

EC-UNDP

1 - 31 October 2020

# Electoral Assistance Projects Update



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# ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Title	Reference	EU Contribution	Start Date	End Date
<b>Afghanistan</b>	Support to Electoral Assistance in Afghanistan	DCI-ASIE/2015/368-884	€ 15,500,000.00	30.12.15	31.12.20
<b>Bolivia</b>	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
<b>Central African Republic</b>	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
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Projet d'Appui aux Elections en Côte d'Ivoire (PACE)	FED/2020/417-796	€ 1,000,000.00	01.07.20	01.03.22
<b>Lebanon</b>	Support to Electoral Reform and Democratic Participation in Lebanon ( LEAP)	ENI/2019/431-399	€ 3,000,000.00	01.01.20	31.12.23
<b>Liberia</b>	Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/367-723	€ 10,000,000.00	01.06.15	31.10.20
<b>Libya</b>	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5,000,000.00	01.11.17	31.12.21
<b>Malawi</b>	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	2017/389-162	€ 3,355,817.27	11.10.17	10.08.21
<b>Tunisia</b>	Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (TEAP)	ENI/2019/405-945	€ 2,000,000.00	01.07.19	30.06.21
<b>Zambia</b>	Democracy Strengthening in Zambia (2020-2022)	FED/2020/418-076	€ 6,000,000.00	15.08.20	31.12.22
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	15.08.21

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## SUMMARY

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**BOLIVIA:** General elections were held on 18 October. Voter turnout was very high at 88.4% including out of country voting. The Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS) party won the presidential election with 54,72%, which gave them the victory in the first round. Comunidad Ciudadana got 29% and Creemos 14%. - There were a total of 7,626,141 registered voters, out of country voting (OCV) was held in over 25 countries with 354,526 registered voters. The highest number of voters are registered in Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:** The registration data processing continued during the month of October as last registration centers closed. With the project's technical assistance, the National Elections Authority was able to meet the legal deadline of 14 October for the exhibit of the provisional voters' lists. - The Government of CAR officially announced a US\$1.7 million contribution to the Basket Fund. UNDP was thus invited to determine the expenditures that will be covered with such contribution. UNDP also signed a funding agreement with the Government of the United States to further support the participation of women and people living with disabilities in the upcoming elections. Although the funds are a contribution to the basket fund, it remains earmarked. - PAPEC also hired and deployed a Network Administrator to the Data Treatment Center (CTD) thus enhancing the Center's technical capacity.

**LIBERIA:** UNDP stepped up its support to National Elections Commission (NEC) and engagement with development partners ahead of December elections. - UNDP and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) team deployed to help address vulnerabilities in the voter roll. - UNDP supports NEC in training media to ensure inclusive participation and level playing field. - The rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses has been completed.

**LIBYA:** On 12 October, the High National Election Commission (HNEC) welcomed the new Head of the EU Delegation at the Commission's headquarters in Tripoli. The EU is the main donor of the UNDP Project "Promoting Elections for the People of Libya" (PEPOL). - PEPOL developed together with HNEC a first draft

of the project's annual work plan for 2021 to support electoral capacity and enhance the Commission's readiness for elections for Libya when they are called in the upcoming year. The work plan will be discussed in detail following the outcome of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), followed by submission to the project's Board before the end of the year.

**NEPAL:** The project's Executive Board endorsed the extension and the work plan of the Electoral Support Project till 30 April 2021. - The Election Commission, with support from the Electoral Support Project, launched a mobile application on electoral education, available on Google Play Store.

**SOMALIA:** The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) monitoring and evaluation unit developed infographics on key activities. - The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) security conducted Personal Safety and Security Briefing for NIEC staff.

**ZAMBIA:** Democracy Strengthening in Zambia (DSZ) project has been officially launched on 20 October 2020. - DSZ supported Electoral Commission of Zambia and Zambia Law Development Commission to hold public consultations on the operationalization of the right to vote for persons in lawful custody. - The Electoral Commission of Zambia postpones the commencement of 30-day voter registration exercise from 28 October 2020 to 9 November 2020, which will impact DSZ support to this key electoral process. - DSZ supported ECZ and House of Chiefs voter education and peaceful elections campaigns.

**ZIMBABWE:** On 30 September 2020, the Government issued Statutory Instrument 225A of 2020, entitled Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) Regulations 2020 (No. 4). This contains provisions to suspend the holding of by-elections during the period that the declaration of COVID-19 as a "formidable epidemic disease" is in force.





BOLIVIA

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

The UNDP project “Culture of Peace and Strengthening of the Plurinational Electoral Body (OEP) of Bolivia” was established after the annulment of the general elections in 2019, as an outcome of an agreement that requested more UN involvement in the consolidation of democratic values in Bolivia. The Project implementation started in early 2020 and will run until after the subnational elections, mid-2021. It focuses on supporting the Plurinational Electoral Body (OEP) and all the entities that it comprises in four main areas:

1. Provision of technical assistance and expert advice;
2. Generation of spaces for dialogue and exchange between key electoral actors;
3. Promotion of women’s political rights and participation;
4. Acquisition of obsolete or damaged electoral material;

The project is financially supported by Sweden, the European Union, Canada, the United Kingdom and United Nations funds.

