LIBERIA: Electoral reform proposal ‘zero-draft’ has been finalised for validation. - The National Election Commission (NEC) held a workshop on prevention of electoral violence. - The strengthening of NEC’s infrastructure has been accelerated as per 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan.

LIBYA: UNDP, United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and donor partners continue to support the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) with institutional and technical capacity development. - From 17 to 27 February, the ‘PEPOL’ project organised in Tunis two certified courses on ‘system administration management’ to enhance the HNEC’s Information and Communication Technology (ICT) technical skills. - The project is also supporting the establishment of HNEC’s server room.

MADAGASCAR: The implementation of an electronic system allowing for electronic archiving of the intellectual production of the national independent electoral commission (CENI) and an effective management of its institutional memory continued in February through sessions of CENI capacity building. - An independent evaluation mission of the activities carried out by the SACEM project, composed of an international expert and two national experts, started in February and will end in March 2020.

NEPAL: Nepal celebrated “Election Day” and on the occasion, the Election Commission launched several resource materials that were produced with support from the Electoral Support Project.

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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

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<td>DCI-ASIE/2015/368-884</td>
<td>€ 15,500,000.00</td>
<td>29.12.15</td>
<td>31.12.19</td>
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<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>Support to Electoral Cycle in Guinea-Bissau 2018-2019</td>
<td>EDF 2018/401-213</td>
<td>€ 3,500,000.00</td>
<td>15.10.18</td>
<td>14.04.20</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Support to Electoral Reform and Democratic Participation in Lebanon (LEAP)</td>
<td>ENI/2019/431-399</td>
<td>€ 3,000,000.00</td>
<td>01.01.20</td>
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<td>Liberia</td>
<td>Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle</td>
<td>FED/2015/367-723</td>
<td>€ 10,000,000.00</td>
<td>01.06.15</td>
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<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Soutien au Cycle Electoral à Madagascar (SACEM)</td>
<td>FED/2018/398-673</td>
<td>€ 1,500,000.00</td>
<td>04.07.18</td>
<td>03.05.20</td>
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<td>Malawi</td>
<td>Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)</td>
<td>2017/389-162</td>
<td>€ 3,355,817.27</td>
<td>11.10.17</td>
<td>30.06.20</td>
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<td>Libya</td>
<td>Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)</td>
<td>ICSP/2018/395-667</td>
<td>€ 5,000,000.00</td>
<td>01.11.17</td>
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<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td>€ 5,590,000.00</td>
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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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

N/A

For information on the Projet d’appui au Cycle Electoral en République Centrafricaine (PAPEC 2019-2022), please contact Chief Technical Advisor Mr. Sidi Mohamed Diawara, sidi.diaawara@undp.org.
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.
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

- Electoral reform proposal ‘zero-draft’ has been finalised for validation.
- The National Election Commission (NEC) held a workshop on prevention of electoral violence.
- The Strengthening of NEC’s infrastructure has been accelerated as per 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Project board approved the 2020 Work Plan

On 25 February, the project’s board endorsed the 1 January – 31 May 2020 Work Plan for the election project. In the remaining time, before the project’s operational closure on 31 May 2020, the key focus remains on the rehabilitation of 12 magisterial warehouses at the National Elections Commission (NEC), the cataloguing of assets and a full utilization of the Enterprise Resource Planning system, the completion of the electoral legal reform process and the support to Inter-Party Consultative Committee
(IPCC). Financial and technical assistance to voter registration and related civic and voter education is anticipated, contingent upon the Government capacity to secure sufficient budget for the exercise.

**Electoral reform**

On 10 February 2020, the Board of Commissioners approved the proposed amendments to the election law of Liberia, presented by the Technical Working Group (TWG)\(^1\) with support of the election project. The TWG based its proposition on the nation-wide consultations. The Board approved the majority of TWG recommendations, including obligatory 30% gender quota at the lists of political parties’ candidates. Equally, the new requirement of at least one candidate of each gender at the party primaries has been introduced. At the validation workshop, currently planned for the second half of March, the proposal will be considered in the presence of national and international/regional experts.

