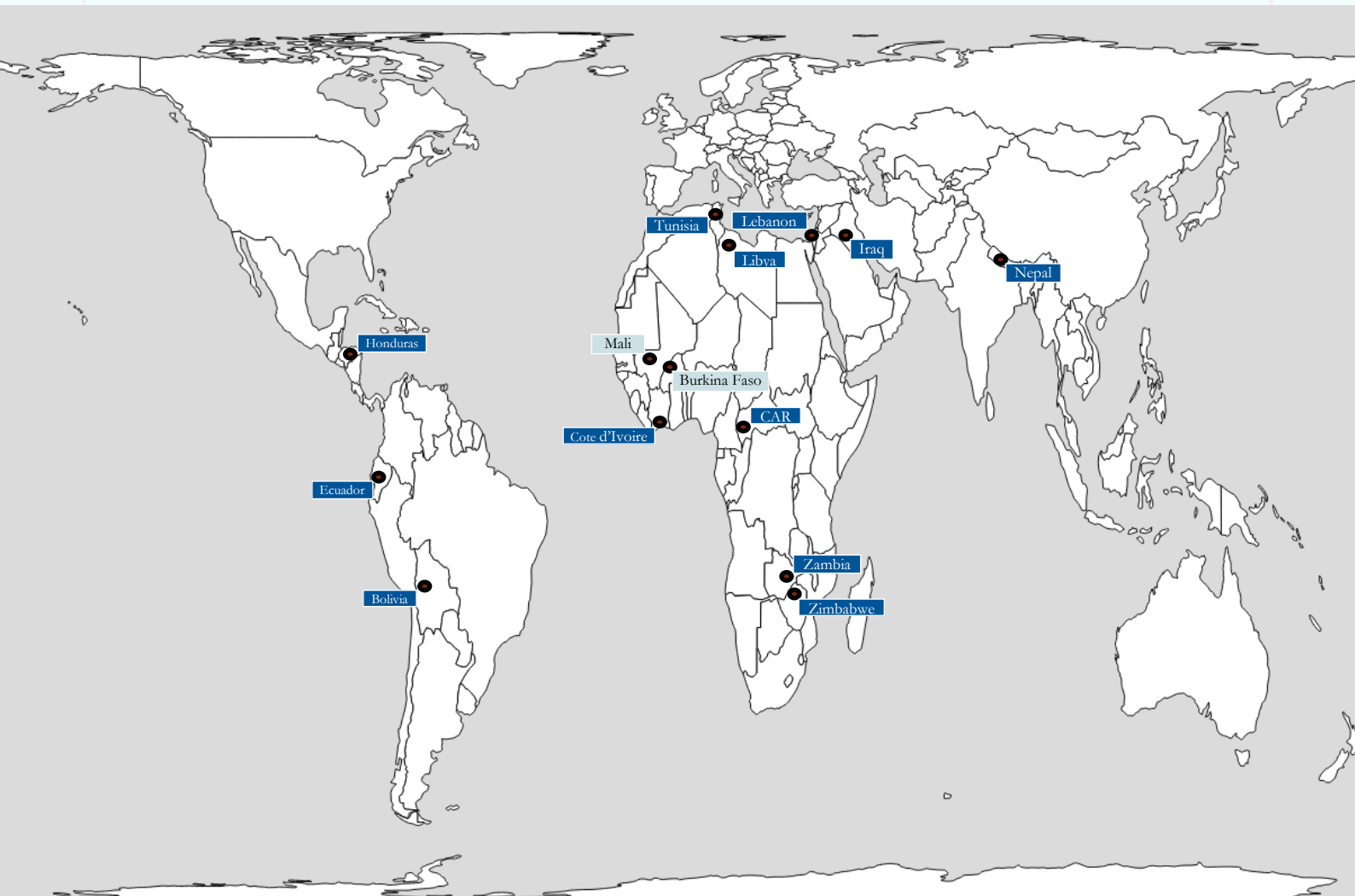


Monthly Projects Report

March 2022



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

ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Titel	Reference	EU Contribution	Start Date	End Date
Bolivia	Cultura de la paz y fortalecimiento del Órgano Electoral Plurinacional (OEP) de Bolivia	ICSP/2020/417-037	€ 2.000.000,00	1/01/2020	30/06/2022
Burkina Faso*	Projet d'Appui aux Processus Électoraux du Burkina Faso (2019-2021)	2020/419-030	€ 9.000.000,00	1/06/2020	31/05/2022
Central African Republic	Projet d'appui au processus électoral en République Centrafricaine (PAPEC)	2020/415-560	€ 14.750.000,00	5/09/2019	4/09/2022
Cote d'Ivoire	Projet d'appui aux élections en Côte d'Ivoire (PACE)	FED/2020/417-796	€ 1.000.000,00	1/07/2020	31/01/2022
Ecuador	Apoyo al Ciclo Electoral en Ecuador	LA/2020/420-147	€ 400.000,00	1/12/2020	30/11/2022
Honduras	Proyecto de Apoyo al Ciclo Electoral en Honduras para Elecciones Transparentes y Pacíficas 2020-2022 (PACE-H)	ICSP/2020/420-922	€ 2.200.000,00	19/12/2020	18/06/2022
Iraq**	Support to Iraq's Electoral Process	ICSP/2021/424-122	€ 5.510.101,84	9/04/2021	8/10/2022
Lebanon	Support to Electoral Reform and Democratic Participation in Lebanon	ENI/2019/431-399	€ 3.000.000,00	1/01/2020	31/12/2023
Libya	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5.000.000,00	1/05/2018	28/02/2022
Mali*	Projet d'Appui aux réformes et aux élections au Mali (PAREM) 2021 – 2023	T05-EUTF-SAH-ML-14-01	€ 15.000.000,00	1/01/2022	31/12/2023
Nepal	Electoral Support Project-Institutional Strengthening and professional development support for the Election Commission of Nepal	DCI-ASIE/2012/305-833	€ 8.400.000,00	12/01/2012	30/06/2022
Tunisia**	Soutien au processus electoral	ENI/2019/405-945	€ 2.000.000,00	1/07/2019	31/12/2022
Zambia	Democracy Strenghtening in Zambia	FED/2020/418-076	€ 6.000.000,00	15/08/2020	31/12/2022
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5.590.000,00	1/09/2016	30/04/2022

*Due to local political situations those projects are on hold.

**Due to local situations communication/visibility has been reduced in those countries.



ECUADOR

Apoyo al Ciclo Electoral en Ecuador



*Election: Ecuador's 2023 Local Elections
EDay Date : February 5th, 2023*

PROJECT SUMMARY

