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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SFS holds Two-day advocacy and awareness raising workshop on promotion of reading culture in schools

Garowe, Puntland: (November 22nd -23rd, 2015)-Somali Family Services (SFS) in close collaboration with Ministry of Education and Higher Education at regional level conducted two day advocacy and awareness raising workshop in Puntland Library and Resource Center (PLRC)

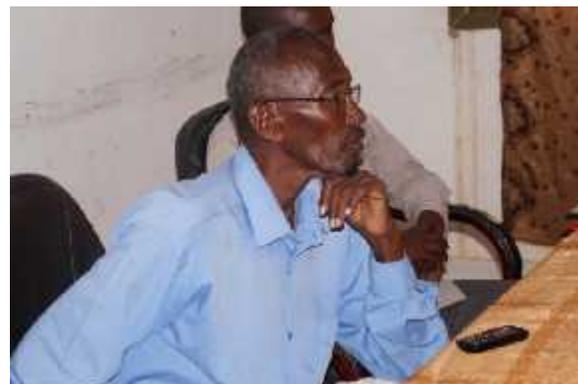


for 37 head-teachers, Community Education Committee (CECs) chairpersons (16 primary schools and 1 secondary school) and Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) officials at Nugal regional level supported under Mobile Library Services Extension Project. The specific objective of SFS Mobile Library Services Extension project is to continue the achievements/outcomes achieved during the piloted phase of the project. SFS plans to help thousands of boys and girls to gain access to

library resources whilst raising awareness of the issues surrounding illiteracy by sharing vital information on the project with these schools CECs and head-teachers and the MoEHE official from Nugal REO office.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Mohamed Adan Hassan, Project Coordinator, illustrating the purpose of the workshop, to deeply educate the head-teachers and Community Education Committees (CECs) chairpersons in project supported schools on their roles in raising awareness on importance and benefits of mobile library as well as promoting reading culture at school level”

He also gave an overview of strategies and achievements accomplished under the piloted phase of the project. In addition, he shared with workshop participants’ detailed master plan for the extension project in which he articulated that “ Under this extension project, SFS in close collaboration with MoEHE, Puntland has already commenced Mobile Library Mini-van schools visits (8am-12pm-Saturday to Thursday) and calls on four schools per day. Moreover, there are plans to train



teachers (patrons) and female mentors, two per school from project supported schools, hold inter-school competition on debates etc, establish and equip libraries in three rural schools (Sin-u-jif, Kalabayr and Godob-jiran) and lastly making sure there is variety of reading textbooks in the hands of project young readers clubs members, thank you all for playing a key role in making sure the piloted project was successful and without you we won't had this extension for the project”.

The facilitator of workshop, Mr. Samatar Sooyaan, Writer and Media personality shared situational based context on importance and benefits of reading/reading culture for human beings whilst noting “Puntland and Somalia in general, is in the lowest index in countries where reading skills and reading culture is at lowest”. He said that, there is a need for consorted efforts by all Puntlanders to ensure we create a culture of reading but first, as they say, charity begins at home-we needs to begin from schools.

During the climax of the workshop, the participants were grouped into 5 groups to present on “Strategies to advance reading skills and reading culture in schools”. They all pledged to conduct an awareness rising back at their respective schools.



In his closing speech, Mr. Hashi Hussein, Nugal Regional Education Officer (REO) expressed his gratitude toward SFS for conducting this valuable workshop. He talked lengthily about the importance of creating reading culture in schools through close collaboration and coordination between Schools, MoEHE , SFS and other education actors.

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