**Inter-Party Consultative Committee workshop on prevention of electoral violence**

On 27 and 28 February in Monrovia, Liberia, NEC has conducted a consultation on the revision of the Code of Conduct for political parties and coalition with the view to prevent violence in the electoral process. The workshop was attended by 50 representatives of all 26 registered political parties, 28% of participants were women. Opening the consultation, NEC Commissioner Dukuly and UNDP Election Project Chief Technical Adviser emphasised the importance of women's participation and necessity also to target violence against women in elections (VAWIE). While the provisions against VAWIE may not make it to the Code at this stage, the remarks triggered discussion. Further exchanges related to the enforcement of the Code as well as accountability of party agents at the polling stations. The workshop will be followed by two regional consultations to be held on 5-6 March in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County for the South-Eastern Region, and 10-11 March in Kakata, Margibi County for North-Western Region. The regional consultations are intended to ensure the involvement of the party-representatives in rural areas. The series of workshops will result in a revised Code of Conduct agreed by all political parties.

\(^1\) The Technical Working Group, co-chaired by the NEC and UNDP, is a donor coordination mechanism, allowing for harmonization of project’s activities as well as enhanced coordination between the NEC and the Financial and Technical Partners. The TWG’s objective is to share election-related updates and discuss NEC and partners’ activities to seek synergies towards credible, transparent, and inclusive electoral and political processes.
Strengthening NEC’s infrastructure as per 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan accelerated

In line with the NEC Strategic Plan, the project continued to support NEC infrastructural strengthening. An international quality assurance consultant and three national engineers were hired to oversee the rehabilitation of 12 magisterial warehouses. A joint NEC-UNDP inception monitoring visit has been conducted between 9 and 18 February, with the overall aim to ensure contractors’ compliance with their commitments.

The project further commissioned an ICT consultant to assess NEC’s ICT infrastructure. The consultant discovered numerous challenges and identified short- and long-term improvements, notably to the security of the NEC systems.

The retrieval of the voter registration materials from the field and cataloguing of assets have been delayed due to NEC’s technical difficulties. The teams are scheduled to leave next week. The activity is critical for the assessment of the voter registration materials and will play a key role in determining a strategy to further decrease costs of the upcoming voter roll update.
II. Plans for the next period

- Validation workshop for electoral reform;
- Review of voter roll update strategy and budget;
- Rehabilitation of NEC warehouses and security booth;
- Retrieval of voter registration materials and cataloguing of assets;
- NEC consultation on Code of Conduct for civil society and certification of CSOs to conduct civic and voter education;
- NEC consultation on Code of Conduct and training for media (Monrovia & urban areas);
- Recruitment of the data center consultant (ongoing);
- Recruitment of communication consultant;
- Recruitment of referendum consultant;
- Project terminal evaluation;
- Mission to formulate new project document.

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 processes; 3. Promote public participation in (the) electoral processes targeting vulnerable groups; and 4. Raising the electoral awareness of local partners and stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNDP, United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and donor partners continue to support the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) with institutional and technical capacity development.
- From 17 to 27 February, the PEPOL project organised in Tunis two certified courses on ‘system administration management’ to enhance the HNEC’s Information and Communication Technology (ICT) technical skills.
- The project is also supporting the establishment of HNEC’s server room.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Support to electoral ICT management systems

UNDP, United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and donor partners continue to support the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) with institutional and technical capacity development and preparation for elections. The project’s key focus in 2020 is to strengthen HNEC’s electoral ICT
systems, such as software platforms and procedures, particularly in the areas of results tabulation and voter roll maintenance.

During the reporting period, the UNDP/UNSMIL Electoral Support Team (UNEST) finalised materials on results management processes for further discussions with the High National Election Commission. Clarity on the reporting, clearance and audit processes is required to complete the next stage of the results’ management software platform.

From 17 to 27 February, the project organised in Tunis two certified courses on ‘system administration management’ to enhance the technical skills of HNEC’s ICT unit.

The project also supported the establishment of HNEC’s server room. After renovation of the building and offices earlier last year and the installation of the IT networking, a UPS and a fire suppression system has been delivered and installed at the server room. In March, UNDP and HNEC will install the hardware systems of the server room. These works enable HNEC to be operationally ready for implementation of electoral activities.

