

EC-UNDP

1 - 31 January, 2019

# Electoral Assistance Projects Update

This report provides an overview of all active EU funded and UNDP implemented electoral assistance projects.



# NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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A three-day workshop organised in Honiara (23-25 January) continued to build knowledge of civil society organisations (CSOs) partners on voter awareness related issues. The workshop was attended by 23 participants (12 women) from 8 CSOs.

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

To promote youth participation and make the election process more inclusive, a program is being developed to establish partnerships between the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) and universities. These partnerships will be a joint effort by ZEC and universities towards improved and increased participation

## ZIMBABWE

The project is spearheading design of a project document for a broader deepening democracy programme. This programme will address key governance and democracy issues, including access to justice, security, capacity building of electoral institutions and civic engagement through the media and civil society organisations.

## KENYA

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## SUMMARY

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**GUINEA BISSAU:** The National Electoral Commission (CNE) received materials for the upcoming legislative and presidential elections. - The Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) printed provisional voter's lists for display during claims period. - CNE delivered a two-day Training of Trainers for civic animators in Bissau and training of over 1,000 civic animators in the regions. - CNE conducted a 3-day Training of Trainers for polling staff.

**KENYA:** The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) finalised its post-election evaluation. The post-election evaluation was supported by the SEPK project, amongst other partners. - The project completed engagement of a consulting firm to undertake evaluation of the project. - The project is spearheading design of a project document for a broader deepening democracy programme. This programme will address key governance and democracy issues, including access to justice, security, capacity building of electoral institutions and civic engagement through the media and civil society organisations.

**LIBERIA:** The Elections project is continuing its post-elections activities which are geared toward institutional capacity building and electoral reform, amongst other activities. A number of proposed activities under various outputs are expected to kick-off under the 2019 work plan in support of several key initiatives. Nevertheless, not many activities were rolled out during the reporting period as the work plan is yet to be approved officially by the Election Project Board. Meanwhile, preparations are in progress to jumpstart implementation in the coming month once the work plan is approved. Consultative and review meetings with donors and partners have at the same time taken place to conduct a dry run of the 2019 work plan.

**LIBYA:** Training of Trainers (ToT) for staff of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) is underway in view of the referendum, despite the fact that full-scale implementation of the referendum process is yet to be officially launched. The project finalised and submitted the 2019 Annual Work Plan (AWP) and budget to the HNEC for review, ahead of the Project Board meeting provisionally scheduled for early March 2019. - Works at the HNEC new Headquarters (HQ) are progressing well and the new date for the relocation of the Commission in Building 1 has been set to 18 February.

**MADAGASCAR:** The newly elected President of the Republic, Andry Rajoelina, was sworn in on 19 January 2019. - The calendar of activities for the post-presidential and the legislative elections, proposed by the CENI, has been adopted by the Government. The legislative elections will take place on 27 May 2019.

The operations for the Annual Review of the Electoral List are continuing, for the first phase of data collection, until 15 February 2019. The project will provide the CENI with technical and material support and will support the development of a pilot operation for the reliability of the data included in the electoral register.

**NEPAL:** The Electoral Support Project (ESP) planned and prepared its work for 2019.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS:** Operational support focused on quality assurance of final voters' lists and capacity development of electoral officials. - The project has initiated a second collaboration with Solrice to distribute 110,000 voter awareness booklets throughout Solomon Islands. - A three-day workshop was organised in Honiara and attended by 8 civil society organisations (CSOs) on voter awareness related issues.

**SOMALIA:** An electoral information sharing meeting with international partners and international electoral assistance providers has been organised on 23 January. - The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) has opened its first field office in Garowe, Puntland. - On 28 January, the NIEC conducted by-election in Baidoa for a vacant seat in Federal House of the People.

**ZIMBABWE:** ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and institutional strengthening areas of election operations including planning, review processes, knowledge management, polling process, Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), training requirements in pre-election, election and post-election period, voter education, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, inclusivity and election dispute resolution. An Electoral Cycle approach has been adopted by the project to ensure that issues and recommendations from one election cycle can be addressed in the next one (2018-2023).

