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GPECS II 
Global Project
for Electoral Cycle Support II



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



EC-UNDP

1 - 30 September, 2019

Electoral Assistance Projects Update

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



SUMMARY

ARMENIA: The project started planning additional capacity building activities for the Central Electoral Commission of Armenia (CEC). - The project has organised the visit of the CEC of Georgia to CEC of Armenia. - The development of management systems and introduction of IT solutions for the CEC continued. - The project supported the CEC to continue voter authentication devices inventory and maintenance process.

GUINEA-BISSAU: The Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) completed the voter list's omissions correction exercise. - Resource mobilisation efforts continued. - UNDP' logistics expert assisted the National Electoral Commission (CNE) staff with election logistics planning. - Regional Election Advisers joined Integrated Election Support Unit (IESU).

KENYA: 30 September 2019 marked the end date of the SEPK project in line with UNDP contractual agreements with development partners. The project's team continued undertaking project closure activities. There was continued stakeholder engagement as part of efforts to finalise development of a successor project.

LIBERIA: The National Election Commission is completing the consultations with electoral stakeholders on legal reform. The technical working group on electoral reform together with key stakeholders conducted the last regional consultation in Gbarnga Bong County. The NEC convened a workshop with the members of the Inter-Party Coordinating Committee (IPCC) and civil society organisations with the support of the project and partners. - As part of institutional strengthening and professional development of staff, eight NEC staff mostly from the operations department went on a study tour to South Africa.

MADAGASCAR: Initially planned early September, the lessons learned workshop on the 2017-2019 electoral cycle has been postponed to 2020. - The project supported the production and dissemination of sensitive printed materials (ballot papers, envelopes, etc) for municipal and communal elections, through the development of a logistics plan.

NEPAL: The project launched new initiatives to sustain election-related capacity-building.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: The Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) data validation workshop has been conducted. The KAP draft report is currently under review. - The regional political party's conference has been held from 18 to 23 September in Honiara.

SOMALIA: The Parliamentary Ad-Hoc Committee established to review the draft electoral law held meetings with the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) and Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) teams as part of their consultations. - The NIEC with IESG assistance continued to work on refining the list of recently identified potential voter registration sites for Banadir, South West State, Hirshabelle and Galmadug.

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).

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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

- The project started planning additional capacity building activities for the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) of Armenia.
- The project has organised the visit of the CEC of Georgia to CEC of Armenia.
- The development of management systems and introduction of IT solutions for the CEC continued.
- The project supported the CEC to continue voter authentication devices inventory and maintenance process.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

CEC capacity building activities

As part of capacity building activities of its workplan, the project is assessing and identifying the Central Electoral Commission's (CEC) capacity building and training needs, based on consultations with the CEC and a desk-review of relevant documents (election observation reports, ESPA/CEC reports on the lessons learned conferences, thematic workshops and the post-election survey, etc.). While initial discussions envisioned the implementation of additional thematic trainings targeting CEC members and staff during the last quarter of 2019, based on the latest needs assessment of the capacity enhancement, the focus has also included improving the quality of the upcoming certification training of the Precinct Electoral Commission (PEC) members. The project will support the CEC with the improvement and production of training manual. Meanwhile, the planning of the steps forward to operationalise the CEC's E-Learning platform is also ongoing.

The project also supported the CEC in establishing the Training and Resource Center, in particular with renovation and furnishing, as well as with providing the Center with relevant electoral resources and publications. The ESPA contacted international electoral organisation to receive donation of publications on electoral processes, political parties and political systems ; around 70 publications have been already delivered by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) /

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

The project continued to provide support to the CEC's gender mainstreaming: the CEC's brochure on "Statistics: Participation of Women and Men in the Electoral Process, 2018" produced with support of the project, was validated and distributed to the CEC and relevant partners. The CEC's gender assessment report was revised by the project following comments received from the CEC. Once finalised, the report is expected to serve as an integral part of the CEC's strategic planning.

