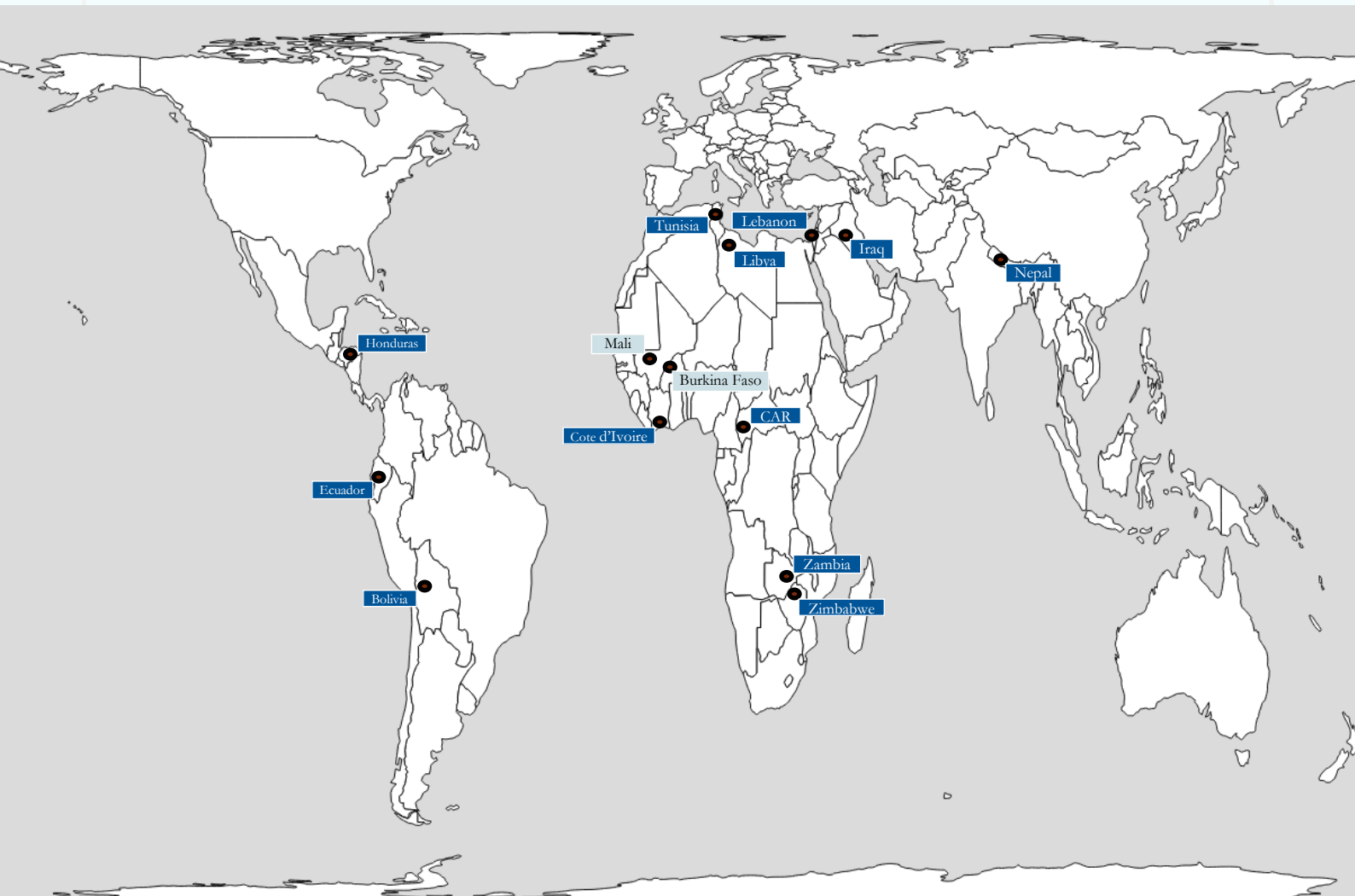


# Monthly Projects Report

## April 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
<b>Bolivia</b>	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
<b>Burkina Faso*</b>	Projet d'Appui aux Processus Électoraux du Burkina Faso (2019-2021)	2020/419-030	€ 9.000.000,00	1/06/2020	31/05/2022
<b>Central African Republic</b>	Projet d'appui au processus électoral en République Centrafricaine (PAPEC)	2020/415-560	€ 14.750.000,00	5/09/2019	4/09/2022
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	Projet d'appui aux élections en Côte d'Ivoire (PACE)	FED/2020/417-796	€ 1.000.000,00	1/07/2020	31/01/2022
<b>Ecuador</b>	Apoyo al Ciclo Electoral en Ecuador	LA/2020/420-147	€ 400.000,00	1/12/2020	30/11/2022
<b>Honduras</b>	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
<b>Iraq**</b>	Support to Iraq's Electoral Process	ICSP/2021/424-122	€ 5.510.101,84	9/04/2021	8/10/2022
<b>Lebanon</b>	Support to Electoral Reform and Democratic Participation in Lebanon	ENI/2019/431-399	€ 3.000.000,00	1/01/2020	31/12/2023
<b>Libya</b>	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5.000.000,00	1/05/2018	28/02/2022
<b>Mali*</b>	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
<b>Nepal</b>	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
<b>Tunisia**</b>	Soutien au processus electoral	ENI/2019/405-945	€ 2.000.000,00	1/07/2019	31/12/2022
<b>Zambia</b>	Democracy Strenghtening in Zambia	FED/2020/418-076	€ 6.000.000,00	15/08/2020	31/12/2022
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	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.



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# ECUADOR

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## Apoyo al Ciclo Electoral en Ecuador



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

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

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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.



Unión Europea



PNUD



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

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On February 5<sup>th</sup> the National Electoral Council (CNE), after approving the calendar and dates, announced that the local elections will take place on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 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).

In the reporting period the project has continued working in several activities to accomplish the main outputs, strengthening of electoral results management, supporting the development of a comprehensive communication strategy for the CNE to minimize the impact of disinformation and promoting gender equity. On the other hand, this project also include a specialized support for improving institutional strategic planning.