In the context of the 2021 general elections in Ecuador, UNDP has developed the Electoral Cycle Support project in Ecuador, a multi partners basket fund project. Adapted to the context and impact of COVID-19, this project aims to contribute to strengthening Ecuador's electoral and democratic process over a two-year period, between 2020 and 2022, encompassing the 2021 electoral process, which will test the reforms to the Code of Democracy, approved on January 22, 2020.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

On February 5th the National Electoral Council (CNE), after approving the calendar and dates, announced that the local elections will take place on February 5th, 2023. These elections are aimed to select prefects, vice-prefects, mayors, councilors, members of parish councils, and members of the Council of Citizen Participation and Social Control. The Electoral Assistance Project will extend the cooperation with the Electoral Function for the Local Election of 2023 thanks to new funding from the Spanish Cooperation and Development Agency (AECID).

During the reporting period the project has been working on several activities to accomplish two of the main outputs, i) supporting the development of a comprehensive communication strategy for the CNE to minimize the impact of disinformation and ii) promoting gender equality supporting the campaign “Sin ti no hay democracia” (Without you there is no democracy), that seeks encourage the political participation of women and young people for the Local Elections of 2023 considering the requirements of the Electoral Law .

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

On March 7th, 2023, the CNE launched the campaign: “Sin ti no hay democracia”(Without you there is no democracy) with the participation of a wide representation of women politicians in the country, the National Electoral Council (CNE), and with the support of UNDP, UN Women, the European Union, Embassies of Switzerland and Spain, as well as the Corporation 'Líderes para Gobernar'. This initiative seeks to disseminate the legal regulations of the Electoral Law which establish the obligation that the list of political parties must include 30% of women and 25% of young people. These requirements must be enforce in the Local Elections of 2023. The main goal of the campaign was to create awareness and promote messages on social networks, and aspire to involve citizens, political organizations, elected authorities, leaders and young people in order to fight against gender-based political violence and encourage women's political participation.

