

Jamhuuriyada Federalka Somalia  
Golaha Shacabka  
Xafiiska Xil.Cabdillahi Xaashi Abib



جمهورية الصومال الفدرالية  
مجلس الشعب  
مكتب نائب عبدالله حاش ابيب

Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

Ref: GSH/XX/CXA/GPE\_ME\_1

Date: 27/05/2024

To: Pdraig Power - GPE  
To: Jo Bourne - GPE  
To: Sven Baeten - GPE  
To: Fazle Rabbani - GPE  
To: M. Hassan - Save the Children  
To: Ummy Dubow - Care International  
To: Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education - Somalia  
Cc: Morten Sigsgaard - GPE  
Cc: Goli Whittaker - FCDO - UK  
Cc: UKAID - Somalia  
Cc: USAID - Somalia  
Cc: EU - Somalia

**Subject: Concerns on Implementation and Requests for Oversight Documents Regarding the GPE Program in Somalia**

Dear Yours Excellencies,

It is a great honor to write this official letter to you as a member of parliament of the Federal Republic of Somalia. I trust this letter finds you well.

Before I address the primary reason for my correspondence, I must express a significant concern regarding the Global Partnership for Education's website. It has come to my attention that the website references "Somaliland" as a separate entity or country. There is no country called "Somaliland"; it is a state within the Federal Republic of Somalia, akin to Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest, and Jubaland. This misrepresentation violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia. I urge you to rectify this error immediately to reflect the accurate status of One Somalia "The Federal Republic of Somalia".



Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

The main purpose of this letter is to address concerns I have received from several Federal Member States regarding the actions of the Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia, which appear to contravene the fundamental principles governing the relationship between the federal and state governments in educational matters. According to the Federal Republic of Somalia's constitution (**Article 54. Allocation of powers and Article 53. International Negotiations (1), (2), and (3)**), Federal Member States have full authority to manage and run their educational systems without federal interference, with the federal government's role being limited to ensuring these states meet national education standards.

It has come to my attention that the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) program, administered by the Save the Children and the Care International, is currently experiencing significant issues stemming from the actions of the Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia. The Minister has been overstepping his mandate and encroaching upon the responsibilities and duties that are legally vested in the Federal Member States. This overreach is not only causing operational disruptions but is also in direct contradiction to the agreed-upon terms that were articulated in a letter jointly signed by all state ministers, with the exception of Puntland. (see attached)

Puntland has previously withdrawn from relations with the federal government in response to unconstitutional changes to the constitution, highlighting long-standing tensions regarding federal overreach. The letter from the state ministers unequivocally expressed their concerns about the federal government's interference in their jurisdictional matters, underscoring the need for respecting the autonomy and governance structures as outlined in the Federal Constitution of Somalia.

In a recent and particularly troubling development, the President of the Southwest State, under significant pressure from the Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia, dismissed his own Minister of Education. This action is a clear example of direct interference and constitutes a violation of the internal affairs of a Federal Member State. Such



Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

interference undermines the governance framework established by the Federal Constitution, which clearly delineates the duties and responsibilities between the federal and state levels of government.

The Federal Constitution of Somalia provides a clear framework for the distribution of powers, ensuring that Federal Member States retain autonomy over certain areas, including education. The actions of the Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia are therefore not only an overstep of his legal mandate but also a direct violation of the constitutional rights of the Federal Member States.

This situation is causing considerable unrest and operational difficulties within the GPE program, as the intended collaborative and decentralized approach to education governance is being compromised. The interference by the federal Minister is impeding the ability of Federal Member States to manage and administer educational programs tailored to their specific needs and contexts.

To resolve these issues and restore the integrity of the GPE program, it is imperative that the federal government respects the autonomy of the Federal Member States and adheres to the constitutional boundaries set forth. Only through genuine cooperation and respect for each level of government's designated roles can we ensure the effective delivery of educational programs and uphold the constitutional framework of Somalia.

Furthermore, I have inquired about the procurement process and the selection criteria for companies involved in the implementation of the GPE project. Transparency in these processes is essential to ensure that they adhere to the highest standards of integrity and fairness, thereby fostering trust among all stakeholders involved.

However, my attempts to obtain this critical information have been met with significant resistance. The GPE project coordinator redirected me to communicate with the federal Minister of Education, who has proven to be uncooperative and unwilling to disclose the necessary details. This lack of



Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

cooperation is deeply troubling and raises serious concerns about the transparency and accountability of the project's procurement procedures.

