Promoting the civic and political rights of persons with disabilities & increasing their participation in the electoral process in urban and rural Somaliland

Submitted by
Handicap International Kenya/Somalia
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## Project Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Promoting the civic and political rights of persons with disabilities and increasing their participation in the electoral process in Somaliland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lead Organization</strong></td>
<td>Handicap International</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Implementing Partners</strong></td>
<td>Disability Action Network (DAN), Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Duration</strong></td>
<td>24 months</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Budget</strong></td>
<td>GBP 200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Implementation Areas</strong></td>
<td>6 regions of Somaliland (Awdal, Maroodi-Jeex, Saaxil, Togdheer, Sool, and Sanaag)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Somaliland Office contact and address</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Zahra Dahir, Handicap International Sha’ab Area Hargeisa, Somaliland. Tel Office: + 2522 521202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Contact Focal Point (Nairobi)</strong></td>
<td>Ryan Duly, Operational Coordinator Handicap International Kenya/Somalia 3rd Floor, Africa Re Building Hospital Road, Upper Hill Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254 (0) 707 662 861 <a href="mailto:operationalcoordinator@handicap-international.or.ke">operationalcoordinator@handicap-international.or.ke</a></td>
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</table>
Promoting the civic and political rights of persons with disabilities and increasing their participation in the electoral process in Somaliland

1. Background

Somaliland is a self-declared independent and democratic state since 1991 that is internationally recognized as an autonomous region of Somalia. The population of Somaliland is estimated at 4.4 million (2012). The Somaliland region is one of the least developed areas in the world, although it has demonstrated improved human development indicators when compared to other regions in Somalia.

Due to the long civil war and other poor development indicators, the prevalence of disability is estimated to be high in Somaliland. While official figures on disability among the population do not exist, in the absence of inclusion of disability in the last indicative census, global statistics estimates from the World Report on Disabilities (World Bank/WHO: 2011) indicate that as many as 15% of the Somaliland population are persons with different disabilities. Those most at-risk of vulnerability and exclusion, including in the electoral process, are the 2-3% who have moderate or severe impairments. This group is most likely to face different attitudinal, physical or institutional barriers to realizing political participation.

A study by Handicap International and CESVI (2012) on inclusive child protection found that around 20% of persons with disabilities in childhood age face multiple stigma, violence and discrimination in early age, and lack access to education. Similar findings from a recent Rapid Rights Monitoring, implemented by the Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF), showed high levels of discrimination and violence against persons with disabilities. These barriers hamper their opportunities to become empowered and confident players in their family and community life. Moreover, a predominantly charitable approach to disability in general, grounded in tradition and culture, serves to disempower many persons with disabilities.

To counter this marginalization, scattered self-help groups composed of persons with disabilities merged into Disabled People Organizations (DPOs), primarily based in urban centres. They aim to redress discrimination and promote equal rights. Over time, they founded the Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF) in 2004, their umbrella organization and supported by Handicap International, which allowed for joint advocacy and capacity development of these nascent civil society organizations.

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2 The disability understanding applied here is derived from the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Article 1, in line with the WHO/ICF 2001: “Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”
3 This is evident in the Somaliland Constitution where disability is portrayed only as a matter of last resort responsibility of the state, charity or the family.
4 See annex 1 for current member organizations of Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF) representing DPOs at Somaliland level.
Key successes of DPO efforts to date include:

- The Government of Somaliland, through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, drafted the first National Disability Policy in 2013, which is currently awaiting approval by the Parliament.
- A first Presidential Decree, issued in 2013, demanding that all public services and buildings become accessible to all persons with disabilities.
- Five ministries established *disability focal points* to start addressing and mainstreaming disability within their respective services and infrastructure, with HI and SNDF technical support and mentoring.

2. **Barriers to political participation through the electoral process for persons with disabilities in Somaliland**

Since 1991, Somaliland has stood out from the rest of Somalia as a result of its relative peace and stability. The series of elections since 2002 (Municipal 2002, Presidential 2003, Parliamentary 2005 and Presidential 2010) have been milestones in post-conflict peace building and state building in Somaliland, with high public participation. However, persons with disabilities, as a group were largely neglected in governance and democratization, which focused on the majority and two specific vulnerable groups—women and minority clans.

Findings from HI’s group discussions in preparation of this proposed intervention with DPOs, local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other election actors, highlighted significant barriers for persons with disability to access electoral processes on a free and equal basis as other members of society. These barriers fall into three categories (Institutional, Attitudinal, and Physical) which are elaborated below.

**Institutional Barriers:**

*No reasonable accommodation for disability included in the legal framework:* The existing legal election framework directly discriminates against persons with disabilities (e.g. the Election Law, Electoral Commission Act) as they do not reflect the specific disability-related barriers and make no provisions to ensure non-discrimination on the basis of disability (voter registration, voting, receiving civic education). Moreover, there is no mention of, and/or support for, capacity development on how to provide reasonable accommodation measures for equal participation in elections (e.g. Braille or layover ballot papers for visually impaired persons, outreach for registration and voting by those people with mental health problems, organization of community and family support for those who have physical difficulties to reach registration and voting). Consequently, they are inevitably marginalized in pre, during and post electoral periods. As a result, the majority of most vulnerable persons with disabilities,

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5 DFID. Somaliland Election Programme – Project Completion Report 2012.

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whose concerns are already invisible in existing legislation and resources allocation of Somaliland, are unable to voice their concerns and fully participate in the political process.

