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



EC-UNDP

1 - 31 July, 2020

Electoral Assistance Projects Update



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



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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
Bolivia	Cultura de la paz y fortalecimiento del Órgano Electoral Plurinacional (OEP) de Bolivia	ICSP/2020/417-037	€ 2,000,000.00	01.01.20	30.06.21
Central African Republic	Projet d'appui au processus électoral en République Centrafricaine 2019-2022 (PAPEC)	2020/415 – 560	€ 15,000,000.00	01.09.19	31.12.22
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	31.10.20
Libya	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5,000,000.00	01.11.17	01.11.20
Malawi	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	2017/389-162	€ 3,355,817.27	11.10.17	30.06.20
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



BOLIVIA

CULTURA DE LA PAZ Y FORTALECIMIENTO DEL ÓRGANO ELECTORAL PLURINACIONAL (OEP) DE BOLIVIA

HIGHLIGHTS

- As a consequence of the COVID-19 outbreak and the quarantine measures taken by the government, the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 3 May 2020 have been postponed twice and are now set for 18 October.
- The electoral project will be extended until 30 June 2021.

Project's activities during the reporting period

The project has adapted well to the new circumstances. Until now, around 70 dialogs have been held in all nine Departments of Bolivia with all sectors of society, including the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and Departmental Electoral Tribunals (TED), civil society organisations, women and indigenous groups and political parties.

On 29 June, the first national dialog was held with international electoral experts from Uruguay and Dominican Republic, UNDP RR and representatives of all Bolivian parties, discussing the experiences of elections held during COVID-19.



OEP
Organismo Electoral Plurinacional



EL SUFRAGIO GENERAL 2020

PRIMER CONVERSATORIO INTERNACIONAL
Experiencias electorales comparadas durante el COVID-19: Desafíos para las elecciones en Bolivia

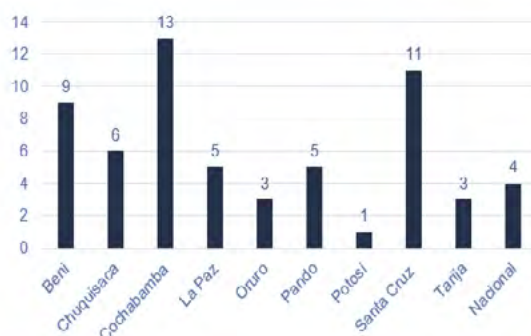
EXPOSITORES		INAUGURACIÓN Y CIERRE	
<p>MODERADORES</p> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;">  <p>Rafael López Pizarro Experto en Política Electoral Presidente del Instituto Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación (IEPJF) en México</p>  <p>Carlos Pimentel Fierro Director Electoral Presidencia del Poder Judicial de la Federación (Poder Judicial de la Federación) en México</p> </div>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;">  <p>Luciano Marín Representante del Poder Judicial en Uruguay</p>  <p>María Angélica Ruiz Yara Presidenta del Poder Judicial en Uruguay</p> </div>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;">  <p>Salvador Romero Salas Presidente Tribunal Supremo Electoral en Bolivia</p> </div>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;">  <p>Francisco Vargas Camacho Vicepresidente Tribunal Supremo Electoral en Bolivia</p> </div>

LUNES 29 DE JUNIO DE 2020
de 17:00 a 18:30 hrs.

TRANSMISIÓN EN VIVO



Dialogs held per Department



Diálogos: Por mes



The pandemic affects the Plurinational Electoral Organ (OEP) as a whole, since for its employees it represents a health risk and a responsibility that increases as it is a state agency exposed to the public on a daily basis. Many vocals and TSE and TED staff have been infected by the virus.

The TSE is about to publish a biosafety protocol for all its staff and has included sanitary measures in the guidelines for the electoral judges and notaries.

The electoral project will be extended until 30 June 2021, as it does not only cover national elections, but also subnational elections that are now scheduled for April/May 2021.

Regarding the funding of the electoral support project, the initial USD 9 million have been raised to USD 10.2 million for the extension of the project. Most of the donor contributions have been disbursed and more funds are being raised for the extension of the project.