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# ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Title	Reference	EU Contribution	Start Date	End Date
<b>Afghanistan</b>	UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP)	DCI-ASIE/2015/368-884	€ 15,500,000.00	29.12.15	31.12.19
<b>Guinea Bissau</b>	Support to Electoral Cycle in Guinea-Bissau 2018-2019	EDF 2018/401-213	€ 2,500,000.00	15.10.18	15.01.20
<b>Kenya</b>	Strengthening of the Electoral Processes in Kenya Project (SEPK)	FED/2016/372/463	€ 5,000,000.00	13.02.16	12.02.19
<b>Lebanon</b>	EU 2018-2020 Electoral Support to Lebanon	ENI/2018/395-460	€ 2,750,000.00	01.01.18	31.12.19
<b>Liberia</b>	Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/367-723	€ 10,000,000.00	01.06.15	31.05.19
<b>Madagascar</b>	Soutien au Cycle Electoral à Madagascar (SACEM)	FED/2018/398-673	€ 1,500,000.00	04.07.18	31.08.19
<b>Malawi</b>	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	2017/389-162	€ 2,500,000.00	11.10.17	10.04.20
<b>Nepal</b>	Electoral Support Project-Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development Support for the Election Commission of Nepal (ESP)	DCI-ASIE/2012/305-833	€ 10,050,000.00	12.01.12	28.12.19
<b>Libya</b>	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5,000,000.00	01.11.17	01.11.20
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Support to the National Electoral Commission (SNEC)	FED/2017/390-345	€ 3,000,000.00	08.08.17	07.02.19
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP)	<b>FED/2013/328-922</b>	€ 3,500,000.00	01.07.13	27.08.19
<b>Somalia</b>	Joint Programme for Support to the Electoral Process in the Federal Republic of Somalia	FED/2015/366-291 FED/2015/360-953	€ 5,193,878.00	21.11.15	31.12.19
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	30.08.20



## GUINEA BISSAU

# SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL CYCLE 2018-2019

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Electoral Commission (CNE) received materials for the upcoming legislative and presidential elections.
- The Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) printed provisional voter's lists for display during claims period.
- CNE delivered a 2-day Training of Trainers for civic animators in Bissau and training of over 1,000 civic animators in the regions.
- CNE conducted a 3-day Training of Trainers for polling staff.

## I. Project activities during the reporting period

UN Electoral Assistance to the electoral management bodies in Guinea-Bissau – the National Electoral Commission (CNE), and the Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) – is being provided through the UN Integrated Electoral Support Unit (IESU), comprising staff of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGIBIS) and UNDP.

On 10 January, UNDP held an official ceremony at the CNE warehouse to handover materials for the upcoming legislative and presidential elections. During the ceremony, UNDP's Resident Representative, Mr. Gabriel Dava, handed over ballot boxes and seals, indelible ink and other consumables, polling booths etc. to the President of the CNE.

On 18 January, the President of the CNE, Mr. Jose Pedro Sambu and UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), Mr. José Viegas Filho co-chaired the meeting of the High-level Steering Committee on Elections at UNIOGIBIS. The Minister of Territorial Administration, the Director of GTAPE, as well as the Ambassadors of ECOWAS, African Union, European Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Senegal, Guinea, Nigeria, Angola, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Germany and Brazil, attended the meeting.

The IESU Chief Technical Advisor, speaking on behalf of the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, provided an update of the status of resource mobilisation for the electoral multi-donor basket fund, and urged development partners who have signed contribution agreements to complete their funds transfers as soon as possible to avoid adversely affecting electoral operations.

From 14 to 17 January, the CNE carried out the civic animators training of trainers in Bissau, for the civic education campaign which will have as slogan “Voto é bo decisão” (Vote is your decision). Then, over 1,000 civic animators were trained across the country at the regional level on the 25-26 and 27 January. The training followed the “Guia Prático para as Eleições Legislativas 2019” created by the CNE with the support of UNDP and other donors. The civic animators are expected to start their activities on 7 February.

On 23 January, GTAPE issued a press statement announcing that 733,081 voters had been registered and that the lists would be displayed for two weeks until 7 February to allow voters to verify their data and request corrections if required. GTAPE completed the printing of the provisional voter’s lists on 24 January. On the same day, the provisional lists were displayed in Bissau. The following day, the lists were to be transported to the regions for display during the claims period however the posting of the lists and the establishment of the claims centres was delayed due to late finalisation of logistic arrangements and workers protests for late payments.