**Invisibility of disability status in voter registry and monitoring process:** Consequently, due to the invisibility of disability in legal framework, disability status in neither the current voter registrar nor the number of PWDs voting is captured. According Academy for Peace and Development (APD) and the National Election Commission (NEC), no figures exist on electoral participation of people with disabilities. Progressio’s 2010 Election Monitoring Report highlighted that some polling stations assisted the disabled with queuing, but which only served to benefit person with physical impairments.\(^6\) This reasonable accommodation that helps some, but leaves out those with other disabilities (such as people with multiple, visual, intellectual and/or mental/ psychosocial disabilities) stigmatizes them as not being able to make any decisions for themselves.

**Lack of technical capacity to provide reasonable accommodation by electoral actors:** The National Election Committee and other civic education stakeholders (e.g. Interpeace, APD, SONGSAF) have expressed their willingness to address the above barriers, yet lack capacities on how to include and reach out to persons with different disabilities, in both urban and rural areas. The DPOs and other local CSOs (e.g NAGAAD), who are lobbying and advocating for better political representation lack financial and technical resources to be active actors in a process to overcome institutional barriers in legislation and electoral processes including registration, civic education campaigns, access to voting and candidate training, and ability to remove existing institutional barriers to equal participation.

**Attitudinal Barriers**

**Running for elections:** Initial efforts to run for elections were made by disability activists in the last communal elections, but were ultimately unsuccessful due to an inability to overcome attitudinal barriers, often grounded in cultural and traditional setup of Somaliland society. These are similar to the barriers faced by women, when attempting to cut across clan divisions in Somaliland, and minority groups who struggle to get their concerns onto the relevant political agenda. Organizations such as NAGAAD, who work to increase gender representation in Somaliland elections at all levels, are clear that women with disabilities therefore face double discrimination when deciding to run. SNDF, through their DPO network, know PWDs who have a desire to run, but cannot access the training, the resources or the party support to make a viable candidacy.

**Civic Education:** Previous civic education campaigns by election stakeholders did not include persons with disabilities, both in urban and rural areas, due to attitudinal barriers or simple oversight, and hence the few DPO attempts to implement civic education did not reach enough persons with disabilities to participate fully in elections. According to a recent rapid survey on rights monitoring among PWDs, it was found that only 25% had received information on disability and equality in rights (SNDF 2014). To counteract this situation, the draft Disability Policy emphasises the need for specific awareness-raising on equality and support for inclusive service provisions.

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**Family and community:** Negative attitudes or socio-economic constraints towards PWDs within the families and communities minimize their support and assistance necessary to help them to physically get to the registration and/or polling stations or centres. According to SNDF, this situation is compounded by the fact that public and private transport in Somaliland and personal assistance via social or health providers are largely absent, hence people rely heavily on family, DPOs and/or community actors for mobilization. While other families or communities are supportive of their disabled family or community members, they are concerned by stigma and discrimination directed towards them when being in the public especially with people with mental, intellectual or multiple and severe impairments; hence they keep PWDs out of the public view during high visibility events, such as an election day.

**Physical Barriers**

**At polling or registration stations:** The consensus from stakeholders is that the long queues that forced citizens to stand for hours to vote made it difficult for many disabled voters in the past (particularly people with physical disabilities) to cope with such conditions, forcing them to leave the polling station before they had the opportunity to cast a ballot. Regulations issues by the NEC, limiting the use of private and public transport on Election Day due to security concerns also presents a significant barrier for PWDs to move to the polling stations. Moreover, lack of or inadequate physical accessibility of registration sites and polling stations prevented people in wheelchairs to enter for registration or voting. To compound this situation, those persons with disabilities, who reached polling stations, were frequently met by expression of resentment and unwelcoming attitudes from polling station staff towards their presence in the voting process.

### 3. Proposed Intervention

With the planned National elections in mid-2015, the time is right to address these barriers people with disabilities face in exercising their right to political participation. Since 2012, various legislative and policy commitments have been made by the Government of Somaliland about including Persons with Disabilities into society in more concrete ways. In the Governance pillar of their Five Year Development Plan (2012-2016) states an objective to “*increase proportion of seats held by women and marginalized groups (Youth, Disabled, etc) in National Parliament*”. This commitment aligns with the Peace and State building Goal #1 on “*Inclusive politics*” mentioned in the Somaliland Special Arrangement⁷ which represents a strategic framework for development partners to engage with identified priority areas of Somaliland’s development plan.

The proposed intervention will directly contribute to building the capacities of the Government of Somaliland to fulfil their new obligations towards equal access to political and civic participation, enshrined in their Development Plan, the draft Disability Policy and the Disability Act. It will also support DPOs and selected CSOs to increase their ability to support persons with disabilities to participate more equally in the election process.

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⁷ **Strategic Objective: Build a politically stable and democratic Somaliland that adheres to the principles of good governance:**

**Priority 1:** Strengthen electoral processes and practices by reforming the electoral system in key areas, including addressing gaps in representation, such as those faced by women and marginalized communities; conducting voter registration; and developing mechanisms for judicial and public oversight. [http://www.pbsbdialogue.org/The%20Somali%20Compact.pdf](http://www.pbsbdialogue.org/The%20Somali%20Compact.pdf)
Methodology

The project was designed through a participatory approach involving DPOs representatives, such as Disability Action Network (DAN), and their umbrella organisation – the Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF). DPOs were asked to analyze the problem related to the participation of persons with disabilities in the electoral process, in both urban and rural settings, and were then asked to list recommendations to overcome the different challenges identified. Attention was given to the representation of different types of impairments respecting a gender balance. Both factors are necessary to address, since intersections of gender and disability types make some people with disabilities more vulnerable than others, due to the social stigma, disability and gender related discrimination or their specific difficulties in interaction with widespread access barriers.