As part of my oversight duties, it is imperative that I obtain comprehensive details about the entire bidding process. Specifically, I need to understand:

- 1. Advertisement of Bids:** Whether the call for bids was publicly advertised in a manner consistent with the Federal Government of Somalia's procurement laws. This includes verifying if the opportunities were made available to a wide audience to encourage competitive bidding.
- 2. Selection Criteria:** The specific criteria used to evaluate and select the companies that were ultimately awarded contracts. This involves reviewing the qualifications, experience, and performance history of these companies to ensure they meet the required standards.
- 3. Compliance with Legal Framework:** Confirmation that the procurement process complies with the Federal Government of Somalia's procurement laws and regulations. This includes ensuring that the process was conducted in a fair, transparent, and competitive manner, free from any form of favoritism or corruption.
- 4. Approval and Oversight:** Details on who approved the final selection of companies and what oversight mechanisms were in place to monitor the procurement process. This helps to verify that proper checks and balances were maintained throughout the process.
- 5. Contract Terms and Conditions:** Information on the terms and conditions of the contracts awarded, including the scope of work, timelines, deliverables, and payment schedules. This is crucial to ensure that the contracts are structured in a way that protects the interests of the project and complies with legal and financial regulations.
- 6. Performance Monitoring:** How the performance of the contracted companies is monitored and evaluated to ensure they deliver on their commitments. This includes details on any penalties for non-compliance or underperformance.



Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

Without access to this information, it is impossible to ascertain whether the procurement process was conducted appropriately and in line with legal requirements. The refusal of the Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia to provide this information not only hinders my ability to perform my oversight duties but also casts doubt on the integrity of the entire project implementation process.

Ensuring transparency and adherence to procurement laws is essential for maintaining the credibility and success of the GPE program. Therefore, I urge the relevant authorities to facilitate the provision of these details promptly. Such transparency will help to build trust among all stakeholders and ensure that the GPE program can achieve its objectives effectively and efficiently.

In addressing these procurement concerns is crucial for the integrity of the GPE project. I look forward to your cooperation in resolving these issues and ensuring that all processes are conducted in accordance with the law and best practices. This will not only safeguard the interests of the project but also contribute to the broader goal of improving education and governance in Somalia.

Given my extensive investigations into international donor projects, I have identified numerous instances of misappropriation and mismanagement. It is imperative that this project does not fall into similar pitfalls. To ensure thorough oversight and accountability, I request the following information:

**1. Itemized Budget Allocation:**

- ✓ A comprehensive, itemized budget allocation for each Federal Member State. This should include a detailed breakdown of all planned expenditures, clearly specifying how the funds will be utilized in each state.
- ✓ This breakdown should cover all aspects of the project, such as infrastructure development, educational materials, staff salaries, training programs, and any other relevant expenses.



Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

- ✓ An explanation of the criteria used to determine the budget allocations for each state, ensuring that the distribution of funds is equitable and based on objective needs assessments.
- 2. Bidding Process and Procurement Rules:**
- ✓ A detailed account of the bidding process for selecting companies and contractors involved in the project. This should include information on how bids were advertised, the criteria used for evaluating proposals, and the selection process.
  - ✓ Copies of all procurement rules and guidelines that govern this project. This includes any specific regulations that must be followed to ensure transparency, fairness, and competitiveness in the procurement process.
  - ✓ Documentation of the approval processes for contracts, including the roles of various oversight bodies and committees in reviewing and approving procurement decisions.
- 3. Roles and Responsibilities:**
- ✓ A clear delineation of the specific roles and responsibilities of the Federal Ministry of Education and the Federal Member State Ministries of Education in this project. This should outline the scope of authority and decision-making powers at both the federal and state levels.
  - ✓ An organizational chart or framework that illustrates how the different ministries and agencies involved in the project will collaborate and coordinate their efforts.
  - ✓ Details on the mechanisms for dispute resolution and accountability to ensure that any conflicts or issues that arise are addressed promptly and effectively.
- 4. Documentation to Avoid Conflicts of Interest:**
- ✓ Comprehensive documentation and declarations of any potential conflicts of interest.
  - ✓ Evidence of measures and safeguards put in place to prevent conflicts of interest from influencing decision-making processes. This includes protocols for recusal from decision-making where conflicts of interest are identified.
  - ✓ Audits or third-party reviews that have been conducted to ensure that the project's planning and implementation stages are free from any undue influence or bias resulting from such conflicts.





Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

Ensuring that these elements are thoroughly documented and transparently shared is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the GPE project. Such transparency will help prevent the misappropriation and mismanagement issues that have plagued other international donor projects. By providing the requested information, we can work together to ensure that the project is implemented effectively, with accountability at all levels, thereby achieving its goals of enhancing education in Somalia.

To further ensure that this project remains on track and avoids common pitfalls, I propose the following additional oversight measures:

- ✓ Regular Audits: Implement regular, independent financial and operational audits of the project to identify and address any discrepancies or issues promptly.
- ✓ Stakeholder Engagement: Establish a formal mechanism for ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, including representatives from each Federal Member State, to ensure their input and concerns are addressed throughout the project.
- ✓ Transparency Portal: Create an online transparency portal where all relevant documents, including budgets, procurement details, and progress reports, are publicly accessible to enhance accountability and public trust.