As part of capacity building and strategic planning activities, the ESPA organised a professional exchange exercise between the CECs of Armenia and Georgia. The delegation of the Central Election Commission of Georgia, represented by the Chairperson, a Commissioner and Head of the Legal Department visited Armenia on 23-24 September 2019. The aim of the visit was to strengthen working relationships between the CECs of the two neighboring countries and to share the best practices and experience on the i) process of strategic planning and institutional development of the election management bodies, (ii) issues related to the election dispute resolution, (iii) and election administration. Discussions between the two institutions focused primarily on election dispute resolution, handling and adjudicating of Elections Complaints and Electoral Legislative issues. The Commissioners of the CEC of Armenia were particularly interested to learn more about the process of legislative initiatives and the way the CEC of Georgia proceeds with suggesting such initiatives to the Parliament. The CEC of Armenia was also interested in complaints adjudication process and practicalities of handling electoral complaints. Last but not least, the discussion also covered the areas of institutional building and the role of the Strategic Planning in development and strengthening of Electoral Management Bodies.

Besides meeting with the Armenian CEC, the Georgian delegation also met with the members of the National Assembly of Armenia and representatives of the parliamentary subcommittee on electoral reform as well as with UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Armenia and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in Armenia.

During the reporting period, the CEC has hosted the delegation of the CEC of the Republic of North Macedonia headed by the Chairman. Primary interest of the delegation was development and implementation of VAD technology supported by UNDP Armenia. The project has hosted the delegation and provided substantive briefing on the voter authentication devices (VAD) technology, implementation, maintenance and related issues.

Strategic planning activities

During the reporting period, the project's Strategic Planning Adviser conducted a follow up visit to the CEC Armenia and developed a draft outline of the strategic plan which, by the time of reporting, is under consideration of the CEC leadership.

Building ICT capacity of the CEC and other electoral stakeholders

The project finalised the tender for the procurement of hardware and software for the CEC and signed the contracts with the suppliers. The software licenses for the equipment of the CEC data center are delivered, the remaining hardware items are awaiting delivery. The equipment will significantly enhance the ICT operations of the CEC, as well as the data preparation process during the pre-electoral period.

Capacity building and development of management systems for the CEC

The project launched the Precinct Electoral Commission (PEC) staff management information system in late August. In the end of August, the ESPA supported the CEC in cascade training of 24 staff of Territorial Electoral Commission (TEC) to use the system. Additionally, the CEC trained 10 designated data entry personnel from political parties (2 per 5 parties) on how to register the candidates in the system (according to Armenian Electoral Code, political party proxies are members of PEC's). In early September, the CEC launched an active phase of registration, with already 12,644 registered applicants to participate in PEC trainings and certification.

The project continued the VAD inventory in close cooperation with the VAD manufacturer. The project organised a warehouse visit with the company and specialists conducted series of technical checkups, the result of which has been shared with the Smartmatic HQ.

In the meantime, the project continued to focus on enhancing the CEC human capacity and 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.

Technical support for the local elections

Parallel to its activities, the project also assisted the CEC in preparation for the local elections that took place on 29 September in 13 communities for the Head of Community Elections and 7 communities for Local Council Elections. The ESPA IT Support Specialist jointly with CEC IT department backed up the previous database for July local elections followed by the setup and testing of new operational environment prior to 29 September elections.

II. Plans for the next period

Plans for the next period include:

- A training on "Conflict Management and Negotiation Skills" for CEC members and staff is scheduled to take place on 10-11 October 2019;
- Continued development of management systems and IT solutions for the CEC;
- Continued work on the CEC ICT strategy and roadmap development;
- Continued development of the CEC Strategic Planning;
- Continued 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 and visit the [project's website](#).



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 Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) completed the voter list’s omissions correction exercise.
- Resource mobilisation efforts continued.
- UNDP’ logistics expert assisted the National Electoral Commission (CNE) staff with election logistics planning.
- Regional Election Advisers joined Integrated Election Support Unit (IESU).

