

EC-UNDP

1 - 30 September 2020

Electoral Assistance Projects Update



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING.....	1
BOLIVIA.....	3
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.....	6
LIBERIA	10
LIBYA	13
MALAWI.....	17
NEPAL.....	19
SOMALIA.....	22
ZAMBIA	26
ZIMBABWE.....	30

ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Title	Reference	EU Contribution	Start Date	End Date
Afghanistan	Support to Electoral Assistance in Afghanistan	DCI-ASIE/2015/368-884	€ 15,500,000.00	30.12.15	31.12.20
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
Côte d'Ivoire	Projet d'Appui aux Elections en Côte d'Ivoire (PACE)	FED/2020/417-796	€ 1,000,000.00	01.07.20	01.03.22
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	31.12.21
Malawi	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	2017/389-162	€ 3,355,817.27	11.10.17	10.08.21
Tunisia	Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (TEAP)	ENI/2019/405-945	€ 2,000,000.00	01.07.19	30.06.21
Zambia	Democracy Strengthening in Zambia (2020-2022)	FED/2020/418-076	€ 6,000,000.00	15.08.20	31.12.22
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	15.08.21

SUMMARY

BOLIVIA: The country has entered the final stage of electoral preparations for the polls to be held on 18 October. Campaigns of the political parties (marches, walks, caravans) have intensified. - According to data from a relevant survey, 86% of the population say they will vote in the scenario of the pandemic.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: The technical and logistical support provided to National Elections Authority (A.N.E) in the continuation of the voters' registration and the processing of data collected continued during the month while the project's staff proceeded to payments of local branches of the A.N.E, registration agents and various service providers. September was marked by the registration of eligible CAR citizens in the diaspora. The registration period is expected to end by 4 October. A new plan was developed for the sub-prefectures where the registration exercise was suspended or couldn't start for security reasons. Citizens in those areas will have chance to register early in October.

LIBERIA: Local Project Appraisal Committee Approved the new Electoral Assistance Project to Liberia. - National Elections Commission (NEC) completed voter roll update and candidate nomination processes. - UNDP supported NEC in holding briefings for media and disabled people organisations. - Rehabilitation of the magisterial warehouses is approaching completion.

LIBYA: The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs approved the extension of the UNDP implemented electoral support project until December 2021, as part of UNSMIL-led integrated electoral assistance. - As part of strengthening the electoral process in the long run, the project is supporting the Commission with the conceptual framework for the introduction of biometric voter cards in Libya in the future. - Anticipating the possibility for elections in Libya in the upcoming year, UNEST provided technical advice to the High National Election Commission (HNEC) to enhance its readiness for elections. UNEST developed a paper with immediate actions that can be taken by the HNEC already prior to a formal political agreement.

MALAWI: Discussions on future basket fund activities with key stakeholders have been undertaken. - National reviews and lessons learned have commenced. - Multi-party Liaison Committee meeting triggered in hotspot areas ahead of 5 parliamentary by-elections.

NEPAL: The Electoral Support Project provided virtual support to the Election Commission of Nepal to produce various documents, including the ICT Assessment Report for the Election Commission, Political Party Self-Assessment Guidelines, Election History Book.

SOMALIA: Direct elections deferred for indirect clan-based electoral model. - The National independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) monitoring and evaluation (M&E) unit Team Leader and staff convened a virtual working session with the UNDP M&E Specialist and the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) capacity training officers on 20 September.

ZAMBIA: During the month of September, the project made significant progress to achieve key results: these included the signing of various letters of agreement with project partners such as the Zambia Police Service, Judiciary and the Zambia Law Development Commission (ZLDC). The project held several meetings to commence various project activities scheduled for Quarter Four, i.e. Project Launch, Zambia Police Electoral Security Training Curriculum review, Safety of Journalists, the Political Violence Mapping Report validation and the ZLDC/ECZ Stakeholder Consultations on Prisoners' Voting.

ZIMBABWE: The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) published its policy on conducting COVID-19 compliant electoral activities. On 13 September, ZEC lifted the suspension of electoral activities and is now preparing to hold the pending by-elections. The dates are yet to be announced.



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

- The country has entered the final stage of electoral preparations for the polls to be held on 18 October. Campaigns of the political parties (marches, walks, caravans) have intensified.
- According to data from a relevant survey, 86% of the population say they will vote in the scenario of the pandemic. 34% of the population does not believe that their vote will be respected versus 48% who do.
- According to data from the aforementioned survey, 71% of the population considers that the main conflict in the country is political, which shows the relevance of the electoral process. With an average of 20%, personal interests, discrimination, economy / poverty, lack of education and regionalism are identified in descending order as other factors of conflict. 75% of the surveyed population considers that after the elections the conflicts will remain the same and / or will increase.

