

EC-UNDP

1 - 31 July, 2019

Electoral Assistance Projects Update

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



SUMMARY

ARMENIA: In cooperation with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the project has organised a five-day BRIDGE workshop for the Central Electoral Commission members (CEC) and staff on "Legal Framework and Election Dispute Resolution (EDR)." - The project continues the development of management systems and introduction of IT solutions for the CEC. - The project performed comprehensive assessment of CEC ICT resources and capacity, as well as produced its long-term draft IT strategy. - The project supported the CEC to perform full inventory and check-up of 4561 Voter Authentication Devices (VADs). - The project initiated the strategic planning process with the CEC.

GUINEA-BISSAU: The project's budget is being revised based on the Government consolidated electoral budget. - The "Support to Elections Cycle in Guinea-Bissau" project continues to support the National Electoral Commission (CNE) with the gender assessment.

KENYA: Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) staff presided over the election of the Students' Council of Oaklands Junior School and supported Women Golf Tournament and used the platform to educate voters. - The Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC) held a consultative meeting with IEBC to discuss the implications of the High Court decision related to the two-thirds constitutional gender principle. - The project continued engagement of an independent evaluation firm to finalise the SEPK project end-term evaluation.

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. Regional civic education workshops on electoral reform processes have been conducted. - Regional consultative workshops on legal reform have also been launched. - The cataloguing of assets belonging to the Elections Commission has been completed at the NEC headquarter offices. - The Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) has been deployed to Liberia from 10 to 19 July 2019.

MADAGASCAR: The High Constitutional Court proclaimed the final results of the legislative elections on 2 July 2019. - The audit findings, communicated on 11 July 2019 by the audit office to the UNDP Madagascar Office, validate the accounts of the SACEM project concerning the activities carried out during 2018.

NEPAL: The Electoral Support Project (ESP) signed an agreement with the Nepal Blind Association and

National Federation of the Deaf Nepal to develop a resource, training manual and to conduct training in order to sensitize people with visual and hearing disabilities on electoral system and democracy.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: The initiative "Outstanding Women in Solomon Islands" has been launched. - The hand-over of office equipment from women candidates' resource centres to the Provincial Council of Women of Malaita, Isabel and Makira and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) has been conducted. - Preparations for the rolling out of Knowledge Attitude and Practice survey have been ongoing.

SOMALIA: The draft electoral law has been reviewed by a parliamentary ad hoc committee on 20 July. Discussions are ongoing with the NIEC to improve technical aspects of the electoral bill and highlight articles of concern. - At the occasion of the sub-working group on elections on electoral support, the NIEC provided an update on the preparations for the country's first universal suffrage elections in decades and presented the voter operations plan as well as a tentative budget for voter registration. - From 8 to 14 July 2019, IESG facilitated an electoral induction workshop for the NIEC newly recruited staff from the field and headquarter.

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	7
LIBERIA	9
MADAGASCAR	12
NEPAL.....	14
SOLOMON ISLANDS	16
SOMALIA.....	19
ZIMBABWE.....	22

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	30.09.19
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 the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the project has organised a five-day BRIDGE workshop for the Central Electoral Commission members (CEC) and staff on “Legal Framework and Election Dispute Resolution (EDR).”
- The project continued the development of management systems and introduction of IT solutions for the CEC.
- The project performed comprehensive assessment of CEC ICT resources and capacity, as well as produced its long-term draft IT strategy.
- The project supported the CEC to perform full inventory and check-up of 4561 Voter Authentication Devices (VADs).
- The project initiated the strategic planning process with the CEC.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

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

The workshop was facilitated by BRIDGE accrediting-level facilitator and Train the facilitator (TtF)-completed facilitator from CEC Armenia. Fifteen participants, out of which 9 female, from the CEC, UNDP and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) of Armenia attended the workshop.

The workshop engaged participants on various topics, including but not limited to:

- Objectives and guiding principles of the legal framework
- Legal framework and electoral cycle
- International standards and best practices of elections
- Architecture and structuring the legal framework
- Principles and approached to writing good procedures
- Reviewing legal framework in line with OSCE and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human

Rights (ODIHR) recommendations

- Compliance and enforcement: resolving electoral disputes
- Election dispute resolution within electoral cycle
- Dealing with election disputes – minimizing risk, problems with imprecise election laws, categorizing conflict and possible strategies
- Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine case studies
- Dispute mechanisms
- Strategic reform plan for election dispute resolution system in Armenia

All sessions were highly interactive and enabled the participants to discuss the various issues on the role of legal framework and election dispute resolution throughout the electoral cycle, the main international standards and best practices and the implementation in Armenian national legal framework, networking and building mutual expectations between electoral stakeholders for effective reforms of national legal framework and election dispute resolution.