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Throughout September, the Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) conducted the voter lists’ omissions correction exercise which was completed on 24 September. For this purpose, GTAPE prepared an operational work plan for the consolidation of the voter’s list as well as a general budget and a general communications and sensitization plan. Thirty brigades were deployed in the field to conduct the corrections. During the exercise, 5141 entries were corrected. However, the inclusion of the data collected from this exercise will not be integrated into the current voter list unless there is a consensus among the political parties and candidates participating in the presidential election.

By the end of the 25 September deadline for submission of candidacies for the 24 November presidential elections, 19 aspirants had submitted their documentation to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will now verify the validity of the candidacies and the final list is expected by 15 October.

The UN electoral assistance to the electoral management bodies in Guinea-Bissau – the National Electoral Commission (CNE), and the Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) – is being provided through the UN Integrated Electoral Support Unit (IESU), comprising staff of UNDP and UNIOGBIS (United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau).

IESU assisted the CNE and the government of Guinea Bissau with the overall consolidated election budget and in mobilising donor contributions to the election through UNDP-managed basket fund.

Early September, with the assistance of IESU logistics adviser, CNE logistics staff summarised the election logistics planning according to the official electoral chronogram. They also finalised the inventory of all existing materials in the Regional Election Commissions (CREs) and conducted a verification of priority materials (indelible ink) for Presidential elections at the CNE in Bissau. Following the completion of the inventory, the logistics adviser supported CNE logistics department preparing the local procurement of supplies for election kits and stationary, to be delivered in October. UNDP logistics adviser also assisted the CNE with the contracting process for the main warehouse in Bissau, which will storage, amongst others, the sensitive election materials. The warehouse will be available from 1 October. Additionally, and in preparation for the deployment of the regional electoral advisers in all 9 regions of Guinea Bissau, the logistics adviser inspected and selected rental vehicles for the REAs and initiated with UNDP the procurement of fuel for the duration of the deployment.

IESU Electoral Field Coordinator arrived to Bissau mid-September, assisted in finalising the recruitment process of the Regional Electoral Advisers, prepared their initial briefing and assisted them in other pre-deployment tasks. The 9 Regional Electoral Advisers (REA) rejoined the UN Integrated Electoral Support Unit in late September. The REAs will be deployed in all regions of Guinea Bissau, including the Autonomous Sector of Bissau, and will be based in the Regional Electoral Commissions, providing technical assistance to these regional EMBs.



Mr. Jose Levy, UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative Levy speaking at the Regional Electoral Advisers briefing. Photo credits: IESU

The REAs received their initial assignment briefing on 26 September and were welcomed by UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative who reinforced the importance of their presence in the regions and their work in support of the electoral process. The Logistics Adviser also organised and conducted the handover of equipment and other supplies to the REAs. Their full deployment is planned to take place on 7 October.

II. Plans for the next period

- Deployment of all 9 Regional Electoral Advisers to the regions on 7 October;
- Civic education trainings to be held between 7-11 October;
- Approved presidential candidacies' list to be published by the Supreme Court by 15 October;
- Civic education campaign to start on 23 October.

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](#).



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

- 30 September 2019 marked the end date of the SEPK project in line with UNDP contractual agreements with development partners.
- The project's team continued undertaking project closure activities.
- There was continued stakeholder engagement as part of efforts to finalise development of a successor project.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Internal review of the SEPK final project evaluation report: The final project evaluation report was submitted by the firm of independent consultants who undertook the final project evaluation. The evaluation report was subjected to the process of internal review within UNDP for quality assurance and to ensure the report complies to UNDP evaluation guidelines before it can be certified as complete and disseminated.

Continued review & stakeholder engagement towards finalisation of the proposed SEPK successor project: The UNDP led inter-agency technical working group¹ continued stakeholder consultation to inform the project document development process. At the Steering Committee meeting held in September 2019, development partners requested UNDP to convene stakeholders for a final review of the draft project document.