Paralleling this needs assessment, other stakeholders involved in civic rights, both in urban and rural Somaliland, were consulted in order to gain knowledge from their experience and discuss the possible synergies between the planned interventions. These organizations include the Disability Action Network (DAN), Academy for Peace and Development (APD), Somaliland Non State Actors Forum (SONSAF), Women network NAGAAD, Somaliland National Youth Organisation (SONYO), the latter two representing women and youth networks respectively. From the Government of Somaliland side, the National Electoral Commission (NEC) as well as Members of Parliament and the Presidency were consulted to assess their interest in the project.

HI has also consulted with the Democratization Steering Committee, as well as the main coordinator for the donor community for the support to elections – Interpeace. The activities propose within this proposal reflect the outcomes of these discussions, and aligned to the wider programme objectives and framework.

Twin-track approach

Handicap International in Somaliland operates on a rights-based approach to disability and development, which was given a boost in 2013, when the Government supported the development of a National Disability Policy by Handicap International and its partners.

The inclusive election project will follow a twin-track approach. This is a combined approach of:

- **Disability Specific (empowerment)** – supporting and empowering people with disabilities, their families, communities and representing organisations through increasing their access to the electoral system, as well as through political empowerment, to redress effects of previous disability based discrimination;

- **Mainstreaming disability** – working to identify and overcome institutional, physical and attitudinal barriers in society that persons with disabilities face to enjoying equal political rights.

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The twin-track approach focuses on informing both rights holders and duty bearers of their respective rights and rights obligations. This comprises of providing information to not only persons with disability in the target communities, but also the local and national authorities whose responsibility it is to promote and protect the rights of political participation and remove barriers.

By working with the national network of Disabled People’s Organizations, Handicap International wishes to facilitate a process that will include all types of disability. The unique experiences and barriers faced by those groups, including those specifically faced by women with disability, will be clearly documented by the project’s monitoring components, and specific tools to improve access to information and electoral processes will be pilot tested and evaluated.

**Intervention Approach:**

Given the effectiveness of any future changes in resources scarce context like Somaliland, it is advisable to identify specifically the scope and magnitude of the situation faced by persons with disabilities through an initial barrier and facilitator survey, which will provide the baseline for disability inclusive election process monitoring.

**Collaborative partnerships:** To turn barriers into facilitators, HI will forge collaborative partnerships in the design process and develop plans on ways of working together, based on the baseline data:

- **Implementing partners DAN/SNDF and its member organizations** representing the voices of people with disabilities to strengthen their organizational capacities to reach out and mobilize communities for access to registration and voting, to conduct specific campaigns overcoming above highlighted attitudinal and institutional barriers, to ensure disability inclusion into legislative frameworks through advocacy

- **Main election actors** including primarily the National Election Commission, as well as the Academy for Peace and Development, International NGOs (Interpeace, SaferWord, Progressio, Oxfam), to provide technical advisory on reasonable accommodation techniques for overcoming institutional, physical and attitudinal barriers. The collaborative partnerships will allow for disability mainstreaming into the overall process and related guidance documents, and strengthen national and international actors’ capabilities on inclusive elections and political participation.

- **Local Civil Society Actors (NAGAAD, SONYO, SONSAF, APD)** to leverage their networks, primarily the gender, youth and activist networks, to increase the reach of the inclusion and accessibility strategies and messages. With NAGAAD, the opportunity to reach women with disability will be important. Together with SNDF, these actors will increase the likelihood of indentifying potential disabled candidates interested in running.

- **Coordination will be ensured by HI/SNDF through participation** on the Civil Society Election Forum (SCISEF), which is under SONSAF, and the National Steering Committee, through APD. Beyond coordination, these mechanisms present another way to push the mainstreaming agenda, and ensure efforts are aligned.

**Strengthening local capacities for inclusive elections through a pilot:** Since this is a first attempt to systematically address barriers and strengthen potential facilitators, the project is designed to develop local capacities and an initial good practice on which to build future action. HI will provide technical advice on effective mainstreaming strategies and content. Since achieving concrete inclusive election
good practices, owned by local actors, provides more learning than campaigns or training alone, the project will support NEC to make one pilot polling and registration centre/location fully accessible for future learning and replication. The centre will be chosen according to maximum voter number, and repurpose the building (schools or health centres, or local administration) to multiply the positive effect of ramps and other physical accessibility features for the “normal” users like children or people seeking health services.

**Rational for location choices – how to address urban and rural areas:** The focus is on areas where disability representative structures are in place, which are primarily the urban centres. Those areas are also the ones where the majority of people with disabilities reside, since anecdotal evidence shows that nomadic families more often than not send their disabled family members to the extended families in the urban areas due to incompatibility of nomadic life style with physical or other difficulties. While the proposed action will focus specifically on urban areas’ polling stations – rural areas will be addressed through mainstreaming inclusive civic education, implemented by other actors such as Interpeace. HI will leverage member DPO networks, through DAN and SNDF, and other local CSO networks (e.g. NAGAAD) to directly reach more PWDs in rural areas through the interventions.

