



SOMALIA
STABILITY
FUND

PUNTLAND-GALMUDUG PEACE INITIATIVE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project

The Puntland-Galmudug Peace Initiative launched in September 2024 with the objective of helping to stabilise the volatile Mudug region of Somalia. The project was funded by the Somalia Stability Fund III (SSF III) and implemented by a consortium led by CARE International.

Objectives

Building upon work completed under SSF II, the project aimed to strengthen inter-communal conciliation, enhance cooperation between Puntland and Galmudug authorities, and address key conflict drivers in one of Somalia's most contested border regions.

Timeframe

6 September 2024 -
31 September 2025

Region

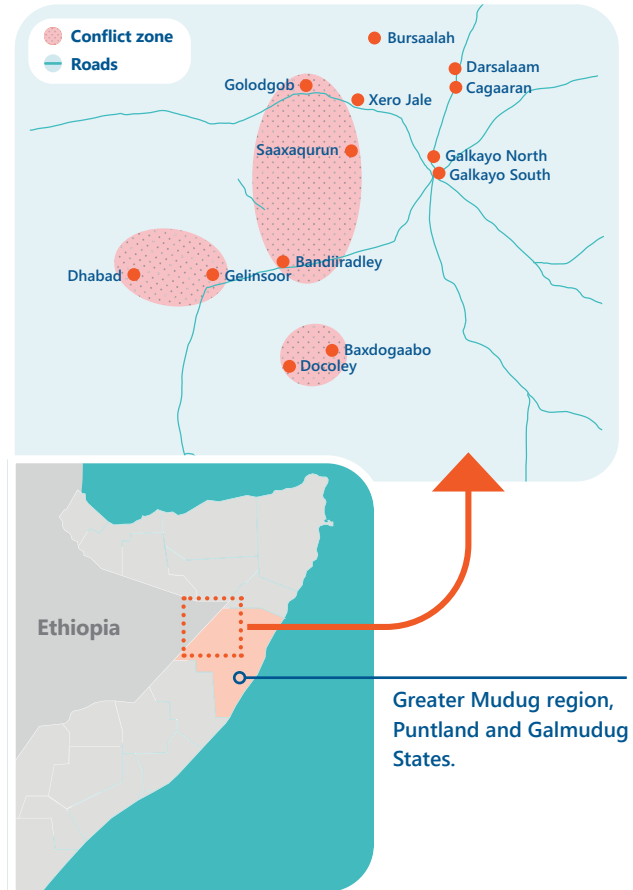
The Greater Mudug region,
Puntland and Galmudug States.

Context

Conflict in the Mudug corridor is driven by competition over natural resources, political fragmentation, weak governance, and climate-induced pressures.

Partners

Implemented by a consortium led by CARE International, in partnership with the Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA) and the Center for Peace and Democracy (CPD).



HIGHLIGHTS

2

lasting peace agreements signed and 2 holding ceasefire agreements.

429

solar streetlights rehabilitated and 23 new solar lights installed resulting in a significant reduction in crime.

16

Peace Committee members (8 per state) trained as trauma healing training of trainers (ToTs), then reaching 270 community members to provide safe spaces for healing, trust-building, and reconciliation.

3,000

people reached (est.) through the extension of a water pipeline in Xero-Jaale, contributing to lasting peace between Shiil Farah and Wa'ays Farah clans.

120

participants (60 per state) received specialised training in conflict management and climate adaptation.

3 - month

peace campaign through 12 radio talk shows, 6 TV talk shows and social media messaging. Media literacy training included 160 media actors and influencers.

PEACE AGREEMENTS

Peace agreements signed between the following clans:

1. Shiil Farah and Wa'ays Farah
2. Bicityahan and Leelkase

Two ceasefire agreements made between:

1. Sacad and Leelkase
2. Wagardac and Sacad

Due to these conflicts occurring across multiple areas where clans co-exist or share borders, it is difficult to assign a single specific location. Therefore, clan names are used in this report to help identify each conflict.

The project supported ongoing peace efforts across Greater Mudug, which had previously failed due to challenges such as limited resources, weak follow-up on agreements, unpaid compensations (mag), and the influence of lawless actors.

During the conciliation process, SSF III facilitated key mediation gatherings and negotiations in addition to other complementary. Activities brought together state and district-level government, Peace Committees, traditional elders, women and youth.

Success was achieved by incorporating traditional conflict resolution principles (xeer) alongside modern governance concepts, creating culturally appropriate frameworks with practical enforceability. The processes incorporated:

- ✓ **Recognition and Acknowledgment**
Formal acknowledgment of past grievances and commitment to truth-telling as a foundation for healing.
- ✓ **Justice and Compensation**
Agreed principles of fair compensation for past losses and mechanisms to address outstanding claims.
- ✓ **Resource Sharing**
Detailed arrangements for equitable access to water, grazing land, and markets with joint management committees.
- ✓ **Security Cooperation**
Framework for joint security initiatives and early warning systems to prevent future conflicts.