Plans for the next period

- Continue dialogues in all departments of Bolivia, hold national dialogue;
- Produce a video with an epidemiologist for the use in different capacity building activities of the TSE;
- Work with indigenous facilitators, for civic and voter education in specific indigenous communities;
- Support the TSE and TED in the two months ahead of the elections.

For information on the Project “Cultura de la Paz y Fortalecimiento del Órgano Electoral Plurinacional (OEP) de Bolivia, please contact Chief Technical Advisor Mr. Luis Martinez-Betanzos, luis.martinez-betanzos@undp.org.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

📷 Nektarios Markogiannis/UN Photo

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Supported by the PAPEC, voter registration started in Bangui on 30 June and was gradually extended to the rest of the country with a total of 3,602 centres to open, each, for 21 days.
- UNDP had procured 4,400 android tablets and administrative kits to serve in 3,602 centres and in collaboration with the National Elections Authority, 4 000 registration agents were recruited and trained in Bangui while close to 8,000 agents were recruited by the various local branches.

Project's activities during the reporting period

87 centres opened in Bangui on 30 June and with PAPEC logistical support, registration agents were deployed to the following prefectures: Ombella MPoko, Lobaye and Kemo by 10 July. From 11 July to July 27, registration agents and materials were deployed to the prefectures of Sangha Mbaéré, Mambéré Kadei, Ouham, Nana Gribizi, Baminigui Bangoran and Vakaga.

The registration operation was set for a period of 21 days but exceptionally, the operation was extended twice in Bangui thus running for a total of 5 weeks during which over 257,000 people were registered.

The registration will last 21 days in the interior, but the commencement of the operation was marred with serious security threats in the Center and the West of the country.

By the reporting time, many registration Centers in the Ouham Pende (West), Haute Kotto (East), MBomou (South East) have not opened mainly for security reasons. The registration is now expected to run through end of August.

1. Deployment of 9 945 registration agents to the 16 Prefectures starting with Ombella Mpoko, Kemo and Lobaye



2. Deployment of 3 602 COVID-19 prevention agents in the different registration centers.

3. Sensitization/outreach activities to encourage citizens to get out and register:

a. Radio messages broadcast involving 28 community radios;

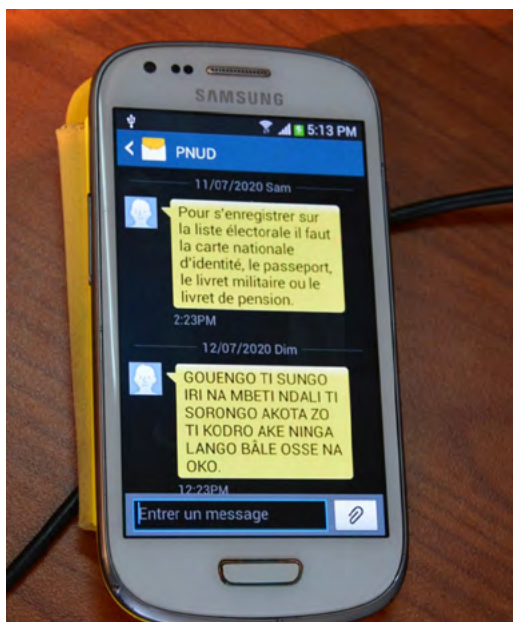
b. Five editions of the Call-in MANDAKO program on Radio NDekeleka. Mandako means competition in the national Sango language. During the program, animators are asking questions about the electoral process and listeners call in to provide answers. The best 3 answers are invited to collect some gifts at the station. NDekeleka Radio, established by the Fondation Hirondelle, has the second largest reach out in Bangui after Guira FM, the radio station of the UN mission;

c. Sensitization caravans throughout the city of Bangui and in the municipalities of Begoua, Bimbo and PK 22, in the outskirts of the capital city;





d. SMS campaign on the Telecel GSM network encouraging CAR citizens to register. The messages were in French and in the Sango national language.