**Documentation of good practice for reform and advocacy:** Costs, steps and technical measures will be documented for replication and expansion in the next elections. The project will utilize “*Making it Work*” (*MIW*)⁹, a methodology used by HI to gather evidence in systematic way for how equal rights of persons with disabilities can be realized to support evidence based advocacy. Measures advised and implemented in this pilot are in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (*UN CRPD*), not signed or ratified by Somaliland, given its international status, but supported and used as a reference for SNDF actions on inclusive elections, including:

- Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use
- Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate
- Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice.¹⁰

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⁹ See [www.makingitwork-CRPD.org](http://www.makingitwork-CRPD.org)

¹⁰ Full text of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Flexibility of design in election cycle: The proposal was designed to fit the election cycle and stay as flexible as possible at the same time, given the often ad hoc nature of election funding and changes in election dates, collaboration with different actors, yet will focus on the following components of the process. These components include:

**Pre-electoral phase:** Technical advice on current review of electoral legislation, mainstreaming disability into voter registration process and technology (alternatives to bio-metric registration for the visually impaired), civic education including GOTV campaigns, sensitization of election officials and parties, integration into coordination mechanisms (SISEF), election process planning;

**Election Phase:** Promote and support implementation of full accessibility at pilot polling stations, ensure physical access for disabled to policing stations, disabled representatives on monitoring teams

**Post-electoral phase:** Reforming the legal framework (Electoral Law, Voter Registry Law) and process documents on elections to be more inclusive, documenting good practices and policy briefs

Significant progress has been made to integrate vulnerable groups, such as women, to participate in the democratization process but the disabled, also considered a vulnerable group, have not benefited to date. HI proposes an intervention which will aim to include persons with disabilities into all phases of the election cycle, thereby increasing their ability to vote and participate as equal citizen in the political process, thereby strengthening democratization in Somaliland.

Figure 1: Electoral Cycle
4. Target Groups

The project scope will focus on both urban and rural areas of Somaliland. HI will directly target its intervention in the six regions of Somaliland namely Awdal, Maroodi-Jeex, Saaxil, Togdheer, Sool, and Sanaag along with focus on six urban centers (Hargeisa, Erigavo, Las Anod, Burao, Berbera and Borama).

Total estimated population in Somaliland is 4,400,000 with 45% (1,980,000) estimated to live in urban areas. The prevalence of persons with disabilities in Somaliland, which is estimated at 15%, is 660,000.\(^\text{11}\)

To reach the rural population specifically, the project will target 10 districts in the rural centres from across the six regions of Somaliland will be taken as shown below:

**Awdal:** Saylac, Baki / **Maroodi-Jeex:** Gabiley, Balli-Gubadle, Salaxley / **Saaxil:** Sheekh / **Togdheer:** Oodweyne / **Sool:** Caynabo / **Sanaag:** Ceel-Afweyn.\(^\text{12}\)

Within this project scope, direct target groups include:

- **5,500 persons with severe disabilities** in target areas accessing civic education, registration and voting in both rural and urban areas
- **50,000 persons with disabilities in rural areas (50% of these women)** reached through civic education to sensitize PWDs to register and vote through HI’s direct interventions and mainstreaming disability into election stakeholders’ programming
- **130,000 (50% of estimated PWDs in target urban areas) persons with disabilities (including 50% women)** targeted through civic education campaigns through HI’s direct interventions and mainstreaming disability into election stakeholders’ programming
- **At least 20 Disabled Peoples’ Organizations** and their umbrella organization (SNDF) improve their ability to conduct civic education devise solutions to increase registration and voting among PWDs.
- **Election and democratization actors** in Somaliland (NEC, political parties, Government of Somaliland, Parliament, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) enhance their understanding and ability to mainstream disability into the election cycle
- **INGO actors** including the International NGOs (Interpeace, Saferworld, Progression, Oxfam) involved in election are supported to mainstream disability into their programming to increase reach of civic education, registration and voting by PWDs
- **Local Civil Society Organizations**, particularly NAGAAD, SONYO, SONSUF are supported to mainstream disability into their programming to increase reach of civic education, registration and voting by PWDs

Indirect beneficiaries include all persons with disabilities in Somaliland, and the general population of Somaliland, who will have improved their attitudes towards persons with disabilities and developed greater respect for their rights, and a more representative and diverse political parties and electoral system.

\(^{11}\) In the absence of national statistics on disability, HI is applying the global average as indicated by the World Health Organization

\(^{12}\) [http://www.necsomaliland.com/totaldistricts.html](http://www.necsomaliland.com/totaldistricts.html)
Project Limitations

Most DPOs are located in the urban areas and cannot effectively reach PWDs beyond those jurisdictions. There are few DPOs working in the rural areas of Somaliland and the majority of persons with disabilities residing in urban areas. However, the project will collaborate with the election actors and the civil society networks to mainstream disability into their election cycle programming, to ensure a larger reach beyond the project scope, particularly in rural areas.

5. Project Impact, Outcome, Outputs and Activities

The desired overall impact of the project will be the increased respect for the equal civic rights of persons with disabilities, and the improved equal opportunities for PWDs to participate equally, in the electoral and political processes in Somaliland.

More specifically, the specific project outcome is the greater capacity of election stakeholders to mainstream disability in the election process, and increased registration and voting by persons with disabilities in both urban and rural areas in the 2015 elections in Somaliland.

There are 4 planned outputs, which are aligned to the Election Cycle, include:

Pre-electoral Phase

1. Electoral, political and mainstream actors enhance their capacities to ensure persons with disabilities can equally participate in the electoral process
2. Persons with Disabilities and their communities are better aware of their civic rights and duties, as well as the procedures of registering and how to vote

Electoral Phase

3. Increased number of PWDs accessing voting stations

Post-Electoral Phase

4. Legal reform proposals which take into consideration the needs and rights of PWDs for future elections are developed, presented and agreed by all involved stakeholders

The table below provides the specific activities related to each output.

