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Global Project
for Electoral Cycle Support II



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



EC-UNDP

1 - 30 June, 2019

Electoral Assistance Projects Update

This report provides an overview of all active EU funded and UNDP implemented electoral assistance projects.



Layout design by Rochan Kadariya, UNDP Electoral Support Project, Nepal

SUMMARY

ARMENIA: In cooperation with IFES, the project has organised a two-day workshop for the Central Electoral Commission members (CEC) and staff on "Political Finance Oversight". - The project continues system and content development on CEC e-Learning platform, as well as the development of management systems for the CEC. - The project has contracted an international ICT Advisor to conduct comprehensive assessment of CEC ICT resources and capacity, as well as to develop a long-term strategy.

GUINEA-BISSAU: The project continued to support to the National Elections Commission (CNE) with the Gender Assessment.

KENYA: The Donor Group on Elections and Electoral Processes (DGE) finalised development of its strategy for support to Kenya's 2022 Electoral Cycle. The strategy adopts the approach that international support should cover the whole electoral cycle 2019-2022 to ensure a cyclical support to elections. The strategy identifies key support areas including legal reform and institutional capacity building; political party strengthening; civic engagement and voter education; domestic and international observation; media and communication; peace-building and electoral security; and strengthening inclusivity, especially of women and youth. This strategy once approved by the DGE will be shared with the Heads of Mission.

LEBANON: The project produced a thematic video highlighting the preparation, organization and proceeding of the parliamentary by-elections in Tripoli. - The President of the Constitutional Council highlighted the efficient support provided by the project to the Constitutional Council website's development, library, office equipment and south-south cooperation.

LIBERIA: Project implementation remains on course in support of the National Elections Commission (NEC) with a key focus on staff professional development, electoral reform and infrastructure development. - The study tour to the Ghana Electoral Commission has been completed by 3 staff members from the Monitoring and Evaluation department. - The cataloguing of all assets in main the building and the annex at NEC headquarters has been completed. - Civic education workshops on electoral reform were launched on 18 and 20 June in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh and Gbarnga, Bong counties respectively.

NEPAL: The Election Commission presented its election review and strategic plan to national leaders.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: An Electoral Act review workshop was held on 19 June to identify legal provisions that may require a legal amendment. - Provincial Assemblies Elections have been monitored by civil society organisations with support from the project.

SOMALIA: The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) organised from 17 to 20 June a workshop in Kampala, Uganda on electoral security and dispute resolution, in collaboration with the African Union's Assistance Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

ZIMBABWE: ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and institutional strengthening areas of election operations including planning, review processes, knowledge management, polling process, Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), training requirements in pre-election, election and post-election period, voter education, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, inclusivity and election dispute resolution. An Electoral Cycle approach has been adopted by the project to ensure that issues and recommendations from one election cycle can be addressed in the next one (2018-2023).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING.....	1
ARMENIA.....	2
GUINEA-BISSAU	5
KENYA	6
LEBANON	8
LIBERIA	11
NEPAL.....	13
SOLOMON ISLANDS	15
SOMALIA.....	18
ZIMBABWE.....	21

ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Title	Reference	EU Contribution	Start Date	End Date
Afghanistan	UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP)	DCI-ASIE/2015/368-884	€ 15,500,000.00	29.12.15	31.12.19
Armenia	Electoral Project Support in Armenia (EPSA)	ENI/2018/404-610	€ 1,500,000.00	25.07.18	31.12.19
Guinea-Bissau	Support to Electoral Cycle in Guinea-Bissau 2018-2019	EDF 2018/401-213	€ 2,500,000.00	15.10.18	15.01.20
Kenya	Strengthening of the Electoral Processes in Kenya Project (SEPK)	FED/2016/372/463	€ 5,000,000.00	13.02.16	30.06.19
Lebanon	EU 2018-2020 Electoral Support to Lebanon	ENI/2018/395-460	€ 2,750,000.00	01.01.18	31.12.19
Liberia	Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/367-723	€ 10,000,000.00	01.06.15	31.05.20 (tbc)
Madagascar	Soutien au Cycle Electoral à Madagascar (SACEM)	FED/2018/398-673	€ 1,500,000.00	04.07.18	31.08.19
Malawi	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	2017/389-162	€ 2,500,000.00	11.10.17	10.04.20
Nepal	Electoral Support Project- Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development Support for the Election Commission of Nepal (ESP)	DCI-ASIE/2012/305-833	€ 10,050,000.00	12.01.12	28.12.19
Libya	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5,000,000.00	01.11.17	01.11.20
Solomon Islands	Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP)	FED/2013/328-922	€ 3,500,000.00	01.07.13	27.08.19
Somalia	Joint Programme for Support to the Electoral Process in the Federal Republic of Somalia	FED/2015/366-291 FED/2015/360-953	€ 5,193,878.00	21.11.15	31.12.19
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	30.08.20



ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT IN ARMENIA (ESPA)

HIGHLIGHTS

- In cooperation with IFES, the project has organised a two-day workshop for the Central Electoral Commission members (CEC) and staff on “Political Finance Oversight”.
- The project continues system and content development on CEC e-Learning platform, as well as the development of management systems for the CEC.
- The project has contracted an international ICT Advisor to conduct comprehensive assessment of CEC ICT resources and capacity, as well as to develop a long-term strategy.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Workshop on “Political Finance Oversight” for the CEC members and staff

On 20-21 June 2019, in cooperation with IFES office in Armenia and the CEC, the project organised a two-day BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections) workshop on “Political Finance Oversight” for the CEC commissioners and staff members (15 in total). The workshop was led by Dr. Magnus Ohman, the Senior Political Finance Advisor and Director of the IFES Regional Europe Office in Prague.

The main objective of the workshop was to address the issues of money in politics along with introduction of the basic principles and structures underlying a credible and workable political financing regulatory framework. The workshop also aimed at encouraging participants to identify solutions to significant political financing issues in Armenia. During the workshop participants discussed the peculiarities of campaign financing in Armenia and presented their practical observations and recommendations aimed at improving the efficiency of the oversight over the political finance process. There was also a discussion on gender, reflecting the reality that women remain under-represented in politics, and how the increasing influence of money in politics perpetuates this inequality.

As noted by the participants, the workshop provided them with the theoretical foundation and many of the enhanced practical skills needed for their professional work to advocate for, develop and implement more transparent systems of political party and campaign finance.

Development of e-Learning platform for the CEC

The project continued the development of the e-Learning platform. The e-Learning website is deployed in the CEC data center and is available for the broader range of user testing with the following address: <https://elearning.elections.am>.

Building ICT capacity of the CEC and other electoral stakeholders

The project announced a tender for the procurement of hardware and software for the CEC based on the needs assessment conducted by the project in May. The project has also started the renovation of the CEC server room / data center and preparation of the data center for the placement of the new hardware. The expected outcome of this action is the improved physical conditions (prevention of high level of humidity) and enhancement of security (placement of metallic doors).

Additionally, the project signed a contract with the selected vendor for procurement of hardware and software for the Passport and Visa Department of Police, focused on supporting electoral data preparation processes.

Capacity-building and development of management systems for the CEC

ESPA continued the development of Precinct Electoral Commission (PEC) staff management information system for the CEC. The testing version of the application is installed on the CEC website with the following address: <https://eapp.elections.am> for internal testing.

Jointly with CEC, the project initiated the inventory of voter authentication devices (VAD) in the central warehouse. All 4561 VADs and related equipment are undergoing a regular check-up, planned twice per year.

CEC IT department staff successfully completed the “C# programming fundamentals” course. The project organised and will fund the second phase of the training on “ASP.NET Core Web programming principles by using the C# language” at the Microsoft Innovation Center of Armenia.

Development of CEC ICT roadmap and strategy

ESPA has recruited a short-term international IT advisor for assessment and development of ICT strategy for the CEC. The project plans for the first draft of the assessment and strategy document to be ready by July 2019.

II. Plans for the next period

For the month of July 2019, the project will:

- Continue the work on the e-Learning platform;
- Conduct BRIDGE training module on legal and election dispute resolution for the CEC;
- Continue the work on the CEC ICT strategy and roadmap development;
- Initiate the CEC strategic planning development process.

For more information on the Support to the Electoral Support Project in Armenia (ESPA), please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Shalva Kipshidze, shalva.kipshidze@undp.org.