The IESU Chief Technical Adviser and the Electoral Field Coordinator conducted field trips to 6 regions of Guinea Bissau to assess the integration of Regional Electoral Advisers (REAs) in the Regional Electoral Commissions (CREs) and to conduct meeting with CREs’ Presidents and staff regarding preparations for the election, discuss their main concerns and ways in which additional UNDP assistance may be provided. During the reporting period, the REAs have been working closely with CRE President and delegates in the mapping and location of polling stations and in the recruitment of civic animators and polling staff. Additionally, REAs have also been cooperating with GTAPE and CREs in detecting errors and omissions on the provisional voter’s lists and its correction. IESU also supported the CNE and directly the CREs in creating election day movement plans.

During the reporting period, UNDP provided financial support to GTAPE for its voter awareness campaign to inform the voter’s on where GTAPE mobile brigades will be located for verification of their names on the voter’s lists. Further support was provided to GTAPE logistics for the movement of the mobile brigades in each constituency. Financial support was also provided to CNE for the procurement of polling station kits from local suppliers.

## II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the following reporting period include:

- Support to the training of polling staff in the regions;
- Support to the civic animation campaign;
- Support to the publishing of final voter’s lists;
- Distribution of non-sensitive electoral materials to the regions mid-February

**For more information on the Support to the Electoral Cycle 2018-2019 project in Guinea Bissau, please contact Mr. Deryck Fritz, [deryck.fritz@un.org](mailto:deryck.fritz@un.org).**



# STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN KENYA (SEPK)

The UNDP Electoral Assistance Project in Kenya (SEPK) provides technical assistance to the Kenyan Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and other stakeholders to support credible and peaceful electoral process. The project started in February 2016 and focuses on strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the electoral process, increasing electoral participation with specific attention being paid to youth, women, and disable people, and consolidating electoral justice and dispute resolution mechanisms to increase compliance with electoral framework.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) finalised its post-election evaluation. The post-election evaluation was supported by the SEPK project, amongst other partners.
- The project completed engagement of a consulting firm to undertake evaluation of the project.
- The project is spearheading design of a project document for a broader deepening democracy programme. This programme will address key governance and democracy issues, including access to justice, security, capacity building of electoral institutions and civic engagement through the media and civil society organisations.

## I. Project activities during the reporting period

**The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) finalised its post-election evaluation.** The post-election evaluation was supported by the SEPK project, amongst other partners. Key recommendations in the post-election evaluation report include:

- a. Legal reforms and amendments of electoral laws should be completed at least two years before the elections to allow adequate time for implementation. This recommendation is line with that made in the Independent Review Commission<sup>1</sup> [report](#).
- b. Extend the deadline for determination of presidential petitions from the present 14 days to allow a more realistic time for the preparation of cases, serve interested parties and for the judges to admit and analyse all submissions including factoring in the possibility of an order for vote scrutiny or recount.
- c. Considering the Kenyan electoral cycle is five years, ideally Commissioners should be appointed to be in office for the duration of an entire electoral cycle. Where not possible, they should be appointed at least two years to the General Election date.
- d. Staggering of appointment of IEBC Commissioners so that the term of the entire Commission does

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Independent Review Commission on the General Elections held in Kenya on 27 December 2007

not end on the same date. This would ensure continuity and institutional memory.

- e. Operationalise the IEBC fund as provided in Section 18 of the IEBC Act, 2011. This will ensure adequate resourcing of the commission to undertake preparatory activities way before the General Election.
- f. To ensure that all eligible Kenyans are registered as voters, there is need for integration of the national citizen registration database with the register of voters.
- g. Update the compendium of credible voter education providers throughout the country based on appropriate criteria for their selection and build their capacities to provide quality voter education.
- h. There is need to intensify voter registration targeting youth, women, pastoralists, people living in informal settlements and other marginalised groups. This voter education should commence early enough for a critical mass of these groups to be reached.
- i. Adoption of new technologies should be at least one year before date of an election to facilitate for testing, simulation and public education.

**End term evaluation of the project.** The project completed engagement of a consulting firm to undertake evaluation of SEPK. The end term evaluation is designed as an independent evaluation and will draw valuable lessons to inform future UNDP and UN programming on elections.

**Evaluation of donor support to 2017 elections.** The donor group on elections (DGE) commissioned an evaluation of its support to the 2017 General Election and Fresh Presidential Election. The initial report was developed and submitted to DGE members for review. The findings of this evaluation will inform DGE programming and funding towards 2022 General Elections.