4. Transfer of the first registration data to the Data Treatment Center (CTD, french acronym): The crypted data were saved on USB drive and then sent to the CTD for subsequent transfer to the server;
5. Fundraising meeting between the Resident Representative and Officials of the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London.

Plans for the next period

During the month of August, PAPEC plans to conduct the following activities:

- Logistics organisation of the return for the materials used for the registration and the registration agents;
- Commencement of the treatment of the data collected in the field for the establishment of the voters' list;
- Small grants awards to 6 civil society organisations for the civic/voters' education campaign through March 2021;
- Launch of the civic/voters education manual;
- Design and production of a "Boite à images" civic education tool: the tool will be distributed to civil society groups;
- Field research by a National Consultant in preparation for the early warning mechanism aimed at preventing elections related violence,
- Launch of the PAPEC website;
- Official handout of equipment (multifunction printers) and a utility vehicle to the data processing center;
- Launch of the procurement process of the electoral materials to be used on election day.

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.diawara@undp.org.



LEBANON

UNDP LEAP

LEBANESE ELECTIONS ASSISTANCE PROJECT (LEAP)

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

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

N/A

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



LIBERIA

📷 Election Project/UNDP Liberia

SUPPORT TO THE 2015 – 2018 LIBERIAN ELECTORAL CYCLE

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Voter roll update and candidate nomination are scheduled to start on 1 September 2020.
- Five out of 12 rehabilitated NEC warehouses in the counties were completed and handed over.
- UNDP supports successful capacity building workshop for NEC Board of Commissioners and senior staff.
- The new UNDP Electoral Support Project to Liberia is nearly finalised, despite COVID-19 related delays.

Project's activities during the reporting period

Voter roll update for Special Senatorial Elections and Referendum scheduled for 1 September together with the candidate nomination process

The National Elections Commission (NEC) is prepared to start the voter roll update (VRU) and candidate nomination process on 1 September 2020. The VRU will be a mobile process with each team covering 3 to 4 voter registration centers for 3 days. The total number of voter registration centers is 2,080. The Election Project earlier supported voter registration centers/precincts assessment that allowed NEC to

replace centers that are no longer available and develop the movement plan. Civic and voter education (CVE) remains a key challenge amidst COVID-19 and delays in disbursement of Government funding for elections to the NEC. CVE launch is planned for 15 August. UNDP is exploring how to support NEC in boosting its efforts before signing the new project document.

Rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses

On 29 and 30 July, UNDP Elections Project handed over rehabilitated warehouses, generator rooms, and fences to the Magistrate offices of NEC in Voinjama and Kolahun (Lofa County). Two separate handover ceremonies brought together over 80 representatives of local government, civil society, and community-based organisations, political parties, youth and women groups. The warehouse rehabilitation project has been much appreciated as it enhances the security of the NEC field offices and electoral materials. In some areas, the Project also built wells for the NEC, which is welcomed by the communities.

Overall, 12 out of a total of 20 warehouses and accessories are currently being rehabilitated by the Project. The remaining seven handovers are scheduled before the end of August. UNDP will attempt to rehabilitate the 8 warehouses not covered by this project, including NEC central warehouse, in the next electoral assistance cycle. The works are implemented by the Project as part of the institutional strengthening of the NEC, aiming to ensure secure storage of electoral materials. The warehouse rehabilitation has been implemented hand-in-hand with the Enterprise Resource Planning system to ensure proper cataloging of NEC's assets to enhance sustainability and decrease costs of the electoral process.



Newly rehabilitated NEC warehouse in Voinjama



City Mayor of Voinjama cuts the ribbon to the newly constructed gate and fence



NEC Magistrate demonstrates the hand pump constructed with Project support (Kolahun)



Electoral Stakeholders meet with the Elections Project Chief Technical Adviser following the handover ceremony.