GUINEA-BISSAU

Photo credit: IESU

SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL CYCLE 2018-2019

The “Support to Elections Cycle in Guinea-Bissau 2018-2019” project aims to address the Guinea-Bissau capacity to hold legitimate, transparent and credible elections in accordance with domestic legislation and international standards.

The project provides technical assistance to the Elections Management Bodies (CNE – National Election Commission - and GTAPE – Bureau of Technical Support to the Electoral Process) on areas of voters’ registration, elections logistics, electoral operations, civic education, information technologies. It also provides financial assistance to these operations and for the purchase of polling station kit’ consumables.

For more information, please visit the project’s [website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The project continued to support to the National Elections Commission (CNE) with the Gender Assessment.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The date for the presidential elections has been set for 24 November.

The PACE project continued to provide support to the CNE-led working group on gender mainstreaming. The working group meets weekly with a view to developing a gender and inclusion policy for the CNE. The first step in this process was the completion of a Gender Assessment, based on the UNDP/ UNWOMEN guide on inclusive electoral processes. The project continues to provide technical support to the working group, in collaboration with the Human Rights and Gender sections of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

II. Plans for the next period

- Support to the identification of gender mainstreaming gaps, and the drafting of the gender policy.

For more information on the Support to the Electoral Cycle 2018-2019 project in Guinea Bissau, please contact Mr. Deryck Fritz, deryck.fritz@un.org and visit the [project’s website](#).



KENYA

IEBC Communications Department

STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN KENYA (SEPK)

The UNDP Electoral Assistance Project in Kenya (SEPK) provides technical assistance to the Kenyan Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and other stakeholders to support credible and peaceful electoral process. The project started in February 2016 and focuses on strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the electoral process, increasing electoral participation with specific attention being paid to youth, women, and disable people, and consolidating electoral justice and dispute resolution mechanisms to increase compliance with electoral framework.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Donor Group on Elections and Electoral Processes (DGE) finalised development of its strategy for support to Kenya's 2022 electoral cycle. The strategy adopts the approach that international support should cover the whole electoral cycle 2019-2022 to ensure a cyclical support to elections. The strategy identifies key support areas including legal reform and institutional capacity building; political party strengthening; civic engagement and voter education; domestic and international observation; media and communication; peace-building and electoral security; and strengthening inclusivity, especially of women and youth. This strategy once approved by the DGE will be shared with the Heads of Mission.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

End-term evaluation of the SEPK project: The project continued, with the guidance of an independent evaluation firm, to finalise its end-term evaluation. The end-term evaluation will identify lessons from implementation of SEPK and provide recommendations for future programming on elections for UNDP and other UN agencies. A draft report was subjected to various electoral stakeholders for review and validation. The inputs of the stakeholders will be applied to finalise the report.

Ongoing preparation of SEPK successor programme: The project continued spearheading design of a project document for a broader deepening democracy programme, to be implemented by UN Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) under the leadership of UNDP. The proposed programme is designed to ensure sustainable engagement on key issues related to democratic governance in between electoral events. The programme design

adopts an electoral cycle approach and seeks to address deep-seated governance and democracy issues which have affected peaceful conduct of every election in Kenya since 2007, including access to justice, electoral security, capacity building of electoral institutions and civic engagement through the media and civil society organisations. The programme will lay a firm foundation for a management of the 2022 elections.

Finalisation of IEBC gender and inclusion policy: Following the input of IEBC Commissioners and County Election Managers, the IEBC gender and social inclusion policy was finalised and presented to the Commission for final endorsement. Also developed is an implementation plan to guide application of the policy in the first year of its use (from September 2019) as well as knowledge products to be used in popularising and disseminating the policy. The goal of this policy is to promote the inclusion of special interest groups in all stages of the electoral process. It creates a framework that empowers the IEBC deal with the challenges that face special interest groups thus enabling them to exercise their right to vote and to contest for leadership positions.

Development of strategic plans for Judiciary Training Institute (JTI) and Political Parties Dispute Tribunal (PPDT): During this period, the project supported JTI and PPDT to finalise development of their respective strategic plans. The thrust of the PPDT strategic plan 2019-2023 is to strengthen support to political parties to ensure that they resolve and process disputes in a more transparent manner that adheres to the principles of natural justice while strengthening and promoting the ability of PPDT to embrace wider reach of the country and strengthen its enforcement capacity. The JTI strategic plan, 2018-2022 provides a framework to guide JTI undertake its role in training and capacity building of various cadres of judicial personnel for enhanced service delivery, including electoral dispute resolution.