SEPK closure activities: There was continued engagement on project closure activities based on UNDP guidelines on project closure. Closure activities included ongoing settlement of financial obligations, action towards completion of asset transfer/ disposal, as well as review and finalisation of final project reports.

¹ A technical working group that includes UNDP, UN Women and OHCHR, has worked on development of a draft project document for the proposed successor project.

II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the next reporting period include:

- High level stakeholder engagement for review of the draft project document for SEPK successor project;
- Finalisation of final project review and lessons learned report and project quality assurance assessment;
- Development of final project's report;
- Finalisation of the SEPK final project evaluation.

For more information on the project on Strengthening the Electoral Process in Kenya, please contact project manager a.i. Jane Serwanga, jane.serwanga@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

- The National Election Commission is completing the consultations with electoral stakeholders on legal reform. The technical working group on electoral reform together with key stakeholders conducted the last regional consultation in Gbarnga Bong County.
- The NEC convened a workshop with the members of the Inter-Party Coordinating Committee (IPCC) and civil society organisations with the support of the project and partners
- As part of institutional strengthening and professional development of staff, eight NEC staff mostly from the operations department went on a study tour to South Africa.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Regional consultative workshops on legal reform

The National Election Commission is in the process of completing the consultations with electoral stakeholders on legal reform. In total, 4 regional consultative workshops have been conducted and NEC

still has to conduct 2 more workshops, namely, the workshop with political parties and professional organisations, and then the validation workshop that will be attended by international experts on legal reform. During the month of September, the technical working group on electoral reform together with key stakeholders conducted the last regional consultation in Gbarnga Bong County. The Gbarnga consultation was attended by paramount chiefs, superintendents of the three counties, women and youth groups, lawmakers of both Houses of the Legislature as well as NEC Commissioners led by the Chairman. Some of the recommendations included a call to increase the application fees for aspirants for the House Representatives, Senate, and the Presidency, a proposal to change the election date from the second week of October to second week of November in the election to avoid conducting the General Elections during the rainy season, increase women's representation among the electoral candidates, establishment of electoral districts or constituencies, guaranteeing availability of funding for NEC to timely conduct elections and ensuring an appropriate legal framework for voter registration, among others. About 120 persons were in attendance, including 34 females. Meanwhile, the consultation with political parties and civil society organisations is next to be convened in October and will be followed by an international validation workshop, after which NEC will submit final proposals for amendments to the national Legislature for enactment



Regional Consultative Workshop held in Gbarnga, Bong County.

Inter-Party Coordinating Committee (IPCC) workshop

NEC convened a workshop with the members of the IPCC and civil society organisations with the support of the project and partners. The workshop took place in Ganta, Nimba County on 4 and 5 September. The purpose of the workshop was to create the necessary awareness on the eminent threat that electoral violence poses on the peace and stability of the country. The workshop also aimed at fostering an atmosphere in which political actors can work towards preventing electoral violence and maintaining the peace during successive elections. The workshop was a follow-up from earlier inter-party dialogues. NEC shared with the participants what steps had been taken since the "Ganta Declaration" and "Farmington River Declaration" held respectively in September 2016 and September 2017. Participants at this workshop were mainly drawn from political parties. Participating political parties and coalitions nominated three members of its executive committee including the party's chairperson, youth chair and secretary general within the counties. NEC had also requested that the political parties reflect gender balance in consonant with the IPCC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by all political parties. In addition, communities' leaders (chiefs, youth groups' representatives and a representative from the counties' leadership) were invited. In total 79 participants attended the workshop with 21 females and 58 males.



Regional Consultative Workshop held in Gbarnga, Bong County

Study tour by NEC staff to South Africa

As part of institutional strengthening and professional development of staff, eight NEC staff went on a study tour to South Africa between 31 August and 8 September 2019. The bulk of the staff that undertook this study tour were from the operations department. NEC was hosted by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa. The delegation was led by the Deputy Executive Director of operations.

The study tour specifically focused on how to improve logistics, training and field coordination, how to ensure real time receipt of information by the data centre and how to operate a results operation centre. An improved implementation of these activities is expected to further enhance the integrity of NEC and continue to harness international best practices to deliver free and fair elections for the Liberian people.