In this event the Electoral Assistance Project with the support of UN Women presented two publications: The Guide

on Gender-Based Political Violence in Digital Media and Social Networks and the Roadmap of Access to Justice for Gender-Based Political Violence Victims.

The project will conduct an analysis of the political participation of women from the three ethnical minorities recognized by the Ecuadorian Constitution (indigenous peoples, Afro-Ecuadorian and montubios), with a focus on the exercise of electoral participation rights by elected women.

The project has worked to improve the strategic plans of the two bodies of the Electoral Function. A consultant will be hired to set up an online IT platform to design its strategic planning for the TCE.



PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

The project will support the creation of a training mobile app for the electoral processes area of the CNE responsible for the training of the voting board members . These activities will support the CNE's electoral process department, and train the members of voting boards to become autonomous, and to not depending on the availability of the servers of the computer department of the institution or suffering their possible overloads.

In May, the project will organize a workshop on monitoring the electoral expenditures of political organizations. The purpose of the activity is to help the National Electoral Council to assess the implementation of the new rules for monitoring expenditures of political organizations, approved in 2020.

Discussing the impact of fake news and the pandemic in electoral processes. On August 2021, the CNE in a joint initiative with UNDP and UNESCO, organized a regional forum on the impact of fake news and the pandemic in electoral processes. The forum was attended by members of electoral bodies in the Latin American region and a declaration on the importance to fight against disinformation was signed by the regional electoral bodies. To continue promoting activities against disinformation, the project will organize an event to launch a recommendations and conclusions document of “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and fake news in electoral processes”.



HONDURAS

Proyecto de Apoyo al Ciclo Electoral en Honduras para Elecciones Transparentes y Pacíficas 2020-2022 (PACE-H)



*Election: General/ Presidential
EDay Date : 28 November 2021*

Project Summary

Honduras has entered a new electoral process with new electoral institutions, a regulatory framework in the process of being reformed, and with significant challenges of operational, social, political, and economic nature, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The strategic partnership between UNDP and the EU intends to address and promote, from a comprehensive and sustainable perspective, the continuous improvement of the Honduran electoral system from a sustainable perspective and from national appropriation by the population. However, some progress has been made to modernize and strengthen the Honduran electoral system and adopt new regulatory frameworks, which undoubtedly become opportunities to promote actions that lead to the organization of transparent, inclusive and peaceful electoral. processes.



Unión Europea

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

During the month of January a member of the National Electoral Council (CNE) Board, -composed of three- and a member of the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) were nominated to be part of the cabinet of ministers of the new government, inaugurated on the 27th January. Congress had to replace these two board members as all decisions must be made in plenary sessions in the case of THE, or by consensus in the case of CNE, making difficult for these institutions to carry out their mandate during the period January to March. However during the month of March, Congress approved the replacement of the newly appointed board members to enter

officially in function in their respective institution on the 24th of March.

On the 18th of March the European Union Electoral Observation Mission presented their final report, including 23 recommendations addressing weaknesses observed during the electoral process in 2021, which include legal reforms of multiple electoral laws such as the procedural law and the law on monitoring and control of campaign expenses; strengthening the independence of the National Electoral Council (CNE) as well as an efficient communication strategy to promote transparency and trust.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