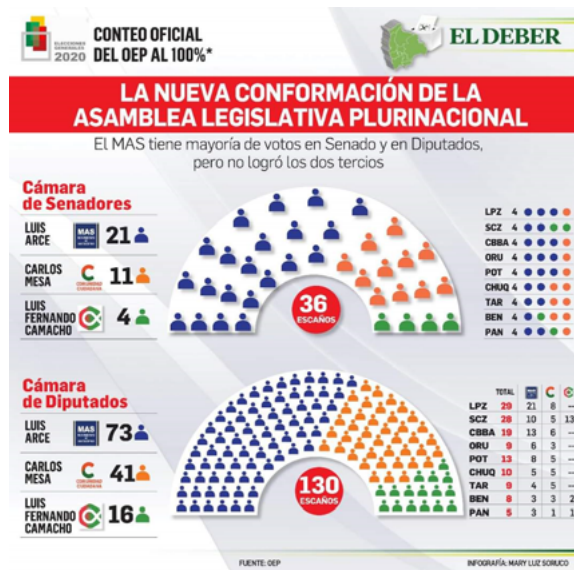
For more information, visit the project’s website: <https://bolivia.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

### HIGHLIGHTS

- General elections were held on 18 October. Voter turnout was very high at 88.4% including out of country voting. The Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS) party won the presidential election with 54,72%, which gave them the victory in the first round. Comunidad Ciudadana got 29% and Creemos 14%.
- There were a total of 7,626,141 registered voters, out of country voting was held in over 25 countries with 354,526 registered voters. The highest number of voters are registered in Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

## Project's activities during the reporting period

This is the new composition of the Plurinational Assembly:



The project accompanied the Tribunals on election day in the departmental counting centers.

Last dialogues with civil society and political parties were held before the elections.



Receiving the envelopes that contains the tally sheets, counting center in La Paz.



Transport of electoral material to rural areas, Beni

## Plans for the next period

- Lessons learned activities in all 9 Departmental Tribunals and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal;
- Preparation for the subnational elections planned for March in which around 2500 new authorities will be elected.

## Project's website

<https://bolivia.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

## Contact

**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](mailto:luis.martinez-betanzos@undp.org).**





CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

📷 Nektarios Markogiannis/UN Photo

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

The UNDP electoral assistance project entitled “Projet d'Appui au Processus Électoral en République Centrafricaine (PAPEC 2019-2022)” aims to ensure long-term capacity-building through transfer of professional skills and operational knowledge, and the institutional strengthening of the different national counterparts of the electoral process. The project includes a key component on logistics, as well as on communication and sensitization.

Main donors are the EU (\$16M), UNDP (own resources \$3M), Japan (\$2,3M) as well as the UK, Germany and France. The CAR Government contributes \$2M of its own resources to the Basket fund.

For more information, visit the project's website: <https://rca-papec.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The registration data processing continued during the month of October as last registration centers closed. With the project's technical assistance, the National Elections Authority was able to meet the legal deadline of 14 October for the exhibit of the provisional voters' lists.
- The Government of CAR officially announced a US\$1.7 million contribution to the Basket Fund. UNDP was thus invited to determine the expenditures that will be covered with such contribution. UNDP also signed a funding agreement with the Government of the United States to further support the participation of women and people living with disabilities in the upcoming elections. Although the funds are a contribution to the basket fund, it remains earmarked.
- PAPEC also hired and deployed a Network Administrator to the Data Treatment Center (CTD) thus enhancing the Center's technical capacity.

### Project's activities during the reporting period

- Technical and logistical support to the public exhibit of provisional voters' lists. With PAPEC technical assistance, the National Elections Authority (ANE) was able to meet the legal deadline of 14 October for the exhibit of the provisional voters' lists. This was an opportunity for registered citizens to (a) make any requests for corrections, (b) file legal actions for those whose registration applications were

rejected, or (c) challenge before a court of law any registration they believe is unlawful. PAPEC hired 72 technicians to assist in the printing, collation and shipping of the lists to various prefectures, sub-prefectures and municipalities.



- Public information campaign through networks of radio stations, social media and SMS on the voters list exhibition. This was aimed at informing citizens and sensitizing them to get out and verify the list. It was also meant to educate citizens on how to file any complain.





- Electoral materials procurement with Procurement Support Unit support. Major procurement processes were launched with the aim to acquire non-sensitive materials such as polling stations kits, forms as well as sensitive materials such as voters ID cards and ballot papers.



- Launch of the procurement process for equipment for the election security. The project will procure communication devices (HF Radio, tents, first aid kits, solar-powered lamps etc.) to equip the internal security forces that will be deployed to secure the electoral process.
- Launch of the training series of internal security forces in election security. This training series is conducted in collaboration with UNPOL training division and with a contribution from the UNDP Rule of Law Project, 220 police and gendarmerie officers will be trained in election security.



