



European Commission  
United Nations Development Programme  
**Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance**



# EC-UNDP Workshop on

## **Formulating and Implementing Electoral Assistance Projects in the Context of the EC-UNDP Partnership**

### **Case Study on Electoral Budgeting and Working with Consolidated Budgets - Liberia**

Anna Harvala/ EU Delegation in Liberia

*Brussels 1 – 4 February 2011*



# Liberian Electoral Cycle 2011

- ❑ Presidential and Legislative Elections 11 October 2011
  - Second elections since the end of 14-year civil conflict
  - First time NEC leading the conduct of the Elections, with assistance from International Community
  - Voter registration 10 January – 6 February 2011
  
- ❑ Constitutional Referendum 23 August 2011
  - Four questions, three of which Elections-related (timing of elections, Absolute majority to simple majority for House of Rep seats, Residency requirement from 10 to 5 years for Presidential candidates)



# *Support to the 2010-2012 Electoral Cycle in Liberia*

- Total Elections Budget approx. **47,2** M USD
  
- Government of Liberia (GoL) 15 M USD
- UNDP multi-donor Basket Fund 27,2 M USD
  - EU 7 M EUR, Sweden (5,5 M USD), Germany (252 000 USD), Spain (750 000 USD), Denmark (800 000 USD), Japan (5 M USD pledge) – funding gap approx. 4 M USD
  - based on a request from NEC for UN assistance
- USAID Electoral support (implemented by IFES) 5 M USD
- UNMIL support (logistics, transport)



# ***UNDP managed Basket Fund***

- Project implementation May 2010 – December 2012
- Activities beyond 2011 Elections (legal review, parliamentary development)
- Project Document and its integrated budget encapsulates both UNDP and IFES (USAID) activities and resources
- Two missions carried out within the context of the EC-UNDP Partnership on Electoral Assistance and its Joint Task Force to support the preparation of documents, including PRODOC and Budget (Jan/Feb 2010 and Oct 2010)
- PRODOC revision November 2010



# *Working with the Project budget*

- ❑ Integration of two separate projects in the same PRODOC
  - Advantages: transparency, facilitates coordination under same umbrella and ensuring complementarities
  - Disadvantages: risk of confusion on which project covers what, difficulties at contracting level
  
- ❑ Implications for drafting EU Contribution Agreement Annex III
  - no template, but certain details required in the budget breakdown
  - the proper breakdown for activities funded by both projects (UNDP & IFES) was only done at this stage



# ***Working with the national electoral budget***

- Few months following the start of the UNDP Project and arrival of the TA team shortcomings discovered in financial and operational planning of the NEC and other important stakeholders (mainly MoJ, LNP and MoD)
- Essential elements of successful (timely and budgeted) elections were missing
- No consolidated national electoral budget document with proper breakdown and funding sources
- Some key activities (operations/logistics/training) were left out, while large amounts went to procurement of assets and personnel related expenses
- A funding gap to cover the costs for VR temporary staff discovered



## ***Working with the national electoral budget 2***

- ❑ Budget 'clean up' exercise December 2010
  - Completed by NEC, UNDP and IFES experts
  - Rationalization and identification of redundant costs (total 2,4 M USD)
  - With the facilitation of MPEA the funds for VR temporary staff were identified in NEC/national budget. Uncertainty remains over the same costs for referendum and elections
  - Unclarity over financing the security elements remains (MoJ, LNP and MoD have not prepared/allocated extra budgets for the elections year) – risk of negative consequences on the securitization process



# *Lessons learned/Observations*

## *1*

- Need for a consolidated national budget from the very start
- Need for clarity over contributions (including of the Government) and timelines
- Coordination: ensuring involvement by all relevant parties and national agencies (MoF, MPEA, security institutions...)
- Particularly in the formulation phase, clear communication and information-sharing over budget contributions to avoid misunderstandings (Government, UNDP, IFES)
- Ensuring adequate time for budget planning and preparation





# *Lessons learned/Observations*

## 2

- Mobilization for expert support for budgeting - at the right time and for sufficient length (particularly in the absence of a TA team)
- Need to harmonize planning with the Governmental budgeting process and timelines
- Ensuring good logistics, operations and security planning to avoid getting blocked due to budget constraints
- EMB's (NEC) and Government's (MPEA) key role in coordinating the overall national electoral budgeting and mobilizing support
- Need to have the managerial set-up in place (Donor Coordination Group, Project Board) to share information and address arising issues at early stage



## ***Lessons learned/Observations 3***

- Essential to review cost-effectiveness and address expectations created by precedents (2005 Elections run by UNMIL)
- Due consideration of the context (post-conflict/fragile state) in identifying target areas of support
- Despite the challenges met and expected, the process is currently on time and in line with the budget



Thank you!

Questions / Answers