

HORN OF
AFRICA
BULLETIN

Horn of Africa Bulletin is a publication
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HORN OF AFRICA



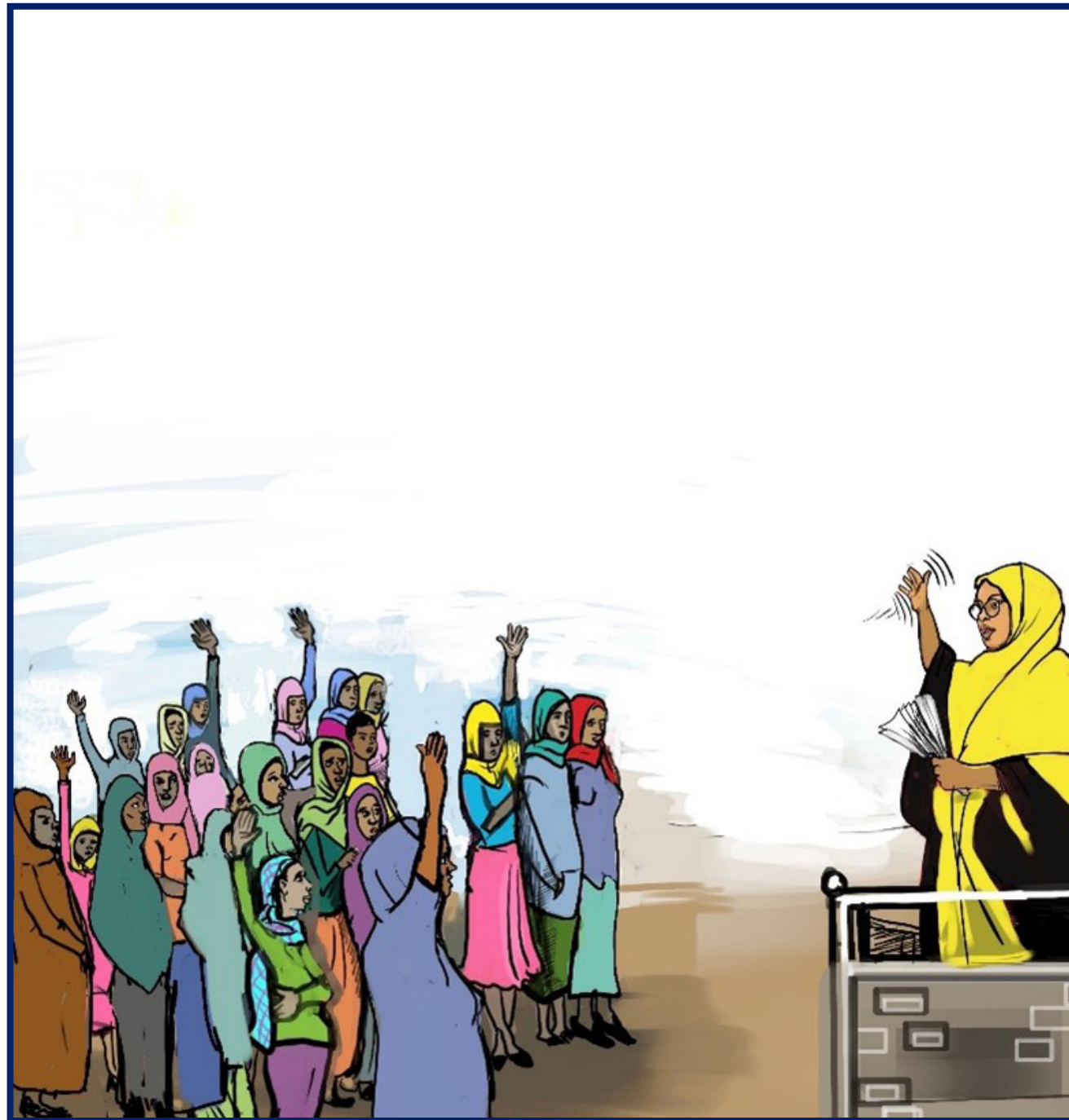
Halima Godane

Hooyada Nabadda Jubbaland - Mother of Peace

Illustration by Henok Demisse

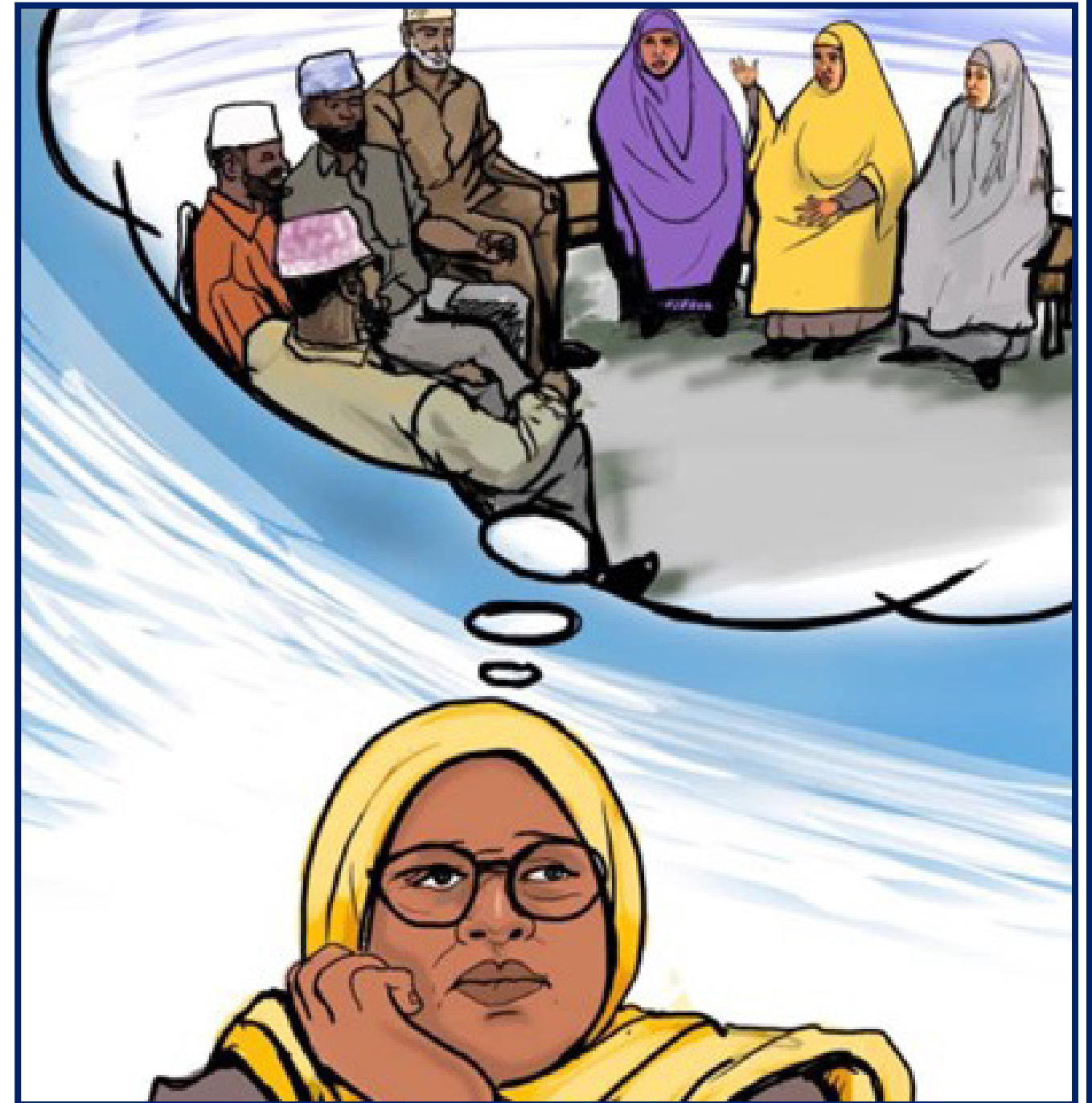
"I am Halima Godane. I founded the Somali Women Solidarity Organization (SWSO) in 2006 in Jubbaland, Somalia."

"I started SWSO after I witnessed the dire situation caused by years of conflicts that engulfed the country, but especially suffered by women in the Jubba region."



"I used to see mediations in Somalia. Women were only observers. They had little influence to raise their concerns. Women weren't welcome."