- Completion of a joint 5 month-elections communication campaign plan (November 2020 to March 2021) involving the National Elections Authority, the UN mission and the ENABEL/EU (Belgian development agency) democracy support project. The plan is aimed at creating synergy among actors for greater impact.



- Release of the funding to 6 civil society groups for the civic/voters' education campaign. Observatoire National des Elections, Association de la main des Sourds, Secours Psychologique en Santé, Education Développement en Centrafrique, Amour du Prochain, Association pour la Promotion de la Culture and Organisation des Jeunes Leaders pour le Développement (OJLD) received respectively 65% of their funds to work in the prefectures of Ombella M'Poko, Ouaka, Basse-Kotto, Nana-Mambere, Haute-Kotto, Bangui, Lobaye, Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Kemo, Nana-Gribizi, Mambere-Kadei, Sangha-Mbaere, Bimbo and Begoua for the next 6 months.

## Plans for the next period

During the month of November 2020, PAPEC plans to conduct the following activities:

- Official launch of the civic/voters education manual;
- National civil/voters' education campaign by civil society organisations (CSOs) grantees;
- Technical support to A.N.E in the processing of the candidates' applications (1 to 10 November);
- Completion of the procurement of materials that will be used for the conduct of the polls on 27 December;
- Logistical support to A.N.E for the deployment of the ballot boxes, voting screens and kits to be supplied by the Government of South Africa;
- Launch of the women's participation project funded by the US Government;
- Conduct of 2 sessions of the project steering committee;
- Monitoring visits of the civil society organisations (CSOs) sensitization activities by PAPEC experts;
- Technical support to A.N.E for the development of polling agents training materials.

## Project's website

<https://rca-papec.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

## Contact

**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](mailto:sidi.diawara@undp.org).**



LIBERIA

📷 Election Project/UNDP Liberia

## LIBERIA ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT (2020 – 2024)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- UNDP stepped up its support to National Elections Commission (NEC) and engagement with development partners ahead of December elections.
- UNDP and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) team deployed to help address vulnerabilities in the voter roll.
- UNDP supported NEC in training media to ensure inclusive participation and level playing field.
- The rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses was completed.

### Project's activities during the reporting period

#### **UNDP stepped up its support to National Elections Commission and engagement with development partners ahead of December elections**

Following the approval of the new Liberia Electoral Support Project document at the end of September, UNDP stepped up its support to the National Elections Commission (NEC) ahead of 2020 elections. As per the approved work plan, support is being provided notably to stakeholder engagement, civic and voter education and gender; training of NEC and national stakeholders; and improvement of the electoral process' quality, notably through credible voter roll. Also, UNDP hired a Referendum Consultant to help NEC strengthen public information on the Referendum questions. Support to electoral dispute resolution (EDR) has been launched with the recruitment of the international EDR adviser. Two national lawyers will soon be joining the team. UNDP Chief Technical Adviser continued providing advice to the Board of Commissioners, Executive Director and his Deputies, as well as various NEC departments, including revising plans and procedures.

Moreover, UNDP also stepped up its engagement with development partners. In addition to the UNDP – NEC Technical Working Group now held every two weeks, UNDP Resident Representative chairs bi-

weekly information discussion on elections, discussing concerns, challenges, and support strategies to support peaceful and credible 8 December Special Senatorial Election and Referendum.

### **UNDP and ECOWAS teams deployed to help to address vulnerabilities in the voter roll**

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has received a team of international experts to support the data center ahead of the voter roll exhibition. The UNDP Consultant and ECOWAS team were deployed to NEC in October to support the deduplication of the data and improve the final registration roll's overall quality. ECOWAS mission, led by Ms. Charlotte Ossei, former Chair of Ghana Electoral Commission is embedded within the UNDP Electoral Support Project, Output 2 related to the improved quality and sustainability of the voter registration.

Meanwhile, the preliminary voter roll exhibition, which allows registered voters to correct their data, started on 28 October and will run until the end of the month. To enhance public awareness of the exercise, UNDP Electoral Support Project printed NEC civic and voter materials, including those specific to gender and persons with disabilities.

### **UNDP supports NEC in training media to ensure inclusive participation and level playing field**

Throughout the month of October, UNDP further supported NEC in conducting briefings for media practitioners on electoral campaign (two briefings took place in two regional hubs – Buchanan (20/21 October) and Ganta (22/23 October))– featuring over 100 participants from entire country. The briefing aimed at enhancing media knowledge of the electoral campaign procedures and support neutral reporting, towards creating equitable conditions for female candidates in the media space. In addition, on 28 October, NEC, with support from UNDP, launched a workshop for media and persons living with disabilities towards closing the gap in inclusive participation.

### **Rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses completed**

On 8 October 2020, UNDP handed over the renovated magisterial facility in Cestos, the last out of 12 warehouses, fences, and generator rooms, to the National Elections Commission. The liability period for all 12 sites is ongoing and will be completed in January / February 2020. Meanwhile, UNDP signed a contract to rehabilitate NEC 2 security booths in the headquarters to ensure sufficient security of the NEC staff during the upcoming electoral and post-electoral period.