PEACE DIVIDENDS

Peace dividends are economic gains that emerge after a conflict ends, allowing resources to be redirected toward social services, infrastructure, education, and contributing towards overall improved service delivery. Through a democratic process, inhabitants of the beneficiary communities voted for the following peace dividend projects:

- Cleaning and rehabilitation of the existing boreholes.
- Extension of water pipelines to target communities - reaching an estimated 3,000 people.
- 429 solar streetlights rehabilitated and 23 new solar lights installed across Galkayo North and Galkayo South.

Community feedback confirmed that improved access to water and lighting reduced tensions, improved safety, and strengthened public confidence in peaceful dispute resolution.



Rehabilitated solar lights in Galkayo

“The lights are on as soon as the sun sets and are on until dawn. This was not always the case. Previously the streets of North Galkayo were dark, and many incidents occurred. Since the rehabilitation of the solar lights, there has been a stark decrease in criminal activities, including mobile theft. Compared to May 2025, reported incidents have dropped by 80 percent, according to our records. People now feel safer walking or working after dark, and our patrols are more effective because the streets are well-lit.”

Arab Abdirizak, Galkayo North Chief of Police

PEACE COMMITTEES

Worked with 19 Peace Committees through various activities

The project conducted extensive mapping of existing peace structures (both formal and informal), identifying 69 peace actors across the two states (31 community elders, 26 female members, and 13 youth members). These mapping exercises informed targeted support and capacity-building interventions.

The CARE-led consortium facilitated a quarterly meeting for the Joint Inter-State Peace Committee, serving as a platform for strengthening collaboration between peace structures from both Puntland and Galmudug, marking renewed momentum after a long period in which such joint meetings had not taken place. Discussions emphasised the importance of sustained coordination, documentation of peace efforts, and regular joint engagements to ensure a timely response to emerging challenges.

“Our communities have suffered too long from divisions that benefit no one. Today marks a new chapter where we choose dialogue over discord, and cooperation over conflict. The future of Dhabad depends on our ability to live as neighbors and partners in development.”

Aadan Gabi, Dhabad District Commissioner



Peace Committee members meet to discuss the Sacad and Leekase clan conciliation process.

CLIMATE

60 participants trained to address climate-related conflicts

The consortium conducted a climate-conflict assessment during inception, which concluded that climate change significantly exacerbates conflict in Mudug. Findings demonstrated that climate shocks, especially drought and rainfall variability, are major drivers of livelihood disruption, water and pasture scarcity, and income loss, intensifying competition over resources. Livestock migration was identified as a key conflict trigger, contributing to inter-clan tensions, land degradation, and the privatisation of communal grazing areas.

In collaboration with the Puntland Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratisation (MoIFAD) and Galmudug’s Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), the consortium conducted two targeted training sessions on conflict management and climate adaptation to strengthen community-based peace structures amid growing environmental pressures.

The first training engaged 60 participants, primarily youth and women, selected for their active involvement in the Joint Inter-State Peace Committee, and their potential to drive positive change. Participants gained practical, context-specific skills to address conflicts linked to climate stressors, such as resource scarcity, displacement, and changing livelihoods.

The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of local peace structures and communities to design, implement, and sustain early warning systems as a tool for conflict prevention and climate resilience. Key outcomes include the establishment of two early warning committees, the identification of localised risk indicators, and the formulation of coordinated response plans.

In June 2025, the consortium launched a toll-free hotline in the Puntland side of the Mudug region to enable confidential, continuous communication with conflict- and climate-affected communities. The hotline is a core part of the project’s feedback and response mechanism, supporting early warning, accountability, and community engagement. Between June and August 2025, the hotline received 80 calls. Overall, the hotline has strengthened community voice, transparency, and responsiveness, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups.

TRAUMA HEALING

120 participants received training on trauma awareness and healing

Protracted conflict and the resulting trauma have deeply affected individuals and communities in Mudug. When left unaddressed, trauma can undermine mental well-being, social relations, and peace efforts.

To support healing and resilience, the consortium organized two open community dialogue sessions on trauma healing in partnership with the Centre for Trauma Healing and Reconciliation (CTHR). The workshops brought together 120 participants (83 male, 37 female) through interactive sessions on trauma awareness, storytelling, and conflict mapping. These efforts supported the establishment or reactivation of community dialogue platforms to promote reconciliation, social cohesion, and trauma healing in conflict-affected areas.

In addition, the consortium conducted a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on trauma healing and psychosocial support, training eight Peace Committee members (five men and three women; two participants from each district, including Galdogob, Towfiq, Galkayo North and Galkayo South) to act as community-based trauma focal points. These districts were chosen due to their history of conflict. Galkayo North and Galkayo South are urban centres that receive many displaced people who have been affected by conflict. Galdogob and Towfiq Districts were chosen as epicentres of ongoing border conflicts.

The endline evaluation found that these ToT sessions strengthened participants' ability to manage sensitive discussions, apply a "do no harm" approach, and use culturally appropriate methods such as storytelling, prayer circles, and group reflection. Communities reported feeling more comfortable engaging in healing discussions led by trusted local committee members, helping normalise trauma support in a safe and culturally grounded way.