Project's activities during the reporting period

- Organisation of around 25 dialogues, in the 9 departments, including two national events. The main topics addressed have been chain of custody, political participation of women, biosafety protocols, electoral justice and the electoral register.



- Accompaniment of the selection of electoral juries (mandatory for selected voters in Bolivia), on 19 September, in 5 departments.

- Monitoring, participation and facilitation of training for electoral notaries, coordinators, facilitators and law enforcement personnel, in rural and urban areas.



Workshop on biosafety measures for the voting day with indigenous representatives in Oruro.

- Inauguration of an infrastructure financed by the Project in Tarija, providing the necessary spaces for logistics operations and completion of similar work in Chuquisaca.



Plans for the next period

- Within 20 days of the vote, there are many risks among which the following: A large number of the people selected to be juries (polling station members) and notaries (support and supervision staff in the voting centers) do not fulfill their obligations because of the pandemic (according to surveys, half of the voters would refuse to be juries).
- For the weeks before and during the elections, UNDP will establish a monitoring unit to follow all events and be able to respond rapidly if needed.
- Continued support to all nine Departmental Tribunals.

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.



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 technical and logistical support provided to the National Elections Authority (A.N.E) in the continuation of the voters registration and the processing of data collected continued during the month while the project's staff proceeded to payments of local branches of the A.N.E, registration agents and various service providers. September was marked by the registration of eligible CAR citizens in the diaspora. The registration is expected to end by 4 October. A new plan was developed for the sub-prefectures where the registration exercise was suspended or couldn't start for security reasons. Citizens in those areas will have chance to register early in October.
- In terms of political development, it's worth noting the various amendments of the electoral Code voted by the Parliament that notably reduced the timeframe of a number of electoral operations such as the publication of the voters list, the official announcement of the poll for 27 December and the candidate application timeframe.

Project's activities during the reporting period

- Return logistics: PAPEC worked with the National Elections Authority (french acronym A.N.E) and ENABEL/EU (Belgian development agency) project to bring back to Bangui registration agents as well as the data and the material used for the exercise.



Reception of the registration material in the data treatment center (Centre de Traitement des Données).

- Registration data processing with the aim to produce the list: PAPEC deployed an IT expert specialised in voters' registration data management to assist the A.N.E data treatment. His arrival helped address major technical challenges faced by the data treatment center (French acronym, CTD, Centre de Traitement des Données) and he was able to work with Planson/Genkey that developed the software acquired by UNDP for the management of the voters' list.



The IT Specialist shows the data processing center (CTD) to the partners: UNDP CAR Resident Representative, Natalie Boucly, EU in CAR Ambassador Samuela Isopi and French Ambassador in CAR .

- Official handout of equipment (multifunction printers) and a utility vehicle to the A.N.E data processing center: PAPEC officially handed over to A.N.E 5 multifunction printers and a 4X4 utility vehicles acquired with the Japan contribution to the electoral process.



- Launch of the PAPEC website, available here: <https://rca-papec.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>.
- High level visit of the partners (EU, French Government, UNDP) to the Data Processing Center: a formal visit was organised for the donors contributing to the Basket fund, especially the European Union Delegation and the Embassy of France in CAR to allow them to learn more on the voters list development and also the challenges faced by PAPEC and A.N.E.
- Determination of the technical specification of electoral materials that will be used during the December poll: PAPEC assisted A.N.E to develop the technical specification of the voters' card to be produced in early November, the ballot boxes, voting screens, ballot papers, various forms to be used during the polls etc.
- Planning of the communication campaign on the voters' list exhibit in collaboration with A.N.E, MINUSCA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic), ENABEL (Belgian Development Agency)/EU.
- Workshop with the National Media outlets on "Media regulation during an electoral process": this workshop was co-organized by PAPEC and MINUSCA and involved 30 professionals from different national media outlets and took place on 24 September in the Centre Jean XXIII, Bangui.

Plans for the next period

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

- Completion of the voters' registration activities in the localities of Besson (Nana Mambere) Kouï and Ngaoundaye (Ouham Pendé);
- Printing and exhibit of the voters' lists;
- Launch of the procurement process of various electoral materials;
- Media campaign on the voters list exhibit in order to mobilise registered voters to verify their information on the lists in various registration centers;
- Launch of the civic/voters education Manual;
- Launch of the civic education sensitization campaign by civil society grantees and by UN Women. The later will specifically target the female population;
- Monitoring visits to the interior by PAPEC experts.

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.



LIBERIA

📷 Election Project/UNDP Liberia

LIBERIA ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT (2020 – 2024)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Local Project Appraisal Committee Approved the new Electoral Assistance Project to Liberia.
- National Elections Commission (NEC) completed voter roll update and candidate nomination processes.
- UNDP supported NEC in holding briefings for media and disabled people organisations.
- Rehabilitation of the magisterial warehouses is approaching completion.