Participants throughout the workshop expressed interest and actively engaged in all the activities. Participants appreciated the hard work of the facilitators and have evaluated all the topics with the highest marks.

The workshop has met its objectives. Final evaluation was arranged dividing participants in target groups and focusing on the impact of the workshop, as well as future usage of the knowledge received during the workshop. At the end, all the participants received certificates in recognition of completion of the 5-day workshop.

Building ICT capacity of the CEC and other electoral stakeholders

Following the tender announcement for the procurement of hardware and software for the CEC, the project started the evaluation of applications. To accommodate new equipment, the project implemented the enhancement and refreshment of the CEC server room, as the current room conditions (including safety) do not allow for sufficient environment for sustainable and safe functioning of new equipment.

At the same time the newly procured hardware and software (focused on supporting electoral data preparation processes) for the passport and visa department of national police were successfully delivered on 31 July 2019.

Capacity building and development of management systems for the CEC

The project successfully continues the development of Precinct Electoral Commission (PEC) staff management information system for the CEC. In the current stage, the project's developer and CEC IT department staff are testing the connection between the software and the EKENG (the coordinator of e-government projects in Armenia) through the secure communication channel to check and validate applicants' personal data during the registration stage.

Parallely, the project supported the CEC to perform full inventory and check-up of voter authentication devices (4561 VADs and related equipment) at the CEC central warehouse and produce a comprehensive inventory report. The checkup revealed a major issue related to the CMOS batteries of VADs. The report data and findings will serve as a base for ESPA to discuss the problem with the

VAD manufacturer.

In the meantime, the project continued to focus on the enhancement of CEC human capacity, by supporting the CEC IT department staff to enroll in the second phase of the training on “ASP.NET Core Web Programming Principles by Using the C# language” at the Microsoft Innovation Center in Yerevan.

Development of CEC ICT roadmap and strategy

The project finished the assessment and development of mid-term IT strategy for the CEC, conducted by the short-term international IT advisor hired by the project. The initial results of the assessment have been discussed with the CEC. Currently, the document is being translated to Armenian and will be ready for further discussion with CEC later in August.

Strategic planning of the CEC

From 7 to 13 July, the ESPA recruited a Strategic Planning International Advisor to initiate the planning process with the CEC. Through consultations with the CEC, tentative roadmap and the timeline for strategic planning process were developed by the project. The Advisor will periodically visit Armenia to coordinate the activities envisaged in the roadmap.

II. Plans for the next period

For the month of August 2019, the project will:

- Continue the development of management systems and IT solutions for the CEC;
- Continue the work on the CEC ICT strategy and roadmap development;
- Continue the CEC strategic planning development process;
- Continue work on capacity building planning for the CEC.

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’s budget is being revised based on the Government consolidated electoral budget.
- The “Support to Elections Cycle in Guinea-Bissau” project continues to support the National Electoral Commission (CNE) with the gender assessment.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

In the reporting period, UNDP continued to engage with the Government and electoral management bodies regarding preparations for the presidential polls scheduled for 24 November. This has led to agreement with the Government on the development of a consolidated electoral budget, encompassing the electoral activities of the National Electoral Commission (CNE), the Electoral Process Support Office (GTape), the Supreme Court, the Public Prosecutor’s Office and the Ministries of Defense and Interior, for the purposes of coordinated resource mobilisation. The project’s budget is currently being revised in this regard, and engagement with international partners, both in Bissau and Dakar, is also underway.

The project continued to provide support to the CNE-led working group on gender mainstreaming. The report of the gender assessment, in line with the UNDP/UNWOMEN guide: Inclusive Electoral Processes, is almost complete. The next step will be to develop the CNE gender policy, based on the recommendations of the report. The project provides technical support to the working group, which

meets weekly, 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;
- Finalise revision of the project budget.