Kolahun Women Activist encourages UNDP to further support participation of women

Consultative capacity-building workshop for NEC Board of Commissioners and senior management

On 22 July 2020, with the Elections Project's support, National Elections Commission (NEC) launched a four-day 'Consultative Capacity Enhancement Workshop for Elections Managers – Technicians and Board of Commissioners'. The exercise aimed to 'on-board' the new Commissioners, appointed in April 2020, and cultivate relationships among the NEC Senior Management, foster a culture of good collaboration, and manage mutual expectations. NEC Chairperson-designate Davidetta Browne Lansanah pointed out, in her opening remarks, that the session allowed to bring together election staffers throughout the institution to share knowledge and reflect on the real experience as the NEC is heading to the 2020 Special Senatorial Election.

Opening statements were also delivered by UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Pa Lamin Beyai, who emphasized sustainability of the electoral process, and Ms. Elisabeth Harleman, Head of Cooperation at SIDA, urging NEC to mainstream gender at the policy level to increase women participation. She also stressed the need to take adequate steps not to leave out first-time voters. The consultation then progressed with presentations by individual departments and related discussions, for example, on cost vs. credibility of procuring ballot papers in or out of the country or the need to decentralize implementation of the electoral processes within the institution. UNDP addressed the training on 25 July, informing about its support, financial and procurement issues. UNDP expertise, with the backing from the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance, was also deployed to brief the senior staffers on crucial aspects of electoral administration and business continuity plans. The event took place with strict health measures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. Subsequently, NEC



Chairwoman Davidetta Browne Lansanna (left) addressing the audience

requested the Project to support similar training for its middle-level managers.

UNDP Electoral Assistance

UNDP deferred operational closure of the ongoing Support to Liberian Electoral Cycle Project to the end of August, which would allow the Project to fully complete the rehabilitation of Magisterial warehouses and hand the facilities over to the NEC. The partners also submitted final comments on the draft terminal evaluation of the ongoing Project. Final report will be approved before the final closure of the Project.

The formulation of the new Project document is nearly finalised. Zero-draft has been submitted to counterparts and partners for comments. The official presentation of the Project document, approval, and signature is planned in the second half of August.



Preparations for upcoming Special Senatorial Elections are imminent in Liberia
'Election is everybody's business'

Plans for the next period

- Handover of remaining seven completed NEC magisterial warehouses (Kakata, Totota, Gbarnga planned for 3 and 4 August);
- Completion of the Final Report for terminal evaluation of the Electoral Support Project;
- Official presentation, finalisation and approval of draft project document;
- Closure of current project / Project Board Meeting;
- Support to capacity enhancement workshop for the mid-level NEC management staff;
- Support to NEC National Dialogue on Elections.

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](#).



Jason Athanasiadis,
UNSMIL, 2014

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 UN Electoral Support Team (UNEST) provided technical advice to the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) on the conceptual planning to implement biometric voter registration card for Libya in the following year.

Project's activities during the reporting period

Workshop: biometric voter registration card

From 14 to 16 July, PEPOL project organised a three-day workshop which brought together technical experts from the UN Electoral Support Team in Libya (UNEST), the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), to discuss operational aspects and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for developing a biometric voter card system for Libya. The discussions were based on a comprehensive concept note prepared by UNEST.

The participants discussed the way forward and made recommendations for the HNEC Board of Commissioners (BoC) to consider. Based on the discussions, the BoC is opting to adopt a phased approach over the next years and plans to submit a budget proposal to the Libyan Government of National Accord to fund the initial implementation phase.

Following the workshop and additional discussions with the HNEC, UNEST developed a draft timeline for a phased roll-out of the biometric voter card, taking into account the impact of COVID-19 on electoral planning.

The renewal of technical discussions on the biometric voter registration card was subsequent to a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the HNEC on 5 July during which the parties discussed electoral prospects in Libya.

Contract extension - election results management software

At the request of the HNEC, UNDP extended the contract with the software service provider to enhance the HNEC's results management systems. The extension includes continued support on the development of election audit triggers and results reporting. A fully established results management system would improve the HNEC's conduct of the elections and would consequently enhance the overall acceptance of the results. The UNDP's support to the HNEC in this area is part of PEPOL project's core activities as stipulated in the 2020 Annual Work Plan.