Project's activities during the reporting period

Local Project Appraisal Committee Approves the new Electoral Assistance Project to Liberia

On 22 September 2020, the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) unanimously approved the new Electoral Support Project to Liberia. The Project will cover the period from September 2020 till July 2024, including limited support to the 2020 electoral cycle and full support to the upcoming 2023 General Elections. A significant focus of the Project is the long-term and sustainable capacity-building and institutional strengthening. The 2020 workplan has been designed jointly with the National Elections Commission (NEC). The Project has been working intensively to prepare timely interventions.

NEC completes voter roll update and candidate nomination processes

From 11 till 25 September 2020, NEC held the voter roll update (VRU) exercise for the upcoming Special Senatorial Elections and Referendum to be held on 8 December 2020. The VRU took place on a mobile basis, for 15 days. Each of the mobile teams spent three days at each of the 2,080 registration centers across Liberia. Security of the VRU process, limited COVID-19 prevention measures, and alleged voter trucking posed a significant challenge to the process. NEC staff is currently processing the received

VRU forms. The Project will support NEC's measures to build confidence in the voter list through audit, deduplication, as well as public communication, towards the upcoming provisional voter list exhibition period.

Equally, the candidate nomination has ended on 21 September 2020. In total, 98 male and 20 females submitted their candidacy to the NEC to compete for 15 vacant seats in the Special Senatorial Elections.

UNDP supports NEC in holding briefings for media and disabled people organisations

On 9-10 and 14-15 September, the NEC launched a regional training for media practitioners on the upcoming voters' roll update, civic and voters' education, Special Senatorial Election, referendum, and integrity of information/misinformation management respectively in Gbarnga City, Bong County, and Tubmanburg, Bomi county. Media representatives from across the 15 political sub-divisions of Liberia, both rural and urban communities, participated.

Furthermore, on 21-22 and 24-25 September, the NEC held two two-day consultations with disabled peoples organisations (DPOs) and persons with disabilities (PWDs), respectively, in Kakata, Margibi County, and Tubmanburg, Bomi County. This community engagement sought to provide timely and accurate information about the voter roll update (VRU) and educate the disabled community on the importance of participating in all 2020 Special Senatorial Election (SSE) phases.

Inclusion and diversity are at the core of the new UNDP Electoral Support Project, which provided technical, advisory, and financial support to both events.

Rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses

In mid-September, the Project conducted a field mission to inspect the last out of 12 warehouses and related facilities renovated with UNDP support. The field assessment concluded that the remaining structure could be handed over to the NEC in early October.

Plans for the next period

- Complete and hand over last warehouse in Cestos (October 8);
- Closure of current project / Project Board Meeting;
- Recruitment and deployment of Referendum Consultant to support NEC;
- Recruitment and deployment of Data Center Consultant;
- Support to voter list audit, deduplication, and public communication to increase confidence of the electorate in the final voter roll;
- Recruitment of civil society organisations (CSOs) 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 electoral period;

- Review of the Operational Plan for Elections;
- Procurement of SPSS software;
- Campaign training for media practitioners;
- Support to NEC in preparation and printing of various training and electoral materials.

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.



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 15 September, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2542 (2020), extending the mandate of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) until 15 September 2021 as an integrated special political mission, in full accordance with the principles of national ownership, to exercise mediation and through its good offices. The UN Security Council welcomed the continued work of the High National Electoral Commission (HNEC) and the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections to prepare for and conduct national and municipal elections, and recognized the importance of consulting with Libyan parties to set the constitutional basis for elections and to adopt the necessary electoral laws.
- The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs approved the extension of the UNDP implemented electoral support project until December 2021, as part of UNSMIL-led integrated electoral assistance.
- As part of strengthening the electoral process in the long run, PEPOL project is supporting the Commission with the conceptual framework for the introduction of biometric voter cards in Libya in the future.
- Anticipating the possibility for elections in Libya in the upcoming year, UNEST provided technical advice to the HNEC to enhance its readiness for elections. UNEST developed a paper with immediate actions that can be taken by the HNEC already prior to a formal political agreement.

Project's activities during the reporting period

International electoral coordination meeting

Following the renewed political dialogues including calls for elections potentially in 2021, the UNSMIL/ UNDP Electoral Support Team (UNEST) organised on 15 September an electoral coordination meeting with international partners and other international electoral assistance providers to discuss the preparedness of the HNEC for national elections when requested, and the recent local elections organised by the Central Commission of Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE).

