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



EC-UNDP

1 - 31 January, 2020

Electoral Assistance Projects Update



SUMMARY

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: During the reporting period, besides resource mobilisation efforts and reaching out to potential donors, the project management team focused on organising the procurement process of goods and services for the National Elections Authority (ANE), including the voters' registration equipment.

LIBERIA: The Electoral Reform proposal has been discussed by the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission. - The rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses has started with project's support.

LIBYA: The annual 2020 project's work plan was approved by the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) and partners. - As part of the project's support to HNEC, the project is finalising its support to the development of a new Headquarters for HNEC in Tripoli, including IT cabling for a centralized data centre and security upgrades surrounding the perimeter.

MADAGASCAR: Early January 2020, the administrative courts proclaimed the final results of the municipal and communal elections in the six provinces of the country. - A workshop to reflect on the electoral cycle was held in Antananarivo from 28 to 30 January, in the presence of all stakeholders. - The implementation of an electronic system allowing a scientific archiving of the intellectual production of the CENI and an efficient management of its institutional memory is ongoing.

NEPAL: The Election Commission organised the National Assembly Elections with minimal external support. - The project supported the Election Commission in finalising its third Five-Year Strategic Plan.

SOMALIA: The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) organised a simulation exercise on tabulation of votes for National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) staff. - NIEC and IESG meets Upper House Ad Hoc Committee to discuss revisions to draft electoral bill. - IESG and NIEC operation staff conducted field

visits to review logistics and infrastructural facilities.

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).

NB: See the list of all ongoing joint EU-UNDP electoral projects on page 1.

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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 |
| Guinea-Bissau | Support to Electoral Cycle in Guinea-Bissau 2018-2019 | EDF 2018/401-213 | € 3,500,000.00 | 15.10.18 | 14.04.20 |
| Lebanon | Support to Electoral Reform and Democratic Participation in Lebanon (LEAP) | ENI/2019/431-399 | € 3,000,000.00 | 01.01.20 | 31.12.23 |
| Liberia | Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle | FED/2015/367-723 | € 10,000,000.00 | 01.06.15 | 31.05.20 |
| Madagascar | Soutien au Cycle Electoral à Madagascar (SACEM) | FED/2018/398-673 | € 1,500,000.00 | 04.07.18 | 03.05.20 |
| Malawi | Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS) | 2017/389-162 | € 3,355,817.27 | 11.10.17 | 30.06.20 |
| Libya | Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL) | ICSP/2018/395-667 | € 5,000,000.00 | 01.11.17 | 01.11.20 |
| Tunisia | Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (TEAP) | ENI/2019/405-945 | € 2,000,000.00 | 01.07.19 | 30.06.21 |
| Zimbabwe | Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO) | FED/2016/380-895 | € 5,590,000.00 | 01.09.16 | 30.08.20 |



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Nektarios Markogiannis/UN Photo

PROJET D'APPUI AU PROCESSUS ELECTORAL EN REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE 2019-2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the reporting period, besides resource mobilisation efforts and reaching out to potential donors, the project management team focused on organising the procurement process of goods and services for the National Elections Authority (ANE), including the voters' registration equipment.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The following activities were implemented during the reporting period:

- Participation in the Diplomatic briefing on 24 January organised by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) on the electoral process;
- On 22 January, participation in the second meeting of the Election Support Strategic Committee established by the Government to monitor and provide political support to the electoral process;
- Opening and analysis of bids received following the publication of the ITB 187-PAPEC 2019 for the procurement of voters registration equipment and a software for the management of the list;
- Publication of an internet services' request for proposals (RFQ) for the National Elections Authority (ANE);
- Publication of a request for quotes (RFQ) for the procurement of non- electronic items (essentially office supplies) to be used during the voters' registration operations;
- Drafting of the 2020 Annual Work plan.

II. Plans for the next period

Over the next month, UNDP leadership will continue the fundraising efforts and the project will carry out the following activities:

- Complete the procurement process for voters' registration equipment and software and issue a purchase order;
- Complete the procurement process of an internet service provider for the National Elections Authority in CAR;
- Procure office supplies that will be used for the voters' registration operations;
- Recruit a civic/voters education Specialist and a Specialist of communication and reporting;
- Advertise a position of election procurement Specialist to be recruited internationally;
- Assistance to the National Elections Authority in planning the establishment of its local branches throughout the country and abroad;
- A review and adjustment of the election chronogramme.

