



Civil Society Election Situation

Introduction

The Somalia Civil Society Election Situation Room (ESR) was established in January 2021 by Somalia-Non-State Actors (SONSA) and Puntland Non-State Actors Association (PUNSAA) with the support of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) and will be operational during the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections in Somalia. EISA is the host organisation driving the process and providing technical expertise based on its experience. PUNSA and SONSA CSOs network groups bring in the capacity and credibility to coordinate the ESR. The ESR is one of the objectives under the “Support to peaceful elections in Somalia-PEACE” project supported by the European Union through EISA and PUNSAA and SONSA. One of the strategic outcomes of the PEACE project is to contribute to the reduction of the electoral tensions in the pre-election, election and post-election periods.

The ESR is a platform for coordination and information gathering where election conflict-related information is gathered, analysed and disseminated to enhance collaboration, proactive advocacy and rapid response to s and disputes associated with the Somalia electoral process. The ESR platform will also facilitate election conflict resolution support efforts to reduce electoral conflicts and support the work of the *Indirect Election Dispute Resolution Committee (IEDC)* and the disputed parties including clans, candidates and the electoral delegates. This platform will also work towards ensuring the implementation of the women quota in the current electoral process and the active involvement of women in Somalia’s political and electoral processes.

The objectives of the Somalia CSOs Election Situation Room are to:

1. **Promote collaboration and consensus amongst civil society groups:** Given the challenges that elections pose, civil society coalition groups and their members should collaborate and work together. The ESR, therefore, aims to provide a collaborative platform that allows for CSOs members to come together during the election period and offer strategic recommendations for conflict management, prevention as well as promoting participation in the elections.
2. **Contribute to the creation of a conducive environment for the upcoming elections:** Using the information gathered from the regions the ESR platform can influence political leaders to come together and negotiate towards reducing political standoffs and differences thereby contributing to the holding of peaceful elections.
3. **Addressing the challenges faced by Somali women in terms of their participation in the current electoral process and Somali’s political process in future:** The 30% women quota provision is a challenging issue and if not addressed, women may be excluded in the elections and denied their rights to participate in the political processes. In this regard,

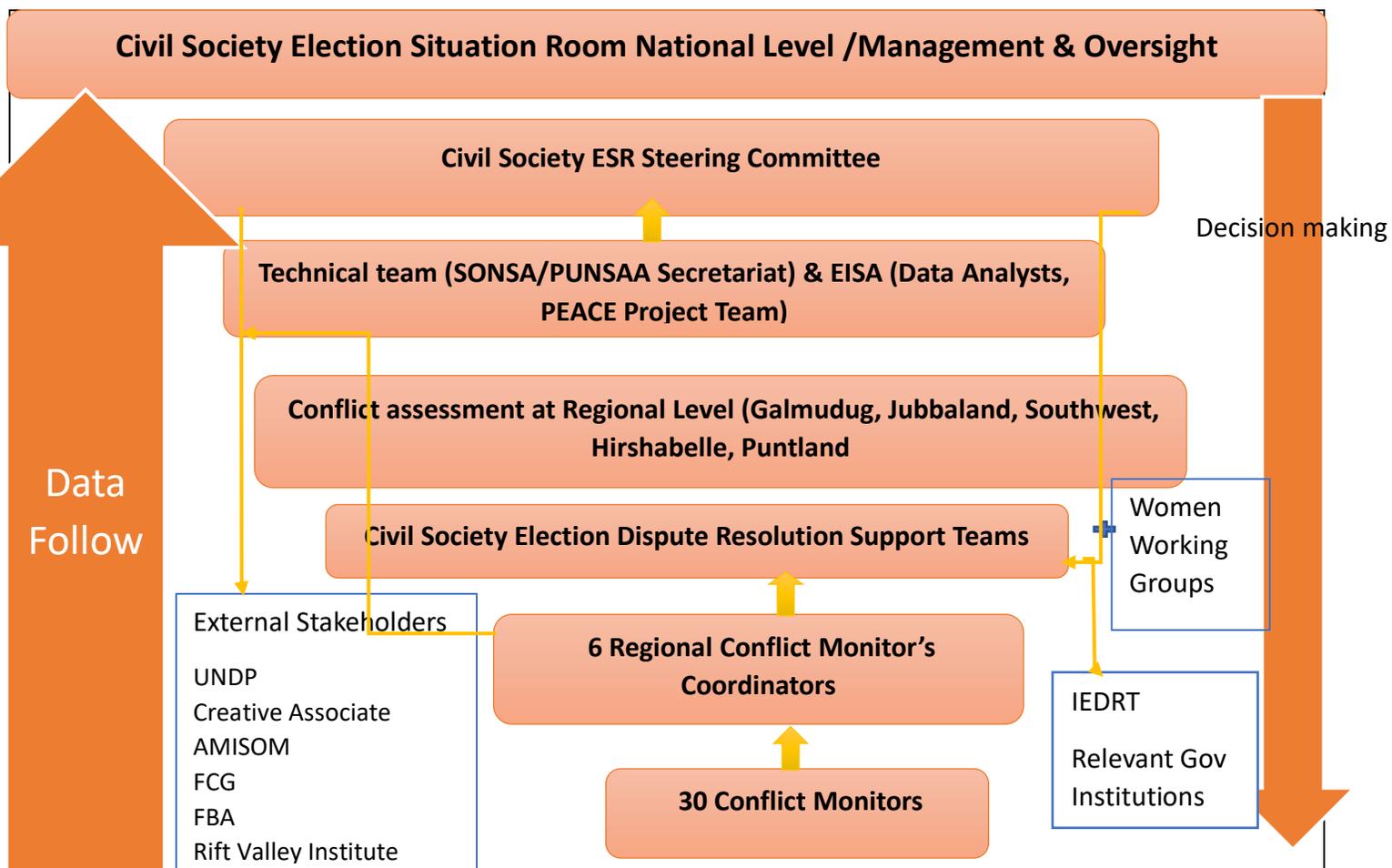


the ESR will be a platform to advocate for the empowerment of women through promoting women involvement in the 2020/21 elections and the political processes.

4. **Early warning and Scenario building:** The ESR will be a platform for planning and scenario building, especially relevant in a conflict-prone context as Somalia. Through its diverse membership, the ESR will provide early warnings of potential problems as information is received from its members, thereby giving relevant institutions such as federal and state election implementation committees, civil society organisations, government and international organisations background information on the environment in which the election is taking place and an opportunity to prepare for eventualities and strategies efforts towards conflict mitigation.
5. **Evidence-based analysis:** The ESR will be a platform for evidence-based analysis through information collected by its conflict assessors. It will also provide recommendations, options and analysis based on the information gathered from the conflict assessors and mobilise its members and other key stakeholders to ensure an effective operational response.
6. **Rapid response:** The greatest attribute of the ESR will be its capacity to gather and provide data in real-time leading to rapid response to conflicts or disputes that may affect the election process.



ESR Structure and Information Flow:



- The Steering Committee is the highest body of ESR, it leads the mission of the Civil Society Election Conflict Monitoring initiative, receives the data from the data analysts and takes appropriate actions regarding how to respond to the conflict. It engages with mandated bodies and, institutions to respond immediately to the conflict and prevent and minimise the potential for further conflict.
- The technical team comprises the EISA PEACE project Team, the data analysts and SONSA and PUNSAA Secretariat.
- The Civil Society Election Dispute Resolution Support team will be mandated to facilitate election dispute resolution support and take concrete appropriate actions regarding the prevention and minimising conflicts at the regional level.