City Mayor of Buchanan inaugurates the UNDP-supported National Elections Commission's Briefing for Media and Persons Living with Disabilities to increase inclusion and diversity in elections, ahead of the voter roll exhibition period.

## Plans for the next period

- Closure of the current project;
- Recruitment of civil society organisations to support NEC in conducting voter roll update;
- Recruitment of company to translate civic and voter education into local vernaculars;
- Maintenance of photovoltaic panels installed on the NEC magistrate field offices to prepare for the electoral period;
- Procurement of SPSS software;
- Review of training procedures and print training materials;
- Procurement of COVID-19 preventive items;
- In collaboration with NDI, conduct a comprehensive training program for political party agents;
- Support recruitment of hearing officers and electoral dispute resolution trainings.

## Contact

**For more information on the support to the Liberia electoral cycle project, please contact Chief Technical Advisor Ms. Lenka Homolkova, [lenka.homolkova@undp.org](mailto:lenka.homolkova@undp.org).**





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

- On 12 October, the High National Election Commission (HNEC) welcomed the new Head of the EU Delegation at the Commission's headquarters in Tripoli. The EU is the main donor of the UNDP Project "Promoting Elections for the People of Libya" (PEPOL).
- PEPOL developed together with HNEC a first draft of the project's annual work plan for 2021 to support electoral capacity and enhance the Commission's readiness for elections for Libya when they are called in the upcoming year. The work plan will be discussed in detail following the outcome of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), followed by submission to the project's Board before the end of the year.

## Project's activities during the reporting period

### Visit of Head of EU Delegation at the High National Election Commission

On 12 October, the Chairperson of the High National Election Commission (HNEC), Dr. Emad Al Sayeh and his Commissioner Abdul Hakim Al Chaab, welcomed the new Head of the EU Delegation, Mr.

Jose Antonio Sabadell, at the HNEC's headquarters in Tripoli. The HNEC and the EU discussed the Commission's readiness for elections when they are called, challenges for the electoral process and the importance of international support to implement any electoral event. The meeting also addressed technical and advisory support provided through the EU by the jointly UNDP/UNSMIL-implemented national electoral support project (PEPOL). The HNEC underscored its appreciation of the EU's support to PEPOL to enhance the electoral capacity of staff and institution.



HNEC Chairman, Dr. Emad Al-Sayeh, meeting with the new Head of the EU Delegation, Mr. Jose Antonio Sabadell, at the Commission's headquarters to discuss the electoral context and HNEC's readiness for elections.

Tripoli, Libya, 12 October 2020. Photo credit: HNEC

## International electoral coordination meeting

In anticipation of the upcoming crucial Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), the UNSMIL/UNDP Electoral Support Team (UNEST) organised on 22 October an electoral coordination meeting with international partners to discuss the preparedness of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) to conduct elections. Key partners included UNDP, United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), EU, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the UK, USAID and international electoral assistance providers such as the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

## Support to HNEC's readiness for elections

UNDP, UNSMIL and HNEC discussed during several Technical Committee meetings a draft work plan for 2021 to implement PEPOL project support to electoral capacity development and enhance the Commission's readiness for elections. The work plan is designed so that it can be scaled up in case parameters for elections or referendum are agreed. UNEST and HNEC are planning a face-to-face meeting in the following weeks to finalise the 2021 work plan ahead of a project's Board meeting before the end of the year.

The HNEC has also provided a zero draft on public outreach to UNEST for initial feedback and input on different approaches for voter information and education. UNEST continued to provide strategic and technical support to the High National Election Commission (HNEC), particularly in preparation of the



Libyan Political Dialogue Forum and considerations on electoral parameters and requirements.

As part of the 2020 work plan, UNDP/PEPOL provided in October surveillance cameras to HNEC to enhance the security of the Commission's Headquarters in Tripoli. The surveillance cameras will be installed in the upcoming period based on security input from United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). UNEST also supported logistics movements of ICT equipment for HNEC that was procured by PEPOL in 2019.



Provision of ICT equipment and surveillance system enhancing HNEC's data server room and headquarters.

Tripoli, Libya, October 2020. Photo credit: HNEC.

## Plans for the next period

- UNEST and HNEC envisage a workshop in-person to discuss and finalise the project's 2021 work plan following the outcome of the LPDF in November and the agreement of a political and electoral roadmap;
- UNDP/PEPOL will discuss with donor partners to mobilise the necessary resources for 2021 to enhance the HNEC's readiness for elections when they are called;
- UNEST will continue to work with the HNEC on the conceptual planning for introduction of voter cards and electronic biometric verification for polling;
- PEPOL is working with HNEC to develop a video about the Commission, its mandate, the new headquarters and the support from the international community in this.