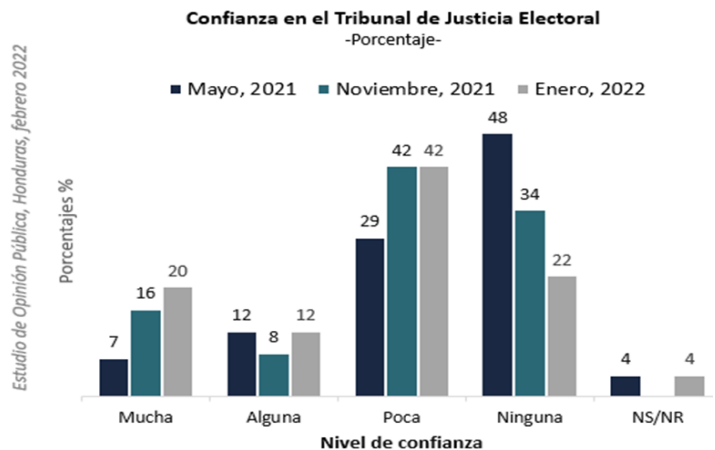
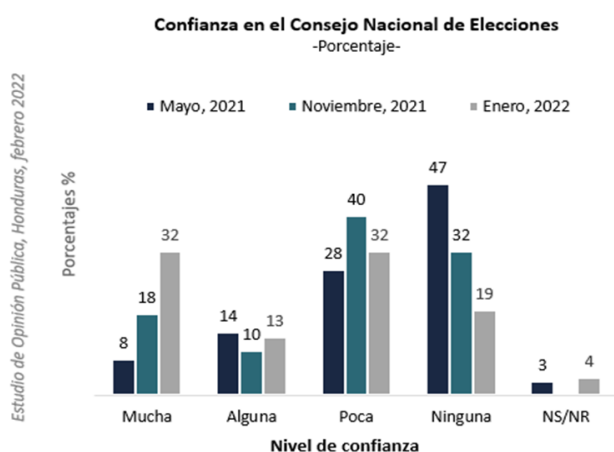
During the months of February and March, PACE-H provided leadership and technical expertise to the three main EMBs (CNE, TJE and the institution in charge of campaign financing, transparency, and monitoring - UFTF) to undertake an in-depth assessment exercise using UNDP's established Electoral Cycle methodology to identify the Lessons Learned during the electoral process of 2021 and strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. Likewise, during this process best practices were identified and will be implemented in future electoral processes ensuring the sustainability of the project's objectives to improve the efficiency, transparency, and credibility of the EMBs.

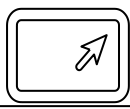
The main findings from these exercises show EMBs are facing enormous challenges, particularly regarding the legal framework coupled with the electoral calendar tight

timeframes, as well as a highly politicized environment in which they operated.

However, the strategic partnership

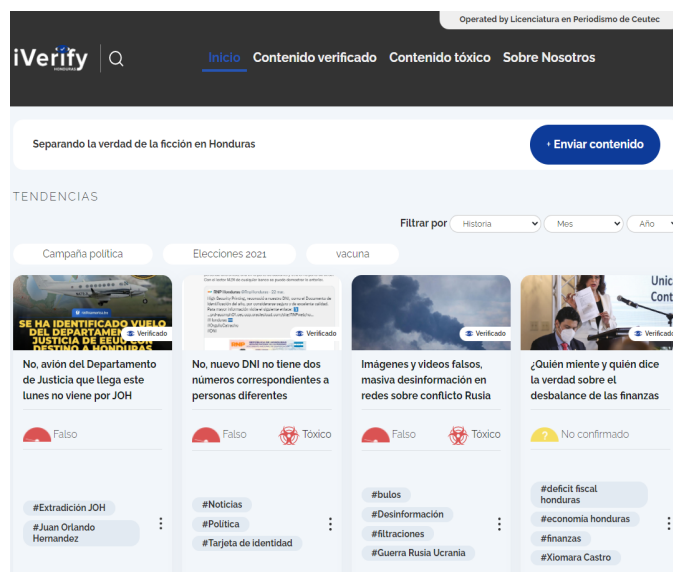
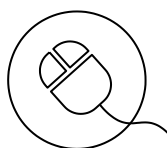
between UNDP and the European Union, through the provision of key technical support and assistance in areas such as logistics, communication and voter education, legal and campaign expense monitoring, among other areas proved instrumental in the completion of peaceful and successful 2021 election.





PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The EU Electoral Observation mission report highlighted that the high levels of mis-disinformation and hate speech during the pre-electoral and electoral period, particularly on social media, are worrisome. To tackle the information pollution the iVerify initiative developed with the EC-UNDP JTF, was launched in partnership with the Department of Journalism at CEUTEC university, who managed to successfully fact-check nearly 50 controversial stories that were further disseminated in the media. The sustainability of the iVerify platform is ensured through the continued technical support and capacity building of CEUTEC's Department of Journalism.



PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

The project will be facilitating from 31 March to 02 April, a 3-day capacity-building workshop with the National Youth



Council (Consejo Nacional de Juventud de Honduras), a new network of civil society representatives working on youth

participation in politics and electoral processes. The Minister of Education and Youth is scheduled to participate as well in the workshops.

A meeting will be supported on the 7th of April to bring together representatives of UFTF and all political parties that ran in the 2021 elections with the objective to increase the number of campaign expense reports that the institution has received so far. This meeting will also include a tutorial on how to use the monitoring platform - Rendición de Cuentas Honduras, RCH - built by a company hired by UNDP to facilitate the submission of the reports. Further plans to support UFTF include a series of field visits to explain to former candidates and political party representatives how to submit their reports. The current deadline for submissions is the 16th of May.



LIBYA

Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)



*Election: Presidential, Parliamentary
EDay Date : To be confirmed*

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Promoting Elections for the People of Libya project (PEPOL) is a UNDP managed electoral assistance project, with the aim to developing and enhancing the overall institutional capacity of the Libyan High National Elections Commission (HNEC) to prepare for, conduct and administer, inclusive and credible balloting events in Libya.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

PEPOL has contributed to efforts by UN Special Advisor to the Secretary-General (SASG), Stephanie Williams to convene delegations from the Libyan House of Representatives and the High Council of State with a view to find a consensus on a constitutional basis for elections, providing planning, procurement and advisory support.

In addition, the team has supported HNEC to conduct Lessons Learned exercises from electoral operations in 2021, and has been moving forward to strengthen gender-balance/inclusive participation and hate speech mitigation.



Photo: UNSMIL

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The HNEC conducted a four-day Lessons Learned exercise (21 – 24 March), with the support of the UN Electoral Support Team (UNEST) and IFES at its headquarters in Tripoli. This internal review of Commission performance in security and operations management in advance of the anticipated 2021 elections brought together representatives of the Ministry of Interior (MOI), and HNEC Security and Operations coordinators from offices in the eastern and southern regions. Following additional input from departments at headquarters, a final report will be shared with the Board of Commissioners and the representatives of the MOI, to be used as a baseline moving forward.

Exploring potential collaboration, HNEC Commissioner Rabab Aleppo and representatives of the Women's Empowerment, Public Outreach, IT and Security departments met online with the UNDP Regional Bureau of Arab States (RBAS). Participants to the 28 March to the dialogue session considered ways to monitor and quantify trends in the use of mis/disinformation and hate speech to undermine and discourage women's participation in public activities and influence.

UNEST has convened two consultative meetings with UNSMIL, UN Women and other UNDP projects to formulate a coherent country-wide guideline for addressing misinformation and hate

speech.

On 8 March, marking International Women's Day, Canadian Ambassador, Isabelle Savard and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, Marc-



André Franche signed a letter of commitment, articulating support to the HNEC in conducting inclusive electoral processes. The Ambassador emphasized that "Everyone has the right to take part in the governance of their country."

PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

In the next period, PEPOL plans to conduct an internal Lessons Learned exercise, drawing on the experiences and observations from experts and advisors from within its own team, and applying lessons learned to plans and approaches in its support over the next electoral cycle.

HNEC and RBAS will finalize working arrangements and commence collaborative efforts to monitor mis/disinformation and hate speech directed toward Libyan women.

HNEC plans to meet with representatives of UNFPA and the Libyan Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), to explore the

possibility of collaboration to record and identify the nature of reports of violence against women, received by the MOSA.





MALI

Projet d'appui aux réformes et aux élections au Mali (PAREM)



*Election: Constitutional Referendum, Presidential,
Legislative, Regional and Local elections
EDay Date : To be confirmed*

PROJECT SUMMARY

The 'Projet d'appui aux réformes et aux élections au Mali' (PAREM) is a technical assistance initiative Managed by UNDP and supported by the EU, designed to help Malian stakeholders carry out political and electoral reforms likely to strengthen the transparency and credibility of the process and organize inclusive elections whose results will be accepted by the majority of Malians and will restore peace, trust between populations and identified institutions. The approach therefore aims to create an environment conducive to a credible institutional and electoral reform process. To do this, the project aims to set up multifaceted and complementary actions at different levels, in particular to provide material, financial and logistical support to the bodies in charge of the electoral process in Mali and to strengthen the transparency of the electoral process.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

Due to the ongoing political stalemate in Mali, the implementation of the “Projet d'appui aux réformes et aux élections au Mali (PAREM)” has been highly impacted.

