



Integrated Development Focus(IDF-S)

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Journey of women inclusion in governance

“I will continue knocking on every door until I realize my dream of women inclusion in governance in BeletHawa district.” Anab Abdullahi

Women in Somalia are excluded in public life for several reasons and governance is seen as a preserve of clan elders. They are neither consulted nor included in any decision-making circles and their views, thoughts and contributions are left out in the administration of the districts.

Anab Abdullahi, a woman from BeletHawa is one of the 50 women who participated in trauma healing, social reconciliation and civic awareness sessions under the program. After the sessions she has been engaged in ensuring her community embraces social reconciliation and that women are included in all governance processes. After participating in civic sessions in 2017, Anab enlisted the support of four women and two female youth to advance her campaign for women inclusion.

She and her team has had several meetings with clan elders and district administration in BeletHawa to discuss women inclusion in governance and the importance of the administration to consult with various stakeholders, not just the clan elders. “The meeting with the administration was a difficult meeting to have as most of the administrators were opposed to this and it took a lot of convincing to have them support the idea.” Remarks Anab during a meeting with SHIIR partner staff. At the end of these meetings, most administrators and elders confirmed that they would support her inclusion initiatives.

Anab has scaled up her women inclusion agenda to the federal and state level. She has solicited for support from the two women Members of Parliament (MP) from Gedo region (from BeletHawa and Garbaharey districts) who sit in the Lower House of parliament, and too promised to organize women forums across all Gedo districts to encourage women participation in public life.

Recently Anab attended a three-day workshop on conflict transformation and increasing women participation in decision making in Dollo that was organized by a local NGO. In the forum Anab shared her vision with fellow delegates and continued with her campaign to solicit support for women inclusion. “This forum advantaged me meet women leaders from two other districts [Dollo and Luuq] in this region who I would not have otherwise easily met to share my dreams about women inclusion. I am glad I used the forum to communicate my vision and initiate preliminary campaigns at other districts. I am

confident I now have reliable networks outside my district which are easy to connect with to deliver the inclusion agenda.”

Anab has vowed to keep on fighting for women inclusion in governance in BeletHawa district and beyond.

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The program has reached 50 women and 59 female youth with the civic awareness sessions in the district.