For more information on the *Projet d'appui au Cycle Electoral en République Centrafricaine (PAPEC 2019-2022)*, please contact Chief Technical Officer Mr. Sidi Mohamed Diawara, sidi.diawara@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](#).

Nothing significant to report

For information on the Support to the Electoral Cycle 2018-2019 project in Guinea Bissau, please contact Jose Malam Jassi, jose.m.jassi@undp.org and visit the [project’s website](#).



LIBERIA

Election Project/UNDP Liberia

SUPPORT TO THE 2015 – 2018 LIBERIAN ELECTORAL CYCLE

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Electoral Reform proposal has been discussed by the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC).
- The rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses has started with project's support.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Electoral reform

In the second half of January, the National Election Commission's (NEC) Board of Commissioners (BoC) discussed the electoral reform proposal submitted by the Technical Working Group (TWG) in December 2020. The BoC's decision is yet to be taken on the final amendments to be subjected to the national and international validation exercise before submission to the legislature. The reform,

supported by the project, was conducted through a nation-wide consultative process and reflects on the recommendations by the observers to the 2017 General Elections and aims at bringing the Liberian electoral process further in line with international standards and best practices. The civil society organisations submitted their proposal to the legislature in 2019.

Rehabilitation of warehouses

The rehabilitation of warehouses and construction of fences and generator rooms in the NEC Magisterial Offices commenced on 27 January. The project is currently supporting the NEC to renovate 12 out of 19 warehouses, in line with the NEC 2018 – 2024 Strategic Plan aiming to strengthen electoral infrastructure. To ensure the quality of the support provided, the project has completed a recruitment process for Quality Assurance consultant and 3 engineers/site inspectors; the initial monitoring visit is planned in the first week of February.

Election preparations, timeline and budget

While the NEC continues to work towards the preparation of the upcoming elections, the delays in budgeting and generally lack of funds have resulted in delays in the initially proposed timeline. The NEC is currently revising the electoral calendar aiming at conducting the voter roll update process from 13 to 19 April (postponement of three weeks against the original schedule). All activities to be supported by the project are pending the approval by the Project Board (meeting is scheduled tentatively for the second week of February).

Other activities of the election project

The project took steps to follow up on the effective implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) within the NEC. The NEC indicated that its staff is not confident to fully use the system, continuously experiencing technical difficulties. To ensure that all NEC transactions are processed through the ERP, which is a result of a significant investment by the project and its partners, the project will support additional on-the-job training for the NEC staff. Currently, the project will support the retrieval of voter registration materials together with cataloguing all NEC assets in the field. The NEC teams are to be deployed on 7 February.

II. Plans for the next period

- Recruitment of site inspector/engineer and quality assurance consultant for warehouse renovation (inception field visit the first week in February);
- Renovation of two security boots at NEC headquarters;
- Cataloging of NEC's fixed assets in magisterial offices (starting 7 February);
- Retrieval of elections/voter registration equipment and materials from magisterial warehouses for the assessment of the logistical plan (starting 7 February);
- Arrival of the ICT consultant to evaluate ICT infrastructure for the NEC voter registration (3 February);

- Recruitment of the Data Center consultant (ongoing);
- Organisation of the Project Board meeting (February 2020).

For more information on the support to the Liberia electoral cycle, please contact Ms. Lenka Homolkova, lenka.homolkova@undp.org and visit the [Project's website](#).



PROMOTING ELECTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA (PEPOL)

The Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL) project is a three year electoral assistance project, designed in the spirit of cooperation and national ownership with the Libyan High National Elections Commission (HNEC). The project forms part of the UN integrated electoral assistance framework which is led and coordinated by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The project's overall objective is to help HNEC develop its overall institutional capacity in order to prepare for and administer inclusive and credible balloting events in Libya. To this end, four key outputs are identified with related activities to be implemented throughout the electoral cycle approach:

1. Support HNEC in the planning, preparation and conduct of national elections and out-of-country voting (OCV);
2. Develop HNEC institutional and staff capacities and raise awareness on the requirement of (a) transparent, credible and inclusive electoral processe(s);
3. Promote public participation in (the) electoral processe(s) targeting vulnerable groups; and
4. Raising the electoral awareness of local partners and stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The annual 2020 project's work plan was approved by the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) and partners.
- As part of the project's support to HNEC, the project is finalising its support to the development of a new headquarters for HNEC in Tripoli, including IT cabling for a centralised data centre and security upgrades surrounding the perimeter.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

2020 Annual Work Plan

During the reporting period, the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) and donor partners approved the project's 2020 annual work plan. UNDP, United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and donor partners continue the engagement with HNEC and support the Commission's

institutional and technical readiness, for when elections or referendum are called.

