



**DHAXALDHAWR INITIATIVE**  
**FOR EXTRACTIVE RESOURCE GOVERNANCE**



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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# 1. Executive Summary

The year 2025 marked the foundational year of Dhaxaldhawr Initiative for Extractive Resources Governance. Established with the aim of promoting transparency, accountability, and responsible governance of Somalia's natural resources, the Initiative began its work during a critical moment in Somalia's development. As the country moves closer to the exploration and potential extraction of oil, gas, and mineral resources, the importance of informed public dialogue and strong governance systems has become increasingly clear.

Throughout 2025, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative focused on building an initial foundation for its work. The organization engaged in awareness-raising, policy commentary, knowledge sharing, and participation in international discussions related to extractive sector governance. These activities aimed to contribute to public understanding of the opportunities and risks associated with natural resource development in Somalia.

Among the key activities carried out during the year were a public lecture on Somalia's oil and gas potential, policy commentary on transparency in the petroleum sector, engagement with international anti-corruption initiatives related to mineral resources, and ongoing monitoring of developments in Somalia's extractive sector. The Initiative also strengthened connections with researchers, professionals, and civil society organizations working on governance and natural resource management.

Although the organization remains in its early stages, these activities helped establish Dhaxaldhawr Initiative as an emerging platform for dialogue and awareness on extractive resource governance in Somalia. The year also served as an important period of internal learning and institutional development, allowing the Initiative to refine its strategic direction and expand its networks.

Looking ahead, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative aims to deepen its work through increased research contributions, public engagement, partnerships, and institutional strengthening. The Initiative remains committed to supporting transparent and responsible governance so that Somalia's natural resources can contribute to inclusive and sustainable national development.

## 2. Message from Executive Director

**Mohamed Abdirizak Ahmed**  
Executive Director  
Dhaxaldhawr Initiative



As we present Dhaxaldhawr Initiative's Annual Report for 2025, I am pleased to reflect on a year that marked the beginning of an important journey for our organization.

Dhaxaldhawr Initiative was established from a shared belief that Somalia's natural resources must be governed with transparency, responsibility, and a clear focus on the well-being of its people. In a country emerging from decades of conflict and rebuilding its institutions, extractive resource governance is not only a technical issue, it is a matter of trust, equity, and long-term national stability.

In 2025, we focused on learning, building a strong foundation, and engaging key stakeholders to understand governance gaps in the extractive sector. Despite modest activities, we identified major challenges such as limited access to information and weak legal frameworks, while also recognizing growing public and youth interest in natural resource governance as a key opportunity.

Dhaxaldhawr Initiative seeks to contribute to this space by producing accessible knowledge, supporting responsible public dialogue, and encouraging cooperation between citizens, policymakers, and institutions. We believe that informed communities and transparent institutions are essential for ensuring that Somalia's natural resources become a source of shared prosperity rather than division.

As we look ahead to 2026, our focus will be on strengthening our institutional capacity, expanding research and publications, deepening public engagement, and building partnerships that support transparency and sustainability. We remain committed to working carefully, responsibly, and collaboratively.

I would like to thank our team members, advisors, and partners who supported Dhaxaldhawr Initiative during its formative year. This report is not only a record of what we have done, but also a reflection of our commitment to learning and improvement.

We look forward to the journey ahead.

## 3. About Dhaxaldhawr Initiative

### 3.1 Why We Exist

Somalia is entering an important phase in its economic and institutional development. The country possesses significant natural resources, including oil, gas, and mineral deposits, that could play a major role in shaping its future. However, experiences from many countries show that without strong governance, transparency, and public oversight, natural resource wealth can also create risks such as corruption, conflict, and unequal distribution of benefits.

Dhaxaldhawr Initiative was established to help address this challenge by promoting responsible governance of Somalia's extractive resources. The Initiative seeks to encourage informed public dialogue, strengthen awareness of governance issues, and support transparency and accountability in the management of natural resources.

### 3.2 Mission and Vision

#### Vision

A Somalia where natural resources are governed transparently, responsibly, and for the benefit of all citizens.