**Finalisation of the IEBC post-election evaluation report.** The IEBC post-election evaluation report was finalised and approved by the IEBC plenary. The post-election evaluation was mainly supported by SEPK, amongst other partners.

**Implementation of 2019 priorities.** The project held bilateral engagements with various project implementing partners to commence implementation of 2019 activities as captured in the 2018/19 workplan.

**Preparation of SEPK successor project.** The project is spearheading design of a project document for a broader deepening democracy programme. This programme will address key governance and democracy issues, including access to justice, security, capacity building of electoral institutions and civic engagement through the media and civil society organisations. By so doing, the programme is expected to lay a firm foundation for the 2022 elections. The programme will be implemented by UN Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) under the leadership of UNDP.

## II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the following reporting period include:

- Launch of the IEBC post-election evaluation report.
- Dissemination of the post-election evaluation report.
- SEPK end-term evaluation.
- Evaluation of project support to the Electoral Security Arrangement Programme.
- Finalisation of the IEBC Gender and Inclusion Policy.

**For more information on the project on Strengthening the Electoral Process in Kenya, please contact Mr. James Wagala, [james.wagala@undp.org](mailto:james.wagala@undp.org).**



LIBERIA

Election Project/UNDP Liberia

## SUPPORT TO THE 2015 – 2018 LIBERIAN ELECTORAL CYCLE

Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle project was established in order to strengthen the capacity of the National Election Commission (NEC) to successfully carry out electoral process within the 2015-2018 electoral cycle. Among other objectives, it introduced modern administrative systems and procedures, enhanced communications and public outreach, supported voter registration and election results management process. In addition, the project seeks to enhance the participation of women in the elections and in political activities, support civic and voter education and strengthen NEC's capacity to engage with the stakeholders and resolve electoral disputes. The project is supported by the European Union (10.85 million USD), Sweden (2,757,039 USD), UNDP (1 million USD), Canada (749,625 USD) and Ireland (568,828 USD).

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The elections project is continuing its post-elections activities which are geared toward institutional capacity building and electoral reform, amongst other activities. A number of proposed activities under various outputs are expected to kick-off under the 2019 work plan in support of several key initiatives.
- Preparations are in progress to jumpstart implementation in the coming month once the work plan is approved. Consultative and review meetings with donors and partners have at the same time taken place to conduct a dry run of the 2019 work plan.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

Activities implemented during the month of January include the training of National Elections Commission (NEC) staff in preparation for the rollout of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) online platform, the arrival of some warehouse safety materials, preparations for two upcoming trainings on legal/ hearing or electoral dispute resolution and logistic and asset management training.

The full implementation of the ERP administrative online platform is about to be launched. This launch will mark a critical milestone achievement in the drive to computerize administrative processes in the Commission. During the reporting period, a consultant from Techno Brain, the IT Firm contracted to establish and rollout the ERP system software, launched training courses across departments in the Commission. Training materials and the manual to be used were finalised and approved by the NEC Board of Commissioners in January 2019, while the rollout of the training began on 28 January 2019 and is scheduled to run for 5 weeks up to 5 March 2019. The ongoing, on-the-job training is targeting teams across Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Assets/Warehousing etc. and will cover topics of payroll, assets, inventory & warehouse management, and NEC system administrators. The training on finance will focus mainly on budgeting, accounts payable functions, bank reconciliations and financial reporting.

Securing of electoral materials and other assets of the Commission by improving warehousing remains a high priority for the project in the current year. During the reporting period, bid documents were finalised, pending approval by the NEC Board of Commissioners. Meanwhile the NEC has made additional request for the fencing of all magisterial offices including warehouses in an effort to increase security. This request is being considered by the project pending an endorsement by the project Board. At the same time, efforts have been exerted by NEC to contact the requisite line ministries or agencies of government at national and local levels to establish the dimensions of land areas of all magisterial offices to inform a technical drawing and specification for the amendment of the current bid documents. Still on warehouse improvement, a number of safety materials including fire extinguishers, hand pallet jack, wireless dome IP camera, high visibility wear, safety goggles, safety mask, rain suits and industrial fire extinguishers were procured and delivered in the month of January. These items together with a number of other essential materials include a modern 3-ton forklift are expected to be delivered soon. The items when turned over to the Commission will increase safety measures and improved warehousing across magisterial offices and the HQ warehouse.

