods and services, including security services, that are critical for maintaining order and addressing grievances. This is an essential element to ensure long-term stability in an area that has experienced insecurity and issues around revenue collection and transparent resource management.

Educating communities in Warsheikh about taxation plays a vital role in promoting inclusive governance and public participation. By increasing citizens' understanding of how public resources are collected and allocated, taxation education empowers community members to engage meaningfully in decision-making processes. When taxation systems are explained and communities feel that their voices are heard, trust is strengthened, and the risk of conflict over issues such as unfair levies or inadequate service delivery is reduced. Regular stakeholder forums, such as 'tax clinics', will help to foster dialogue and build confidence between Warsheikh's citizens and the local authorities.

Additionally, active involvement of a wide section of society, including business owners, informal sector actors, youth, and marginalized groups, will enhance the legitimacy of local government and encourage community ownership. This inclusive approach will not only improve the effectiveness and sustainability of local governance in Warsheikh, but also contribute directly towards broader stabilisation efforts in Somalia by promoting social cohesion and addressing the root causes of fragility.