Delivery of generators and vehicles

In July, the PEPOL project concluded the procurement process of two different assets to improve the HNEC's physical capacity. As electricity power cuts are a frequent challenge in Libya, the HNEC's day-to-day operations as well as its internal and external communication capacity are gravely affected. To address this challenge, the PEPOL project delivered two generators to the HNEC's headquarters. In addition, the project provided two vehicles for the Commissioners to enhance their personal security on the road when engaging with electoral stakeholders.



Delivery of vehicles to enhance the security of HNEC Commissioners during travel and meeting with electoral stakeholders.

Plans for the next period

- UNEST will continue to work with the HNEC on the conceptual planning for introduction of voter cards and electronic biometric verification for polling;
- PEPOL will finalise a procurement process to establish a security surveillance system at the HNEC's headquarters;
- PEPOL will engage with donor partners to discuss support for electoral processes and project funding to cover the last quarter of 2020 and the activities for 2021.

For more information on the project, please contact Mr. Filip Warnants, filip.warnants@undp.org and visit the project's [website](#).



MALAWI



Malawi

Electoral

Commission

MALAWI ELECTORAL CYCLE SUPPORT 2017-2019

The “Malawi Electoral Cycle Support 2017-2019” project is supported by a basket fund that is currently financed by the EU and UNDP. The project will support the internal capacities of the Malawi Electoral Commission through stronger planning, operational and administrative support, as well as in the areas of dispute resolution, communication, voter education, voter registration and results transmission. It will also encourage and support female aspirants to stand for office through mentoring, as well as ensuring that the political and cultural landscape is more accepting of the role women in the political life. The project will also partner with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy-Malawi, the organization that brings political parties together around common interests, to assist political parties to be more resilient organisations working around genuine political programmes and principles of transparency, accountability, fairness and merit.

N/A

For information on the Malawi Electoral Cycle Support Project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Richard Cox, richard.cox@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 finalised and endorsed the By-election Review Report submitted by the Electoral Support Project.
- A total of 47 knowledge products produced by the Electoral Support Project were formally handed over to the Election Commission this month.
- There has been a leadership transition in the Electoral Support Project, with the Senior Electoral Advisor, Mr. Kundan Das Shrestha, now heading the project as officer-in-charge.

Project's activities during the reporting period

The Electoral Support Project (ESP) continued to provide virtual technical assistance to the Election Commission, Nepal (ECN). Notably, ESP handed-over an animation video on the Electoral Process of Nepal to the Election Commission. ESP also handed-over a total of 47 knowledge products, including reports, guidelines, videos that ECN and ESP produced together. A list of the knowledge products handed over is available in the Annex below. ESP also printed and handed over of 1,000 copies of the Commission's Third Five-Year Strategic Plan (2019-24) in English and distributed them to the development partners and electoral stakeholders widely. Additionally, with the project support, over 4,700 booklets on electoral and civic education were handed over to ECN to distribute to the Community Learning Centres at the grass-root level. This month, the project provided key input to ECN

on their frequently asked questions document which will be used by electoral stakeholders to better understand the issues within elections. It is catered toward a lay audience and serves as a reference guide for those wishing to learn about elections and electoral processes.



Clip from the animation video on the Electoral Process of Nepal.

The Election Commission finalised and endorsed the By-election Review Report, 2019 which was submitted by ESP. The review report seeks to inform future elections. The project also supported ECN to include the electoral contents in the curricula of competitive public service exams of various positions of civil service in Nepal by commissioning a study on the same. The ECN perceives this provision as one of the major effective means of civic education and also plan to include such curricula in the courses of various training conducted by public training institutions such

as Nepal Administrative Staff College. Besides, ESP continued to facilitate the desk review from the Electoral Assistance Division this month. Moreover, ESP also conducted two more youth-led webinars in collaboration with UNDP Country Office on the Issues of Women Related to COVID-19 and the Impact of COVID-19 on Marginalized Communities to understand the challenges posed by the pandemic to the most vulnerable communities in Nepal. The reports have been shared with UNDP Country Office for wider circulation.