SEPK closure activities: The project has been extended to 30 September 2019 to allow for end-term evaluation finalisation, operational and financial closure of the project.

II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the next reporting period include:

- Completion of SEPK project end term evaluation;
- Finalise development of the SEPK successor programme;
- Development of final project review and lessons learned report;
- Operational and financial closure activities.

For more information on the project on Strengthening the Electoral Process in Kenya, please contact Mr. James Wagala, james.wagala@undp.org.



LEBANON

UNDP LEAP

LEBANESE ELECTIONS ASSISTANCE PROJECT (LEAP)

The EU-funded UNDP Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP) started its activities in October 2012 with the main objective to strengthen the institutional capacity of the national institutions and stakeholders in terms of electoral management and administration, for the conduct of credible, periodical, transparent and inclusive elections in Lebanon.

To achieve these objectives, UNDP LEAP works closely with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), responsible for electoral management, administration and overall electoral operations. The project also supports other electoral stakeholders, such as the Constitutional Council, State Council, Supervisory Commission for the Election (SCE), judicial bodies and works in close cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs). Within this context, UNDP LEAP provides electoral technical assistance and advisory support focused on: 1) management & administration of elections; 2) supervisory commission for elections; 3) voter education; 4) electoral dispute resolution; and 5) women's participation in elections. For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The project produced a thematic video highlighting the preparation, organisation and proceeding of the parliamentary by-elections in Tripoli.
- The President of the Constitutional Council, Dr. Issam Sleiman highlighted the efficient support provided by the project to the Constitutional Council website's development, library, office equipment and south-south-cooperation.

1. Project activities during the reporting period

Thematic video of the Tripoli by-elections

A thematic video was developed and produced by the project, presenting the preparation, organization and E-Day proceedings. The video is meant to summarize the support provided to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (the electoral management body in Lebanon) and to other relevant stakeholders

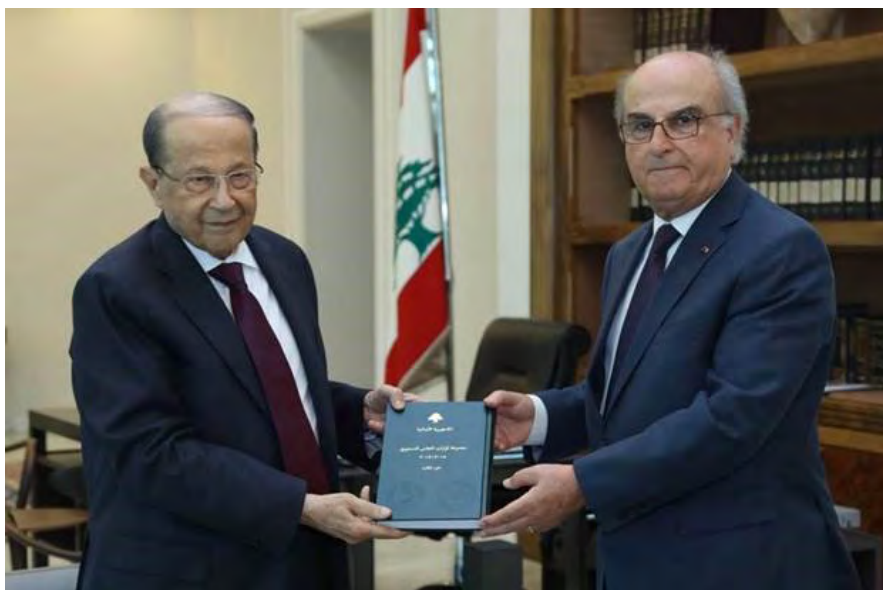
during the electoral preparatory phase which includes complex logistic, operational and deployment activities and the selection, mobilization and training of 800 polling officials that worked throughout the election day to deliver the necessary electoral processes.

See [here](#) the English video and [here](#) the Arabic version.

Constitutional Council

Since 2013, UNDP continuously supported the activity of the Constitutional Council through the provision of technical assistance and operational support. In this regard, the President of the Council mentioned the fruitful cooperation and the support provided by UNDP since 2013. As the mandate of the current Constitutional Council will end soon, and based on the results achieved and the ongoing partnership, the President of the Council will recommend the new appointed Council to continue this collaboration with UNDP, into the next cycle.