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

- Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) staff presided over the election of the Students' Council of Oaklands Junior School and supported Women Golf Tournament and used the platform to educate voters.
- The Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC) held a consultative meeting with IEBC to discuss the implications of the High Court decision related to the two-thirds constitutional gender principle.
- The project continued engagement of an independent evaluation firm to finalise the SEPK project end-term evaluation.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) staff presided over the election of the Students' Council of Oaklands Junior School and supported Women Golf Tournament and used the platform to educate voters. During the election of the Students' Council at Oaklands Junior School, the commission inducted learners on the importance of democracy and the functioning of a free and fair electoral system. The commission also used the risk management framework developed with support from SEPK project to train its risk champions to better identify and manage risks in the implementation of the Commission's activities.

The Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC) held a consultative meeting with IEBC to discuss the implications of the High Court decision¹ requiring all political parties to comply with the two-

¹ On 20 April 2017, the High Court made orders that:

1. Political Parties are bound by the provisions of the Constitution and that any action undertaken by them, including nomination process for the candidates for members of Parliament, must comply with the requirements of those provisions.

2. The power conferred to IEBC in article 88 (4) (d) of the Constitution of "Regulation of the process by which parties nominate candidates for election" obligates the IEBC to ensure that nominations carried out by the political parties meet the requirements of the constitution, especially Articles 10, 19, 20, 27, 28, 56 and 91 (1).

thirds constitutional gender principle in their leadership. Consultations included deliberation on the legal framework for inclusion of special interest groups pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. Through the support of the project, the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties led the revitalization of the PPLC.



IEBC officials support elections of Oaklands Junior School

End-term evaluation of the SEPK project: The project continued engagement of an independent evaluation firm to finalise the SEPK project end-term evaluation. The end of project draft evaluation report was reviewed by various stakeholders including the Kenya country office and feedback will be incorporated in the final report.

Ongoing development of SEPK successor project: The project continued spearheading the design of a project document for a broader deepening democracy project, 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 project 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 project will lay a firm foundation for supporting the 2022 elections.

SEPK closure activities: The project continued to implement activities aimed at ensuring proper operational and financial closure in line with UNDP corporate requirements.

II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the next reporting period include:

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

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



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. Regional civic education workshops on electoral reform processes have been conducted.
- Regional consultative workshops on legal reform have also been launched.
- The cataloguing of assets belonging to the Elections Commission has been completed at the NEC headquarter offices.
- The Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) has been deployed to Liberia from 10 to 19 July 2019.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The month of July witnessed the completion of nationwide civic awareness workshops on electoral reform and the commencement of regional consultations planned to take place in four regions of the country namely East (Zwedru), Central (Gbarnga), West (Tubmanburg) and South (Buchanan), including the fifteen political sub-division of the country. In an effort to improve elections administration in Liberia, the National Elections Commission (NEC) and electoral stakeholders are taking action aimed at

improving electoral processes by reforming the current elections law in accordance with international best practices. The latest effort by NEC is supported by the project through the basket fund financed by the EU, the Irish Aid, Canada and Sweden. A broad spectrum of stakeholders participated in these workshop to include but not limited to local government authorities, traditional leaders, youth and women organisations, professional organisations, etc. The workshop primarily created awareness and sensitizations on the reform process and informed participants and representatives of various community groupings on the reform process and citizens' responsibilities in this regard.

Meanwhile, the first in a series of regional consultations took place from 23 to 24 July in Tubmanburg, Bomi, County which brought together over 100 participants from Gbarpolu, Cape Mount, Bomi and Montserrado counties. The participants comprised of 26 females and 96 males. Members of the Committees on Elections and Inauguration in the Liberia Senate, the House of Representatives and representatives from the Ministry of Justice were also present. Also, in attendance were representatives from the Law Reform Commission, the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission.



Facilitators from NEC presented the current laws and the corresponding proposed amendments and also gathered the views of the citizens through their representations. The event was characterized by frank exchanges and open discussions. At the end, the various counties presented a position statement containing what the proposed changes in the election law. Meanwhile UNDP has recruited a national legal reform consultant who will work with the NEC in achieving the anticipated legal reform.



There has been an ongoing cataloguing of assets belonging to the Elections Commission which has been completed at the NEC headquarter offices.

The renovation and construction of warehouses, generator rooms and security fences is now in sight. During the month of July, bids were opened with evaluations to follow.

The Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) has been deployed to Liberia from 10 to 19 July 2019 and met with a broad spectrum of electoral stakeholders including civil society organisations, government institutions, international non-governmental organisations, UNDP and UN agencies, political parties, professional organisations and the National Election Commission. The draft report has been submitted by the mission for review by the Country Office.

II. Plans for the next period

- Continuation of regional consultative workshops on electoral reform;
- Evaluation of the bids for construction and renovation of the warehouses;
- Preparation for the study tour of NEC staff from operations department;
- Preparation for the staff training on Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE);
- Training of NEC staff on forklift operation.

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](#).



MADAGASCAR

CENI Madagascar

SOUTIEN AU CYCLE ÉLECTORAL DE MADAGASCAR (SACEM)

From 2017 to 2019, the SACEM project intends to support the CENI and other stakeholders in the electoral process in the organisation of credible, inclusive and peaceful elections on the Big Island. It focuses on the reliability and security of the electoral register, the promotion of electoral governance through legal framework reforms, the raising of electoral awareness, the capacity building of electoral agents, the provision of voting material and the rapid and secure transmission of electoral data.

The project, implemented by UNDP, is supported by the European Union, USAID, Norway, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, South Korea, Switzerland, Australia and South Africa. For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The High Constitutional Court proclaimed the final results of the legislative elections on 2 July 2019.
- The audit findings, communicated on 11 July 2019 by the audit office to the UNDP Madagascar Office, validate the accounts of the SACEM project concerning the activities carried out during 2018.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Final results of the parliamentary elections 2019: The High Constitutional Court proclaimed the final results of the legislative elections on 2 July. After a recount of votes and rejection of the majority of claims, the Court confirmed the provisional results proclaimed by the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), with a greater number of seats in the National Assembly allocated to the majority political group (84 seats out of 151 possible). Sixteen seats are returning to the TIM party of former President Marc Ravalomanana, while the remaining 51 have been allocated to independents and other political parties.

Financial audit of the SACEM project for the 2018 financial year: The conclusions of the financial audit conducted last May certified and approved, with recommendations, the accounts of the SACEM project during the year 2018.

II. Plans for the next period

Major review of the 2019 electoral cycle: The SACEM project is organising, under the leadership of the High Constitutional Court and the CENI, a large-scale workshop, from 2 to 4 August 2019 in Antananarivo, to draw lessons from the organisation of the presidential elections and lay the groundwork for the promotion of electoral governance in future election cycles. Representatives of the institutions, political parties, civil society, the media and more generally all the parties involved in the process will be invited to this three-day exchange of experiences. The aim is to identify the strengths and good practices to ensure the capitalization on lessons learned, identify the limits of the electoral cycle; and finally, to initiate some thoughts about strategic orientations that are relevant to improve electoral governance and the entire electoral process for the upcoming electoral cycles in Madagascar.

For more information on the SACEM, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Flavien Misoni, flavien.misoni@undp.org and visit the project's [website](#).



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 Electoral Support Project (ESP) signed an agreement with the Nepal Blind Association and National Federation of the Deaf Nepal to develop a resource, training manual and to conduct training in order to sensitize people with visual and hearing disabilities on electoral system and democracy.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project signed an agreement with the Nepal Blind Association and National Federation of the Deaf Nepal to develop a resource, training manual and to conduct training programmes in order to sensitize people with visual and hearing disabilities on electoral system and democracy.

The project facilitated a brainstorming session with experts, civil society organisations (CSO) members and the academics in the area of justice, human rights, governance and parliament on developing a framework programme in the area of democratic strengthening, in particular in advancing the localization of SDG 16+¹

¹ SDG 16 is taken in the broad sense due to interlinkages with related targets



ESP signed an agreement with the Nepal Blind Association and National Federation of the Deaf Nepal.

. The brainstorming session helped generate feedback from the stakeholders present, who stressed that UNDP's support on issues of inclusion, integrity and accountability is needed through government institutions and CSOs vis-à-vis the new federal governance structure of the country. The programme was the first of its kind.



Interaction programme on SDG 16+.

II. Plans for the next period

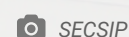
For the next period, ESP is planning to conduct a Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections workshop on Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and Elections. Furthermore, the project will collaborate with UNESCO to organise a training for community learning centers (CLCs); the project will facilitate sessions on elections and democracy at the training.