Support to the concept of a biometric voter card for Libya

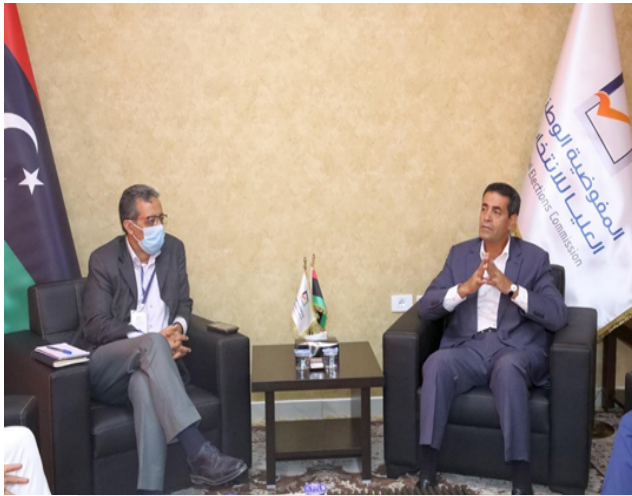
As part of strengthening the electoral process in the long run, PEPOL project is supporting the Commission with the conceptual framework for the introduction of biometric voter cards in Libya in the future. During the reporting period, the UN Electoral Support Team (UNEST) has been assisting the HNEC with the development of a detailed process document, starting from biometric registration steps to card development and distribution and polling day verification. The team has been developing separate concept notes on data management, procedures, logistics and operations, and public outreach for the biometric voter card.

On 1 September, the HNEC and UNEST discussed the Commission's institutional set-up for the planning and implementation of a biometric voter registration exercise in the future. On 6 September, HNEC organised a follow-up workshop with key Directors and Heads of Department to discuss the concept of a biometric voter card for Libya. The introduction of a voter card in Libya in the mid run is a major fraud prevention measure and would enhance the transparency of voting process. HNEC envisages to submit a proposal to the Government with request for support and funding for its endeavor of the biometric voter card.

Support to HNEC's readiness for elections

Anticipating the possibility for elections in Libya in the upcoming year, UNEST provided technical advice to the HNEC to enhance its readiness for elections. UNEST developed a paper with immediate actions that can be taken by the HNEC already prior to a formal political agreement. These include steps regarding the software platforms for the voter registration data, the results management process, candidate nomination, and accreditation of observers and agents; as well as a review of the polling centre list, an inventory of all electoral assets, decisions on the public outreach approach and the development of a solid elections budget for submission and timely release of the funds. The operations plan will have to take into consideration the rise of COVID-19 cases in Libya. UNSMIL and PEPOL continue to engage international partners for support to HNEC and the Project. In the meantime, PEPOL continues to support the HNEC's current voter registration data maintenance and is in the process of developing a sound results tabulation system for polling day. During the reporting period, HNEC's new Director-General was introduced to discuss with him mutual cooperation.

Gallery



HNEC Chairman, Dr. Emad Al-Sayeh, meeting with mayors of Tripoli to discuss the electoral context.
Tripoli, Libya, 30 September 2020. Photo credit: HNEC



HNEC's Women's Support Unit having meetings with representatives of civil societies to address issues of electoral awareness of women participation in elections.
Tripoli, Libya, 30 September 2020. Photo credit: HNEC.

Plans for the next period

- PEPOL is engaging with donor partners to discuss support for electoral processes in light of the latest political statements for elections and to seek project funding to cover the last quarter of 2020 and the activities for 2021;
- 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.
- PEPOL is finalising a procurement process to establish a security surveillance system at the HNEC's headquarters.

Project's website

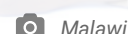
<https://libya.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org/>

Contact

For more information on the project, please contact Chief Technical Advisor Mr. Filip Warnants, filip.warnants@undp.org.



MALAWI



Malawi

Electoral

Commission

MALAWI ELECTORAL CYCLE SUPPORT PROJECT

The “Malawi Electoral Cycle Support 2017-2019” project is supported by a basket fund that is currently financed by the EU, DFID, Ireland, Norway, USAID 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 organisation 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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Discussions on future basket fund activities with key stakeholders have been undertaken.
- National reviews and lessons learned have commenced.
- Multi-party Liaison Committee meeting triggered in hotspot areas ahead of 5 parliamentary by-elections.

Project's activities during the reporting period

In this post-electoral period and in light of the further EU resources added to the basket fund (2 million USD) and the 12-month time extension of the project (until the end of June 2021) it was critical to agree on the focus areas of the initiative. Consequently, an activity matrix setting out the actions against time and involving budget was produced and became part of extensive discussions. A consensual agreement was reached between all the main stakeholders including the development partners, the Malawi Electoral Commission and the Centre for Multi-Party Democracy, the two remaining implementing partners of the project.

The focus now is clearly on the post-election reviews of which the basket fund has already supported two: one with the field staff of MEC, which comprised of sample Presiding Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officer and District Election Officers (200 altogether split into 4 regional centers to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19) with the central theme being the administrative reforms required for the most optimal organisation of the polling stations and the processing of results tallying. This review took place over the 17th and 18th of September and was immediately succeeded by a one-day review of the Multi-Party Liaison Committees in terms of their dispute resolution and dispute moderation work in the lead up to the Tripartite elections of 2019 and the Fresh Presidential elections.