In reference to the support provided since 2013, HE Dr. Sleiman highlighted, among others, the assistance to the council website, library, office equipment and south-south cooperation. In particular, the support provided for the publishing of the Council decisions 2015-2019, both in Arabic and French languages, is considered as very effective and with a wide impact. This initiative helped raise awareness and knowledge on the work of the Council not only with the Lebanese universities, experts and judicial system, but also internationally within the francophone countries.



The President of the Constitutional Council, Dr. Issam Sleiman submitted to the President of the Republic, General Michel Aoun, the Constitutional Council Resolutions 2015-2019.

II. Plans for the next period

- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM): continued technical assistance and advisory support. Support MoIM in the preparation, organisation and conduct of the upcoming by-elections in Tyre District (Aug-Sep 2019);
- Supervisory Commission for Elections (SCE): lessons learned and strategic planning exercise (Sep-Oct 2019);

- Constitutional Council: lessons learned exercise (Sep 2019);
- Preparation phase for a program developed jointly with the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE) focused on raising awareness and knowledge of students (high school students) on democracy and elections, in Beirut and regional level. The program will start in nine schools around Lebanon (six public and three private schools);
- Preparation phase for initiatives with civil society organisations focused on enhancing participation and representation of women in the political life and in particular in elections. Currently, new Lebanese women organisations and thematic consortium are emerging to help foster and advocate for equity and equality in regard to gender roles, rights and responsibilities.

For more information on the project on LEAP, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Dan Radulescu, dan.radulescu@undp.org and visit the [project's website](#).



LIBERIA

📷 Election Project/UNDP Liberia

SUPPORT TO THE 2015 – 2018 LIBERIAN ELECTORAL CYCLE

Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle project was established in order to strengthen the capacity of the National Election Commission (NEC) to successfully carry out electoral process within the 2015-2018 electoral cycle. Among other objectives, it introduced modern administrative systems and procedures, enhanced communications and public outreach, supported voter registration and election results management process. In addition, the project seeks to enhance the participation of women in the elections and in political activities, support civic and voter education and strengthen NEC's capacity to engage with the stakeholders and resolve electoral disputes. The project is supported by the European Union (10.85 million USD), Sweden (2,757,039 USD), UNDP (1 million USD), Canada (749,625 USD) and Ireland (568,828 USD).

For more information, [please visit the Project's website.](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Project implementation remains on course in support of the National Elections Commission (NEC) with a key focus on staff professional development, electoral reform and infrastructure development.
- The study tour to the Ghana Electoral Commission has been completed by 3 staff members from the monitoring and evaluation department.
- The cataloguing of all assets in main the building and the annex at NEC headquarters has been completed
- Civic education workshops on electoral reform were launched on 18 and 20 June in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh and Gbarnga, Bong counties respectively.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

With support from the project, 3 staff from National Elections Commission (NEC) from the monitoring and evaluation department successfully completed a two-week study tour to the Ghana Elections Commission.

The cataloguing of all assets in the main building and the annex at NEC headquarters has been

completed. The cataloguing of materials in other warehouses around the country has been put on hold until funding is made available.

The civic education workshops on electoral reform were launched on 18 and 20 June in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh and Gbarnga, Bong counties respectively. Both workshops were attended by electoral stakeholders across a broad spectrum. In Zwedru, 113 participants and 26 were female. In Gbarnga, 98 participants and 17 were female.

The recruitment process of the national Coordinator on electoral reform is complete, and the consultant is expected to commence during the second week of July.

The tender for construction and rehabilitation of warehouses will be advertised on 1 July 2019.

The recruitment of the national Engineer to oversee the construction and renovation of warehouses is on track.

Preparations for the Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) are complete. The NAM team is expected to arrive in Monrovia on 10 July 2019.



II. Plans for the next period

- Continuation of regional consultative civic education workshops on electoral reform;
- Conduct of the NAM on 11-19 July 2019;
- Evaluation of the bids for construction and renovation of the warehouses;
- Continuation of physical assets verification and data collection exercise;
- Training of NEC staff on forklift operation, the activity is still outstanding awaiting the local service provider who was scheduled to train changed the dates of training;
- Continuation of inventory and asset registry of materials from the 19 warehouses when funds are made available.