## Project's website

<https://libya.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

## Contact

**For more information on the PEPOL project, please contact Chief Technical Advisor Mr. Filip Warnants, [filip.warnants@undp.org](mailto:filip.warnants@undp.org).**



📷 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 level. The objectives of the project are 1) to strengthen the capacity of the ECN to function as an independent and credible institution, 2) to allow the conduct of the election cycle in an effective, sustainable, and credible manner, and 3) to increase democratic participation, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society. For more information, [please visit the ESP website](#).

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The project's Executive Board endorsed the extension and the work plan of the Electoral Support Project till 30 April 2021.
- The Election Commission, with support from the Electoral Support Project, launched a mobile application on electoral education, available on Google Play Store.

### Project's activities during the reporting period

The project's Executive Board endorsed the extension and the work plan of the Electoral Support Project (ESP) up to 30 April 2021.

The project has been providing virtual assistance to the Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) since the onset of the pandemic. This month, ESP supported ECN in conducting interactions on the Commission's gender inclusion policy. ECN organised one interaction with the inter-party women network, and the other with the constitutional bodies and government agencies.

The project also contributed to the UNDP Country Programme Document (2018 – 2022) mid-term review: the Senior Electoral Advisor of ESP as well as the Joint Secretary of the Election Commission provided their input, especially on key issues/challenges and resource management at the review meeting.

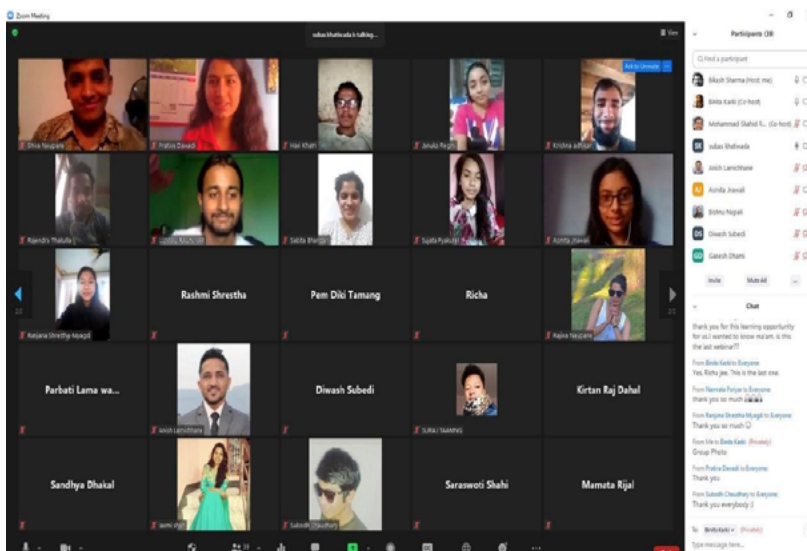
Building on its work from the past month, a concept note on an online course designed for the ECN staff has been accepted by the Commission this month. More work around this initiative will materialize over the months.

This month, the Commission launched the mobile app, entitled Nirwachen Siksha (Electoral Education). The mobile application is technically and financially supported by the project and is available on the Google Play Store. The Commission also held a virtual meeting with Lalitpur Private & Boarding School's Organization Nepal to collectively disseminate this application via an orientation to school teachers, reaching 145 school teachers from Lalitpur.



The Election Commission organized an orientation programme on the mobile application, Nirwachen Siksha.

Additionally, the technical input from ESP on the Election Commission's social media policy has been accepted by the Commission. The project has submitted major documents to the Commission for the final clearance, including the civic and voter education policy, the human resources policy and the Election History Book part -I.



The youth led webinars also included sign language interpretation.

ESP completed its youth-led webinar series – a total of 8 webinars - along with the UNDP Country Office in Nepal. The webinars included 790 participants in total. There were 2762 total survey respondents, from among which 1118 were women and 276 were gender and sexual minority. The webinars were also supported by UN Volunteers and branded under UN75. This month, the final webinar was on the role that the various stakeholders are playing to tackle the impact of the pandemic at the community level.

## Plans for the next period

The next period will see the project moving ahead as per the approved work plan. The core areas of support in the work plan includes: supporting ECN on their monitoring and evaluation for its Third Strategic Plan; developing content for online course on Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) electoral administration and management; updating the Integrated Electoral Management Information System; supporting the drafting of the operational guidelines for the 2022 local level elections; finalising the political party self-assessment guideline and software; updating ECN's gender and social inclusion policy and action plan.

In addition, ESP will continue to coordinate with the Country Office to provide necessary support on drafting of a new project document. In addition, the project will continue carrying out virtual support on the various tasks that have been set in motion to support the Election Commission.

## Project's website

<https://nepal.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

## Contact

**For more information on the Nepal ESP, please contact Mr. Kundan Das Shrestha, [Kundan.shrestha@undp.org](mailto:Kundan.shrestha@undp.org).**





## 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 National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) monitoring and evaluation unit developed infographics on key activities.
- The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) security conducted Personal Safety and Security Briefing for NIEC staff.