Regarding the Centre for Multi-party Democracy (CMD), Terms of Reference were drafted in preparation for a tendering process that will lead to the identification of a consultancy that will review the entire organisational structure of CMD, from the organisation's constitution to the interaction between the Board and the Secretariat. This is seen as an essential exercise in the attempt to render CMD sustainable after the expiry of the current basket fund.

Plans for the next period

MEC and CMD have been brought together to co-chair the task force on electoral reforms and the project is supporting the task force in putting together an electoral reform roadmap that will set out the pieces of Constitutional and electoral laws that would ideally be modified in order to align with international best practices. Thereafter, it is expected that the basket fund will be supporting a series of consultation processes that will discuss the proposals that have been put forward by the task force.

Further national reviews involving the media, civil society and political parties are foreseen on 6 and 7 October that will feed into the electoral reform process. MEC is currently involved in carrying out by-elections in 5 constituencies and although the basket fund is not involved in this task, it is supporting CMD in carrying out a series of MPLC-based meeting to bring the temperature in those constituencies where there appears to be some agitation. The project will also be supporting the CMD Party Monitors evaluations next week and there will be post-election healing sessions for the South, North and Central regions.

Project's website

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

Contact

For more information on the Malawi Electoral Cycle Support Project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Richard Cox, richard.cox@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. 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 Electoral Support Project provided virtual support to the Election Commission of Nepal to produce various documents, including the ICT Assessment Report for the Election Commission, Political Party Self-Assessment Guidelines, Election History Book.

Project's activities during the reporting period

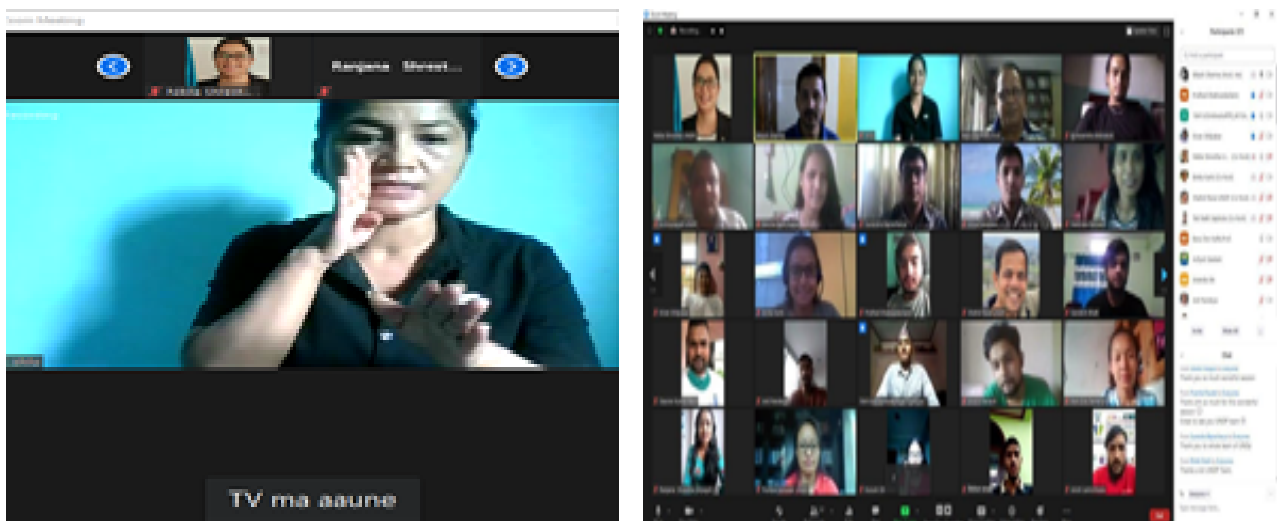
The Electoral Support Project (ESP) continued to provide virtual technical assistance to the Election Commission, Nepal (ECN). Following the submission of the report on the assessment of the ICT of the Election Commission by the UNDP consultant to ESP last month, the report has been submitted to the ECN this month.

This month, the project provided input to a standard questionnaire on use of Electronic Voting Machines in Nepal, for a study that is being conducted by Policy Academy. The academy is supporting the Government to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility and use electronic voting machines in future elections in Nepal.

Over the months, the project had been supporting the Commission in the preparation of a guideline and software on a Political Party Self-Assessment support system. The guideline is in the process of finalisation, and the Commission intends to interact with the political parties to finalise it.

ESP is also in the process of developing an online course, designed specifically for the Election Commission staff who have been transferred into the Commission from other government departments and agencies. The course will cover contents such as democracy and elections, electoral cycle and process, principles of election management, voter registration process, gender and social inclusion in elections.

