

OAG Somalia's historic financial and compliance audits: First-hand experiences of delivering audits in a complex and challenging context

**Key points from the Auditing in Complex and Challenging Contexts Workstream Webinar
18 March 2020**

The webinar was led by the Auditor General of Somalia, Mr. Mohamed Ali, and he was interviewed by Jostein Tellnes, Senior Manager of IDI's Bilateral Support Unit. The AG spoke of the challenges he had faced, and overcome, in compiling the first audit of the financial accounts of the Federal Government of Somalia. At the same time, he has recently issued two compliance audit reports – one for the security sector and one for the non-security sectors. The audit findings received wide media-coverage in Somalia and internationally, and there are clear indications that action is being taken to address the findings. The reports can be downloaded at www.oag.gov.so.

The interview was followed by questions where Mr. Ali spoke of how his office had worked in partnership with the Accountant General, how he had communicated the value of an external audit and how more government funds have now been brought onto the national balance sheet. To reach this position, he had invested heavily in building staff skills on-the-job through support from resident advisors and subject specialists, as well as colleagues across Africa and IDI. On the basis of an ambitious strategic plan, the AG has nurtured an ecosystem of coordinated support funded by the EU, WB and the Norwegian embassy.