



Electoral Assistance Project Update

Period:	1 – 30 September 2021
Country:	Libya
Project:	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)
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In the absence of a comprehensive electoral framework, PEPOL has supported the HNEC with technical advice on different operational scenarios to prepare for elections to be held on time.

Out-of-country voter registration (18 August – 17 September)

In addition to the 4,494 out-of-country voters (OCVs) registered in the 2017/2018 update, another 6,235 Libyans were registered for voting abroad between 18 August and 17 September.

Of the total 10,729 persons now registered to vote out-of-country, 32% are women and 68% are men. With an average age of 42 years, OCVs represent an older demographic than in-country voters. Based throughout 108 countries, the majority of OCVs registered from the UK (19%) and Egypt (12%); and only 10 countries registered more than 200 voters.

Voter card issuance

Printing of cards for newly registered voters has begun, with the first batch *en route* to field offices. Anticipating issuance to commence in the second half of October, [training-of-trainers](#) was completed in September, and training is now being rolled out to field offices and card-issuing centres. Software is also in place for monitoring and reporting on card distribution, with training-of-trainers in progress.

Procurement of election materials

Procurement of election materials (ballot boxes and polling stations kits) has begun, with sample materials having arrived in Tripoli for assessment.

UNDP has presented the HNEC with several options for ensuring the delivery of electoral materials, given both the high cost of air freight and time limitations. HNEC has agreed that UNDP will initiate production of ballot boxes and polling kits; and will make a final decision on a transportation modality at later stage. In addition, to offset the high cost of transportation, HNEC decided to reuse some of the materials, in the case of a second round of presidential elections.

To accommodate the narrow timeframe, a decision on the transportation modality and cost will need be made in the coming week.

Preparation for candidate nomination

Candidate nomination software is being developed within HNEC, with additional “backup” software developed by PEPOL advisors. The testing is being conducted in field offices with expected comments to be incorporated in the final version.

Candidate nomination procedures and presidential candidates’ manual await Commission approval. Cognizant of the possibility that a new parliamentary electoral law allows for the participation of political entities, HNEC is prepared to accommodate both types of registration for individual candidates and lists.

Accreditation

Design of registration forms to accredit observers, agents, media and others is complete; and training of staff at the 25 HNEC field offices to manage the accreditation process has begun.

Gender inclusivity

In an UNSMIL-hosted virtual meeting (22 September) with female members of HoR, LPDF and civil society organizations; UNSMIL, UNDP and UNWOMEN underscored the importance of involving throughout the entire electoral processes. Responding to a presentation from HNEC Chair, Dr. Emad Al-Sayeh on gender mainstreaming in electoral systems, participants expressed invariable support for safeguarding gender inclusivity in electoral legal framework, including the reservation of parliamentary seats.

PEPOL has supported HNEC staff in drafting inclusivity-related Articles, to be added to its Codes of Conduct; these are currently awaiting Commission approval. The HNEC has also requested support to establish a hotline to respond to election-related violence against women, and a proposal has been developed to this end. In the meantime, the next in a series of HNEC-hosted webinars will consider obstacles to female candidates, including gender-based violence. Date to be confirmed.

Stakeholder coordination

On 16 September, PEPOL hosted a meeting of international partners on electoral public outreach to exchange information, flag concerns and identify opportunities for collaboration. In particular, partners expressed concern over the decreasing time frame in which to develop messages/content; potential reduction of female participation if the 2014 Parliamentary Law is used; and the prevalence/impact of misinformation.

PEPOL and UNSMIL are currently working with the HNEC to devise a plan for engaging with Facebook to address challenges related to misinformation.

Upcoming

- Electoral Information-Sharing Meeting (7 October)
- Project Board Meeting (1 November)
- Webinar on electoral violence against women (date TBA)
- Signing of funding agreements with Japan and EU