Furthermore, to ensure that the voters are well informed about electoral processes, a mobile application, targeted specifically at young voters, has been shared by the project to the Commission. The application will support the Commission's endeavors to deliver civic education content.



The youth led webinars also included sign language interpretation.

ESP also continued carrying out its youth-led webinar series, along with the UNDP Country Office in Nepal. The webinars are based on the findings from surveys that have reached more than 1900 respondents, among them 43% female and 14% gender and sexual minorities. The webinars are also being supported by UN Volunteers and being branded under UN75. This month, the webinars were on the impact of COVID-19 on gender and sexual minorities, and on the workers in the informal sector. The project has facilitated a total of six webinars thus far, with approximately 600 participants.

Plans for the next period

The project 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 Commission: ECN's social media policy, civic and voter education policy, the monitoring and evaluation plan, and the Human Resources Development policy. Moreover, the project's support on the Nepal's Electoral History Book will continue

over the next period.

The next period should also see the mobile application being available on Play Store, which will be widely disseminated and also target teachers and high school students.

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.



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

- Direct elections deferred for indirect clan-based electoral model.
- The National independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) monitoring and evaluation (M&E) unit Team Leader and staff convened a virtual working session with the UNDP M&E Specialist and the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) capacity training officers on 20 September.

Project's activities during the reporting period

Direct elections deferred for indirect clan-based electoral model

Following a series of intense discussions between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member States (FMS) over the past three months, agreement was finally reached on 17 September on a revised electoral model. The Electoral Constituency Caucus will replace the model contained in the recently passed electoral law which proposed universal suffrage as required under the Constitution. The new model is similar to the 2016 electoral process of clan-based indirect voting with minor changes including: 1) an increase in delegates from 51 to 101; 2) electoral constituencies increase from one to two locations in each FMS; and 3) and a 30% quota for women's seats in Parliament. Elections for representatives of the Upper

House will be indirectly elected through the Federal Member State Parliaments. The Federal Parliament approved the agreement on 26 September, and clarified that the current Parliament will remain in office until the new Parliament is sworn in. There is no role for the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), and Political Parties are excluded from the process. Planning for the new model is expected to begin on 1 November however the electoral timetable is not yet clear. The current term of the Parliament is due to expire in December 2020 while the President's term of office expires in February 2021. It is expected that an electoral taskforce will be established both at national and federal member state level to manage the electoral process.

Strengthening the NIEC monitoring and evaluation unit

The NIEC monitoring and evaluation (M&E) Unit Team Leader and staff convened a virtual working session with the UNDP M&E Specialist and the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) capacity training officers on 20 September. The session is part of a series of capacity building initiatives for the Unit to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation activities of the NIEC's programmes. The NIEC staff discussed the M&E activity plan for the last quarter of 2020. The team will be supported with the development of a dashboard to monitor the progress of NIEC projects and other essential skills on conducting surveys, data collection and quality control during the next quarter. The NIEC team plan to establish an M&E working group at NIEC headquarters to help improve senior manager's understanding of the importance of M&E, developing an M&E infographic to facilitate more effective presentation of M&E team findings and conducting a quarterly review of the NIEC's annual workplan.



Mogadishu: Staff of the NIEC M&E Unit participate in IESG supported training on monitoring and evaluation.

Induction training for new IESG colleagues

On 20 September, an induction training was provided to three new IESG colleagues. IESG heads of units briefed the new colleagues in their specific technical fields including Legal and Procedures, Field

Coordination, Logistics, Training, Security, Operations, Outreach, Information Technology and GIS, Administration, Procurement and Finance and the UNDP Electoral Support Project. A general overview of the history, recent developments, and challenges to the electoral process in Somalia were provided by the IESG Senior Management. The three new colleagues will be reinforcing the following units: IESG Field Coordination, Reporting and Information Technology.

NIEC workshop on political parties official registration process

The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) Office of the Political Parties Registrar (OPPR) held a workshop in Dhusamareb, Galmudug State, from 5-7 September, attended by all the NIEC field staff from the Federal Member States with assistance provided through the Joint Programme for Electoral Support. The aim of the workshop was to introduce the members of the OPRR to the NIEC field staff as well as to explain how the different phases of the political parties official registration process would be implemented. The OPRR explained the procedures being prepared for the conduct of the registration and shared copies of the forms required to be completed by the political parties. The Chair of the NIEC and the acting President of Galmudug addressed the staff and urged them to be election ambassadors by encouraging all citizens to view elections as an important process for the development of their country. The official registration of political parties is currently on hold pending the President's assent to the recently passed Amendments to the Political Parties Law.



Dhusamareeb: NIEC field staff attend workshop on regulations pertaining to official party registration.