### Project's activities during the reporting period

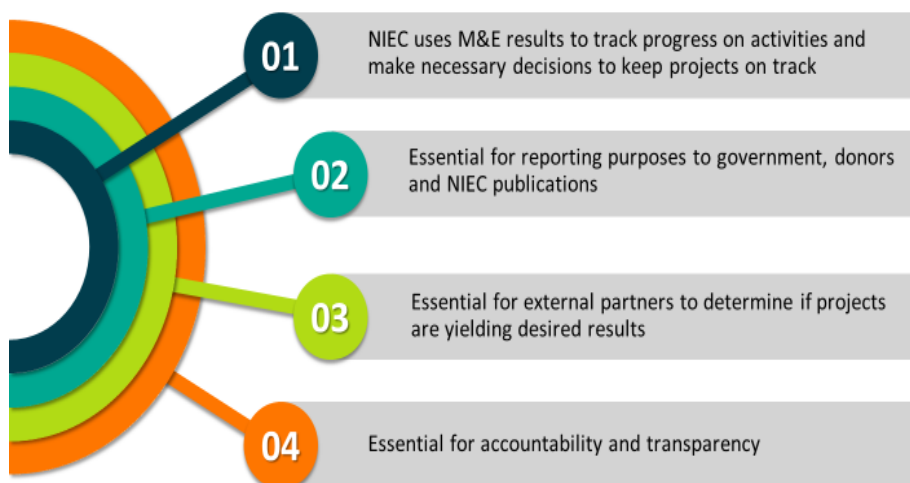
#### **The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) monitoring and evaluation unit developed infographic on key activities**

The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) support, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) monitoring and evaluation (M&E) unit developed a workplan to guide implementation of their activities and conducted meetings with all departments to help staff understand the importance of timely data and proper reporting to enhance the ability to make more informed, evidence-based decisions. These discussions led to building blocks of what the teams need to do within a set timeline. As a result of these internal consultations, the team provided advice and guidance to staff on certain activities that were out



of sequence in the workplan along with other issues that could disrupt achieving desired results on time. IESG and the M&E team discussed the outline for an infographic highlighting key activities of the unit's workplan which was approved by the senior management. The staff are determined to continue holding consultations following the success of their outreach with colleagues which has resulted in a better understanding of the role of M&E within the NIEC. Team leaders are realising that providing accurate information can help change the way staff perform their jobs and have a significant impact on delivering the institution's goals.

## Purpose of M&E for NIEC



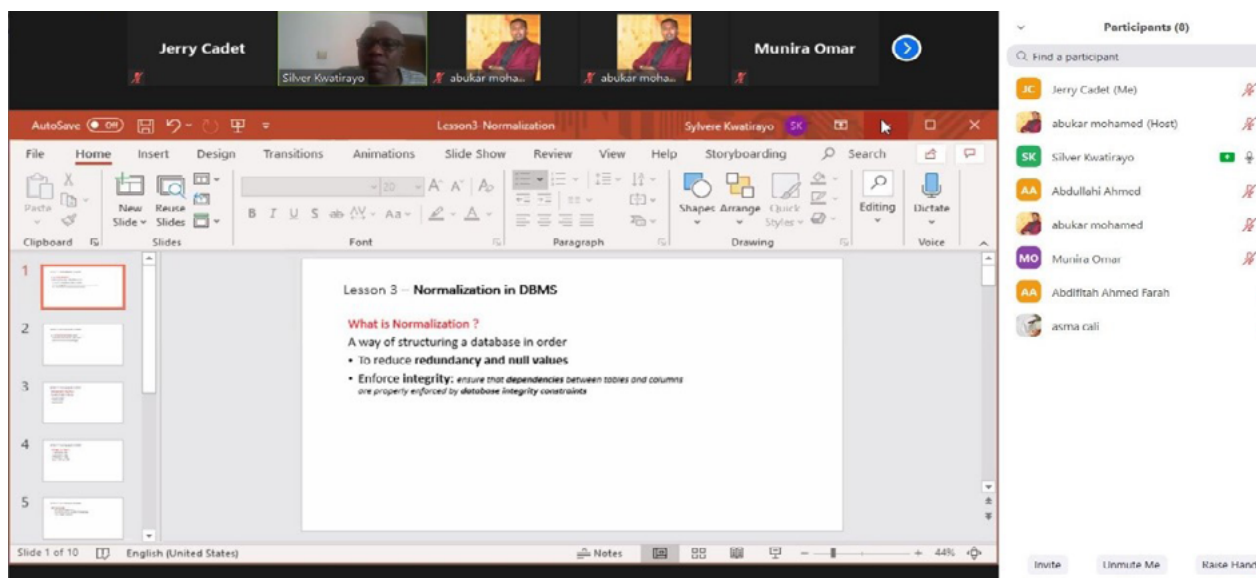
### Restructuring of public outreach department

Following the announcement that the NIEC will not be involved in the activities for the 2020/2021 indirect elections, the public outreach team is focused on preparations to conduct one-person-one-vote elections in 2024. IESG advisors are providing technical advice and support to the public outreach staff by transferring knowledge and skills to assist managers to formulate policies and procedures to enable staff to discharge their roles effectively. As a result of the mentoring sessions to support the public outreach department, senior managers conducted a review of the staffing and management structures and prepared a long-term plan including a revised organigram to streamline these functions. Terms of reference were drafted for the voter education and external relations units in mentoring sessions with the NIEC's public outreach department staff. The department's restructure proposals requires endorsement by the Secretary General and the Board of Commissioners.