#### Mission

To promote transparency, public awareness, and responsible governance of Somalia's extractive resources through research, dialogue, and community engagement.

### 3.3 Our Focus on Extractive Resources Governance

Dhaxaldhawr Initiative focuses on governance issues related to oil, gas, and mineral resources. The Initiative aims to contribute to better understanding of policies, institutions, and decision-making processes that shape how these resources are explored, developed, and managed.

Through public engagement, research commentary, and policy discussions, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative seeks to ensure that citizens, researchers, media professionals, and policymakers are able to participate in informed conversations about Somalia's natural resource future.

## 4. Our Approach and Strategic Focus

### 4.1 How We Understand Extractive Governance in Somalia

Extractive resource governance involves more than the technical aspects of exploration and production. It includes the systems, institutions, laws, and public processes that determine how natural resources are managed and how benefits are distributed.

In Somalia, the extractive sector is still emerging. This creates both opportunities and risks. Dhaxaldhawr Initiative believes that early attention to transparency, institutional accountability, and citizen engagement is essential to ensure that the development of the sector contributes to national stability and long-term economic growth.



### 4.2 Our Core Objectives and Priorities

Dhaxaldhawr Initiative's work is guided by several core priorities:-

- ◆ Promoting transparency and accountability in extractive resource governance
- ◆ Encouraging informed public dialogue about natural resource management
- ◆ Supporting knowledge sharing among researchers, civil society actors, and institutions
- ◆ Strengthening awareness among citizens, particularly young professionals and students

### 4.3 How We Work (Citizens, Policy, and Institutions)

The Initiative works at the intersection of citizens, policy processes, and institutional development. Its activities focus on three main areas.

First, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative works to strengthen public awareness by simplifying complex governance issues and making them accessible to citizens.

Second, the Initiative contributes to policy discussions through commentary, analysis, and engagement with research related to the extractive sector.

Third, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative seeks to encourage cooperation between civil society, professionals, researchers, and institutions involved in natural resource governance.

## 5. Our First Year in Practice: 2025 Activities and Insights

### 5.1 Organizational Establishment

The year 2025 represented the initial stage of institutional development for Dhaxaldhawr Initiative. During this period, the organization focused on establishing its identity, expanding communication channels, and developing a clear strategic direction.

Efforts were made to strengthen the Initiative's outreach platforms and build connections with professionals, researchers, and civil society actors interested in extractive resource governance.

### 5.2 Early Engagements and Partnerships

#### 5.2.1 Public Lecture on Somalia's Oil and Gas Potential

In 2025, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative organized a public lecture titled "Somalia's Oil & Gas Potential: What Communities Should Know Before Drilling Begins."

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Abdulkadir Abiikar Hussein, who shared insights into Somalia's natural resource potential, particularly in the oil and gas sector. The discussion explored the current status of exploration activities, potential opportunities associated with resource development, and governance challenges that need to be addressed.

The event provided an opportunity for students and members of the public to engage in discussion about Somalia's extractive sector and its possible implications for the country's future.



## 5.2.2 Policy Brief: “The Role of International Financial Institutions in Advancing Transparency Reforms in Somalia’s Emerging Petroleum Sector”

During the year, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative published a policy brief titled “The Role of International Financial Institutions in Advancing Transparency Reforms in Somalia’s Emerging Petroleum Sector.”

The brief examines how international financial institutions play a significant role in promoting transparency reforms within Somalia’s emerging petroleum sector. It focuses on how these institutions influenced the Federal Government of Somalia to adopt regulatory and governance reforms aimed at improving transparency, accountability, openness, and proper management of petroleum resources.



## 5.2.3 Commentary on Somalia’s Mining Policy Framework Assessment

Dhaxaldhawr Initiative also contributed to discussions around Somalia’s mining sector through commentary on the report “What the 2025 Mining Policy Framework Assessment Reveals about Somalia’s Mining Future.”