Deputy Chief of Mission, Liberian Embassy in South Africa, Amb. Karpeh, shares a photo opportunity with the visiting Liberian Electoral Delegation

II. Plans for the next period

- Commencement of the warehousing renovations and construction;
- BRIDGE training;
- Launch of the NEC 2019 – 2024 Strategic Plan;
- Hosting the validation conference;
- Consultation workshop for political parties and civil society organisations.

For more information on the support to the Liberia electoral cycle, please contact Mr. Roosevelt Zayzay, roosevelt.zayzay@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

- Initially planned early September, the lessons learned workshop on the 2017-2019 electoral cycle has been postponed to 2020.
- The project supported the production and dissemination of sensitive printed materials (ballot papers, envelopes, etc) for municipal and communal elections, through the development of a logistics plan.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Postponement of the lessons learned workshop on the electoral process: Initially planned for 2-4 September 2019, the lessons learned workshop of the 2017-2019 electoral cycle has been postponed to 2020. The project has decided, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, to wait until the end of municipal and municipal elections before conducting this important evaluation activity.

Production and deployment of sensitive printed materials. The SACEM project supported the production and packaging of inviolable ballot papers and envelopes for municipal and communal elections. This comes complementary to the CENI's local printing system, to enhance the integrity of the process, so that the results received at the voting census section (French acronym: SRMV) are processed relying on indisputable, accurate and forgery-proof documents. In September, the project worked on the implementation of a logistics plan for the timely production and packaging of these

sensitive materials, which will once again be produced abroad.

Briefing on the preparations for communal and municipal elections. The SACEM project and the CENI informed on 18 September, during the 16th Meeting of the Strategic Dialogue Group (GDS), the Government and Development Partners of the state of implementation of the preparatory work for the organisation of the 27 November elections.

II. Plans for the next period

Production and deployment of sensitive materials. The production of sensitive materials, supported by the project, will start in October in line with the CENI chronogram, and will be delivered to Antananarivo around the 25th of the month. Follow-up missions will also be deployed for the validation of coupons, as well as the monitoring of the production and packaging of the equipment.

Information and capacity building of the administrative courts (tribunaux administratifs) and the State Council (conseil d'état). The judges of the administrative courts and the State Council, who will be in charge of dispute resolution and proclamation of the final results, will benefit from capacity-building activities from 7 to 10 October 2019.

Training of district IT centers' leaders and operationalization of the data transmission system. To optimise the results' centralisation operations, at district and then central CENI level, support will be provided by the project in the training of the heads of the District Information Centers (CID), who will work in pairs with the Presidents of the voting census section (SRMV). The project will also proceed with the operationalisation of the data transmission system.

Communication. Radio spots will be produced before being broadcast on community radio stations in all 22 regions of the country.

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 project launched new initiatives to sustain election-related capacity-building.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

For Nepal's Electoral Support Project (ESP), the month of September was dominated by capacity-building initiatives. The project supported a total of 16 events, which included the launch of two new initiatives. The project continued to support professional development of the Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) through two BRIDGE modules and the launch of field-level dissemination of information on electoral dispute resolution. The project also launched the work with the National Judicial Academy on electoral justice with the finalisation of the resource book.

The Nepal Association for the Blind and the National Deaf Federation of Nepal continued their work for the inclusion of people living with hearing and visual disabilities through three workshops, while the UNDP Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation project and the Nepal Transition to Peace Institute conducted nine municipal and provincial level consultations on sustaining a peaceful environment for elections.

All these initiatives are part of the project's effort to move towards sustainable capacity-building

modalities and are therefore largely conducted through national implementing partners. The project's main contribution is to link up these institutions with ECN and other electoral stakeholders as well as to provide technical input, either in terms of election-related content or capacity-building methodology.