Please refer to Annex 1 for the project logframe.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election Phase</th>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Elements</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Responsible Partner</th>
<th>Stakeholders Involved</th>
<th>Expected Results</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-electoral</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Electoral, political and mainstream actors enhance their capacities to ensure persons with disabilities can equally participate in the electoral process</td>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Implement surveys (Barriers and Facilitator Assessment, Rights Monitoring) to better understand situation of disabled in election process</td>
<td>HI</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
<td>Share findings, through series of workshops and meetings targeting all electoral-related actors and gather feedback on possible solutions to overcome barriers for PWD during the electoral process</td>
<td>DAN</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>Develop and roll out action plan to mainstream disability into election cycle</td>
<td>DAN</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>Ensure integration of disability actors into coordination mechanism (SISEF, Steering Committee on Electoral Laws)</td>
<td>DAN</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Organize trainings and provide ongoing technical advice to all key actors on mainstreaming disability into their specific programming</td>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>HI, NEC, SONSASF, Interpeace, IRI, SaferWorld, Progressio, Oxfam, CSOs (NAGAAD)</td>
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<td>Registration</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Provide formal recommendations on how to ensure specific disabilities are able to access and register in the system</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>NEC, Interpeace, contractor</td>
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<td>1.7</td>
<td>Provide small grants to DPOs/CSOs to devise and implement grassroots solutions to overcome barriers to registration</td>
<td>HI to DPOs/CSOs</td>
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<td>1.8</td>
<td>Work with NEC to allow reasonable accommodation for PWDs at registration booths</td>
<td>DAN</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Persons with Disabilities and communities are better aware of their civic rights and duties, as well as procedures of registering and how to vote</td>
<td>Information</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Conduct national awareness raising campaigns to sensitize people with and without disability on PWD’s civic rights to register and go out to vote(GOTV) with disability friendly aids such as sign language on TV</td>
<td>SNDF</td>
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<td>2.2</td>
<td>Conduct community level outreach sessions by providing grants to grassroots DPO’s / CSO’s across Somaliland to mobilise and sensitize PWD’s to register and vote especially rural communities</td>
<td>HI to DPOs/CSOs</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
<td>Provide technical support to mainstream actors to ensure their civic education are inclusive of PWDs</td>
<td>SNDF</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
<td>Produce and disseminate accessible Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials such as easy to read, large print, Braille and tactile material</td>
<td>SNDF</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
<td>Work with candidate training programmes to make trainings more inclusive &amp;promote the option of disability candidate caucuses (pilot)</td>
<td>SNDF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electoral Period</td>
<td>3. Increased number of PWDs accessing voting stations</td>
<td>Voting</td>
<td>3.1. Work with NEC to allow reasonable accommodation for movement/voting of PWDs at voting booths (pilot)</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>HI, DAN, NEC</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2. Provide NEC with resources and technical advice, through accessibility audits, to assess and physically adapt voting booths to make them accessible to PWDs (pilot)</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A select number of voting stations are modified and field tested in time for election day</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.3. Provide small grants to DPOs/CSOs to devise grassroots solutions to mobilize PWDs to register</td>
<td>HI to DPOs/CSOs</td>
<td>HI/ DAN, NEC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Strategies to increase transport options for PWDs to voting stations are implemented</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.4. Provide refresher trainings to election staff to sensitize on disability issues during voting day</td>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>HI, DAN, NEC, SONGSAF/Saferwork</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.5. Trained PWDs are in place as domestic election observers and ensure other observers are sensitized on disability</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>HI, DAN, CSOs/SPOs</td>
<td></td>
<td>A select number of domestic election observers will be PWDs and trained to monitor the election</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nomination</td>
<td>3.6. Ensure voting materials (e.g. ballot papers) are accessible for PWDs</td>
<td>HI w/NEC</td>
<td>HI, DAN, NEC</td>
<td>NEC/Interpeace will be provided guidance by HI on adapting the materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Electoral Period</td>
<td>4. Legal reform proposals which take into consideration the needs and rights of PWDs for future elections are developed, presented and agreed by all involved stakeholders</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>4.1. Document good practice on inclusive election and disseminate findings to election stakeholders (including documentary film studies on engagement of PWD’s in electoral process</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>NEC, APD, SLD Govt, Interpeace, IRI, SaferWorld, Progressio, Oxfam SONGSAF,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Key recommendations and pilot inclusion practices presented to all decision-makers by 3 months post-election and plan developed to ensure improved mainstreaming for next election cycle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2. Stakeholder learning and documentation workshop to review involvement of PWD’s in electoral process</td>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>HI, NEC, SNDF, DAN, SONGSAF, APD, NAGAAD, SONYO</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reform</td>
<td>4.3. Prepare and present recommendations for inclusive elections laws legal reform to key legislation and policy (the Election Law, Electoral Commission Act, Process Document)</td>
<td>SNDF and DAN</td>
<td>NEC, MOLSA, Parliament,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>4.4. Provide professional development on mainstreaming disability to key actors in advance of next elections</td>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>NEC, MOLSA, political parties APD, SONGSAF, Interpeace, IRI, SaferWorld, Progressio, Oxfam, local CSOs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
6. Project Management