These measures, combined with the detailed information requested, will provide a robust framework for overseeing the GPE project and ensuring its success in improving education across Somalia.

It has come to my attention that the current Minister of the Federal Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia holds shares in private universities and multiple private primary and secondary schools in Mogadishu. This ownership stake has not been publicly disclosed, raising significant concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest. The Minister's personal business interests directly compete with public educational institutions, creating a substantial risk of bias that could undermine the



Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

implementation and success of educational initiatives aimed at public schools.

I advise that the Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somalia, along with other federal officials, including the President, recuse themselves from the implementation and oversight of this project to maintain the integrity and success of these initiatives. Their recusal is essential for several reasons:

- 1. Conflict of Interest:** The involvement of high-ranking officials in the project's implementation and oversight can create real or perceived conflicts of interest. By recusing themselves, these officials can help ensure that all decisions are made impartially and based on the best interests of the project, free from any personal or political considerations.
- 2. Restoring Trust:** The current interference by federal officials has already undermined trust in the project's governance. Their recusal would signal a commitment to transparency and accountability, helping to restore confidence among stakeholders, including international partners, donors, and the communities that the GPE program aims to serve.
- 3. Adherence to Constitutional Roles:** The Federal Constitution of Somalia delineates specific duties and responsibilities between federal and state authorities. Federal officials stepping back from this project would respect these constitutional boundaries, allowing Federal Member States to exercise their rightful roles in the project's implementation.
- 4. Enhancing Objectivity:** The management and oversight of the GPE project should be conducted by individuals or bodies with no vested interests in the outcomes. This would enhance objectivity in decision-making, ensuring that all actions taken are solely for the benefit of the project and its beneficiaries.
- 5. Ensuring Accountability:** Clear separation of responsibilities can improve accountability. Independent oversight bodies or third-party organizations with no direct ties to the federal government should be empowered to monitor the project's progress and compliance with procurement laws and regulations.
- 6. Mitigating External Pressure:** The involvement of high-ranking officials often brings external pressures that can compromise the effectiveness and





Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

efficiency of project implementation. Their recusal would help mitigate such pressures, allowing project managers and implementers to operate without undue influence.

To operationalize this recommendation, the following steps should be taken:

- 1. Appointment of an Independent Oversight Committee:** An independent committee comprising representatives from civil society, academia, and international partners should be established to oversee the GPE project. This committee should have the authority to review all aspects of the project, from procurement processes to implementation and evaluation.
- 2. Transparency Measures:** Implement strict transparency measures, including the public disclosure of procurement processes, selection criteria, and awarded contracts. This would include regular progress reports and financial audits to be made accessible to all stakeholders.
- 3. Empowering Federal Member States:** Ensure that the Federal Member States have a leading role in the implementation of the project within their jurisdiction. This includes giving them the authority to manage local procurement processes and oversee project activities in accordance with federal guidelines.
- 4. Engaging Third-Party Monitors:** Engage third-party organizations, such as international NGOs or audit firms, to monitor and report on the project's implementation. These organizations should be selected based on their expertise and independence to ensure unbiased oversight.
- 5. Training and Capacity Building:** Provide training and capacity-building support to local officials and project managers to equip them with the skills needed to manage and oversee the project effectively. This will help build local capacity and reduce dependency on federal oversight.
- 6. Formal Recusal Statements:** Federal officials, including the Minister of Education and the President, should issue formal statements of recusal from the project. These statements should outline their commitment to non-interference and detail the steps being taken to ensure independent oversight.



Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

By implementing these measures, we can safeguard the integrity and success of the GPE project, ensuring that it achieves its intended goals of improving education and governance in Somalia. The recusal of federal officials will create a more conducive environment for the project's implementation, fostering trust and collaboration among all stakeholders.

I trust that your esteemed office will provide the requested information promptly, enabling me to execute my oversight duties effectively and ensuring the integrity and transparency of the GPE project. Access to this information is critical for several reasons:

- 1. Ensuring Compliance with Legal Frameworks:** As part of my oversight responsibilities, it is imperative to confirm that all procurement activities align with the Federal Government of Somalia's procurement laws. This includes verifying that the bidding process was open, competitive, and transparent. Detailed information about the procurement process will allow me to ascertain compliance and identify any deviations from legal requirements.
- 2. Transparency and Accountability:** Transparency in procurement is essential for maintaining public trust and ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively. By providing the requested information, your office will demonstrate a commitment to transparency and accountability, which are cornerstones of good governance. This transparency is crucial for preventing corruption and ensuring that public funds are used for their intended purposes.
- 3. Evaluation of Selection Criteria:** Understanding the criteria used to select companies for project implementation is vital for ensuring that the most qualified and capable entities were chosen. This includes evaluating the qualifications, experience, and performance history of the selected companies. By reviewing this information, I can ensure that the selection process was fair and based on merit, thereby safeguarding the project's success.
- 4. Monitoring and Oversight:** Effective oversight requires access to comprehensive details about all stages of the procurement process. This includes the initial advertisement of bids, the evaluation of proposals, the awarding of contracts, and the monitoring of contract performance. Detailed



Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

information will enable me to monitor the implementation of the GPE project closely, ensuring that it adheres to established standards and achieves its objectives.