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## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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During the reporting period the project has continued accompany CNE's campaign "Sin ti no hay democracia" in Quito, encouraging young people and women's political participation. 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. Linked to this campaign, the project is also participating and supporting the School of Political Training for Women; this initiative is led by the CNE and "Haciendo Ecuador" Foundation with the support of UNDP, UN Women and Hanns Seidel Foundation. The school is training 200 political women and female candidates around the country in set of topics to promote gender equity and to fight gender-based political violence. The school uses virtual platforms as the main learning modality combined with face to face workshops in several provinces once a month.

To improve the communication strategy, the project had organized an event with CNE, UNESCO, UN Women and NDI

to launch a recommendations and conclusions document of "The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and fake news in electoral processes". The event counted with several workshops for political organizations, different communications media and electoral officials that were facilitated by an expert on political communication. The event ended with the launching of the document with the attendance of the diplomatic corps stationed in the country, journalist, members of the electoral function, political and civil organizations, among others.

On the other hand, the project is participating on a "working table" coordinated by the CNE with other international organization such as IFES, IIDH – CAPPEL and OAS that seeks the strengthening of electoral results management by providing specialized assistance on cybersecurity, results management among others.

The project is also assisting the TCE with technical support to improve institutional strategic plans by setting up an online IT platform to design the planning.

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## PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

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For the next reporting period the project is going to continue accompanying the several gender activities promoting by the electoral bodies and participating in the electoral results management working group. Also, the project will support the electoral processes area of the CNE, responsible for the training of the members of the voting board to improve the capacitation methodology that CNE's electoral process department uses to train the members of voting boards, electoral staff, international observers, among others.

On the other hand, the project will organize a workshop and several encounters with an expert on monitoring the

electoral expenditure of political organizations. The purpose of the activity is to help the National Electoral Council assess the implementation of the new rules for monitoring the expenditure of political organizations, approved in 2020.