### IT training for NIEC staff

IESG has initiated database training for 8 NIEC IT personnel focused on industry standard tools and centered around elections-related tasks. The sessions started on 29 September 2020 and are taking place through weekly Zoom video conference calls. The trainees are provided with pre-recorded video lessons that they can watch in their own time to master the concepts discussed during the live classes. Relevant exercises are also assigned on a weekly basis. Most software development projects involve storing and querying data and database design and implementation are vital skills for IT professionals to possess.

In elections, databases are at the heart of data processing tasks. The training will be completed by mid-December 2020. Most of the NIEC IT staff have only recently been awarded their degrees and are therefore relatively young with no practical experience or academic background in databases.



25 Oct 2020, Mogadishu: Screen capture of a Zoom training session during which a PowerPoint presentation was used to discuss a database design concept called "normalization".

### **IESG security conducted Personal Safety and Security Briefing for NIEC staff**

The IESG security team, in collaboration with the NIEC security advisor, drafted the NIEC Personal Safety and Security Guide and conducted a comprehensive briefing for 86 NIEC staff on 25 October. The guide was translated into Somali and circulated to all staff before the briefing. The guide provides advice to help staff increase their personal and situational awareness to their surroundings and ways to prevent or mitigate potential threats to themselves and their colleagues. It also addressed cyber security issues. Creating a culture of awareness means that all employees are not only aware of risks but care about recognising them.

### **Elections security**

The National Electoral Security Task Force (NEST) Chair (and Somali Police Force Commissioner) presented a draft national elections security plan and budget to the UN in mid-October. The UN provided a broad analysis of the plan and budget and shared with donors and partners for discussion. The UN and the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) has jointly offered technical feedback on the national plan for the NESTF Secretariat's consideration. Meanwhile, the Police Commissioner embarked on visits to the Federal Member States during the past two weeks to discuss elections security, consult on the national plan and budget, and view the proposed election centres sites. A key capability in the national plan, which is being supported by the UN IESG, is a Joint Operations Centre (JOC) in each of the constituencies where voting will take place. It is intended that a Women's Situation Desk will be established in each JOC. UN IESG will provide the equipment for the JOCs (furniture, computers and accessories, and tactical radios) and AMISOM will train the JOC staff. UNDP, on behalf of the UN IESG, is ordering the equipment and AMISOM has developed a training plan. All security stakeholders are aware of the short timelines to prepare for this indirect electoral process.

## Plans for the next period

- Assist the Federal Government's technical committee to prepare the operational plan and budget to in advance of an expected request for technical and financial resources from the Somali authorities to support the implementation of the agreed electoral model;
- Support NIEC to develop the 2024/25 election roadmap.

## Project's website

<https://somalia.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

## Contact

**For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Mary Cummins, [mary.cummins@undp.org](mailto:mary.cummins@undp.org).**



ZAMBIA

Public Relation Department of the Commission

## DEMOCRACY STRENGTHENING IN ZAMBIA (DSZ)

The Democracy Strengthening in Zambia project 2020-2022 (DSZ) is a three-year UNDP multi-donor project designed to support national efforts to address recently identified and evolving challenges on Zambia's electoral terrain; the project seeks to build on previous electoral interventions mainly by UNDP and other international partners as Zambia prepares for the 2021 general election. Based on the two-pronged approach of strengthening electoral institutions and processes and programming for peace, DSZ aims at strengthening the institutional capacity of key electoral stakeholders to ensure procedural certainty and strengthening the legitimacy of the electoral process based on the electoral cycle approach (ECA). The project has total budget of \$12.8 Million and is funded by: the European Union, Germany, Irish Aid, Sweden, USAID and UNDP.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Democracy Strengthening in Zambia (DSZ) project has been officially launched on 20 October 2020.
- DSZ supported Electoral Commission of Zambia and Zambia Law Development Commission to hold public consultations on the operationalization of the right to vote for persons in lawful custody.
- The Electoral Commission of Zambia postponed the commencement of 30-day voter registration exercise from 28 October 2020 to 9 November 2020, which will impact DSZ support to this key electoral process.
- DSZ supported ECZ and House of Chiefs voter education and peaceful elections campaigns.

### Project activities during the reporting period

#### Official project's launch

The DSZ was officially launched on the 20 of October 2020 at Premier Sarova Nakhumath Hotel in Lusaka. The event was graced by the Minister of Justice Mr. Given Lubinda, the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Lionel Laurens, the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Zambia, Judge Esau Chulu, among others. About 120 people attended the event – both virtual and face-to-face – and these included the

First Deputy Speaker Mrs. Catharine Namugala and the Ambassadors (or Representatives) of Germany, Ireland, EU, Japan and Sweden who are funding the DSZ. The latter used the occasion to pledge their respective financial donations to the project, with the EU Ambassador His Excellency Jacek Jankowski on behalf of all project donors presenting a dummy cheque worth USD 10, 272, 990 to the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Lionel Laurens.