HI’s team in Somaliland will be responsible for project implementation, monitoring of partners, and stakeholder coordination. The team consists of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field Coordinator</strong> (HI – national position):</td>
<td>A senior management position held by a Somaliland national, based in Hargeisa. She will be responsible for overall leadership and management of the project - supervising the Inclusive Election project officer, coordinating with the important governmental and non-governmental election stakeholders, providing technical input into the project, and ensuring effective coordination with HI’s Nairobi office. Already recruited and in position since August 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inclusive Election Project Officer (HI - national position):</strong></td>
<td>Manages the implementation of the project. He/she will provide day to day planning and implementation of activities and maintain collaboration between project partners and local authorities. The project manager is based in Hargeisa, under the supervision of the Field Coordinator. Existing staff member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Officer (DAN – national position):</strong></td>
<td>Conducts the implementation of the activities under their responsibility, and coordinate the activities with key electoral stakeholder. He/she will report to its superior officer in partner organization but will have a strong functional link with HI project’s team. To be recruited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Officer (SNDF – national position):</strong></td>
<td>Conducts the implementation of the activities under their responsibility, and coordinate the activities with the local-level DPOs. He/she will report to its superior officer in partner organization but will have a strong functional link with HI project’s team. To be recruited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HI’s Inclusion Technical Advisor:</strong></td>
<td>Provides technical advice, mentoring, to the HI team, the election actors. The HI Technical Advisor will be responsible for conducting the initial trainings around inclusion and will provide technical support to all actors throughout the life of the project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To promote learning and management, HI will organize bi-weekly meetings (FC, PM, PO) to review progress and make plans for the upcoming period. These meetings will also be an opportunity to explore what is or are not working under the project and shift accordingly, if necessary. Learning will be captured through meeting minutes, which will be fed into the internal monthly reports sent to the head office in Nairobi, to be reviewed by the Operational Coordinator. Under HI’s monitoring and evaluation policy, quarterly meetings are required, having the same purpose but also involving the support services (finance, logistics) so that a comprehensive review and planning is achieved.

HI’s project team and partners DAN and SNDF will also organize similar meetings on a regular basis. Quarterly meetings between HI partners and the implementing DPOs, combined with regularly monitoring visits, will be organized to gauge what is happening in the targeted localities from a first-hand perspective. HI, DAN and SNDF will also plug into the larger coordination mechanisms (SISEF, Steering Committee) for similar purposes.

Support and internal controls will be provided by the HI Kenya/Somalia Administrative and Logistic Team, based in HI offices in Hargeisa and Nairobi. The overall monitoring of the project, including regular monitoring missions, is done by the Regional Operations Coordinator, based in Nairobi.

The Hargeisa-based Field Coordinator and the Nairobi-based Operational Coordinator will ensure regular coordination and updates with the Donor Steering Committee.
7. Monitoring and Evaluation

HI has a well-established system of project cycle management monitoring and evaluation embedded in its M&E policy. HI uses an integrated tool for activity planning and review (quarterly basis), reporting, indicator tracking and budget monitoring. The policy incorporates participatory and inclusive mechanisms from project inception to the evaluation.

HI will design this detailed monitoring framework during the first months of the action, together with project partners. Despite the lack of existing data on disability and elections, the baseline (the rights monitoring survey and the barrier and facilitator assessments) along with the voter registration will provide HI with adequate, disaggregated data to develop better indicators and targets. All data collection will be disaggregated by gender, age and type of disability.

HI will conduct a mid-term and an end-term review. HI’s Field Coordinator and Technical Advisor will advise on adjustments in the project where needed, and lead both reviews. Further support is provided by the Operational Coordinator. The project partners will be involved throughout the monitoring process, and a coordination mechanism will be set up to ensure proper and timely knowledge sharing and monitoring support.

8. Theory of Change

The proposed intervention aims to ensure that Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) participate equally in the political process in Somaliland in respect of their right. To achieve this ultimate change, HI believes the starting point is that PWDs, the Disabled People’s Organizations, and allies are willing to change the current situation. This involves identifying the barriers to inclusion in the pre, during and post-election phases, developing solution to removing these barriers, and conducting advocacy sensitization towards political actors on accessibility of elections and political systems. Through these efforts, election and civic actors and other organizations involved in the election process will gradually mainstream disability into their programming and in doing so, strengthen the democratic and political process.

HI also believes that change will be driven by the PWDs and the DPOs themselves in their interactions with communities and stakeholders around them. The DPOs will be empowered to carry out national and local level civic education campaigns targeting the people with disabilities and the community with the simple message that PWDs have the right to vote, are able to vote and can stand for elections. Local level and low cost solutions will be developed to ensure PWDs are mobilized to access voter registration pre-election and voting stations during the election. Having disabled candidates stand for elections, and providing them adequate accessible training, will also be a powerful tool for change – a strategy this project will support.

Significant focus will be placed on the election actors (NEC, International NGOs, local civil society actors) whose networks extend throughout Somaliland, thus achieving scale and reach PWDs particularly in the rural areas. The aim here is to secure their commitment to modify their election process and
programming to include persons with disabilities such as capacity-building, sensitization and developing solutions to removing barriers in the pre and during election periods (e.g. registration, accessible voting stations). Importantly, the intervention will seek to ensure that the monitoring team for the election includes a PWD and are sensitized on disability.

Throughout the electoral cycle, the focus is also on the election policy and legal framework as a way to ensure sustainable change in future elections. Good practices will be documented and used for advocacy with relevant decision-makers. The aim is that in future elections, reasonable accommodation and non-discriminatory policies will be enshrined in all relevant legal documents.

Through these efforts within the scope of this project, the number of PWDs voting will increase. In the longer term, the election phase will be more inclusive and the electoral system has incorporated PWD accessibility needs, both practically and in the legislative framework. Civic education campaigns in the future will allow all persons with disabilities to inform themselves and they will be more willing and able to join the electoral process. Ultimately leading to PWDs participating equally in the election process in Somaliland, and enjoy their rights as citizens of Somaliland.

9. Value for Money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VfM Dimensions</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| **Economy**    | Staffing costs: HI’s team in Somaliland is national, including a senior manager (field coordinator). The team is knowledgeable on the project intervention and context, thereby reducing needs for external consultants. Staff salaries are national rates providing highly competent staff, with local knowledge on national rates. Travel costs are also reduced since the team is based in Hargeisa.  