Taking into consideration the country's current political and security context, the project's 2020 annual work plan has been rationalized and includes technical capacity development to HNEC and assistance to crucial electoral ICT systems, enabling sustainability of the voter register and enhancement of the results management system. In case elections are called for at a certain point in time, flexibility is built into the programme to revise and upscale the workplan that also includes direct electoral support in coordination with counterparts and donor partners.

Support to HNEC's infrastructure

As part of the project's support to HNEC after the dramatic attack on its compound in 2018, the project finalised in January 2020 its support to the development of a new headquarters for HNEC in Tripoli, including IT cabling for a centralised data centre and security upgrades surrounding the perimeter. These works enable HNEC to be operationally ready again for implementation of electoral activities. Supporting the capacity development and operational sustainability of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), UNDP handed over five vehicles to HNEC, including three from the former electoral assistance project from 2012 to 2015.



PEPOL project completed the refurbishment of HNEC's electoral data center, January 2020, Tripoli, Libya. Photo credits: UNDP/PEPOL.

II. Plans for the next period

As part of the project's main support to HNEC's ICT systems, PEPOL will organise with a specialist ICT firm two ICT training for HNEC's IT department in Tunis from 17 till 27 February.

The project will be working with HNEC on the concept of an electronic voter card system.

For more information on the project, please contact the Mr. Filip Warnants, filip.warnants@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

- Early January 2020, the administrative courts proclaimed the final results of the municipal and communal elections in the six provinces of the country.
- A workshop to reflect on the electoral cycle was held in Antananarivo from 28 to 30 January in the presence of all stakeholders.
- The implementation of an electronic system allowing a scientific archiving of the intellectual production of the CENI and an efficient management of its institutional memory is ongoing.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Final results of municipal and communal elections. The proclamation of the final results by the administrative courts took place almost a month after the ceremony of proclamation of the provisional results, early January 2020, at the level of the six provincial capitals of Madagascar. Following a partial cancellation of the results, by-elections will have to be organised in 32 municipalities (out of 1695 constituencies) for both the election of mayors and councilors.

Lessons learned workshop of the 2017-2019 electoral cycle. A workshop to reflect on the elections - presidential, legislative, municipal and municipal, held in 2018 and 2019 in Madagascar, was organised from 28 to 30 January, in Antananarivo. It involved the various stakeholders of the electoral process

including the High Constitutional Court, the administrative courts, the electoral management body (CENI), other State institutions and administrations involved in the elections, political parties, civil society organisations, the media, as well as the Madagascar electoral cycle support project (SACEM), Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) and other international partners. This workshop intended to take an impartial look at the experience of the 2017-2019 electoral cycle, by identifying strengths and good practices but also difficulties encountered and limits of the operational and normative systems in place. Relevant lines of thought and strategic orientations were identified by the actors gathered in thematic groups, in view of improved electoral governance and the whole electoral process in the future.

Documentary of the SACEM project. A 43' documentary film was finalised by the SACEM project. The film showcases activities implemented and the challenges met by the project, the CENI and the High Constitutional Court in 2017, 2018 and 2019, by questioning the different actors (SACEM, UNDP, CENI, High Constitutional Court, Administrative courts, officials, civil society...) that contributed to the success of the electoral cycle in Madagascar. The film ends with a series of recommendations aimed at improving the future electoral processes.

CENI materials and data archiving solution. The project continues the work of setting up an electronic system allowing for a scientific archiving of its intellectual production and an efficient management of its institutional memory in order to promote the professionalism acquired during the current and past electoral cycles. A system composed of three interoperable systems will be set up: a document archiving system for electronic management, a professional CENI electronic messaging system (@ceni.mg) as well as a collaborative work system.