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](#).

(particularly of SDG 5 & 10). SDG 16 is considered an enabling goal for the achievement of other SDGs and for Agenda 2030 broadly.



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

- The initiative "Outstanding Women in Solomon Islands" has been launched.
- The hand-over of office equipment from women candidates' resource centres to the Provincial Council of Women of Malaita, Isabel and Makira and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) has been conducted
- Preparations for the rolling out of Knowledge Attitude and Practice survey have been ongoing.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Electoral operations support

In line with the envisaged increase of the staffing structure of the Electoral Office, the CEO requested the support of the project to conduct the construction work for the extension of the office space. Progress and quality of the construction in accordance to approved design and contractual arrangements is being assessed by an engineer from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development. The engineers inspected the site and certified the completion of the first phase of the work. The construction is expected to be completed by September 2019.



Voter awareness evaluation: Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey

The engagement of an international consultant and enumerators for the rolling out of a Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey conducted by the Electoral Office and supported by the project have been agreed on. The survey will focus on the evaluation of voter awareness by the citizenship and the impact of the awareness actions. To this end, a questionnaire has been developed in consultation with the Electoral Office which has been endorsed by the CEO. An international consultant has been hired and will be responsible for the refinement of tools, data analysis/validation and final reporting. The field work will be conducted by a gender balanced team of 17 enumerators who will visit 10 constituencies of seven provinces to randomly gather data from the citizenship. With a view to have an inclusive team of enumerators representing various civil society groups, an agreement was signed with Development Exchange Services (DSE) which is an umbrella organisation comprised of 65 civil society organisations in Solomon Islands and with presence in all provinces.

Support to women's political participation

On 23 July, the project hosted a dual event to mark the launching of the 'Outstanding Women (OW) of Solomon Islands' initiative and the hand-over of office equipment provided to women resource centres to hosting entities.

Outstanding Women of Solomon Islands is an initiative that focuses on the identification and acknowledgement of women leaders in small communities. It responds positively to the findings of the project's research on "Women's political participation and leadership in 10 selected constituencies" which identified key behaviours and qualities that have a positive impact on the perception of women as leaders. The aim is to draw out the women who are most valued and respected in their communities because of their actions, behaviour or just general attitude. A voting will be conducted to choose amongst the nominated women in each province. The voting will be scheduled to coincide with a provincial assembly session to facilitate participation of provincial assembly members. This selection will be done inclusively by all groups in the community including men, people with disabilities, young women and young men, women, senior citizens, church leaders, chiefs, provincial government ward members etc. The project will be partnering with the Provincial Council of Women (PCW) in all the provinces in Solomon Islands including Honiara City Council.



Handover of office equipment

During the same event held on 23 July laptops, printers and other IT equipment were handed over to the Provincial Council of Women of Malaita, Isabel and Makira and to the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Since March 2019, the three councils and the YWCA had been hosting four women resource centers, to provide support to women candidates running for the national and provincial elections this year. The key note address of the hand-over ceremony was provided by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Youth and Family Affairs (MWYFA) who expressed his office support to SECSIP initiatives. Attendants included women candidates, Electoral Commissioner Ms. Taeasi Sanga, the Chief Electoral Officer, members of the partnering institutions, representatives from CSOs and development partners from the Australian High Commission and UNDP.



II. Plans for the next period

- Reflection workshop with national observers and those who conducted the technical monitoring of the provincial assembly elections;
- Training of enumerators for Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) survey: quantitative data collection;
- Preparation for regional political party conference in Solomon Islands;
- Implementation of 'Outstanding Women' initiative.

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 draft electoral law has been reviewed by a parliamentary ad hoc committee on 20 July. Discussions are ongoing with the NIEC to improve technical aspects of the electoral bill and highlight articles of concern.
- At the occasion of the sub-working group on elections on electoral support, the NIEC provided an update on the preparations for the country's first universal suffrage elections in decades and presented the voter operations plan as well as a tentative budget for voter registration.
- From 8 to 14 July 2019, IESG facilitated an electoral induction workshop for the NIEC newly recruited staff from the field and headquarter.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Updates on electoral law

On 20 July, the Parliament established an ad hoc committee to review the draft. The UN's Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) reviewed the latest draft with the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), which was submitted to Parliament on 20 May by the Government. Discussions are ongoing with the NIEC to improve technical aspects of the electoral bill and highlight articles of

concern. The NIEC envisages meetings and discussions with the parliamentary ad hoc committee and members of parliament (MPs). If requested, the UN is ready to provide technical support to the parliamentary ad hoc committee. The adoption of the electoral law is a key milestone for Somalia to move forward to prepare for universal elections, and to plan for the start of the voter registration in early 2020, in accordance with the Federal Government's timeline as stipulated in its political road map.