The analysis highlighted key findings of the assessment and underscored the importance of strong institutions, clear regulatory frameworks, and transparent governance in the development of Somalia’s mining industry.

## 5.2.4 Participation in the Launch of the Minerals Corruption Working Group

In 2025, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative participated in the launch of the Minerals Corruption Working Group, a global initiative bringing together experts, civil society organizations, and policy stakeholders working to address corruption risks in the minerals sector.

The event created an opportunity to engage in international dialogue on integrity, transparency, and good governance in mineral resource management.

## 5.2.5 International Anti-Corruption Day Engagement

Dhaxaldhawr Initiative commemorated International Anti-Corruption Day by highlighting the importance of integrity, transparency, and accountability in Somalia's extractive sector.

Through public messaging and awareness activities, the Initiative emphasized that corruption in natural resource governance can undermine national development and prevent communities from benefiting from their own resources.

## 5.2.6 Public Awareness and Community Engagement

Throughout the year, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative used digital platforms and public communication channels to raise awareness about natural resource governance issues in Somalia.

These efforts focused on simplifying complex policy discussions and encouraging citizens, especially young people, to engage in conversations about the future of Somalia's oil, gas, and mineral resources.

## 5.2.7 Monitoring Key Developments in the Extractive Sector

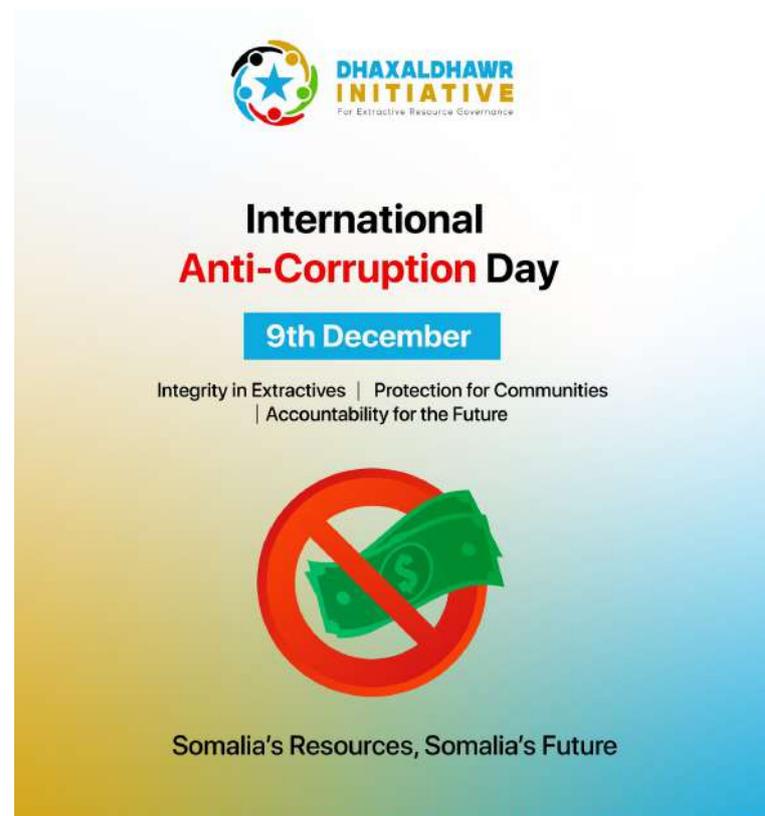
During 2025, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative closely monitored key developments in Somalia's extractive sector, including policy discussions, exploration activities, and governance reforms.

By following these developments and sharing insights through public communication channels, the Initiative aimed to help communities and stakeholders better understand the evolving landscape of Somalia's resource sector.

## 5.2.8 Institutional Networking and Partnerships

Dhaxaldhawr Initiative continued to strengthen its relationships with researchers, civil society organizations, and professionals working on governance, transparency, and natural resource management.

These networking efforts helped expand collaboration opportunities and contributed to knowledge sharing at both national and international levels.