Since January 2021, Mali is under tight sanctions imposed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as it considered the transitional authorities' successive proposed timelines towards the holding of elections and a return to constitutional order to be unacceptable. During an Extraordinary Summit convened on March 26 to review the recent political developments in Mali, Guinea and Burkina-Faso, ECOWAS Heads of State upheld sanctions on Mali, while emphasizing that such measures will be reviewed and

gradually lifted with the finalization of an acceptable timetable for elections and progress towards its implementation.

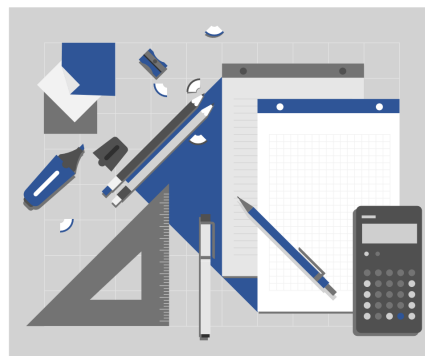
Despite efforts made by the Transition Authorities who have proposed a 24 month timetable instead of the initial 5 year timeline, ECOWAS has urged them to adhere to the additional period of 12 to 16 months which has been agreed by the joint technical team ECOWAS/AU/UN for the extension of the transition with effect from 15th March 2022, taking into account the activities required for the conduct of the presidential elections.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

On 22 February 2022, during a meeting convened by the UN Resident Coordinator, various donors to the Basket-fund on Reforms and elections in Mali, including the European Union, suggested that their contributions should be frozen till the Transition Authorities and ECOWAS agree on a realistic elections' timeline. PAREM's planned steering committee, to adopt its official annual work plan, was therefore postponed pending the publication of elections timeline.

Additionally to the technical advice to elections officials and follow-up of ongoing activities initiated in 2021, the Project team is currently focused on activities funded by the UN Peace building fund on conflict prevention and mitigation

during elections as well as those funded directly by the other UN entities (MINUSMA and UNWOMEN) also involved in PAREM.



PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

PAREM will continue to monitor the political situation in Mali as it evolves. In agreement with the Project partners, when significant progress will be noted, the annual work plan will be adopted.

ECOWAS has decided to send its Mediator to Mali to continue and finalize the discussions on elections timeline with the Transition Authorities. The date of the Mediator's arrival is yet to be announced.





ZAMBIA

Democracy Strengthening in Zambia



*Election: Presidential, Parliamentary
EDay Date : 12 August 2021*

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Democracy Strengthening in Zambia project 2020-2022 (DSZ) is a three-year multi-partners 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 two distinct approaches, strengthening electoral institutions and processes and programming for peace, the 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).



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

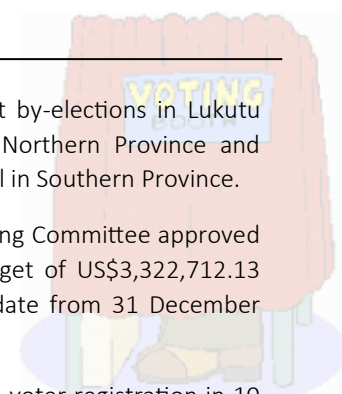
The country held General elections on 12 August 2021 and elected a new government under the leadership of former opposition leader, His Excellency, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema of the United Party for National Development (UPND). In the period under review, no elections were planned in Zambia. This is the third time that power has alternated from one political party to another in the history of Zambia's multi-party democracy.

The next general election will be held in August 2026. In April 2022, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) will be running Mongu District mayoral by-election in Western

Province, and two Local Government by-elections in Lukutu Ward of Luwingu Town Council in Northern Province and Katimba Ward of Monze Town Council in Southern Province.

