

POLICY BRIEF 02

Building Resilient Public Institutions

This brief examines the institutional capacity constraints limiting reform delivery in Somalia and proposes measures to strengthen continuity and coordination.

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The Issue

Institutional capacity, rather than policy design, remains the primary constraint on effective governance reform in Somalia.

Background

A decade of reform has produced steady but uneven institutional progress, with capacity gaps most pronounced at the state and local level.

Analysis

Staff turnover, weak inter-agency coordination and inconsistent local government capacity limit the reach of otherwise sound national policies.

Policy Options

- Establish multi-year institutional capacity programmes rather than short-term projects.
- Strengthen federal-state coordination mechanisms with clearer mandates.

Recommendations

- Prioritise continuity of technical staff over rotation-based appointments.
- Institutionalise coordination mechanisms in law rather than informal practice.

Conclusion

Durable governance improvement depends on sustained investment in institutional continuity, not episodic capacity-building.