# 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.

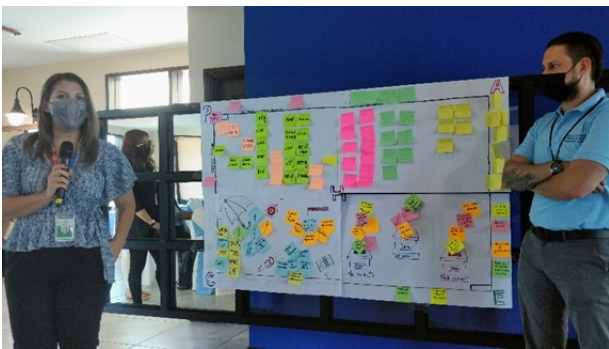


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# PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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During the month of April PACE-H continued providing technical expertise to the three main EMBs (the National Electoral Council - CNE, the Electoral Justice Tribunal - TJE and the office in charge of political party/candidate oversight - UFTF) to consolidate all the findings gathered from the lessons learned exercises that took place during the month of Marc. These lessons learned exercises comprised questionnaires and workshops, both using UNDP's established Electoral Cycle methodology to identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement. An additional exercise took place internally with the PACEH team together with the Electoral PBF team to analyze best practices of the electoral assistance activities to date and incorporate it



into future work with EMBs and other stakeholders.

One of the main findings is that there are many opportunities to be harnessed in this phase of the electoral cycle. Namely, for activities with civil society organizations to promote participation and inclusion of underrepresented groups, as well as with key state institutions that have new technical teams since the inauguration of the new government. New priority areas were identified and the strategic partnership between UNDP and the European Union was highlighted as a key condition for the success of any future work, particularly in regards to improving inclusion, gender equality and transparency of electoral processes.

In April the project also started working with the newly formed planning unit of the National Electoral Council (CNE) to provide strategic advice and support in the comprehensive restructuring of this institution that is planned for this year and for which the National Congress has approved additional funding.

One of the areas that are starting to be restructured within the National Electoral Council (CNE) is inclusion and gender,

and to that end the project has been supporting the newly established gender unit with three consultants that are advising the board on a new strategic plan for the unit that will now be working autonomously. The project additionally supported this initiative with an intensive training workshop on the electoral legal framework regarding gender equality which was facilitated by the gender specialists from UNDP's country office.

Within the goals of the project to promote a culture of accountability and transparency in electoral processes, and within the continued technical support to the office in charge of political party/candidate oversight (UFTF), an outreach event was organized for political party representatives. This was part of ongoing efforts to socialize the use of the online platform for campaign fund reporting that has been developed through UNDP's expertise and technical support, as well as to emphasize their obligation to report their expenses and in the process actively promote transparent and legitimate electoral processes in Honduras. Moreover, brochures with instructions on how to use this online platform were printed by the project and will be distributed during field visits in the first half of May.

A priority for the project this year is to promote the inclusion of all demographic groups in electoral processes and in the national political agenda, and to that end new funding from the Spanish Cooperation Agency - AECID has been added to the main funding from the European Union.

Keeping that aim in sight, and continuing the relationship established with various civil society organizations focused on empowering the Honduran youth, the project supported the launch of a network currently comprising nearly 60 youth organizations from around the country (and growing). The project will continue supporting this strategic partnership and its upcoming plans to influence the political agenda regarding youth.