On 23 March 2022, the project Steering Committee approved the 2022 annual work plan and budget of US\$3,322,712.13 and also extended the project end date from 31 December 2022 to 31 December 2023

The ECZ plans to launch a continuous voter registration in 10 selected districts on 1st June 2022.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In the period under review, the Project focused on planning and negotiations with the donors on the Workplan and budget (AWPB) for 2022. The Steering Committee approved the AWPB for 2022, for a worth US\$3,322,712.13, at its meeting of 23 March 2022. The approval will enable the project to provide targeted support to the country's legislative and constitutional reform agenda mooted by the new government among other activities. The AWPB is also earmarked to support activities towards consolidation and sustainability of the project gains over the last two years of implementation.



Photo: daily-mail.co.zm/

On 23rd March 2022, the ECZ announced the launch of continuous voter registration in ten provincial centers namely: Lusaka, Kabwe, Kasama, Chinsali, Chipata, Choma, Mansa, Ndola, Mongu and Solwezi, effective 1 June 2022. This decision is consistent with recommendations of election observer missions and is in line with the provisions of the Constitution. Until now, the registration of voters was periodic often conducted a year before a general election. The continuous voter registration will enable citizens in the targeted areas to immediately register as voters as soon they reach voting age of 18 years. This it is hope will improve the participation of new voters in elections and

ensure that the voters registry is up to date. Funds permitting, the ECZ plans to further decentralize continuous voter registration beyond the ten provincial centres. As part of its planned activities in the AWP for 2022, the DSZ project has positioned itself to support the ECZ in this exercise. This will include awareness creation and citizens engagement through collaboration with the Curriculum Development Centre and Ministry of Education for inclusion of voter education in the Zambian School Curriculum and the renewal of the ECZ's Voter Education Resource/Knowledge Management Centre.

The ECZ held a series of consultative meetings with electoral stakeholders on the proposed introduction of Diaspora voting and Electronic Voting (e-voting) in 2026. Currently Zambia's living abroad are not able to participate in elections in their respective locations as the law requires that they present themselves at a designated voting station within the Republic. As envisaged in the country's Diaspora Policy, the proposed amendments to voter regulations are designed to give opportunities to Zambians in the Diaspora to participate in elections in fulfilment of their rights as enshrined in the Constitution. Further, the ECZ plans to introduce e-voting in the next general elections scheduled for August 2026. The e-voting engagements with stakeholders included representatives of political parties, civil society organizations and the media. In these consultations, along with the challenges associated with e-voting, stakeholders discussed the inherent benefits of e-voting which include speedy announcement of election results, absence of invalid ballots, elimination of the cost of printing ballots, reduced personnel costs to deal with voters. As part of its planned activities in the AWP for 2022, the DSZ project will support aspects of the preparatory work on e-voting including legal and administrative reforms, research and South-South learning from countries that have already implemented e-voting, and public awareness.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The iVerify Zambia mechanism, one of the flagship systems birthed by the project to counter disinformation and support the media in Zambia to uphold journalism standard has continued to operate after the elections. iVerify has continued to



have a positive impact on the media's information flow. Members of the public have contacted Panos, the host institution, to

report for fact-checking, information that they have come across. This is commonly accomplished through WhatsApp and through the iVerify website. In the period under review, 412 reports were received. Of these, 411 were received through the tip line inputs as well as Crowd Tangle. Overall, the checking and data processing has remained constant. A total of 12 stories were published to the website during the month of March 2022. These stories are particularly on governance and accountability topics. At the time of reporting, posts on the page had, between 05 March and 04 April 2022, been viewed 14,391 times. Processed and published stories have been around misinformation and disinformation on governance themes relating to the matters of public interest such as the proposed International Monetary Fund bail-out for Zambia, parliamentary proceedings on democratic issues, employment, youth development issues and cultural ceremonies.

Some CSO supported by the project through low value grants conducted post-election community engagements and social dialogue forums to address the challenges of postelection tensions and violence in selected area. In the aftermath of the August 2021 general elections some former ruling party cadres

were victims of post-election violence. To deal with the issue, DSZ partner CSOs held a series of activities in the various communities to sensitize the citizens against revenge attacks on former ruling party supporters. Edutainment Health Foundation conducted 6 Community Dialogue Sessions in Serenje, Mkushi, Kapiri Mposhi, Kabwe, Chibombo and Mumbwa targeting traditional and religious leaders, political party representatives, police, district voter education committees and district council members. The sessions were aimed at peace building, exchange of political experiences and agree on solutions with community interest to address political violence and establish structures to manage conflicts that result into political violence. The community dialogue sessions also enabled stakeholders to reflect on the state of the democracy and governance system of Zambia during and after the 2021 election.