For more information on the support to the Liberia electoral cycle, please contact Mr. James Monibah, james.monibah@undp.org and visit the [Project's website](#).



📷 Rochan Kadariya/UNDP ESP

ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT (ESP)

The Electoral Support Project- Phase II (ESP) is a technical assistance initiative which focuses on a long-term institutional and professional capacity development of the Election Commission (ECN) for conducting credible, inclusive and transparent elections at a national level. The objectives of the project are 1) to strengthen the capacity of the ECN to function as an independent and credible institution, 2) to allow the conduct of the election cycle in an effective, sustainable, and credible manner, and 3) to increase democratic participation, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society. For more information, [please visit the ESP website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Election Commission presented its election review and strategic plan to national leaders.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

A high-level interaction on current electoral issues took place with the President, Prime Minister, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Chief Election Commissioner and other dignitaries as well as political leaders at the President's Office on 24 June. The Election Commission presented the review of the 2017 elections and its third strategic plan.

Following the event to mark the World Press Freedom Day, the Electoral Support Project (ESP) produced a consolidated event report and summary videos of the different speeches and sessions.

The project is working to ensure that Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) sustains the investments that the project has made. For this, it gave a presentation on the Geographic Information System that the project set up for ECN and handed over in 2016.

The new ECN leadership provided fresh guidance on the areas in which Commissioners require support. In line with this, the project team launched preparations for the implementation of these activities. They seek to work with ECN on its social media presence; setting up provincial Electoral Education and Information Centre (EEIC) in two additional locations; work with the National Judicial Academy for the orientation on Electoral Justice of High Court Judges as well as capacity-building work with the Nepal Association of the Blind and National Federation of the Deaf Nepal.



The Chief Election Commissioner addressing the high-level interaction at the President's Office.

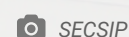
II. Plans for the next period

For the next month, the project will continue engaging with the implementation of the activities mentioned above. In addition, it is also planning to conduct a Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) workshop on Disability Rights and Elections.

For more information on the Nepal ESP, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Vincent da Cruz, vincent.dacruz@undp.org, and visit the [project's website](#).



SOLOMON ISLANDS



STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (SECSIP)

Since 2013, UNDP Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP) has contributed to the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral process. The project supported the successful introduction of a new comprehensive biometric voter registration system which resulted in a more inclusive and reliable voters' roll and continues to provide assistance in terms of its updating and sustainability. The project also supports the review of the electoral legal framework with a view to promote the strengthening of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) and assist to the fulfilment of its mandate. It also strengthens the capacity of the SIEC to advocate for women's political participation and supports the national authorities and civil society organisations in raising awareness of the population regarding voting and civic engagement. SECSIP is generously funded by the European Union, the government of Australia and UNDP.

For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- An Electoral Act review workshop was held on 19 June to identify legal provisions that may require a legal amendment
- Provincial Assemblies Elections have been monitored by civil society organisations with support from the project.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Electoral Act (EA) 2018 review workshop

As part of the lessons learned workshops conducted during the post-election phase, a one-day workshop was held in Honiara on 19 June to discuss the 2018 Electoral Act. At the request of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), the project provided logistical and financial support for this exercise that was attended by Electoral Office staff, Elections Support System Programme (ESSP) advisers and SECSIP project staff. Participants identified operational aspects and practical considerations and considered possible amendments of the relevant legal provisions. Given the upcoming parliamentary sessions expected to be held in the coming weeks where the new Government will report on priorities identified after the 100 days in office, the workshop was a timely first exercise to commence the identification of possible areas of electoral legal review.



Provincial Assemblies Elections (PAE) 2019 monitoring

For the first time in Solomon Islands, civil society organisations (CSOs) have been engaged in PAE monitoring. The project engaged two partner CSOs namely Tefila and Stages of Changes to deploy a total of 25 (including 15 women) national monitors to conduct a technical follow-up of the PAE in three provinces: Guadalcanal, Ngella and Malaita. The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS), Returning Officers and the project provided trainings to those monitors before their deployment to the selected provinces. The project also provided a package of information which included relevant legislation (Provincial Government Act and Regulations). Monitoring reports from these CSOs are expected to be received during the month of July 2019. The project's Women Leadership Adviser provided support to provincial election women candidates and monitored 11 polling stations located in East and West Guadalcanal.



