

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FIND A SOLUTION TO A DEADLY CONFLICT

Sacad and Leelkase clan conciliation

www.stabilityfund.so



WORKSTREAM 2: CONCILIATION

The Mudug region of central Somalia has long experienced clan conflicts, often fueled by competition for natural resources, particularly water and land for grazing. Violent clashes have frequently erupted in and around the region, which is divided between Puntland and Galmudug states, with the capital Galkayo itself divided between the two administrations. This division complicates governance and security coordination. Despite several peace agreements and mediation efforts, sporadic violence continued to flare up, hindering regional stability and development.

On January 18th 2025, tensions escalated in Galkayo, leading to violent clashes that resulted in casualties. These clashes stemmed from the ongoing conflict in the western part of the Mudug region, which erupted in mid-2024 in the Jiicboor area. The conflict involved militia groups from the Sacad and Leelkase clans and was triggered by disputes over the settlement of land previously used for grazing.

Following the failure of multiple reconciliation attempts and a prolonged state of violence, a new initiative emerged in April 2025, funded by the Somalia Stability Fund III (SSF III). The project brought state governments and the Puntland-Galmudug Peace Initiative together in a collaborative effort towards conciliation.

As part of this initiative, a group of prominent Somali elders led a grassroots mediation process, overseen by Puntland's Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MoIFAD) and Galmudug's Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR). The two states worked together to create a non-political environment, establishing a Joint Conflict Resolution Committee. The Puntland-Galmudug Peace Initiative, funded by SSF III and led by CARE International, facilitated the logistics and outreach of the Joint Conflict Resolution Committee. The Committee conducted several meetings with the elders and influential figures of the conflicting clans, reaching out to each side directly in their respective territories. The primary appeal from the elders was the urgent cessation of senseless bloodshed.

Both clans were requested to nominate 13 individuals, including traditional elders with no direct affiliation to either of the warring clans to form a 26-member Neutral Mediation Committee, whom would serve as impartial arbiters in the conflict. Additionally, each clan selected 15 clan elders to represent them during arbitration proceedings.

The Neutral Mediation Committee established a leadership structure which included a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary. Following consultations, a formal and unconditional ceasefire was agreed upon to prevent further loss of life and property.

AT A GLANCE

PARTNER

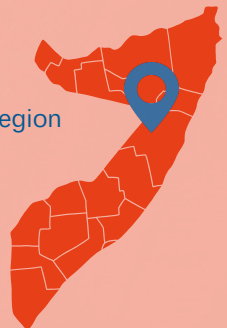
- Puntland's Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MoIFAD), Galmudug's Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), and CARE International

ACTIVITY

- Reconciliation in Mudug Region

LOCATION

- Mudug Region, Puntland and Galmudug states



HABIIB HIRSI BARRE

Elder and member of the Neutral
Mediation Committee

"This meeting was not spontaneous; it is the result of months of preparation, dialogue, and prayer. Our duty does not end here. We will remain engaged until peace is not only agreed upon, but deeply rooted."



“When neutrality leads, trust follows. The choice of unbiased representatives is a sign of sincerity and sincerity is the first step toward reconciliation,” Imam Gurey

KEY AGREEMENTS

1. **Withdrawal of battlewagons and armed personnel** from conflict zones.
2. Establishment of a **demilitarized zone**, restricting the movement of people, livestock, and weapons.
3. A **neutral police force**, comprising joint Puntland and Galmudug forces, was deployed to all conflict-affected areas.
4. Introduction of **financial penalties** for violations of the ceasefire:
 - Unauthorized presence of armed vehicles in restricted zones: \$1,000.
 - Firing bullets at another person: \$500.
 - Families or herders who bring camels into restricted areas: \$300.
 - Armed individuals in restricted areas: \$200.
 - Goats grazing in prohibited areas: \$200.
 - Clans, other than Leelkase and Sacad, found in restricted areas are subject to the same measures in the agreement.
5. Regular **monitoring missions** were conducted to ensure compliance with all resolutions.
6. A **10-member committee** assisted the security forces in maintaining the ceasefire.
7. Protection of the ceasefire zone and the agreement was assigned to the neutral police force, and supported by the 10 elders from both clans.

“THE SUCCESS OF THIS PEACE EFFORT WILL RIPPLE FAR BEYOND THESE WALLS; IT WILL SHAPE THE STABILITY, UNITY, AND FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITIES.”

**Abdirahman Khalif,
Puntland’s Deputy Minister of Interior**

The first phase of the peace process - achieving a formal ceasefire - was concluded on 29th May 2025. Traditional leaders and influential figures from both clans convened to formally endorse and commit to the ceasefire terms and the sustainability of the peace process. The ceasefire still stands at the time of writing. The second phase, which focuses on addressing the root causes of the conflict, is scheduled to commence in July 2025.

The success of the conciliation efforts between the Sacad and Leelkase clans in Mudug stands as a testament to the power of collaboration among key stakeholders. The breakthrough agreements reached were not the result of isolated actions, but rather the product of a coordinated approach involving the governments of Puntland and Galmudug, the Puntland-Galmudug Peace Initiative, neutral arbiters, as well as the active participation of the clans themselves.

This official backing of the regional governments of Puntland and Galmudug not only provided authority and structure to the peace efforts but also signalled to the clans and broader community that the process was credible and supported at the highest regional level.

Why is this work important?

The Mudug region in central Somalia has long been a hotspot of administrative disputes and clan conflicts, exacerbated due to its geographical positioning. While peace agreements have been in place for over two decades, the recent resurgence in violence highlights the complex interplay of factors that perpetuate insecurity in the region, including entrenched clan rivalries, political fragmentation, weak governance, the presence of armed groups, environmental shocks, and economic decline. The manipulation of these clan conflicts by terror groups such as Al-Shabaab, who exploit them to further their own survival and societal division, has further complicated the security landscape.

By establishing neutral mediation structures, deploying joint security forces, and ensuring inclusive representation, stakeholders created an environment conducive to genuine reconciliation. The inclusive process not only secured an immediate ceasefire but also laid the groundwork for addressing deeper, underlying causes of conflict. This collaborative framework has proven essential in breaking cycles of violence and fostering stability, demonstrating that sustainable peace in Mudug is achievable when regional, local and community actors work hand in hand.

The successful conciliation efforts between the Leelkase and Sacad clans led to the movement of clan militias back to their previous locations and created a buffer zone, allowing for the return of displaced communities and the resumption of businesses, thus creating a more cohesive environment for peaceful coexistence. These successful conciliation efforts highlight the critical role of local administrations in fostering stability through sustained engagement and dialogue.