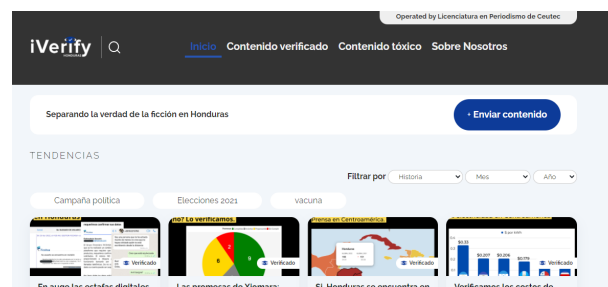
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# PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

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Continuing with the technical expertise and support provided to the office in charge of political party/candidate oversight - UTF, the project is supporting a series of field visits around the country by mobile technical teams to from the UTF. This is aimed at promoting and facilitating the use of the online platform for campaign fund reporting that was developed with a specialized software development company through the leadership and support of UNDP, through PBF and other funds. Furthermore, the role of political parties in promoting a culture of accountability and transparency in elections will be emphasized during these visits. The current deadline for expense report submissions is the 16<sup>th</sup> of May.

The iVerify platform from the EC-UNDP JTF will be presented at an event for the International Day of Freedom of the Press which will include a showcase of initiatives fighting disinformation and promoting responsible journalism.





# 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.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

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From 12–19 April, the Special Advisor on Libya to the UN Secretary-General (SASG), Stephanie Williams facilitated a meeting between delegates of the House of Representatives (HOR) and High Council of State (HCS). Hosted by Egypt, parties discussed constitutional basis for elections and modalities for implementation of Amendment 12 of the Referendum Law.

On 19 April, Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah visited the High National Election Commission (HNEC) Headquarters in Tripoli. He encouraged the Commission move forward in its work, including maintaining its readiness to conduct parliamen-

tary elections once the legal framework has been amended; and confirmed government support to the HNEC, including budget for elections.

On 20 April, HNEC Chair, Dr. Emad Al Sayeh met with the SASG in Tunis to discuss the outcome of the meeting between HOR and HCS in Cairo, HNEC's readiness to organize referendum and/or elections, and technical challenges related to the current legal framework.

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## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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Following up on the Lessons Learned on electoral operations held at the HNEC last month, reports are being submitted to the Chair and Board of Commissioners for discussion and will ultimately be reflected in strategic and action plans. Key elements to consider include streamlining of communication and coordination between field offices and headquarters, and reconciliation of a fluid electoral timeline with field operational planning and implementation.

Broader inter-agency discussions on guidelines for addressing misinformation and hate speech continue. Meanwhile, the HNEC has been approached by the newly established General Authority for Monitoring of Media Content (GAMMC) to explore opportunities for cooperation on the issue of misinformation.



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## PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

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As a component of HNEC's gender inclusivity plan and the next step toward regular and quantifiable monitoring of online hate speech targeting Libyan women, UNDP/PEPOL and the UNDP Regional Bureau of Arab States (RBAS) will host HNEC at a workshop (Istanbul, 7–8 May) to learn from workshop will draw from similar approaches employed by other regional commissions.

The workshop will engage Commissioners and staff of HNEC Women's Support, Public Outreach and IT departments, identify goals and elaborate initial parameters for a pilot data collection exercise. Ultimately, systemic data monitoring and analysis will equip the Commission to better understand the source, nature and impact of hate speech on women's partici-

pation in public life and decision-making – and thereby provide more effective support.

The project is also supporting the HNEC to prepare for the holding of a press ceremony, marking the 6th anniversary of its Women's Support Unit on 16 May. Notably, HNEC is the first Commission in the region to have established such a unit. It will also launch a national postage stamp to commemorate the event and promote gender-inclusive elections, intended to be the first in a series of stamps to be released on an annual basis.



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# MALI

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## 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*

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## 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.



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

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The disagreement between ECOWAS and the Malian Authorities persists over the duration of the extension of the transition.

Consequently, it has been suggested by some donors to the Basket-fund of the PAREM to have their contributions to the Project basket fund frozen.



The Transition Authorities' proposition of a 24-month timetable would include 12 months to restore security in Mali, as well as demobilization, administrative reorganization, and the return of the refugees, while the 12 following months would be devoted to the elections preparation. However, to date, no electoral timetable with specific stages is available.

A new electoral law should be adopted by the National Transitional Council, which acts as a parliament in Mali, by the end of June. The adoption of this law will constitute the starting point of the process of reform of the Malian electoral system. Especially, the establishment of a single Election Management Body, which seems to be a priority for the current authorities, should be one of the main outcomes of this new electoral law.