IESG and NIEC legal teams collaborate on reviewing the Political Parties Law

September was a busy month for the IESG legal and procedures team who collaborated with the NIEC legal team on the analysis of the amendments to the Political Parties law 2016 which were passed by the House of the People in July 2020, and which are awaiting the assent of the President. The teams drafted a paper, which was shared with donors, comparing the Political Parties Law 2016 with the amendments. The paper will be revised when the signed version of the amended Political Party law is published. The legal teams coordinated advice to the Office of the Political Party Registrar (OPPR) on how the parties can

register their members in compliance with the Political Parties law. The advice was presented in advance of the 3-day workshop held by the OPPr in September for NIEC field staff on the official registration of parties and the registration of party members (see above). The legal teams drafted an electoral dispute regulation (EDR) and terms of reference for the various staffing positions in the proposed EDR model.

Preparations for electoral security picks up momentum

On 20 September, the Somali Police Force Commissioner and Chair of the NESTF updated the Senior UN leadership on preparations for elections security. The revised electoral model has added fresh momentum to progress key work by the NESTF including drafting a security operations budget. The Folke Bernadotte Academy of Sweden met with UN IESG on 28 September to discuss its support to elections security, and to the protection of women in particular, in light of the approved electoral model. Following the political agreement on a revised electoral model, the UN IESG is reviewing its project plans to ensure alignment with the new requirements including the provision of equipment to the Joint Operations Centres (JOCs) funded through the Peacebuilding Fund, for the control and management of elections security operations in each Federal Member State. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) reaffirmed it is ready to start training JOCs once the Joint Police Program (JPP) meeting approves its 2020-21 training plan in October, which includes training for elections security.

Plans for the next period

- Preliminary planning 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 review and implementation of NIEC governance framework and related internal policies.

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.



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

- The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) launched the Online Voter Pre-Registration on 21 September 2020. This exercise is a precursor to the total voter registration from 28 October to 30 November 2020 to register about 9 million eligible Zambians. The DSZ has supported the ECZ to review the voter registration regulations including the operationalisation of the voting rights for persons in lawful custody (PLC).
- During the month of September, the DSZ project made significant progress to achieve key results: these included the signing of various letters of agreement with project partners such as the Zambia Police Service (ZPS), Judiciary and the Zambia Law Development Commission (ZLDC). The project held several meetings to commence various project activities scheduled for Quarter Four, i.e. Project Launch, Zambia Police Electoral Security Training Curriculum review, Safety of Journalists, the Political Violence Mapping Report validation and the ZLDC/ECZ Stakeholder Consultations on Prisoners' Voting.
- The project also held consultative meetings with other actors including IFES and the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance (JTF) to discuss coordination of electoral assistance to Zambia also co-implementation of activities in support of peacebuilding and early warning systems.

Project activities during the reporting period

During the period under review, the global COVID pandemic continued to impact Zambia, like other countries around the world. At the end of September, Zambia had a cumulative COVID-19 cases of 14, 759 which constitutes a 22 % increase from 12, 097 at the end of August 2020, according to the Ministry of Health. The country recorded 332 COVID-19 deaths and 13,959 recoveries during September 2020.

On 11 September 2020, His Excellency Edgar Lungu, the President of Zambia, used the occasion of the reopening of the National Assembly to announce the reopening of tertiary institutions, schools and bars which had been closed since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

Opening of the 5th Session of the 25th September 2020

The National Assembly reopened on 11 September 2020. Officiating the official opening of the National Assembly and rendering the State of the Nation Address, President Lungu made several announcements to relax the COVID-19 restrictions and also on the timelines of the 2021 electoral cycle including the dates for the voter registration from 28 October to 30 November 2020 calling upon all eligible Zambians to re-register as voters ahead of the 12 August 2021 general election.

He reiterated that voter registration was the prerequisite to citizens to exercise their right to vote and be able to choose leaders of their choice. He further called upon stakeholders, that included Members of Parliament, community and faith-based organisations and civil society organisations to ensure that all eligible citizens acquire or are in possession of national registration cards and voter registration cards in order to vote in 2021.

Launch of online pre-voter registration

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) launched the Online Voter Pre-Registration Exercise on 21 September 2020. The exercise will run until 6 November 2020. This exercise is a precursor to the actual voter registration exercise which is scheduled for 28 October to 30 November 2020 to enable the more than 9 million eligible Zambians to register as voters ahead of the 2021 general election. Those who register online are expected to fill a registration form and provide the relevant biographic data ahead of the registration period during which they will be required to visit the registration points near them to verify their data, have their photos taken before they are issued with a voter registration card. These Registration Centers will operate from 07:00hrs to 18:00hrs hours during this period.

Following the launch of the exercise, the ECZ announced that the exercise was going on well and reported that within 48 hours of commencement of the exercise about 36, 623 people had created accounts and 12, 351 people had completed the process.