Plans for the next period

In the next period, ESP's support will revolve around providing more conceptual and strategic support to the ECN. These include: electoral operational plan/guideline, voter and civic education strategy for upcoming elections, human resource development strategy for ECN and an update to the Commission's gender equality and social inclusion policy. Moreover, the process of updating the Election History Book Part 1 will also be initiated to produce Election History Book Part 2, which will cover the 2017 elections as well the 2019 by-elections. The book will serve as a knowledge product on the history of elections in Nepal. In addition, more of the youth webinar series is also being planned for the next period.

Annex - list of knowledge products that were handed-over to the Election Commission by the Electoral Support Project

Guidelines and procedures

1. [Electoral Dispute Resolution Standard Operating Procedure, ECN 2019 \(Nepali\)](#)
2. [Election Code of Conduct, ECN 2015 \(in \[English\]\(#\) and in \[Nepali\]\(#\)\)](#)

Policy, planning and strategy documents

3. [Gender and Inclusion Strategy 2015-2020, ECN 2015 \(\[English\]\(#\) and \[Nepali\]\(#\)\)](#)
4. [Two-Year Action Plan 2015 – 2016, ECN 2015 \(\[English\]\(#\) and \[Nepali\]\(#\)\)](#)
5. [Second Strategic Plan, ECN 2015 \(\[English\]\(#\) and \[Nepali\]\(#\)\)](#)
6. [Third Strategic Plan, ECN, 2019 \(\[English\]\(#\) and \[Nepali\]\(#\)\)](#)
7. [Gender and Inclusion Policy, ECN 2013 \(\[English\]\(#\) and \[Nepali\]\(#\)\)](#)

Manuals, resource books and reference

8. [Resource book on Electoral Justice, ECN and NJA, 2019](#)
9. [Set of 18 civic and voter education booklets for community-level education, ECN 2019](#)
10. [Handbook on Promoting Political Participation and Voter Education with NAB 2019](#)
11. [Training manual and resource materials with NAB on Strengthening Capacity of Blind and Visually Impaired People of Nepal on Political Rights 2019](#)
12. [NDFN – Training Manual and Resource Materials 2019.](#)
13. [Electoral Dispute Resolution Training Manual for Stakeholders, ECN 2019](#)
14. [Electoral Dispute Resolution Training Manual for Returning Officers, ECN 2019](#)
15. [History of Elections in Nepal, ECN 2017 \(Nepali\)](#)
16. [Electoral Provision in the Constitution of Nepal Handbook, 2016 \(\[English\]\(#\) and \[Nepali\]\(#\)\)](#)
17. [Resource Book for Social Studies Teachers on Electoral Education 2016 \(Nepali\)](#)
18. [Training Manual for people with hearing disability and visually impaired on electoral education 2016](#)
19. [Training Manual on Administrative Leadership 2016](#)
20. [Training Manual on reduction of existing challenges for participation of women in politics 2017 \(Nepali\)](#)
21. [Electoral Atlas Nepal 2014](#)

Studies, concepts and papers

22. [Gender and Social Inclusion in the 2017 Elections, ECN 2018 \(Nepali\)](#)
23. [Post-Election Review, ECN 2018 \(Nepali\)](#)
24. [BRIDGE Evaluation, UNDP 2018 \(\[English\]\(#\) and \[Nepali\]\(#\)\)](#)
25. [Analytical Report on Media Monitoring of Constituent Assembly Election, 2013 \(\[English\]\(#\) and \[Nepali\]\(#\)\)](#)
26. [Assessment of the Voter Education Programme \(in \[English\]\(#\) and in \[Nepali\]\(#\)\)](#)

27. [Electoral Violence Mitigation Assessment in Nepal, UNDP 2012 \(English\)](#)
28. [Developing Retention Strategies for Election Commission, 2011 \(English\)](#)

Major event reports

29. World Press Freedom Day 2019 Reports and Videos
30. [Report on SAARC Regional Workshop on Electoral Dispute Resolution and Electoral Justice \(21-22 July 2016\), ECN 2016](#)
31. [Report on Fifth Meeting of FEMBoSA 2014](#)