## 5.3 Key Observations and Lessons from the Field

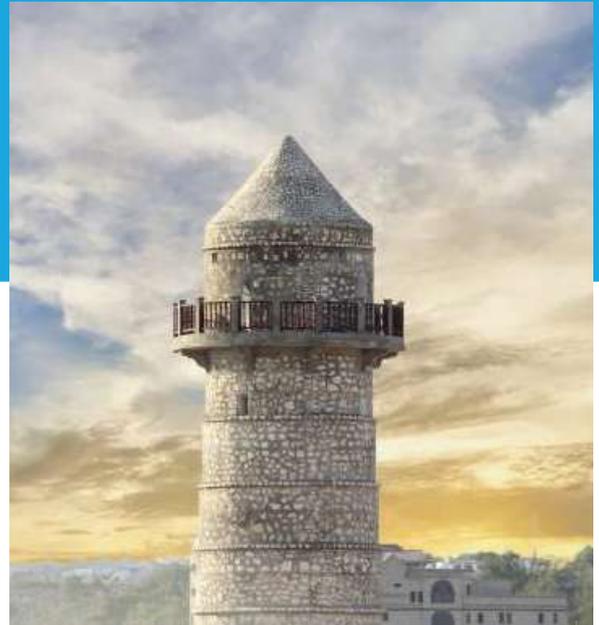
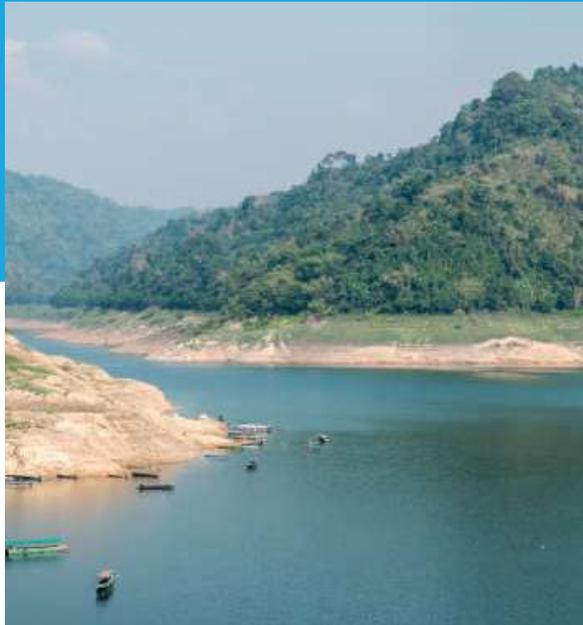
Throughout the year, several important observations emerged from Dhaxaldhawr Initiative's engagements.

First, there remains limited public access to reliable information about Somalia's extractive sector. Many citizens are interested in understanding the implications of oil, gas, and mineral development but lack accessible sources of information.

Second, governance frameworks related to natural resource management continue to evolve. Strengthening legal and institutional structures will be essential to ensure responsible sector development.

Third, there is strong interest among students, young professionals, journalists, and civil society organizations to engage in discussions about natural resource governance. This represents an important opportunity for expanding informed public dialogue.

These insights will guide the Initiative's work as it expands its activities in the coming years.



## 6. Looking Forward: Our Direction for 2026

### 6.1 Our Vision for Somalia's Extractive Sector

Dhaxaldhawr Initiative envisions a future in which Somalia's natural resources are managed transparently, responsibly, and in ways that contribute to national development and social stability.

Achieving this vision requires strong institutions, informed public dialogue, and effective governance systems that ensure accountability and fairness in the management of natural resource wealth.

### 6.2 Dhaxaldhawr's Focus Areas for the Coming Year

In 2026, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative plans to expand its work through several priority areas.

These include strengthening institutional capacity, developing a stronger digital presence, producing research and policy publications, and supporting responsible media engagement on extractive sector issues.

The Initiative also aims to deepen partnerships with civil society organizations, researchers, and media professionals who share a commitment to transparency and responsible governance.

Through these efforts, Dhaxaldhawr Initiative will continue working to ensure that Somalia's natural resources contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.

**THANKS!**



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