Sub-working group meeting (SWG-3) on electoral support

On 2 July, the NIEC chaired the Sub-working group on elections (SWG-3) of the pillar on inclusive politics (PWG-1), which comprises senior officials from the Government, UN and donors. The NIEC provided an update on the preparations for the country's first universal suffrage elections in decades and presented the voter operations plan as well as a tentative budget for voter registration. The NIEC also provided an update on the status of the field verification exercise of voter registration centres and on its voter education plans, the political party registration, and by-elections in Mogadishu and Baidoa. The second half of 2019 is a crucial time for electoral preparations, in particular the voter registration (VR) in early 2020 and the elections later that year. The NIEC further highlighted potential challenges, including the establishment of the electoral security task force that will be vital for the NIEC to finalise the assessment of the voter registration sites. Another electoral challenge is that any further delays in passing the electoral law in a timely manner would affect the NIEC's preparations and roll-out of the voter registration.

Electoral induction training for NIEC newly recruited staff

From 8 to 14 July 2019, IESG facilitated an electoral induction workshop for the NIEC newly recruited staff from the field and headquarter. The week-long training was attended by 41 newly recruited NIEC staff from both national and regional offices to familiarise them with their roles, functions and operational mechanism as well as to build the capacity with their new roles.

The workshop was conducted by electoral experts from NIEC, IESG and the Bringing Unity, Integrity, and Legitimacy to Democracy programme (BUILD, implemented by Creative Associates International). During the workshop, important topics with relates to the electoral cycles were introduced to the participants such as electoral dispute resolution, electoral legal frameworks, electoral laws formulation, capture of VR centers, voter education, voting/polling, vote counting/tallying, announcing the winner and later evaluate the conduct of the elections.



Newly recruited NIEC staff engaged in an induction workshop on electoral principles, Mogadishu, 8-14 July 2019. Photo credit: IESG.

IESG Staff Retreat

From 15 to 16 July 2019, a two days retreat for all IESG staff both headquarter and field offices (Puntland, Hirshabelle, Southwest, Jubbland and Benadir) was conducted in Mogadishu. The retreat was held back-to-back after the end of eight days induction workshop held for NIEC staff. The aim of the retreat was to strengthen coordination, exchange experiences and challenges from the field and to identify strategies to strengthen and ensure women, youth, internally displaced persons (IDPs), marginalised groups and nomadic participation in the electoral process primarily in the Voter Registration (VR).



II. Plans for the next period

N/A

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 2019-2024 is being developed based on the recommendations made by observer groups and insights from the post-election review process. A workshop has been planned from 19 to 23 August for strategic discussions among Commissioners and Senior Management to finalise the plan. 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.

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 from 29 September to 10 October 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 August 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.

Continuous voter education: A field visit was undertaken from 1 to 7 July to assess the capacity of universities, teaching colleges and polytechnics to implement programs related to civic and voter education. This is a new concept of ZEC partnering with educational institutions to promote voter and civic education. The feedback and discussions were very encouraging, and several proposals were made by the institutions to make the partnership successful. It is now planned to invite the interested institutions for a workshop to finalise the partnership arrangements.

A Voter Education Workshop has been scheduled from 6 to 10 August 2019 to bring together ZEC officials, civil society organisations (CSOs), disabled people organisations, 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. This approach will build the capacity of ZEC, CSOs, Disabled People's Organisations (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 5-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.

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 August followed by roll-out of these trainings.

II. Plans for the next period

- Development of the Strategic Plan 2019-2023;
- Continuous voter education workshop;
- Roll out of Training of Trainers for police officials;
- Launch of the gender and inclusion policy;
- Technical advice on media monitoring and developing ZEC capacity;
- Development of public relations policy and strategy.

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](#).