Other

32. Her Voice – Her Choice 2014 (in [English](#) and in [Nepali](#))
33. Translation of ECN's strategic plan 2009-2013
34. ECN's Strategic Plan's action plan 2009-2013
35. Report on Mid-term Evaluation of Five-Year Strategic Plan (2009-2013)
36. Impact and Sustainability of BRIDGE study in 2012
37. Establishment of Geographic Information System (GIS) within Election Commission of Nepal 2010
38. Continuous Voter Registration Concept for Nepal 2010
39. Software Requirements Specification for ECN Voter List Application 2009
40. Code of Conduct, 2015
41. Report on Procurement Capacity Assessment of the Election Commission of Nepal 2012
42. Analytical Report on Media Monitoring – English/Nepali
43. Report on Baseline Survey of UNDP Electoral Support Project (ESP)
44. EEIC – Photo Booklet, Brochure, Concept Paper, Business Plan and Guideline
45. Final Verdict Compilation 2017 Election (Yet to be finalised)

Videos

46. BRIDGE operational planning at ECN Video 2019
47. Capacitating Community Learning Centres on Democracy and Elections
48. ECN Stakeholder Overview
49. Election Commissioner speaks on By-Elections Code of Conduct
50. Ek Vote Movie (Uploaded already to ECN's Youtube)
51. Animation video on Voter's Education (Yet to be finalised)

For more information on the Nepal ESP, please contact Mr. Kundan Das Shrestha, Kundan.shrestha@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 House of the People has approved amendments to the Political Parties Law.
- An inclusive political consensus on electoral modalities is required.
- The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) supports professional development for National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) staff.

Project's activities during the reporting period

House of the People approves Amendments to the Political Parties Law

The amendments to the Political Parties Law was adopted by the House of the People on 22 July. The revised law will enable political parties to seek official registration if they meet the necessary requirements which now includes a \$30,000 registration fee. There is a lack of clarity regarding the criteria for political party registration requiring 10,000 registered voters. There has been no voter registration process to date so parties would not be able to meet this requirement and obtain official registration on time according to the current electoral timelines.

Inclusive political consensus on electoral modalities required

Federal Member States (FMS) called for a consultative meeting with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to discuss the technical path to holding timely 2020/2021 elections. The FGS and FMS leaders met in Dhusamarreb from 22 to 23 July and subsequently issued a communiqué supporting timely elections and which included the following main points: 1) the leaders agreed to hold timely elections; 2) the leaders agreed to establish a joint technical committee to propose a model and timing of elections in the country; and the leaders to meet within two weeks to agree on the country's electoral process.

The international community has issued a joint statement welcoming the leaders' decision to form a technical committee to work out election modalities for the 2020 national elections, and to do so in a timely manner. The statement also urged Somali leaders to agree on a plan to implement other aspects of Somali democratic reform. The joint technical committee is due to present their report to the FGS and FMS leaders on 15 August in Dhushamareb.

IESG supports professional development for NIEC staff

As Somalia battles with the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) staff have been working from home since March 2020 following government restrictions to curtail the spread of COVID-19. The NIEC introduced new modalities of working including holding virtual meetings and encouraging staff to undertake online self-development courses supported by the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG). Guidance was provided by IESG to NIEC training staff on facilitation skills on 21 July. This advice was particularly useful for the staff as it provided an understanding of how to sharpen their facilitation skills through using virtual platforms without compromising on the quality of their work. Participants practiced preparing and delivering lesson plans. The training is part of a series of workshops to help build the skills of the training team. A staff member commented on the training saying that "this training is different as it is participatory and engages our thoughts and our previous experiences and challenged us to improve our lesson plans".

IESG provided the NIEC with information and links to on-line courses on electoral administration to help staff advance their professional development during this time.

Sixty members of the NIEC Headquarters staff and twenty field-based staff enrolled for nine courses. Thirty-six staff from different departments within the NIEC headquarters and field offices met all the courses passing thresholds to obtain certificates including 10 women. Staff are supporting one another to bridge the language gap as they strive to complete the courses.