Logistics and asset management training was finalised in January and the training is slated to convene in Grand Bassa County from 18-20 February. Participants are expected to include logistical officers from all magisterial offices and HQ, regional coordinators, operations staff etc. Topics to be covered will include warehousing, asset management and supply chain. The purpose of the training is to create a concept of having a common knowledge on asset management with respect to building interlinkages amongst procurement, logistics and warehouse within framework of the ERP system.

Similarly, preparation for the training of magistrates and hearing officer in electoral complaint adjudication and hearing procedures was concluded in the month of January and full rollout is scheduled for February 2019.

The upcoming hearing and legal training being spearheaded by the project is in response to the many legal challenges experienced by magistrates during pre and post-elections complaint adjudications. The 5-day training for all 19 magistrates will enable them to conduct hearings under their jurisdiction according to the hearing regulations and the new case law which pointed out several weaknesses in NEC dispute resolution process.

The NEC electoral reform technical working group approved the final version of the proposed draft election law amendments to be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for consideration and final approval.

## II. Plans for the next period

- Approval of the election law amendments by the Board of Commissioners;
- A 5-day training for elections magistrates on Electoral Dispute Resolution;
- Launch of all tender bids for warehouses renovation and constructions;
- Arrival of international purchased materials including forklift, stairs, first aid kits and others;
- Initial assessment of Techno Brain consultant on NEC assets management system;
- Rollout of Asset Management Training and ERP Warehouse Module.

**For more information on the support to the Liberia electoral cycle, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. George Baratashvili, [george.baratashvili@undp.org](mailto:george.baratashvili@undp.org) and visit the [Project's website](#).**



LIBYA

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 processes;
3. Promote public participation in (the) electoral processes targeting vulnerable groups; and
4. Raising the electoral awareness of local partners and stakeholders.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Training of Trainers (ToT) for staff of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) is underway in view of the Referendum polls, despite the fact that full-scale implementation of the referendum process is yet to be officially launched.
- The project finalised and submitted the 2019 Annual Work Plan (AWP) and budget to the HNEC for review, ahead of the Project Board meeting provisionally scheduled for early March 2019.
- Civil works at the HNEC new Headquarters (HQ) are progressing well and the new date for the relocation of the Commission in Building 1 has been set to 18 February. The first departments to move in will be the Board of Commissioners and the Administration department. This is the first stage of the relocation phase that will be completed upon delivery of Buildings 2 and 3 to the Commission by the project. Construction and refurbishment of the latter buildings is fully funded by the project.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project continued to support the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) with the rehabilitation of their new headquarter (HQ) in Sidi-Al-Masri and published a new tender for the supply and installation of

security materials for the HNEC's access control gate on 31 January. This concerns procurement of materials such as a baggage X-ray scanner, a walk-through scanner, security mirrors and metal detectors.

The last tenders for the landscaping of the new HNEC HQ and for the exterior painting and related items were finalised and the work should commence during February with completion in about two months. A further tender for the IT network installation in buildings 2 and 3 will be announced during February and the work will commence immediately.

The project and the integrated UN Electoral Support Team (UNEST) continued engagement with the UNDP Procurement Support Office (PSO) in Copenhagen, to discuss procurement of polling kits and election ink for the HNEC and for the referendum. The HNEC is yet to decide on when to place the order for the procurement of these items via PSO.

The project commenced with preparations to host three HNEC Training-of-Trainers (ToT) workshops during February and March 2019. About 90 HNEC staff are expected to participate in this three-day training workshops which aim at preparing the Commission to conduct the constitutional referendum hopefully, this year.

## II. Plans for the next period

- Training-of-Trainers in Tripoli on 10-14 and 18-22 February.

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



## MADAGASCAR

CENI Madagascar

# SOUTIEN AU CYCLE ÉLECTORAL DE MADAGASCAR (SACEM)

From 2017 to 2019, the SACEM project intends to support the CENI and other stakeholders in the electoral process in the organisation of credible, inclusive and peaceful elections on the Big Island. It focuses on the reliability and security of the electoral register, the promotion of electoral governance through legal framework reforms, the raising of electoral awareness, the capacity building of electoral agents, the provision of voting material and the rapid and secure transmission of electoral data.