So far, the DSZ has supported the ECZ to review voter registration regulations; also, the project has supported the ECZ and the Zambia Law Development Commission (ZLDC) to undertake a mapping exercise towards the operationalisation of the right to vote for persons in lawful custody (PLC) following a court decision to that effect in 2017. The project has supported the ECZ to conduct sessions to review voter registration regulations in April and also for the ECZ and the ZLDC to convene joint stakeholders' consultative meetings on the PLC voting rights in early October.

ECZ by-elections

On 17 September 2020, the ECZ held two parliamentary and 12 local government elections by-elections across the country. The parliamentary by-elections were necessitated by the death of the Members of Parliament for Lukashya (independent) and Mwansabombwe (Ruling party-PF). The ruling party-Patriotic Front won both seats. This victory effectively meant that the ruling party has increased its numeric advantage in parliament by 1 seat having won the seat that was previously occupied by an independent candidate. Analysis of the voter turnout in the two by elections showed a noticeable increase above the 2016 parliamentary election results of 50.49% for Lukashya and 52.86% Mwansabombwe.

The ECZ used the parliamentary by-elections to pilot a new polling system whereby polling stations which in the past had multiple polling streams/queues will now be considered independent polling stations, each with a separate presiding officer and each counting and announcing their results separately. The ECZ has indicated that they will share the post-election report and lessons-learnt with key electoral stakeholders.

During the month, the project signed Letters of Agreement (LoAs) with Zambia Police, Zambia Law Development Commission (ZLDC) and the Judiciary. The signing of these LoA's will now trigger the implementation of the activities by these responsible parties starting in October 2020. Other LoAs which are under development include those with ECZ, Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly.

The project agreed to support the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to convene a series of dialogue with the media and the Zambia Police, ECZ, BBC Media Action and UNESCO to cover issues such as media legal framework, professional and gender/conflict-sensitive media reporting, safety of journalists and disinformation and fake news during elections; these forums will be convened during quarter four.

The DSZ team held consultations with the European Commission-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance (JTF) to discuss the latter's support to the DSZ communication and visibility plan including the development of the DSZ website by the JTF.

The Programme Management Unit (PMU) is supporting national efforts to implement the Supreme Court decision to facilitate the right to vote for persons in lawful custody (PLC). During early October 2020, the project will support ZLDC-led stakeholder engagements to discuss draft laws and procedures and the logistics to enable PLC voting in 2021. The PMU held consultations with IFES to discuss coordination of electoral assistance especially support to the ECZ in the capacity building to the conflict management committees and national and district levels. The project team shared the DSZ annual work plan with IFES; further consultations will take place once IFES received confirmation of funding to support the 2021 Zambian elections.

During the period under review, the PMU held several meetings to organise and plan for the DSZ Project Launch and also the Political Violence Mapping Report validation in early October 2020. This study was conducted by DSZ with the technical support of the JTF during early 2020.

Plans for the next period

- The project's launch;
- The Early Warning System Mapping Validation workshop;
- Zambia Law Development Commission (ZLDC) PLC consultative and validation meetings;

- Launch of the project's website;
- ZLDC-stakeholder workshops on PLC voting;
- DSZ-ECZ meeting to plan annual workplan activity implementation and timelines.

Contact

For information on the project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Joram Rukambe, 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

- The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) published its policy on conducting COVID-19 compliant electoral activities.
- On 13 September, ZEC lifted the suspension of electoral activities and is now preparing to hold the pending by-elections. The dates are yet to be announced.

Project's activities during the reporting period

In order to ensure the business continuity of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, the ZIM-ECO project expanded the number of ZEC staff that receive data and airtime to facilitate remote working and provided the ZEC central and provincial offices with Zoom licenses.

The project also facilitated the participation of three ZEC staff in a five-day virtual Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) professional development course organised by the UNDP office in Addis Ababa. This is the first online BRIDGE course with participation from Zimbabwe and ZEC decided to have two accredited facilitators participate. ZIM-ECO is now supporting the adoption of the online training methodology in view of replicating the workshops for Zimbabwe.

As ZEC seeks to re-launch voter registration in compliance with its COVID-19, the Commission requested ZIM-ECO to procure the necessary protective equipment for its central, provincial and

district offices, which is now underway.

ZIM-ECO also completed the update of the manual and handbook for the Zimbabwe Republic Police. The no-cost extension to 15 August 2021 of the European Union contribution agreement to the project was processed, allowing ZIM-ECO to continue its support to ZEC and the election process in Zimbabwe.

Plans for the next period

In October, ZIM-ECO plans to support ZEC with preparing outreach relating to implementing the newly adopted COVID-19 policy for voter registration and the by-elections. This should involve the preparation of voter education materials and support for ZEC engagement with the media.

The project also plans to organise an exchange of experience for the upcoming boundary delimitation exercise.

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.