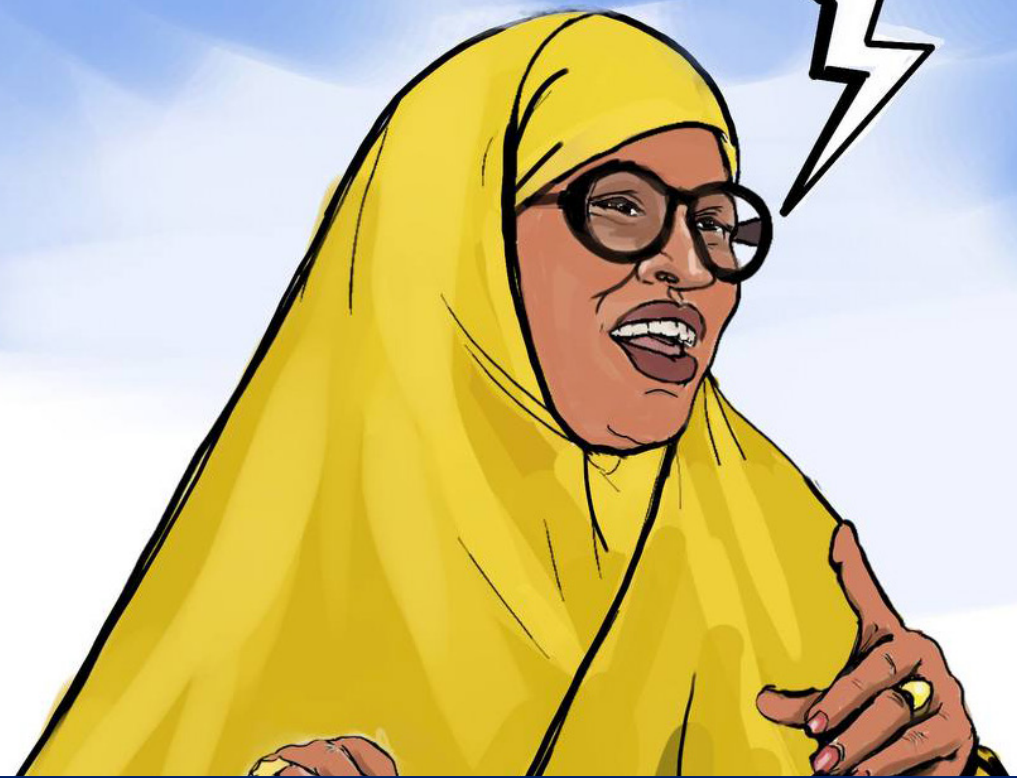
"I realised the need to strengthen women's participation in peacebuilding in Jubbaland to be able to actively participate in grassroots mediation."



"Two things needed to happen. Elders needed to realise that women understood the complexity of the conflicts in the community."



Women needed to learn the intricacies of the historical and traditional mediation mechanisms that are passed down between elders.



"I pushed back such beliefs and worked to build the trust of elders."

"We held trainings to increase women's skills on traditional Somali mediation and modern mediation, leadership, negotiation skills and to have a voice within their communities."



“We also established women platforms in Jubbaland to enhance women’s conflict resolution mechanisms.”



“Women’s community platforms have supported the communities and built trust between women, clan elders, and the authorities.”



"I have seen how including youth and women in mediation changes how politicians and clan elders act. They want the community to see them as peaceful. This creates a smoother mediation process."

"I'm proud to see how elders and community leaders' attitudes have changed towards women."



“When we started the women’s mediation in my community, it was rare for women who were peace activists. Now, peace activists are everyone. People realise the importance of women peacebuilders in Somalia.”



Editorial information

This publication is produced by the Life & Peace Institute (LPI) with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The articles are the opinion and research of the authors not the donor or LPI. LPI has provided editorial support to the author, however, the content, opinions, and recommendations are those of the authors.

The editorial committee is led by Aaron Stanley and Eden Matiyas.

Editorial principles

The Horn of Africa Bulletin (‘the Bulletin’) is a publication that monitors and analyses current and pressing peace and security topics in the Horn to provide knowledgeable and locally informed analysis for relevant debates and policy processes. For close to 30 years, the Bulletin has published current analysis on regional peace and security issues prioritising local insights, community perspectives, new methods, and alternative opinions. The material published in the Bulletin represents a variety of sources and does not necessarily express the views of the LPI.

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About Life & Peace Institute

We build peace one change at a time. For more than 35 years, we have promoted nonviolent approaches to conflict in the Horn and the Great Lakes Region. Working across 8 key programmes in 6 countries and with more than 70 staff, we support the capacity of people living with violent conflict to transform their own communities and societies into inclusive, just, and peaceful ones. We also work to influence regional and global policy agendas, making sure local voices are heard around the world.

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ISSN 2002-1666

Comic Artist Information and Contact

Henok Demisse is currently working on cartoons for newspapers on economic and cultural issues and also illustrations for books. Previously, Henok has worked on various books on increasing women’s participation, avoiding harmful practices for children, and spreading awareness with institutions working on similar issues. He participated in illustration. Henok graduated from the Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Arts and Design with a BA Degree. He can be reached at henokbezawit@gmail.com.