### **Postponement of the voter registration exercise**

On 27 October 2020, the Electoral Commission Zambia (ECZ) announced the postponement of the start date for the mobile voter registration exercise, by two weeks, with the new date being 9 - 12 December 2020. ECZ cited as reason for the delay the extension of the period for the issuance of National Registration cards (NRCs) by the Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship (DNRPC) by five days from 30 October 2020 to 5 November 2020. The ECZ said they wanted to give chance to all eligible to obtain their NRCs before commencing with the voter registration exercise.

The project is currently giving technical and financial support for the ECZ to conduct public outreach and voter education campaigns on the voter registration exercise mainly using the media (both electronic and print media).

### **DSZ support to ECZ and ZLDC operationalization of right to vote of people in lawful custody consultative process**

During the first part of October 2020, the DSZ project supported the ECZ and the ZLDC to hold three consultative stakeholders' forums to discuss and validate their recommendations on the operational framework for Persons in Lawful Custody (PLC) voting. The stakeholders consulted included political parties, civil society, professional associations including the Law Society of Zambia.

The consultative forums were held to discuss the following documents:

- Report on Regional Comparative Study on Voting by Persons in incarceration;
- Report on Prison Facilities Mapping Exercise;
- the proposed draft Electoral Process Amendment Bill of 2020;
- the proposed amendments to the Zambia Correctional Service Commissioner Generals Orders.

The first consultative forum was called for political parties and civil society organisations (CSOs) and was held at Mulungushi conference center. The meeting was attended by about 120 individuals representing various political parties and CSOs. However, some political parties like the UPND boycotted the event citing lack of transparency in the consultative process. The second and third consultative forums were held for members of the Security and defense wings staff and Law Association of Zambia/Judiciary respectively. The two meetings had high level participation from the members of the security services, judiciary and the legal fraternity.

## **DSZ support to ECZ and House of Chiefs-Champions of voter education and peace messaging**

The project working with the ECZ and the House of Chiefs mobilised the chiefs from across the country to introduce the project and engage a select number of chiefs to champion the voter education and peace messaging in the country. Eleven chiefs were identified to record key voter education and peace messages in English and seven main languages spoken across the country.

The messages, once finalised, they will be broadcast on main TV stations in the country and community radio stations in the various districts and provinces to ensure that the messages reach a wide audience. Within the context of DSZ project aims the House of Chiefs is perceived as a key partner in promoting peaceful elections and reducing the increased polarization of the Zambian society ahead of the 2021 elections beyond.

## Plans for the next period

- Early Warning System validation workshop on 4 November 2020;
- Independent Broadcasting Authority/UNESCO/UNDP high level breakfast meeting of safety of journalists on 2 November 2020;
- Independent Broadcasting Authority/UNESCO/UNDP training workshop on safety of journalists from 10 to 13 November 2020;
- Zambia Police Service training of trainer's workshop on electoral security on 10 November 2020.

## Contact

**For information on the project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Joram Rukambe, [joram.rukambe@undp.org](mailto:joram.rukambe@undp.org).**





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

- On 30 September 2020, the Government issued Statutory Instrument 225A of 2020, entitled Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) Regulations 2020 (No. 4). This contains provisions to suspend the holding of by-elections during the period that the declaration of COVID-19 as a "formidable epidemic disease" is in force.

### Project's activities during the reporting period

Building on its provision of data, airtime and Zoom licenses to key Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) staff in order to support business continuity, the ZIM-ECO project and UNDP country office facilitated the conduct of a series of Zoom trainings for ZEC staff at head office and provincial offices. On 16 October, with support from the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), ZEC held a Zoom meeting with civil society stakeholders to discuss voter education for the by-elections in the context of the pandemic. This was the first step in the joint preparation of voter education materials by ZEC and civil society organisations, which the project and EISA will support.

In the reporting period, the project also supported the data collection process for the ZEC voter profiling. This initiative aims to conduct a statistic analysis of 2018 turnout data by demographic criteria such as gender and age to support voter registration and outreach efforts.

## Plans for the next period

In November, ZIM-ECO plans to support ZEC with completing the Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) train-the-facilitator course that was started at the beginning of the year and then suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The customization of BRIDGE modules is also scheduled to be launched, starting with the module on electoral boundary delimitation. This process should include an exchange of experience with an international expert on the topic.

In addition to this, under the project, UN Women will launch the dissemination of the ZEC gender and inclusion policy through the ZEC provincial gender focal points.

The month should also see the continuation of consultations on the reformulated project document.

## Project's website

<https://zimbabwe.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

## Contact

**For information on the project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Vincent da Cruz, [vincent.dacruz@undp.org](mailto:vincent.dacruz@undp.org).**