

EISA and local CSOs monitored the Somalia 2022 Presidential elections



EISA, in close collaboration with its local partners, Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA) and Puntland Non-State Actors Association (PUNSAA) closely assessed the presidential election held on 15 May 2022 through the Election Situation Room (ESR) platform. The assessment was part of EISA's ongoing PEACE project, funded by the European Foreign Service Instrument (FPI,) aimed at enhancing CSO's capacity to contribute to the conduct of peaceful and inclusive elections. Through the ESR, near real-time updates through social media and flash reports, EISA and partners contributed to a full account of the presidential election looking at key aspects such as the pre-election campaign, candidate registration, election administration, and participation of women and election day procedures.

The voting process and counting were publicly managed by the joint parliamentary committee and publicly hailed as transparent with observers, journalists and candidate agents following the process, despite initial obstacles and reports of mortar shells targeting the airport compound where the election was conducted.

Through the indirect electoral system, a total of 328 members of both the upper and lower chambers of parliament voted for the president through a secret ballot. In a marathon process contested by 36 candidates, no single candidate received the 50%+1 vote in the first round of voting. The second round of voting was conducted with the four candidates who received the most votes in the first round. These included the incumbent, a former president, a former prime minister and a state-federal member state president. In this second round, no single candidate received the two-thirds majority vote (220). A run-off was later conducted with the two candidates that received the most votes in the second round. Former Somalia president, (2012 to 2017), Hassan Shiekh Mohammad won with 214 votes, ahead of the incumbent president Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, who received 110 votes. Three votes were invalid. The only female candidate who contested received one vote in the first round of the election, evidence of the low level of women's participation in the elections in general, both as voters and candidates in the country. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Somalia administered the oath of office to the president-elect immediately after the announcement of the results. After the election, Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo congratulated the successful candidate who was also congratulated by those present.