Support to Political Parties Commission (PPC)

The project's graduates' working at PPC supported the preparation of PPC awareness radio program on issues related to the process of amalgamation of political parties and with respect to the amendment of particulars as provided in the Political Party Integrity Act (PPIA) 2014. Graduates also contributed to a research on the referendum processes from neighbouring countries like Fiji, New Zealand and Australia.

Support to women's political participation

A total of 30 women contested in the Provincial Assemblies Elections (PAE) and 3 women were elected (a woman was also elected in the Honiara City Council election held on 26 May 2019). In addition to candidate schools training, the project's Women Leadership Adviser provided one-to-one coaching and technical

support on challenges during the campaign period. Few factors that may have led to the low number of elected women may include very late campaigns, intervention of current members of Parliament to ask voters to vote for their male candidates, limited financial resources etc.

II. Plans for the next period

- Commencement of construction for the expansion of the Electoral Office premises;
- Reflection workshop with the national observers and those who conducted the monitoring of the provincial assembly elections;
- Launching of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) survey: quantitative data collection;
- Planning and preparation for regional political party conference in Solomon Islands.

For more information on the SECSIP, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Ms. Olga Rabade, olga.rabade@undp.org and visit the [project's website](#).



UNDP/UNSOM JOINT PROGRAMME FOR SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

The overall strategic objective of the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme for “Support to the Electoral Process to the Federal Republic of Somalia” is to prepare the country for universal elections through institutional capacity development of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), the development of the legal framework for elections, and support to promote better understanding of electoral processes.

For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) organised from 17 to 20 June a workshop in Kampala, Uganda on electoral security and dispute resolution, in collaboration with the African Union's Assistance Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)

I. Project activities during the reporting period

AMISOM workshop on electoral security

In collaboration with the African Union (AU) and co-supported by the UN's Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG), the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) organised from 17 to 20 June a workshop in Kampala, Uganda on electoral security and dispute resolution, together with other government officials, Somali security actors and the AU's Assistance Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Given threats of extremist forces to undermine the elections as well as the preliminary security architecture of the country, the conduct of safe and peaceful elections in 2020 will be a major milestone for the Somali security actors in conjunction with the AMISOM troop contributing countries. A coherent and integrated security coordination mechanism which includes key security actors from

the federal government, the federal member states and AMISOM and in close coordination with the NIEC, should be at the core from where all security planning will be rolled out to each of the voter registration centres across the country. NIEC Chairperson, Ms. Halima Ismail Ibrahim, spoke at the meeting and highlighted the importance of Somali actors to come up with recommendations that will lead to an integrated and well-coordinated security approach for the 2020 elections. The NIEC called on the country's national and sub-national leaders and Somali community to co-operate with the security committee.



NIEC together with key representatives of the federal government and senior security actors at the AMISOM workshop on electoral security. Kampala, Uganda, June 17-21. Photo credits: NIEC.

NIEC preparations for identification of potential voter registration sites

The NIEC is identifying and verifying the locations of potential voter registration centres in different federal member states (FMS) such as South-West, Hirshabelle, and Galmudug as well as in the Benadir region. NIEC with IESG assistance developed a draft concept of operations and provisional budget for the 2020 voter registration exercise. The NIEC is having consultations with the other FMS to also start the mapping exercise soon in those populated areas. Information on the locations and the overall numbers of identified voter registration centres will feed into the NIEC's operations plan. Once approved by the Commission, this will inform IESG and donors on the required budget for voter registration and timely procurement of voter registration kits.

NIEC IESG information sharing meeting

On 10 June, the NIEC and the UN Deputy SRSG co-chaired an electoral information sharing meeting for international stakeholders and electoral assistance providers. The NIEC gave an update on progress and its preparations, in particular on the planning for the voter registration process for early 2020.

II. Plans for the next period

- 2-3 July: Pillar working group 1 on Inclusive Politics / Elections;
- 8-11 July: NIEC/IESG induction workshop for newly recruited field office staff;
- 14 July: NIEC/IESG field verification assessment of potential voter registration sites and lessons learned workshop.

For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Filip Warnants, filip.warnants@undp.org and visit the [Project's website](#).