II. Plans for the next period

Project's independent evaluation. A general evaluation of the project will be carried out in February and March 2020 by a team of independent experts (national and international). The conclusions of this work will be submitted to the deliberations of the Project Steering Committee. Evaluation is an integral part of the UNDP Country Programme Evaluation Plan and will help support programme improvements and promote a results-oriented culture, stakeholder empowerment and learning. It will also allow lessons to be drawn to best support the government and ensure the sustainability of the achievements of the project 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 Election Commission organised the National Assembly Elections with minimal external support.
- The project supported the Election Commission in finalising its third Five-Year Strategic Plan.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

In January, the Electoral Support Project (ESP) continued to consolidate the knowledge and learning from the capacity-building initiatives it supported in 2019. In addition to this, ESP supported the Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) in finalising its Third Five-Year Strategic Plan, notably by integrating a logical framework, risk log and indicators.

ECN organised the indirect National Assembly Elections on 23 January with minimal external support. ESP provided [infographics](#) and content for ECN to sustain its social media presence.

This included a short video on the 2019 by-elections for which ESP used material from its effort to document the process and to produce stock images for future ECN outreach. The video captures different steps in the process, including the training of senior electoral officers, the nomination of the candidates, the campaign, polling day, vote counting and the results announcement. The video

is available on the ECN [website](#) and social media [sites](#).

The project also commenced the closure process of the European Union contribution agreement to the project.



Example of infographic that ECN used on social media for the National Assembly Elections.

II. Plans for the next period

The 19th of February is celebrated as "Election Day" in Nepal and this year's celebration will serve to launch several products from the ESP work at the end of 2019. This will include the Electoral Justice Resource Book and an educational feature film entitled Ek Vote (one vote). ESP will support the Commission with the events and also plans to launch the mobile application on the civic education content targeted for students and the general public.

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](#).



★ SOMALIA

📷 Ilyas Ahmed/UN Photo

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 Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) organised a simulation exercise on tabulation of votes for National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) staff.
- NIEC and IESG meets Upper House Ad Hoc Committee to discuss revisions to draft electoral bill.
- IESG and NIEC operation staff conducted field visits to review logistics and infrastructural facilities.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

IESG organises simulation of tabulation of votes options for NIEC staff

On 29 January, the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) organised a simulation exercise based on the draft electoral law for the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) Board of Commissioners, Secretary General, and senior members of the Secretariat on tabulation of the voting data, consolidating and reporting results from polling station level to polling center and NIEC headquarters. The objective of the exercise was to demonstrate the practical application of the legislative requirements and identify

appropriate administrative processes that promote the transparency, credibility and integrity of the tabulation process. The current draft electoral law presents a number of serious administrative and logistical challenges which make the tallying process complicated, and the timelines impossible to meet. A senior official commended the training: “This training was essential as it has helped us better understand the implications of the draft law on the electoral process and we can propose how best to manage the legal requirements through appropriate regulations and procedures.” NIEC will also review potential ballot paper design for the Upper House elections with IESG support and requested further training on concepts such as spoiled and invalid votes and other related electoral terminology.



NIEC HQ Mogadishu, IESG and NIEC conduct joint simulation exercise on vote tabulation, 29 January 2020. Photo credits: IESG.

IESG and NIEC operation staff conduct field visits to review logistics and infrastructural facilities

IESG and NIEC operations staff and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) Mission Support Center conducted joint one-day field visits to Jowhar, Kismayo, Baidoa and Beletweyne between 16-22 January. The purpose of the visits was to review logistics, warehousing and storage facilities at each location and meet with NIEC’s and IESG’s field office staff, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), UNSOS and African Union Mission In Somalia (AMISOM) police and army officials to streamline the chain of communications and receive update on challenges for electoral operations in each of the field offices ahead of planned voter registration activities in 2020. Issues identified for further discussion include provision of necessary equipment for security and sufficient storage for voter registration materials during all phases of the voter registration exercise.