"Seeing people from Galkayo and Bandiiradley sit together and speak honestly felt like a turning point. It showed that peace is possible when we have the right space and support."

Community dialogue participant



Trauma healing sessions led by trained Peace Committee members in Bandiradley, Galmudug State

MEDIA

Three-month campaign to disseminate peace messages

As part of peacebuilding efforts and the promotion of responsible media practices, the consortium conducted a series of media literacy training sessions in Puntland and Galmudug States to strengthen conflict-sensitive reporting and counter mis- and disinformation. The workshops engaged with eight journalists from each state, emphasising conflict-sensitive journalism, fact-based reporting, and the role of media in promoting peace and social cohesion.

A three-month peace campaign ran between May and August 2025, disseminating peace messages across the Mudug region, with a particular focus on Galkayo and Galdogob, where tensions have historically been more pronounced. This initiative aimed to leverage the broad reach and trusted voice of local radio and TV to raise public awareness, counter misinformation, and foster a culture of peace and tolerance within communities most vulnerable to conflict. The campaign included 12 radio talk shows on Radio Daljir, six talk shows on digital platforms (including Nadaara, Caano-geel, Sadiiq Jabey, and Kalsan) and social media messages on channels which are widely used by the target communities.

INCLUSION

A gender and conflict analysis, conducted at the beginning of the project, revealed that women and youth play a critical but underutilised role in mediation, trauma healing, and community resilience. As a result, the project placed greater emphasis on gender-responsive peace structures, localised early response capacity, and youth-led cohesion initiatives through media channels.

In August 2025, the consortium partnered with Puntland's MoFAD to run a five-day community outreach programme in Xarfo, Bursaalah, and Galdogob Districts. These districts were selected as they were recovering from recently-resolved conflicts. This initiative created inclusive spaces for dialogue on peace, cooperation, and community-government relations. 24 youth and women from local Peace Committees facilitated the sessions, serving as central facilitators, not just participants. The consortium ensured their meaningful engagement by using accessible venues, suitable timing, female co-facilitators, and smaller discussion groups. These adjustments helped ensure women's and youth perspectives were fully reflected in the outreach.

Key outcomes included strengthened trust between communities and authorities, increased recognition of women and youth as peace actors, and a shared understanding that peace requires ongoing dialogue.



Puntland's MoFAD convened a high-level forum in Galkayo North to discuss the conflict between the Shiil Farah and Wa'ays Farah clans. The community forum engaged a wide section of civil society, including women and youth.

“Women are the cornerstone of lasting peace. I call upon the young women of Xero-Jaale to take an active role in peacebuilding, for their voices and actions are essential in shaping a harmonious future”

Mrs. Faiso, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Puntland spoke at the high-level community forum in Galkayo North, which approached the conflict between Shiil Farah and Wa'ays Farah clans.

“Before this project, we did not participate with the elders in making peace. Youth, women, and elders each had their own meetings. Since the start of the project, all have come together, giving us the opportunity to speak and make decisions collectively. It has empowered us with the courage to speak openly, share ideas, and work together to find solutions to end conflict. This experience has truly transformed our roles in the community and strengthened our commitment to peace.”

Female Peace Committee member

CASE STUDY: THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN PEACE PROCESSES.

Women with mediation training initiated a seven-day peace campaign during the Sacad-Leelkase conciliation activities. Women visited both clans' locations to contribute to a resolution. Initially met with skepticism and limited resources, their persistence paid off. One participant explained, **“Resolving the conflict between the Leelkase and Sacad was particularly challenging. As women, we played a vital role as whistleblowers, calling upon elders of nine out of eleven tribes in Galmudug and neighbouring Puntland to participate in reconciliation. This ensured peace was ultimately achieved.”**

LESSONS LEARNT & SUSTAINABILITY

SSF III interventions contributed to measurable improvements in conflict prevention, inter-state cooperation, community resilience, and trust in local peace mechanisms in the region. The project demonstrated that combining inclusive dialogue, institutional coordination, trauma-informed approaches, and service delivery can generate durable peace outcomes in complex conflict settings.

Lessons learned from this phase underscore the importance of sustained government engagement, inclusive participation of women and youth, and careful sequencing of reconciliation activities and peace dividends to ensure long-term stability in the Mudug region.

A key lesson learnt was the importance of maintaining clear and continuous communication between the two state governments to support smooth coordination throughout the project. Another notable observation was that cross-state coordination required more consistent briefings and a clear communication channel, particularly when joint activities involve multiple actors from both Puntland and Galmudug States.

To leverage the momentum and progress made through this initiative, SSF III signed a new one-year contract with the CARE consortium in December 2025. Work under the next phase will be known as the 'Joint Peace Initiative' (JPI), with an official project launch taking place in January 2026.

The JPI will provide support to solidify and sustain peace agreements and ceasefires in the four legacy locations across West Mudug. As part of an expansion to stabilise the Greater Mudug region, JPI will also support mediation, community cohesion and trauma healing to de-escalate tensions, and increase the role of youth and women in conciliation activities across six new locations in East Mudug, and other select areas.