II. Plans for the next period

PEPOL will support HNEC’s participation in the General Assembly of the Arab EMBs on 4 March and the conference on the role of media in elections on 5 and 6 March, in coordination with UNDP’s electoral assistance for the Arab region (UNDP/RBAS).

Development of concept note and policy papers electoral ICT management systems and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for HNEC compound security.

For more information on the project, please contact Mr. Filip Warnants, filip.warnants@undp.org and visit the project’s website.
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 implementation of an electronic system allowing for electronic archiving of the intellectual production of the national independent electoral commission (CENI) and an effective management of its institutional memory continued in February through sessions of capacity building of the CENI.

• An independent evaluation mission of the activities carried out by the SACEM project, composed of an international expert and two national experts started in February and will end in March 2020.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

CENI document and data archiving. Launched in 2019, activities for the establishment of an electronic system allowing for electronic archiving of intellectual production and effective management of the institutional memory of the electoral commission continued in February. A specialized center provided training for a technical team composed of five CENI computer scientists and an expert from the SACEM project to take full charge of the system in place.

Independent evaluation of the SACEM project. A general evaluation of the project, carried out by a team of independent experts (national and international), started in February 2020. The logical framework of the evaluation mission was submitted to the members of the technical committee of the project. After an analysis of the documentation and tools produced by the project, the independent
experts will meet with the various stakeholders in the electoral process in Madagascar including institutions, technical and financial partners, political parties, civil society organisations, media. The conclusions of the evaluation work will be available in mid-March 2020.

II. Plans for the next period

**Independent evaluation of the SACEM project.** The experts in charge of the evaluation mission will share the conclusions of their work with the steering committee during a meeting to be organised in March 2020.

**Financial audit of the SACEM project.** A financial audit will be carried out during March 2020 for the 2019 financial year. The audit report will be available on the UNDP website.

**End of the SACEM project.** The project will end on 31 March 2020, after the implementation of the various closing activities.

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.
NEPAL

Rochan Kadariya/UNDP ESP

ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT (ESP)

The Electoral Support Project- Phase II (ESP) is a technical assistance initiative which focuses on a long-term institutional and professional capacity development of the Election Commission (ECN) for conducting credible, inclusive and transparent elections at a national. 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

- Nepal celebrated “Election Day” and on the occasion, the Election Commission launched several resource materials that were produced with support from the Electoral Support Project.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

On 18 and 19 February, the Election Commission led the celebration of “Election Day” in Nepal. The Commission used the event for the official launch of the box-set of 17 civic and voter education booklets and an accompanying methodological guide. These were developed with support from the Electoral Support Project (ESP) last year and are now being distributed to community-level organisations for them to provide extensive and continuous civic education to ensure that all citizens are informed of their rights as citizens and as voters. ESP also facilitated an introductory meeting between the Commission and a range of these organisations.

During the Election Day event, the Commission also launched the educational film “Ek Vote” (one vote) that was also produced with ESP support. This one-hour film is targeted at a youth audience and contains civic and voter education messages woven around a love story. The film was well received and will now be disseminated through social media and be shown at the Commission’s civic and voter education events.
The celebration culminated in a reception during which the Prime Minister and the Chief Election Commissioner addressed high-level guests. During the reception, Nepal’s President launched three more knowledge products. One was the Election Commission’s Third Five-Year Strategic Plan, for which the project developed the logical framework and risk matrix; the second was a commemorative collection of election-related articles, to which the project team contributed three articles; and the third was the Electoral Justice Resource Book.

This resource book was produced last year by the Election Commission with the National Judicial Academy and ESP support as a reference on electoral dispute resolution and electoral justice in Nepal. The content formed the basis of the orientation programme for judges that the National Judicial Academy implemented for ESP and the resource book was finalised on the basis of feedback from the programme.

In February, ESP also supported the Election Commission in conceptualizing high-level interactions with political parties on political finance, electoral systems and electronic voting machines. In addition to this, on request of the Commission, ESP contracted a consultant to formulate an ICT plan to support the implementation of the Commission's new strategic plan.
II. Plans for the next period

In March, ESP will continue to consolidate the work conducted at the end of last year by facilitating direct interactions between the Election Commission and the different organisations and institutions that the project worked with. ESP also stands ready to support the Commission's high-level interactions and will prepare the concept for a national event on youth participation to be organised by the UNDP country office.