NIEC, Speakers of Houses of Parliament meet UN and Ambassadors on electoral issues

On 22 and 23 January, the NIEC Chairperson and the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament separately met with the United Nations and key Ambassadors to provides updates on electoral preparations and progress on the draft electoral law amid concerns that Parliament will go into recess in early February. Discussions centred around the importance of Parliament in finalising the revision of the draft bill before

the end of its current session in early February and on ensuring that key elements of the electoral bill would be addressed before its adoption so as to ensure the law is implementable. Such revisions would allow the NIEC to hold parliamentary elections within the constitutional timelines. The Speaker of the House of the People informed that parliament would remain in session until the review of the bill is finalised. Responding to the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament's invitation, the NIEC and IESG have jointly prepared and submitted two technical documents to the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament which outline options to address the key gaps in the law. A long list of comments compiled jointly by NIEC/IESG on the electoral bill was also submitted to the Upper House. It is hoped that both the technical options and the detailed comments will be considered positively by Parliament before the final adoption of the electoral bill during the current Parliamentary session.



On 22 and 23 January, the UN and international partners met with the Speakers of both the House of People and the Upper House to discuss critical revisions necessary to the draft electoral bill to enable effective implementation of the law for the 2020 elections. Photos credit: UNSOM.

NIEC and IESG meet with Upper House Ad Hoc Committee to discuss revisions to draft electoral bill

On 23 January 2019, NIEC and IESG met with the Upper House Ad Hoc Committee to discuss concerns related to the draft electoral bill. The NIEC outlined the various articles that require revision including ensuring 30% women's representation in the bill and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to consider the proposed revisions that would enable the electoral law to be implementable. The Ad Hoc Committee's report was submitted to the Upper House on 29 January for second reading.

National Electoral Security Task Force meeting

With support of IESG and the Peacebuilding Fund, the National Electoral Security Task Force (NESTF) held its second meeting on 21 January which was attended by Police Commissioners from some of the Federal Member States (FMS) excluding Puntland and Jubaland. The meeting agreed that in future the Police Commissioners' Office will be responsible to chair NESTF meetings and will establish a secretariat, confirm the names of the members of the Task Force, and will convene the next NESTF meeting within two weeks. A key priority for the NESTF will be to ensure that women and youth can participate safely in the electoral process both as candidates and voters.

Electoral information sharing meeting

On 15 January, with IESG assistance, the Electoral Information Sharing Meeting co-chaired by the NIEC Chairperson and the UNSOM Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General was held to take stock on electoral developments. The NIEC Chairperson stressed the necessity to ensure that the election law is implementable in order to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process. The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General emphasised that the electoral process is at a critical stage as the electoral bill is under review by the Upper House Ad Hoc Committee and their report would be submitted soon for its second reading. He urged the partners to interact with the members of the Upper House to ensure that the electoral bill they pass is politically credible and practically viable.

II. Plans for the next period

N/A

For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Mary Cummins, mary.cummins@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

Development of project for new phase: At Zimbabwe Electoral Commission's request for continued support in preparation for the 2023 elections, an Electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) was in the country from 20 to 31 January. The objective of the NAM was to consult with various electoral stakeholders and assess Zimbabwe's electoral environment and needs. The mission met with ZEC Commission, ZEC staff, various Independent Commissions, government ministries, UN agencies, civil society organisations (CSOs), development partners and special interest groups to get their input on electoral issues in the country.

Electoral law reform: In response to the recommendation for electoral reforms, an electoral review process

has been initiated with the drafting of a “Zimbabwe Electoral Commission changes to the Electoral Law Bill” already underway. This process will include, review of the Constitution, Electoral Act and regulations and drafting of amendments to the Electoral Law and electoral regulations in consultation with ZEC, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General officials.

Media monitoring: Consultations towards the strengthening of ZEC’s the media monitoring capacity and the development of Media Monitoring Strategy continued. Visits to 17 ZEC field offices were conducted to understand how district offices would undertake media monitoring of local publications and radio stations. The visits enabled the consultant to appreciate the skills level, technical capabilities and processes of provincial and district offices to monitor the media. A draft Media Monitoring Strategy has been submitted and is being reviewed by ZEC.

Public relations policy and strategy: A review of the ZEC’s public relations capacity and development of communication and engagement strategy began in December 2019. ZEC management is currently reviewing the draft Public Relations and Communication Policy produced by the consultant.

II. Plans for the next period

- Draft Electoral Law Bill finalised;
- Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training;
- 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](#).