Technical assistance: HI will provide expert advice to the project team through an internal Technical Advisor, eliminating the need to bring in external consultants. Costs will be shared with other HI country programmes, reducing the amount budgeted for the role. The Technical Advisor’s role will also be to build capacity of national project staff resulting in gradual up-skilling of staff where they will eventually be able to take over more of the TA responsibilities over the course of the project period.  

Office costs: HI has an office established in Hargeisa, with support staff. Charges to the budget are minimal to cover these support costs for the office. Many of the procurement and financial systems are well established and support is provided by the Nairobi office and Headquarters.  

Procurement: The need for procurement will be limited in this project, but should the need arise, HI has an established system with procedures being reviewed and approved by the Nairobi office, up to the Country Director.  

Unit Costs: No benchmarking is available in Somali, but the unit costs reflected in this proposal are based on significant experience for HI in Somaliland. These units costs will be continually reviewed for any cost saving measures and such measures will be implemented whenever found. |
| **Efficiency** | Staffing and Partners: The Somaliland team is knowledgeable on the project context, stakeholders and interventions thereby reducing implementation barriers and finding local solutions to challenges. The project partners have extensive networks throughout Somaliland and know where the persons |
with disabilities reside, therefore they are able to reach both urban and rural persons with disabilities with minimal operational costs

**Cost of activities**: Where possible, proposed activities leverage and integrate into previous actions by HI and partners under other projects which promotes efficiency because resources are shared, and less resources will be required for start-up. For example, the proposed surveys will draw upon existing rights monitoring work, where the surveyors are already trained and the questionnaires developed. The civic education campaigns will work through the existing networks established during HI’s previous Human Rights projects.

**Integration of activities**: In general, activities are fully integrated with one another and work towards the end goal. They are aligned to the election cycle, and are fully coordinated with the other election actors to avoid duplication.

**Mainstreaming approach**: HI will work with other election actors to mainstream disability into their programming thereby multiplying the potential to reach more persons with disabilities through their services, at the sole cost of trainings and mentoring which are relatively low-cost in Somaliland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effectiveness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relevance of indicators</strong>: Indicators are SMART and backed by proven monitoring and evaluation methods. They are also aligned and contribute to the larger objectives of the DSC and the NEC. The indicators are also casually linked to the expected election cycle process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risk of Underachieving</strong>: A significant risk of underachieving exists in the SCS context. However, these risks are mitigated in part through the close relationships that will be established with the community leaders and governing authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reaching beneficiaries</strong>: The project is designed around leveraging existing disabled people’s organizations networks to reach PWDs. These networks know where most of the PWDs can be found, due to their network in urban and rural areas, and in some case, direct service delivery. Reaching beneficiaries will tap into this network to effectively reach them with the civic education campaigns, and the registration/voting strategies. The targeted sites in both rural and urban area are known to HI’s partners thereby increasing the chance of effectively reaching the majority of the target population</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### 10. Project Risks and Duty of Care

HI understands the importance of duty of care for all employees operating in Somaliland, and staff undertaking field missions to the region as part of the project. HI assumes responsibility for the health, safety and well-being of their personnel and beneficiaries, including appropriate security measures and protocols.

Specific measures include:

- **Insurance coverage for staff (local and expatriate)**: HI provides medical and work accident cover for all national staff operating in Somaliland. HI Somaliland does not have any expatriates based in Hargeisa, but for those undertaking missions to Somaliland for project related purposes, they are covered by emergency and medical & repatriation insurance, which has a global coverage, as well as travel insurance.
- **Insurance for consultants**: Consultants hired by HI are contractually obligated to provide certification of insurance and agree to hold harmless HI and its sponsoring organizations from any
damages or injuries that may occur during the course of the assignment. Consultants are also required to sign a child protection Policy, and a Policy protecting beneficiaries.

- HI also ensures beneficiaries are protected by having all staff sign a policy entitled “Policy for the protection of beneficiaries against sexual exploitation and abuse.”

**General Security Management**

HI has a recently-updated security plan and protocols in place for Somaliland as a whole, and for Hargeisa. The Plan was most recently reviewed in May 2014 by HI’s regional security advisor. If incidents were to occur, a contingency plan is in place for both national and expatriate staff.

In addition, HI conducts constant monitoring of the security situation and travel risk assessments through formal and informal networks in Somaliland and Nairobi. Based on the information gathered, HI makes executive-level decisions on a case by case basis for travel to Somaliland for staff, and for travel outside Hargeisa.

The Field Coordinator, a member of HI’s senior management team and based in HI’s office in Hargeisa, is responsible for security, and should any incident occur, she is in supported by HI’s Country Director.

**Project Related Security Management**

Mitigating security risk during project-related activities is an important aspect of HI Security Plan. Project staff will need to travel outside of Hargeisa to the regions for implementation and monitoring. Before going to the project sites, the HI team in Hargeisa will carefully assess the risks of travel and make a decision according based on the security information. HI is connected to local security organizations such as INSO, which provide updated locally-specific information, for Somaliland. HI only stays at hotels which are approved for safety. Furthermore, HI security protocols restrict night-time travel to minimize risks.

