

Promoting Positive Inter-Action between Law Enforcement and Citizen in Eyl, Puntland Somali Family Services (SFS) in Partnership with Diakonia, Sweden



Eyl, Puntland. SFS in partnership with Diakonia, Sweden held two days for forum designed to strengthen and improve the relationships between police, marines, district council, regional government and the public relationship that is currently rife with mistrust. The forum brought together Eyl District Council, police and anti-piracy marines based in Eyl, teachers, elders, women, youth and other representatives of civil society. Muse Osman Yusuf, Mayor of Eyl made the opening remarks and briefly highlighted district situation in terms of health, Education, agriculture, security and piracy issue. The mayor asserted “This community successfully combated and ended piracy in Eyl by using the local mechanism and mobilizing local grass-roots.”

Mohamud Ali (**Gumbe**), Diakonia, Sweden Development Coordinator said “It is very important the citizens and different law enforcement specially police to work together to end criminalities in the town and its coastal areas. Police Deputy Commander and Officer from Puntland Marine Forces based in Eyl spoke about the work of the police and marines and how the work they are doing citizens benefits. He said, “Eyl is not any more in the world’s map as a pirate center. With the community help, we defeated and eliminated piracy once for all. With the limited resource we have and we made this town and its areas a safe place for local people and internationals working in Puntland.”



In depth two days open debate and discussion, the forum established working group that will act as a Neighborhood Security Committee (NSC). NSC will work very closely with the police, marines, mayor, district council and traditional leaders. SFS in partnership with National Endowment for Democracy and Diakonia, Sweden has established similar Neighborhood Security Committees in Garowe, Bosaso and Galkacyo which resulted creation of these three cities to divide the cities into branches/neighborhoods. For instance, Garowe become 7 branches and each neighborhood has its own committees with 7 members.

Eyl, Puntland, situated on the eastern shore of Somalia approximately 220 kilometers from Garowe in Nugaal

Region, the Eyl towns of Bedey and Daawad are two of the more underdeveloped areas in Puntland State.