The project, implemented by UNDP, is supported by the European Union, USAID, Norway, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, South Korea, Switzerland, Australia and South Africa.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The newly elected President of the Republic, Andry Rajoelina, was sworn in on 19 January 2019.
- The calendar of activities for the post-presidential and the legislative elections, proposed by the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), has been adopted by the Government. The legislative elections will take place on 27 May 2019.
- The operations for the Annual Review of the Electoral List are continuing, for the first phase of data collection, until 15 February 2019. The project will provide the CENI with technical and material support and will support the development of a pilot operation for the reliability of the data included in the electoral register.

## I. Project activities during the reporting period

**Swearing in of the new President and nomination of the Government.** The new President of the Republic of Madagascar, Andry Rajoelina, was sworn in on 19 January 2019. The decree appointing members of the Government has been issued a few days later, on 21 January 2019.

**2019 calendar of operations.** The CENI has submitted a proposed schedule for the legislative elections, adopted in government council. The legislative elections will be held on 27 May 2019. The application period is expected to take place between 26 February and 12 March, while the election campaign will run

from 6 to 25 May. The project has started the coordination work with the CENI for the timely implementation of the activities listed in the workplan.

**Awareness raising of the CENI field offices for the organisation of the legislative.** From 2 to 6 January 2019, the project's Chief Technical Advisor, the President of the CENI Madagascar, its Executive Secretary and an electoral commissioner conducted a mission in the province of Tamatave, aiming to raise the awareness of the CENI field offices about the organisation of the legislative elections and the ongoing Annual Review of the Electoral List (RALE) operation.

**Post-election Steering Committee.** At the first meeting of the Steering Committee following the proclamation of the results of the presidential election on 17 January 2019, the Technical and Financial Partners, the CENI and the Minister of the Interior expressed their gratitude to the SACEM project and to UNDP for their continued support and their active participation in the successful operations. Discussions with the partners continued on this occasion, on the gap reduction of the SACEM project in order to organise timely legislative elections in 2019, on the implementation of post-election activities and the closure of the project.

**The Annual Review of the Electoral List (RALE).** The Annual Review of the Electoral List (RALE) started on 1 December 2018 and its first phase (data collection period) will continue until 15 February 2019. The SACEM project continues to materially and technically support the CENI to foster reliability of the electoral roll.

**Support in the provinces.** The six United Nations Volunteers (UNV) logisticians deployed in the provinces of Madagascar have provided substantial support for the implementation of the Annual Review of the Electoral List activities.

## II. Plans for the next period

**Pilot operation for the RALE.** Following the results of the audits of the electoral file conducted in 2018 and building on the current RALE, the CENI will correct several anomalies to improve the reliability of the electoral register, with the support of the SACEM project. To this end, to verify the effectiveness of the methodological approach to be adopted, a pilot operation will be carried out in a commune of Madagascar. The lessons learned from this operation will lead to a generalization of the operating mode throughout the national territory.

**For more information on the SACEM, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Flavien Misoni, [flavien.misoni@undp.org](mailto:flavien.misoni@undp.org) and visit the project's [website](#).**



## 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 (ESP) planned and prepared its work for 2019.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

Following the 17 December one-year extension of the project to 28 December 2019, in January the small remaining project team was primarily engaged in discussions with the election commission and other partners on the details of support to be provided in 2019.

The discussions helped the Commission with finalising its own plan for gender equality and social inclusion activities, its annual work plan in the field of Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) professional development and to clarify the process of formulating its 2019-2024 strategic plan.

In parallel, the project launched the recruitment of additional staff.

### II. Plans for the next period

In February 2019, the project plans to support launching the consultation process for the election commission's new strategic plan and to conduct three capacity-building workshops on gender equality and

social inclusion for political party and civil society stakeholders (7-8 and 24-25 February). The workshops will target the constituencies most likely to see by-elections in 2019.

**For more information on the Nepal ESP, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Vincent da Cruz, [vincent.dacruz@undp.org](mailto:vincent.dacruz@undp.org), and visit the [project's website](#).**



## SOLOMON ISLANDS

 SECSIP

# STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (SECSIP)

Since 2013, UNDP Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP) has contributed to the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral process. The project supported the successful introduction of a new comprehensive biometric voter registration system which resulted in a more inclusive and reliable voters' roll and continues to provide assistance in terms of its updating and sustainability. The project also supports the review of the electoral legal framework with a view to promote the strengthening of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) and assist to the fulfilment of its mandate. It also strengthens the capacity of the SIEC to advocate for women's political participation and supports the national authorities and civil society organisations in raising awareness of the population regarding voting and civic engagement. SECSIP is generously funded by the European Union, the government of Australia and UNDP.

