

Enhancing information sharing and information exchange Debate and discussion



Eyl, Puntland. On April 10, 2013, Somali Family Services (SFS) in Partnership with Diakonia, Sweden concluded two days forum to narrow miss-trust between the citizens and the government through information sharing and information exchange between government ministries and the people. With this in mind SFS engaged government ministries lead by ministry of education and officials from other government ministries such as ministry women and family affairs ministries health, ministry of interior and ministry of security traveled from Garowe to Eyl which is 220 KM away from Garowe to meet with the citizens and listen their concerns and suggestions while they provide the services that they deliver for the community.

The debate and discussion started with government ministries providing information to the public, this was further to enhance the knowledge of the public on the work of the government. A wide range of stakeholder in Eyl, Puntland that include the mayor and city council, traditional elders, youth associations, women associations, neighborhood committees, religious leaders, and the local organizations fully participated and raised many questions to the government officials. In turn government ministries appreciated and answered many questions. End of the two days discussion and debate resulted government officials realizing sharing information with the citizens is crucial while the citizens understood and acknowledged government ministries are operating under limited budget and they cannot do each and every community needs.



It is not the first time that SFS in partnership with Diakonia, Sweden implementing this kind of initiatives in Puntland. We had implementing in Garowe, Qardho, Bosaos and Galkacyo. The initiative objective is three simple steps: 1) Government Ministries to share with the citizens their day to day operations and activities 2) Government ministries present to the people, the benefit of their day to day operations and activities 3) Give the opportunity the citizens to question government officials, provide suggestions, and share their concerns with the government officials. This initiative creates conducive and neutral environment to promote informed citizens and responsive government.

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