ZIMBABWE

UNDP Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT (ZIM-ECO)

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO) focuses on developing the institutional and organizational capacity of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) to meet its Constitutional mandate. The project provides technical assistance to voter registration process to promote its credibility and inclusiveness, strengthens election dispute resolution mechanism, fosters gender mainstreaming during the electoral cycle and promotes participation of women, youth and people with disabilities in the electoral process. For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and institutional strengthening areas of election operations including planning, review processes, knowledge management, polling process, Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), training requirements in pre-election, election and post-election period, voter education, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, inclusivity and election dispute resolution. An electoral cycle approach has been adopted by the project to ensure that issues and recommendations from one election cycle can be addressed in the next one (2018-2023).

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Strategic plan development: A new ZEC strategic plan 2019-2023 is being developed based on the recommendations made by observer groups and insights from the post-election review process. The focus of the new strategic plan includes legal framework, election administration, election environment, public outreach and stakeholder engagement, inclusivity, media coverage and ZEC institutional development. After a working level discussion, a workshop with participation of Commissioners and Senior Management is planned in end of July to share the draft strategic plan. Once finalised it will be shared with stakeholders for feedback and dissemination, which is expected in August 2019.

Longer term capacity development approach: As part of the long-term capacity development strategy Bridging Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) methodology has been adopted

and a Train the Facilitator (TtF) workshop is scheduled for August / September 2019 to develop a pool of 25 BRIDGE certified trainers. This will be followed with trainings in thematic areas of voter registration, voter education, election operations, delimitation and stakeholder engagement.

Gender mainstreaming: A draft of the gender and inclusion policy was submitted for review and after feedback and comments the policy is being revised by the Gender Expert. The development of gender and inclusion policy is expected to be finalised by July 2019.

Technical support is being provided to Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) by UNDP and UN Women to develop long-term policy advocacy measures to address issues related to affirmative action and women's quota for ensuring women political representation, which will expire at the end of the current parliament as per the Constitution. Discussions were organised between ZEC and ZGC to strategize on the options for affirmative action and for sharing regional experiences ZGC invited delegates from Mauritius, Namibia, Lesotho and South Africa from 25-28 June 2019 to share their experiences.

Continuous voter education: A new concept of ZEC partnering with educational institutions to promote voter and civic education was approved with an assessment of 18 universities, Polytechnic and Teacher Colleges planned for first week of July. These partnerships will develop long-term programming on youth engagement in areas of democracy, civic and voter education and peaceful elections.

A proposal was agreed for a 5 Day Voter Education Workshop to bring together ZEC officials, CSOs, disabled people organisations (DPOs), youth, women activists, artists and media experts to develop campaigns for Continuous Voter Education. The program uses a Master Class Approach, wherein an intimate group of participants meet with a master in their field (technical expert / artist / media expert) and they can personally learn from this expert and bring their ideas to life. Representative thematic groups will be formed to develop diverse campaigns, like continuous voter registration, delimitation, continuous voter education, inclusion campaigns (youth / women, PWDs) etc. This approach will build the capacity of ZEC, CSOs, DPOs and make the campaigns more innovative, creative and diverse.

Research on 2018 harmonized elections: A post-election survey was conducted to get feedback, opinion and recommendations from the citizens on the 2018 harmonized elections. A team of enumerators was trained in March, who conducted the data collection in April-May 2019 followed by a five-days report writing workshop organised from 3-7 June 2019. The draft report is being reviewed and is expected to be finalised by August 2019.

Stakeholder engagement: Discussions have been started with ZEC to re-engage the electoral stakeholders (political parties, CSOs and media), as the ZEC starts its planning for the next electoral cycle. The first interaction has been planned in July 2019.

Training of police on human rights, policing and elections: After the conduct of Training of Trainers in April – May 2019, feedback and inputs were received on the Training Handbook, Participant Handbook and Pocket Book. These training tools have now been finalised and are being printed. A short refresher training is planned for July / August followed by roll-out of these trainings.

II. Plans for the next period

- Development of the strategic plan 2019-2023;
- Field visit to the provinces for assessment of educational institutions;
- Continuous voter education workshop;
- Roll out of Training of Trainers for police officials;
- Development of gender and inclusion policy.

For more information on the project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Azhar Malik, azhar.malik@undp.org and visit the project's [website](#).