**Integration and coordination of HI’s intervention with key stakeholders**

HI will adopt a number of strategies to reduce the risk of potential duplication or not aligning with the actions of the key stakeholders. These strategies include integrating disability actors into coordination mechanism such as:

- HI and implementing partners DAN and SNDF will attend the SONS AF democratisation working group (SNDF is a member of the Somaliland Non State Actors Forum)
- HI and implementing partners will attend the Steering Committee on election law (SISEF) Somaliland civil society election forum
- HI and implementing partners will attend the National Steering committee through APD
- HI is also a member of the Democratization Coordination Committee (DSC) and will participate along with the key stakeholders such as Interpeace
HI will attend the Somaliland Governance sector coordination meeting lead by Ministry of Interior and Good Governance commission

HI will also ensure various bilateral and ad hoc meetings are conducted as needed for planning, monitoring and coordination purposes.

Delayed elections – alternative interventions

While the National Elections are still planned for mid-2015, there are doubts that they will indeed take place at the scheduled time, and could be pushed back to 2016. Should this situation take place, HI will mitigate the impact of this decision by continuing pre-election phase activities, which include civic education for persons with disabilities, raising awareness among election stakeholders and providing them with technical support on mainstreaming disability into the election cycle. The issue of disability in the election process is new in Somaliland, therefore HI anticipates the need for continuous education and sensitization is high, and would be beneficial beyond the originally planned timeframe. With this alternative strategy in place, the negative impact of a delayed election would be minimized allowing for longer-term actions to reduce barriers to participation during the pre-election phase.

11. Budget

The total cost for the intervention is 200,000 British Pounds (USD 331,615).

The breakdown by Output is (in GBP):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output 1</td>
<td>51,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 2</td>
<td>51,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 3</td>
<td>54,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 4</td>
<td>43,061</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For detailed budget breakdown, please see Annex 2.

12. Timeframe

The project is estimated to begin in December 2014, and run for 24 months to cover activities inside the entire election – pre, during, and post election.

Currently the elections are planned for mid-2015. If the National Elections are delayed, HI will continue to implement pre-election activities until a new date for the election is set.

For a detailed timeframe, please see Annex 3.
13. Organizational Profile

Handicap International

Created in 1982, Handicap International (HI) is an independent and impartial international aid organization working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. Working alongside people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, our actions are focused on responding to their essential needs, improving their living conditions and promoting respect for their dignity and their fundamental rights. HI was the co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for its role in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and a winner of the Hilton Humanitarian Prize in 2011 for its projects in Kenya.

In 1992 Handicap International started in Somaliland by setting up a rehabilitation centre in Hargeisa. HI’s strategy in Somaliland is to strengthen capacities of DPOs and engage development actors to promote inclusion and participation at local and national level. Current projects, in partnership with SNDF and DAN, focus on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, strengthening the current policy framework on disability, and a child protection project.

Partner Organization

Disability Action Network (DAN) was established in 2002 and is a long term partner of HI working in close collaboration since its foundation and supported in setting up and running the first Hargeisa Rehabilitation Center (HRC). DAN envisions a Somaliland society in which all persons with disabilities realize their full potential, enjoy equal rights and opportunities. DAN exists to empower persons with disabilities and their families/care-givers through disability mainstreaming, as well as improved and equitable access to quality rehabilitation services. DAN also set up outreach activities in three major regional towns; namely Erigavo, Burao and Boroma where physiotherapy and orthopaedic services to children and adults with physical, intellectual, speech and multiple impairments with a strong focus on reaching the most vulnerable through community outreach and protection. DAN will play a critical role in the project to work closely with key electoral actors to enhance their capacity and provide reasonable accommodation for accessibility to include PWD’s in the electoral process such as adapting voting stations to allow access for people with physical impairments. The rehabilitation and outreach centre across Somaliland will also be used as access points to reach PWD and sensitise them on their right to vote as well as provide critical information on voting procedures in accessible formats.

Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF) SNDF, established in 2004 is the first network of DPOs in Somaliland. Its main objective is to address rights violation and barriers to political participation faced by their members and their platforms. They were mandated with improving coordination between non-state actors supporting persons with disability, and providing a link to the government on disability issues. Their specific role is to influence policy reforms in favour of persons with disability for their social inclusion. They also conducted disability rights awareness to reduce the negative perceptions of the communities through mobilizations of persons with disability and advocate for their cause throughout Somaliland. SNDF member organisations across Somaliland will be mobilised to reach PWD in their communities through the network to conduct civic and voter education sessions at the community level reaching urban and rural areas.
ANNEX 1: Sample List of Disabled People’s Organizations in Somaliland

Hargeisa
- SNDF: Somaliland National Disability Forum
- DAN: Disability Action Network
- HAN: Somaliland women and children with disability organization
- Hargeisa School for deaf
- AHA: Albustan Handicap association
- NAHA: Naasa Hablood Handicap association
- SHA: Somaliland handicap association
- SASE: Somaliland association for special education
- ANDP: Activities network for disabled people
- DCA: disabled children association
- Gurodhig: Somaliland poverty reduction organization
- HADYA: Hargeisa development youth association
- SAMVA: Somaliland advocacy mine victim association
- ADDA: Action on disability and development of Alaybaday
- GDDO: Gabley disability development organization

Burao
- TWDN: Tog-Dheer women disability network
- THO: Tog-Dheer handicap organization
- TRO: Tog-Dheer relief organization
- Burao deaf school
- NADO: Najah disability Organization
- Coodanle disability Organization
- Daad madheedh disability Organization
- EKO
- Barwaqo disability Organization
- BDDO: Burao disability development organization

Borama
- BD&DS=Borama deaf and blind school
- SOHURA

Berbera
- SHO: Sahil handicap organization
- SOLDO: Somaliland disabilities development organization

Erigavo
- EHO: Erigavo handicap organization
- LYMAD

Las Anod
- Lasanood Handicap Association

Note: SNDF represents 30 DPOs around the six regions of Somaliland and all the above mentioned organizations are members under SNDF.