**5. Identification of Potential Issues:** Access to detailed procurement information will help identify any potential issues or irregularities early in the process. This proactive approach allows for timely interventions to address problems before they escalate, ensuring the smooth implementation of the project and the achievement of its goals.

**6. Protection of Stakeholder Interests:** Ensuring a transparent and compliant procurement process protects the interests of all stakeholders, including the donors, implementing agencies, and the beneficiaries of the GPE project. By providing the requested information, your office will help build confidence among stakeholders and demonstrate a commitment to ethical and effective project management.

**7. Enhancing Project Outcomes:** Detailed oversight and transparency in procurement processes contribute to the overall success of the project. Ensuring that the most qualified companies are selected and that the process adheres to legal and ethical standards will enhance the quality and impact of the project outcomes. This, in turn, will contribute to the broader goal of improving education and governance in Somalia.

In conclusion, the prompt provision of the requested procurement information is essential for fulfilling my oversight duties effectively. I am confident that your esteemed office recognizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and compliance in public procurement and will act swiftly to provide the necessary information. This cooperation will not only facilitate effective oversight but also contribute to the success and credibility of the GPE project, ultimately benefiting the educational development of Somalia.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and continued collaboration in ensuring the success of the GPE program.

Thanks

Jamhuuriyada Federalka Somalia  
Golaha Shacabka  
Xafiiska Xil.Cabdillahi Xaashi Abib



جمهورية الصومال الفدرالية  
مجلس الشعب  
مكتب نائب عبدالله حاش ابيب

Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abdillahi Hashi Abib - *BA, MA, MASC, Ph.D*  
Member of Foreign Affairs Committee  
Federal Republic of Somalia the House of People  
Mogadishu, Somalia  
MP- HOP #201 Awdal Region and Gebileh District  
Leader of the Accountability and Transparency Caucus of the House of People



Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib



Date: 30/03/2023

TO: Morten Sigsgaard, GPE Secretariat

Subject: Concerns Regarding implementation of GPE by Federal Ministry of Education

Dear Morten Sigsgaard!

We, the undersigned Ministers of Education from Jubaland, Southwest State, Hirshabelle, and Galmudug, write to you to express our concerns regarding the management of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) by the Federal Ministry of Education.

Despite our concerted efforts to engage with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) Ministry of Education, we have encountered significant challenges in clarifying the roles and responsibilities of Federal Member States (FMS) and the FGS within the GPE action plan. The lack of clarity surrounding the distribution of resources and the implementation process further exacerbates these concerns.

Specifically, we have found that:

1. The delineation of roles and responsibilities between FMS and FGS in the action plan is unclear, leading to ambiguity and inefficiencies in project management.
2. The distribution of resources under the GPE framework lacks transparency, making it difficult for us to ensure equitable access and effective utilization of funds within our respective states.
3. The implementation strategy for GPE initiatives lacks specificity, hindering our ability to effectively plan and execute education projects at the state level.

Furthermore, we are disappointed by the lack of willingness from the FGS Ministry of Education to address these outstanding issues through meaningful dialogue and collaboration. Despite our attempts to engage constructively, we have not received the necessary support and cooperation to resolve these critical issues.

We strongly urge GPE to intervene and facilitate discussions between all stakeholders to address the aforementioned concerns and ensure that the GPE initiatives in Somalia are implemented effectively and inclusively. It is imperative that the voices and priorities of the Federal Member States are heard and respected in the management of GPE projects.

Jamhuuriyada Federalka Somalia  
Golaha Shacabka  
Xafiiska Xil.Cabdillahi Xaashi Abib



جمهورية الصومال الفدرالية  
مجلس الشعب  
مكتب نائب عبدالله حاش ابيب

Federal Republic of Somalia  
House of the People  
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

---

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your prompt response and support in resolving these issues.



Sincerely,

Abdinasir Serar Mah,  
Jubaland Minister of Education.

---

Mustaf Ahmed Idow,  
Southwest Minister of Education.

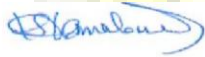


---

Fu,ad Abshir Ahmed,  
Puntland Minister of Education.

---

Said Hagar Amalow,  
Hirshabeelle Minister of Education.



---

Mohamed Hashi Dore,  
Galmudug Minister of Education.



---