For the two ECN BRIDGE professional development workshops, the project supported the customization of the new Version 3 content of the two modules for Nepal. In view of the upcoming by-elections, one module focused on operational planning. As well as strengthening the capacity of ECN staff, this was an opportunity to consider the progress of operational planning for the by-elections, identify gaps and to reach a common understanding between different ECN departments and sections.

The second module concerned disability rights and elections. Led by ECN, it targeted disabled people's organisations, political party representatives and media persons. The workshop was filled with enriching discussions on what ECN and political parties can and need to do in order to make the electoral cycle more inclusive for people with disabilities. This workshop also linked with the project's support for the participation of people living with visually and hearing disabilities.



Participants take part in a role-play exercise at the BRIDGE workshop on Disability Rights and Elections.

Following the approval of the standard operating procedure for electoral dispute resolution, ESP helped finalise the two related manuals that it had submitted earlier. The project is also supporting ECN in rolling out capacity-building workshops to electoral stakeholders on electoral dispute resolution. These are being held in the areas where the major by-elections will be conducted. The first of the workshops took place on 22 September with representatives from political parties, the District Administration Office, the Armed Police Force, Nepal Police, journalists, observers and civil society.

Complementing this, with ESP support, the National Judicial Academy organised a workshop to finalise Nepal's first resource book on electoral justice that ESP consultants drafted. The participants of the workshop included representatives from the Supreme Court, High Court, Office of the Attorney General, ECN, Ministry of Law and Justice, the Judicial Council, Nepal Bar Association and Tribhuvan University. Once the resource book is finalised, the National Judicial Academy will use it as a basis to develop training materials and conduct orientations on electoral justice for judges and attorney officers.

The project also continued to provide technical assistance to ECN, notably through drafting a social media strategy to enhance ECN outreach through social media platforms.

II. Plans for the next period

October will see the continuation of many of the activities rolled out this month and although Nepal enters its annual holiday season, over twenty events are scheduled. In addition to the continuation of initiatives launched in August and September, these are expected to include the launch of capacity-building work with women journalists and with additional Ministry of Education Community Learning Centres for civic and voter education in view of the 30 November by-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](#).



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 Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) data validation workshop has been conducted. The KAP draft report is currently under review.
- The regional political party's conference has been held from 18 to 23 September in Honiara.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Electoral operations support

In compliance with UNDP asset management practices, the project has conducted an inspection of project assets included in its inventory. The aim of this exercise is two-fold: to check asset status and to identify assets to be considered for transfer to the Electoral Office (EO) and other entities.

Additionally, with support from the project the EO Head of Operations has updated the EO inventory, a timely exercise in view of the upcoming by-elections likely to be held in December in Makira. The project's Field Coordination Assistant is also contributing to finalise the election manuals for the provincial elections.

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey report

The project organised a validation workshop on 9 September at the UNDP Country Office. The project's international KAP consultant presented the initial findings of the survey in presence of civil society organisations (CSOs) partners, people with disabilities (PWDs) members, donors representatives, Electoral Office and UNDP/SECSIP staff. A draft report analysing the survey field findings (409 close ended interviews with household members from 10 constituencies) and 9 key informant interviews with CSO partners and EO staff is currently under review. The report also includes comparative analysis of findings from previous studies in similar/related areas giving readers an overview of the progressive impact of voter awareness programmes. The final report is expected by the first week of October.

Support to women's political participation

- **Outstanding Women (OW) of Solomon Islands initiative:** a proposal for 9 applications for UNDP low value grants women to support the implementation of OW by the 9 provincial councils of in their respective provinces has now been presented to the civic engagement steering committee.

- The project's Advisor on Women's Political Participation visited the Renbell Province to introduce and discuss the Outstanding Women (OW) initiative to Council, provincial government and other stakeholders.