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

**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**

- President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo” signed the electoral bill into law on 20 February 2020 following passage by Parliament of the draft electoral bill on 19 February. However the law has a number of gaps and contains provisions that make it difficult to implement; for instance, there is no provision to guarantee women’s 30 per cent quota to ensure women’s representation in Parliament. Parliament plans to establish a joint committee to prepare resolutions on some of the outstanding issues that require clarification for consideration after the recess in mid-April.

- On 2 February, National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) organised a ceremony to award provisional registration to six political parties bringing the total to 76 parties. Three of the parties are headed by women. NIEC’s political party registrar emphasized the role women can and should play in political parties and encouraged the party leaders to ensure women are integrated into their party structures at every level of the party organisation.

- NIEC visit Federal Member States to hold consultation meetings with stakeholders.

- The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) provided one day training for NIEC logistics team.
I. Project activities during the reporting period

The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) drafted comments on amendments to the Political Parties Law and the 2016 Political Parties Law

The IESG legal team in collaboration with the NIEC legal team reviewed the draft amendments to the Political Parties Law which will be tabled in the next session of the Parliament in April, as well as the Political Parties Law that was passed in 2016. A number of timeline related articles in the law, as well as issues regarding dispute resolution, amongst others, will require revision and alignment with the electoral law.

IESG provided orientation training to newly recruited NIEC staff at IESG office

On 2 February, IESG training unit conducted orientation for two newly recruited NIEC staff at the IESG office. Topics included electoral administration, electoral cycle and principles of voter registration. The trainers emphasized the roles and responsibilities of the NIEC staff and looked at how to plan, coordinate and organise training activities in the field and at the NIEC main office. The staff gained essential knowledge about the work of the NIEC which will help them in their daily work.

NIEC conducts briefing for the media on elections

On 2 February, NIEC conducted a briefing for the media. The purpose of the meeting was to raise the media’s awareness on the electoral process and provide updates on NIEC’s preparations for the one-person-one-vote election. Elections is one of the main topics discussed on the media this year. NIEC plans to conduct regular media briefings to ensure the media has accurate information regarding preparations for the electoral process. NIEC Chairperson emphasized the importance of a free and fair election and said “the media is the right channel through which the public will get information; therefore, it is their responsibility to share the correct information with the public and avoid propagating fake news”.

IESG provides one day training for NIEC logistics team

On 11 February, IESG Logistics Unit provided one day training on development and designing of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for vehicle management. The aim of the training was to enhance the capacity of the NIEC logistics manager and his team to develop SOPs in the future so as to ensure the NIEC vehicles fleet management is fully operational both at headquarters and in the regional offices. This is part of the institutional capacity building that IESG provides to NIEC under its electoral support project.

Joint operations field mission to Jubaland

A joint field mission was conducted to Dhobley, Jubaland, on 17 February by IESG, NIEC and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) team. The purpose of the visit was to meet with the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), UNMAS and UNSOS staff based in Dhobley to discuss electoral operations and review storage facilities and assess the security situation with the AMISOM commander.

NIEC visit Federal Member States to hold consultation meetings with stakeholders

NIEC commissioners and secretariat staff conducted a tour of three federal member states: South West State, Hirshabelle and Galmadug between 10-27 February. The aim of the visits was to conduct public consultations and awareness raising with different sectors of the communities including meetings with elders and state officials. The NIEC officials also visited their field offices and met with staff to hear their concerns and challenges on preparing for the elections in their area of operations.
II. Plans for the next period

IESG will provide training to enhance skills for NIEC Commissioners and Secretariat staff on the following:

- Admin, procurement, human resources and monitoring and evaluation;
- Simulation exercise on counting, tallying results, identifying spoiled and invalid votes for the Upper House election;
- Training for new team of trainers at NIEC;
- Public outreach: workshop on preparing voter education printed materials;
- Public outreach: workshop on difference between voter education and civic education.

For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Mary Cummins, mary.cummins@undp.org, and visit the Project’s website.
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.

N/A

For information on the project, please contact Chifarai Sarah Masike chifarai.sarah.masike@undp.org, and visit the project’s website.