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## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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In addition to the technical advice to elections officials and follow-up of ongoing activities initiated in 2021, the Project works on the planification of activities funded by the UN Peace building fund on conflict prevention and mitigation during elections.

The PAREM monitors the political and electoral situation developments. A new electoral law is due to be examined during the ongoing session of the National Transitional Council, which started on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April and will last 90 days. This new electoral law plans to switch from the current system with three Election Management Bodies to a single Election Management Body.



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## PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

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The PAREM plans to organize an activity with medias focused on conflict prevention, funded by the UN Peace building fund.

Furthermore, the PAREM partnership with civil society organizations will resume to carry out sensitization activities on conflict prevention.

Moreover, as soon as the establishment of the new Election Management Body will be formalized through the adoption of the new electoral law, it will be paramount to support its operationalization. During the opening of the National Transitional Council session, the Prime Minister, Choguel K.

MAIGA, explained he expects that the new single Election Management Body will be operational 8 months after the adoption of the electoral law. Thus, in a quite short time, this new body will need to acquire the means, both material and human, to conduct the transition exit polls operations effectively and professionally. The PAREM plans to help the Malian authorities in defining the needs of this new single Election Management Body. It will also support the training of its new staff, both on the central and local level.



# 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.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

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From 11 to 30 April 2022, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission conducted the second phase of the mobile voter registration drive and registered around 110,000 new voters.

Apart from the 2023 general elections, voter registration is important because the number of registered voters will form the basis for electoral boundary delimitation, which is to be conducted in the later part of 2022.

Zimbabwe also conducted the enumeration of its 10-year population census from 21 to 30 April 2022.



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## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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In the month of April, ZIM-ECO project work continued to be dominated by voter education, this time primarily for the mobile voter registration drive. The project supported the printing of 1.2 million pieces of voter information materials in 13 languages and continued to support weekly ZEC radio programmes on two national and five regional radio stations. The project also funded the replacement of the PBX system and update of the software in the ZEC call centre, so that it can be used in the voter roll inspection, boundary delimitation and 2023 election processes to respond to questions from voter by phone.

On 22 April, with ZIM-ECO support, ZEC launched its first engagement with Zimbabwean social media actors. In the one-day event, ZEC gave presentations on the legal framework that governs the electoral process and its mandate. ZEC also conducted demonstrations of voter registration and polling. This helped clear up some misconceptions around ZEC responsibilities and the way that ZEC works. Social media actors called for ZEC to have such engagements and trainings on a regular basis, to expand its presence on social media, to invest a larger share of its outreach budget in social media content and to be responsive to questions raised in the social media space.

The project also supported a ZEC internal review of the 26 March 2022 by-elections and the first and early second phase of mobile voter registration. The review was conducted in the last week of April and aimed to identify areas for improvement in those processes with a focus on operations and training. Polling staff training, the filling of result forms, the ZEC COVID-19 policy and some logistics issues were areas in which ZEC will seek to make changes. The lessons will also inform public outreach and voter education.

The project also completed its Phase I technical support to the ZEC voter registration systems. The work to secure the power supply to the ZEC data centre, which houses the voter register, was completed, and the project supported ZEC in buying 100,000 automatic fingerprint identification system licenses, primarily for ZEC to be ready for this process should additional licenses be required.

UNDP delivered a video camera to ZEC so that the ZEC Public Relations and Voter Education departments can produce video materials of suitable quality for television broadcasts and completed the procurement of three ArcGIS licenses for mapping the registered voters into new constituencies as well as the purchase of three plotters to print the corresponding maps.



Ms. Simbisai Mutimba, ZEC Senior Procurement Officer, with a sheet of the final batch of 1.2M voter education materials produced to encourage voters to register.

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## PLANS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

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The implementation period of the current EU delegation agreement ended on 30 April 2022. ZIM-ECO will now conduct the closure of that agreement and preparations for the second phase of the project.