- **Regional political party's conference:** The project identified the members of the Solomon Islands delegation attending this event which was dedicated to political parties' inclusiveness. The project also

provided administrative and logistics support to organise this regional conference from 18 to 23 September in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Regional political party members and relevant stakeholders attended the first two days discussions. This was followed by two days national discussions on the Political Parties Bill which were organised by the Solomon Islands Political Parties Commission. The project's advisors on Women's Political Participation and CSO Coordinator attended this conference contributing



to the topics particularly on issues related to Temporary Special Measures (TSM) and PWD. In line with the recommendation adopted in the Regional Conference on Women's Leadership held in May 2015, the participants again recommended the adoption of measures to establish 10 reserve seats in Parliament for women. As a follow up action, it was suggested that a presentation to Government Caucus and/or Cabinet could be instrumental at this stage recommending that this presentation is conducted by male and well respected champion.

- A meeting was held with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development for organising an essay competition about women leadership and political participation.

II. Plans for the next period

- Support to the possible Needs Assessment Mission to be deployed the last week of October;
- Completion of the final KAP report and distribution with wider stakeholders;
- 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 Parliamentary Ad-Hoc Committee established to review the draft electoral law held meetings with the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) and Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) teams as part of their consultations.
- The NIEC with IESG assistance continued to work on refining the list of recently identified potential voter registration sites for Banadir, South West State, Hirshabelle and Galmadug.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Updates on electoral law

The Parliamentary Ad-Hoc Committee established to review the draft electoral law held meetings with the NIEC and IESG teams as part of their consultations. The IESG and NIEC emphasized the need to amend the draft law to give the NIEC the necessary flexibility to conduct elections in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, including revisions to timelines that are not coherent in the draft. The Ad-Hoc Committee held meetings in South West State, Puntland and in Banadir with electoral stakeholders. The Committee extended its workplan from the end of September to mid-October when

it will submit its report to Parliament. The adoption of the Electoral Law is essential for NIEC to plan for the start of the voter registration in early 2020 to meet the timeline as outlined in the government's political road map.

Establishment of National Electoral Security Task Force (NESTF)

On 18 September, the Minister of Internal Security appointed the 16-member National Electoral Security Task Force (NESTF) which will be chaired by the Commander, Somalia Police Force. IESG's Senior Electoral Security Adviser will represent UNSOM on the Task Force. A coherent and integrated security coordination mechanism which includes key security actors from the federal government, the federal member states, the NIEC and AMISOM, will lead security planning and coordination for voter registration and other electoral activities across the country. The UN has submitted a proposal to the UN Peace Building Fund to equip and train joint operations centres at national, state and regional levels.

Identification of potential voter registration sites

The NIEC with IESG assistance continued to work on refining the list of recently identified potential voter registration sites for Banadir, South West State, Hirshabelle and Galmadug. When finalised, the list will be put to the NIEC board for approval. Following approval, the list will be shared with the NESTF for their assessment on whether these sites can be secured during the voter registration and polling process. Identification and verification of voter registration sites in Puntland and Jubbaland are currently on hold until political differences are resolved between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States.

NIEC Chair attends 74th Session of UN General Assembly

The National Independent Electoral Commission chairperson, Ms. Halima Ismail attended the UN General Assembly meeting in New York during September. NIEC Chair held meetings with international partners on the sidelines of UN General Assembly and provided updates on NIEC's achievements and the Commission's readiness to deliver the elections on time with voter registration scheduled to be held from March to May 2020. The Chairperson called on international partners to offer assistance to deliver these elections on time identifying voter registration, electoral dispute resolution mechanism and electoral operations as specific areas that require support. The President of the Federal Republic of Somalia assured the international community of his country's commitment to holding universal suffrage parliamentary elections in the last quarter of 2020.



Craig Jenness, Director, Electoral Assistance Division UN with Halima Ismail Ibrahim, Chairperson, National Independent Electoral Commission at UN HQ during the UN General Assembly, September 2019.

Logistics training for NIEC staff

From 24-25 September 2019, IESEG in collaboration with BUILD (Bringing Unity, Integrity and Legitimacy to Democracy project) conducted a training on logistics with NIEC logistics, operations and field coordinators staff from headquarters and field offices. The training focused on familiarizing staff and building capacity on logistics planning, timelines, asset management, warehouse management, packing of voter registration and electoral materials, distribution and secure delivery plans to ensure materials and equipment arrives at each location on time.

