IAAAP

Somalia Accountability Programme

UKaid

from the British people

A dynamic network of Somali accountability champions: The Hufnaan Network

After decades of conflict and instability, a culture of entrenched corruption and few accountability mechanisms has developed in Somali society. In this context, effective responses need to address the range of actors involved and the different levels at which accountability operates. Several Somali organisations with wide social influence and high-level institutional capacity have created a platform to promote good governance and institutional transparency, with a particular focus on integrity in public office.

This Policy Brief outlines the founding of a new Somali-led network based on official Hufnaan Network documentation and informal conversations with those involved. IAAAP is a UK Aid-funded programme working to generate evidence for action around greater accountability in Somalia.

Stay informed of Hufnaan's progress at: [insert IAAAP website URL].

A shared vision of greater accountability

Ineffective governance and widespread misuse of public assets has meant that conventional mechanisms of gaining greater accountability, which may have worked elsewhere, have had little traction in the Somali context.
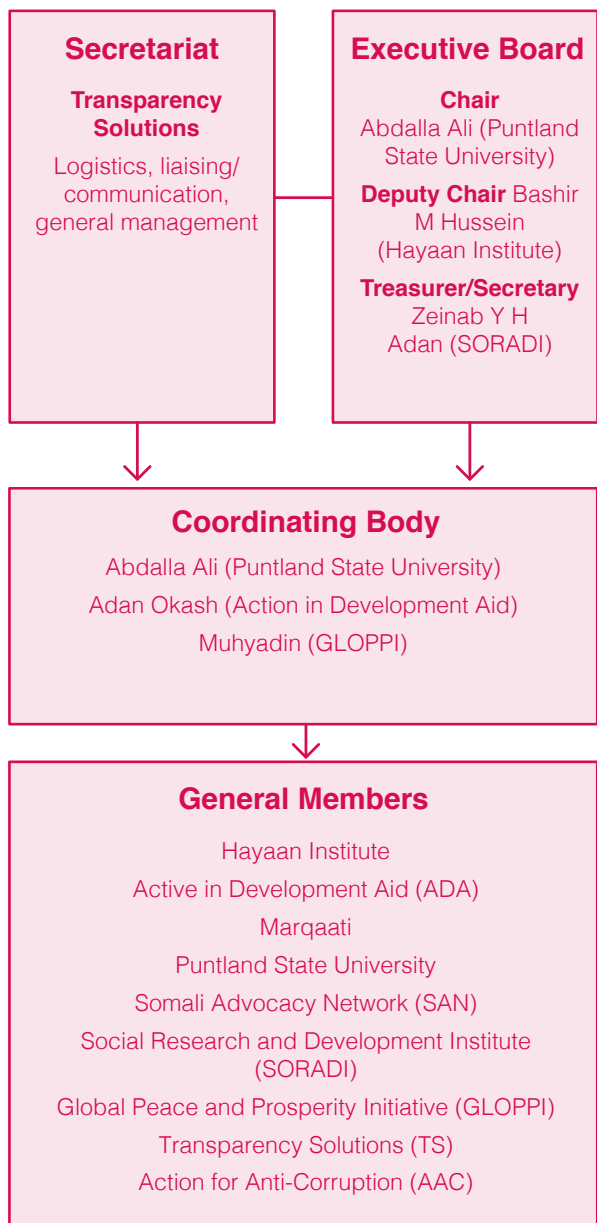
Early on in IAAAP it became clear that the programme partners shared a common ambition to raise the issue of accountability within Somali regions, nationally and internationally, with a view to improving accountability mechanisms.

Convening a variety of voices

The Hufnaan Network is a network of accountability champions in Somalia and Somaliland. The network is a non-political, non-partisan membership-based association. Unlike many Somali associations and organisational networks, Hufnaan is diverse – particularly in terms of age, clan and experience – and benefits from a broad range of expertise. It includes civil society organisations, businesses and academic institutions. The network first came together in Spring 2016 and founding members signed a constitution later that year.

Hufnaan has a three-layer governance system (fig. 1): the Secretariat supports the Executive Board, and the Coordinating Body, which answers to the network, mandates network decisions. As a membership-based organisation, majority agreement must be reached before action can be taken.

Figure 1: Hufnaan Network governance structure

Secretariat	**Executive Board**
Transparency Solutions	**Chair** Abdalla Ali (Puntland State University)
Logistics, liaising/ communication, general management	**Deputy Chair** Bashir M Hussein (Hayaan Institute)
	Treasurer/Secretary Zeinab Y H Adan (SORADI)

Coordinating Body

Abdalla Ali (Puntland State University)

Adan Okash (Action in Development Aid)

Muhyadin (GLOPPI)

General Members

Hayaan Institute

Active in Development Aid (ADA)

Marqaati

Puntland State University

Somali Advocacy Network (SAN)

Social Research and Development Institute (SORADI)

Global Peace and Prosperity Initiative (GLOPPI)

Transparency Solutions (TS)

Action for Anti-Corruption (AAC)

Promoting Somali-led governance efforts

All members are Somali-led and based in the Somali regions. Their varied and deep understanding of the local context means that they are best able to navigate its complexity and lead change. The network's expertise is unrivalled by any other group currently operating on the issue of accountability in the Somali regions:

- Puntland State University and the Hayaan Institute have conducted an extensive political economy analysis into corrupt practices in the state. Abdalla Ali (PhD) has also chairs the Core Accountability Stakeholder Platform.

- Both GLOPPI and SORADI work with local government in Somaliland to make elected leaders more accountable to their constituents.

- In South-Central Somalia, Transparency Solutions hosts the Wakiil website, making information on MPs, such as their voting patterns and political affiliations, available to the public.

Through Hufnaan, many of these organisations are becoming more visible and transparent. As a network, there are clear opportunities for greater funding diversification, without undermining the independence and integrity of the network's objectives. These opportunities would protect the sustainability of the network's ambition beyond the scope of IAAAP.

The network has created a space for peer-learning and knowledge-sharing that is uncommon in Somali civil society. Such a space allows for a strong, integrated approach to tackling accountability issues in Somalia which will be beneficial to Hufnaan members and to the international community.

What next?

Hufnaan arrives at a time when public appetite for action on accountability has never been higher. With a new federal government in Mogadishu and the knowledge that the 2017 election was potentially "the most corrupt ever", the public debate around corruption is fast-growing in Somalia. Hufnaan's flagship project will take advantage of this. The project aims to establish the one person, one vote electoral system and to feed the growing public appetite for transparent, free and fair elections. Planned activities include a series of research papers, a public awareness campaign and engagement with key stakeholders.

In time, the network can move to re-balance the issue of accountability within Somalia, so that the public, and their elected officials, know that there are influential actors who are prepared to explore these issues with principle and robust evidence.

MOTT MACDONALD

IAAAP Somalia Accountability Programme

UKaid from the British people