On-line training courses undertaken by NIEC staff:

1. Sustainability in Electoral Administration
2. Reinforcing Credibility and Acceptance of Elections
3. Electoral Result Management System
4. Youth Participation in the Electoral Process
5. Enhancing Women's participation in the Electoral Cycle
6. ICT and Elections Management
7. Understanding election and civic responsibility
8. Management Strategies for people and resources
9. Procurement and Logistics Certificate

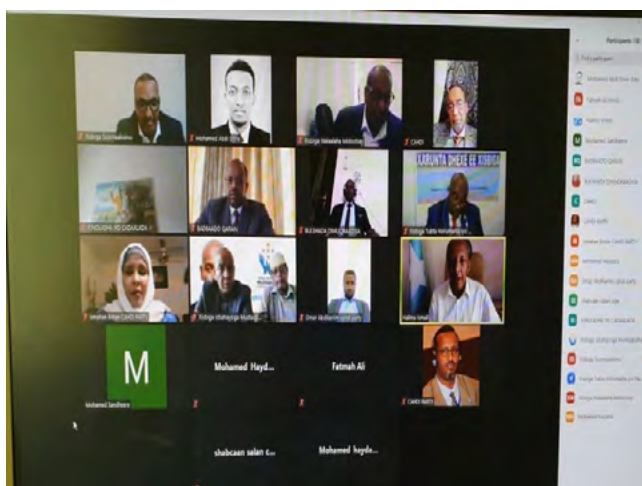
NIEC urges political parties to prepare for official registration

The Office of the Political Parties Registrar (OPPR) continued to hold regular dialogues with the political parties over the past two months. On 13 July, the NIEC Board of Commissioners led by the Chairperson, Halima Ismail Ibrahim, held a meeting with many of the provisionally registered political parties at a local hotel in Mogadishu which was supported by the Joint Programme for Electoral Support. The meeting was streamed on Somali National TV and on the NIEC social media link for wider public access. The Chairperson shared detailed information on NIEC's roles and responsibilities in the registration of the political parties as well as the outlining the main points in NIEC's presentation to parliament on preparations for the conduct of elections in 2020/2021. Many participants took the opportunity to seek clarification on issues of concern to them and which NIEC gave clear guidance in accordance with the electoral law. Information was also provided on the progress of the discussions in Parliament regarding the amendments to the Political Parties Law.

The OPPR is currently supported by IESG. A political parties sub-working group was established in May which is co-chaired by the OPPR and the International Republican Institute (IRI) with EISA and IESG as members. It is hoped this group will be joined by other assistance providers in the near future. The sub-working group has met twice during May/June and aims to ensure coherence in support and avoid duplication of effort among the partners providing technical assistance support to the NIEC and to parties.

90 political parties have provisional registration

The NIEC OPPR organised a virtual certification ceremony on 1 July for eight new political parties, bringing the total number of provisionally registered parties to 90. The NIEC Chairperson addressed the representatives of the newly registered political parties and invited them to make all necessary preparations and efforts to become officially registered.



Plans for the next period

- Support to NIEC on technical advice to joint technical committee on elections;
- Support ongoing review and implementation of NIEC governance framework and related internal policies;
- Support online professional development for NIEC staff;

- Procurement of VTC System (hardware) for National Electoral Security Task Force (NESTF);
- Preparation of procurement plan for equipment, furniture and radio handsets for Joint Operations Centers at national, state and regional levels.

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

- The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact election activities in Zimbabwe. The tightening of the lockdown meant that the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) had to suspend the face-to-face engagements that it had hoped to relaunch.

Project's activities during the reporting period

As a result, July was a quiet month in terms of electoral assistance. ZIM-ECO provided input into the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) COVID-19 policy on conducting electoral operations during the pandemic. UNDP deployed the project's new Chief Technical Advisor to Zimbabwe and he started working directly with the Commission and Secretariat.

Plans for the next period

In August, ZIM-ECO expects to provide ZEC with airtime, data and Zoom licenses as well as capacity-building to support its business continuity and stakeholder engagement during the continuing

COVID-19 pandemic. UNDP Zimbabwe and the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance (JTF) will also work with ZEC on the formulation of future electoral assistance.

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