NIEC legal framework training workshop

On 23 and 24 September 2019, IESG organised a two-day training workshop on legal framework for the NIEC legal department conducted by electoral advisors from IESG. The objective of the workshop was to enhance capacity of NIEC legal staff in drafting clear and implementable regulations and procedures. The workshop examined national and international guiding principles which need to be considered while drafting electoral regulations and procedures, and provided comparative examples from Miramar, Sudan, Egypt and Iraq. A training video showing the entire process of polling and counting in Egypt 2012 was shown and stimulated lively discussion. The workshop clarified the role of the NIEC legal department within the NIEC governance structure. The participants honed their skills in drafting by producing a draft voter registration form, and the outline of the voter registration procedure that could be used in a voter registration manual for voter registration staff.



UNDP/UNSOM handed over 6 Hilux Pick-Up vehicles to the NIEC Headquarter and federal member states offices to underscore long-term support and institutional development of the country's EMB in preparation of universal 'one person one vote' elections in 2020".

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 2020-2024 was finalised and approved by the Commission following several stakeholder consultations and insights from the post-election review process. There are seven focus areas of the new strategic plan, which include legal reform, development of ZEC's institutional capacity, having an accurate and inclusive voter's roll, ensuring equitable representation of citizens in the delimitation process, informed citizen's aware of their rights, promoting gender and inclusivity throughout the electoral cycle, building trust and confidence of the stakeholders in the electoral process and delivering a peaceful and credible elections. There is a plan to undertake dissemination of the strategic plan through stakeholder dialogue processes in coming months.

Technical assessment of voter registration process: A detailed technical assessment and review was undertaken of the processes, procedures, software and hardware used in the BVR process. A UNDP voter registration and ICT expert facilitated the process and provided insights and analysis to address the technical issues within the voter registration process. The assessment enabled ZEC to come up with a set of recommendations and measures for improving the BVR process that included changes in legal framework, processes, procedures, upgradation of the software and ensuring transparency in the de-duplication process.

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 planned in February 2020 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: With the technical support from UNDP and UN Women, a gender and inclusion policy has been developed, which forms the basis of future intervention on promoting gender equality and inclusivity within the election processes. Gender and inclusion focal points have been trained to ensure implementation of the gender and inclusion policy and give feedback to the Commission on the challenges and issues faced during the implementation and making proposals to address the issues.

Continuous voter education: A voter education workshop was organised from 6-10 August 2019 to bring together ZEC officials, CSOs, Disabled People Organizations, youth, women activists, artists and media experts to develop campaigns for Continuous Voter Education. The program used a master class approach, wherein an intimate group of participants worked with a master in their field (technical expert / artist / media expert). This approach has resulted in the development of innovative, creative and diverse voter education campaign portfolios. The portfolios have been developed for continuous voter education, gender, inclusivity, by-election, nomination, inspection of voters roll and voting. After pre-testing of the portfolio these campaigns will be rolled out during different times of the year.

Media monitoring: To strengthen the media monitoring capacity of ZEC, a media monitoring expert has been hired to assess the legal framework, suggest improvements to the legal framework, develop a detailed methodology for media monitoring, training ZEC staff on implementing media monitoring and proposing options for sustainable use of media monitoring equipment available with ZEC.

Public relations capacity building: During the post-election review process, ZEC public relations were identified as a significant weakness. To address this capacity gap, a public relations firm is being hired to develop a communication strategy, undertake rebranding of ZEC and develop ZEC capacity to improve their image and implement effective public relations management.

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 report writing workshop organised. The draft report is being reviewed and is expected to be finalised by October 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 printed. A short refresher training is planned for October followed by roll-out of these trainings.

II. Plans for the next period

- Launch of the ZEC Strategic Plan 2020-2024 and Gender & Inclusion Policy;
- Stakeholder consultation;
- 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](#).