A team of consultants has conducted the mid-term evaluation of the project and presented a draft report. The draft evaluation report will be subject to the stakeholders



validation workshop, scheduled in April. The validation workshop will give an opportunity to stakeholders to provide feedback to the consultants on their findings and recommendations for the project prior to finalization of the final report.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

Plans for the next period consist of a) Planned official launch of the project-supported National Assembly Communication Strategy, b) Convening a Conference on the first time voting by persons in lawful custody that took place during the 2021 elections, c) Midterm Evaluation Validation Workshop, d) Baseline study and capacity needs assessment for the National Assembly, e) Publication and dissemination of research reports and strategies on the participation of women and youth, and Persons with Disability in the electoral process, f) Political parties' validation workshop on the Campaign Venue Management System, and the g) Development of the ECZ gender and disability inclusion policy.





ZIMBABWE

Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)



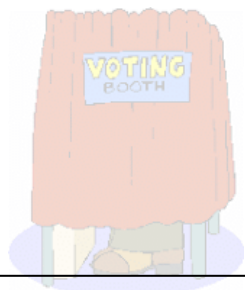
*Election: Simultaneous Presidential, Senate, National Assembly, Provincial Council and Local Authority Council
EDay Date : July or August 2023*

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO), a basket fund project managed by UNDP, 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.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

On 26 March 2022, Zimbabwe conducted by-elections for 28 vacant National Assembly seats and 122 vacant local Councilor positions. After the campaign period, the polling, counting and result aggregation took place largely peacefully and to date, none of the results have been contested.



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PROJECT ACTIVITIES

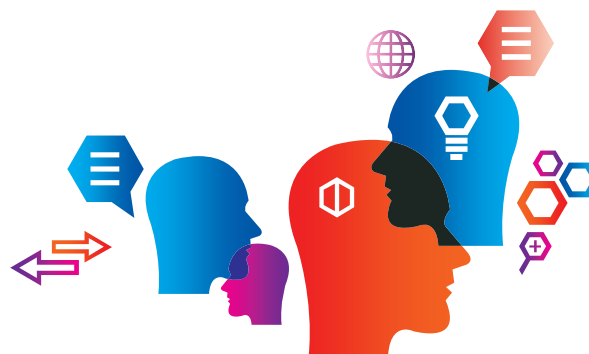
The month of March was dominated by the many by-elections that ZEC conducted. The main project contribution to these was its continued support to voter education, primarily in the form of sponsoring weekly radio programmes on two national and five regional stations, which are estimated to reach 80 percent of Zimbabwe's radio audience. The programmes include questions and answer sessions and responded to voter concerns as well as allegations against ZEC in relation to the voters' roll. They also explained the polling and counting processes, electoral observation as well as COVID-19 measures.

Apart from these, the project supported preparations for the next electoral operation, mobile voter registration in April. Again, much of the focus is on voter education. In the first phase, which was held in February 2022, ZEC was criticized for not providing sufficient voter education. In response to this, ZIM-ECO is supporting ZEC to reactivate its call centre allowing the public to obtain answers to its questions through a free-phone number.

The project is also assisting ZEC to translate its voter education materials into the full range of Zimbabwe's 16 official languages, including sign language, and to produce a larger num-

ber of voter education materials, for use of ZEC as well as civil society organizations.

Looking even further ahead, ZEC is to conduct electoral boundary delimitation from September to December 2022, once the report of the April 2022 population census is conducted. In preparation to the electoral circumscriptions delimitations, the Zec conducted a population census exercises and has requested support from the project in provision GIS software licenses and plotters to enable maps production.



PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

The month of April will be the final month of the project's implementation under the current EU delegation agreement.

ZEC will conduct the second phase of its mobile registration exercise from 11 to 30 April. The project will continue to support voter education around this operation through radio, material production and other means and wrap up the ongoing procurement processes.

ZIM-ECO also plans to support a review of the 26 March by-elections in view of identifying and ultimately supporting im-

provements to the process that can be implemented in time for the 2023 harmonized elections.