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Operational support focused on quality assurance of final voters' lists and capacity development of electoral officials.
- Second collaboration with SolRice to distribute 110,000 voter awareness booklets throughout Solomon Islands.
- Workshop with 8 civil society organisations (CSOs) partnering to expand knowledge on voter awareness.

## I. Project activities during the reporting period

### Electoral Operational Support

The project's technical electoral operational advice and the quality assurance mechanisms in place detected a discrepancy between the final number of entries of the voters lists in relation to the upheld objections. Technical support from the project was instrumental to identify and correct the administrative error (misplacement of some objection forms) and subsequently amend the voter lists of West Honiara. The final register of voters for 2019 National General Election contains 359,523 voters (48.5% women) which represents an increase of 25% of the total number of entries compared to 2014 voters. The training of Election Managers and Returning Officers will be conducted into two separate sessions expecting to increase the level of knowledge retention. In the first training, organised from 25 to 28 January in Honiara, the project facilitated two sessions for 70 participants:

a) polling station assessment and allocation of voters to the polling stations; and b) communications and reporting.

The project's Operation Adviser conducted a briefing for the Australian Assessment Team (AAT) on electoral preparations and electoral operations, especially on the contingency planning for transport and communication assets as a major concern to the electoral operations. The AAT, comprised of the representatives of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Defence Force, and the Australian Federal Police, came to support the electoral office.

While the estimated figure of polling stations is 1,140, the final number is expected to be confirmed by 20 February. Ballot boxes and indelible ink were delivered to Honiara, however, there was a need to replace 47 faulty ink bottles and to provide bubble wrap and duct-tape to prevent ink leaking.

Political Parties Commission (PPC) graduates helped to process the registration of two new political parties. They also received a three-day training on the Political Party Integrity Act (PPIA) 2014, Political Party Integrity (PPI) Regulation and Standards 2014 provided by PPC.

### **Reflection workshop for CSOs**



Workshop in Honiara on voter awareness, 23-25 January 2019.

A three-day workshop organised in Honiara (23-25 January) continued to build knowledge of civil society organisations (CSOs) partners on voter awareness related issues. The workshop was attended by 23 participants (12 women) from 8 CSOs. The focus was to review the awareness activities on voter registration during the first grant period and document lessons for updating future interventions. The agenda included discussions on upcoming planned activities which will now be focused on nomination, electoral campaign, polling and electoral offences. To ensure coherence with the communication strategy of the Electoral Office, Senior Voter Awareness Manager facilitated sessions on voter information, electoral materials and trained participants in some of the changes brought by the adoption of the new Electoral Act. Representatives of the new partnering CSOs also attended this workshop.

### **Partnership with Association of People with Disabilities (PWD)**

The project has been working on a proposal to engage the Association of People with Disabilities (PWD) to enhance/facilitate participation, accessibility and confidentiality in the exercise of the right of suffrage by PWD. Two representatives of PWD also attended the reflection workshop. The project is checking the feasibility of conducting a workshop only with the members of the PWD including their provincial members.

### **Second collaboration with SolRice in Voter Awareness**

Building on the first innovative and successful collaboration with SolRice to distribute 110,000 leaflets providing

voter registration information, the project has initiated the second collaboration. This time, SolRice will be helping to distribute 110,000 booklets providing basic voter awareness information on concepts of democracy, parliament, election, role of members of parliament, civil society and media. Like in the previous exercise, the booklet has been inserted by the members of the Association of the PWD and will be distributed through SolRice networks. A press conference is scheduled on 11 February.

### **Support to Women's Political Participation**

The project has engaged a leading facilitator for the upcoming women candidate schools from 25 February to 8 March. A concept note including contents of candidate schools was designed to help administering this event.

The project supported a discussion of Women Support Network on 31 January with 15 aspiring women candidates and women leaders. Commissioner Ms Taesi Sanga chaired the meeting of this network. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) provided a presentation on important electoral information for women candidate. Discussion also included update about women candidate school, resource centres for women leaders, preparation of aspiring women candidates, affiliation with political parties, etc.

### **Voter Education and Awareness**

- The project extended the contracts (cost-extension) of four CSOs (Hearts of Hope, Tefila, Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women, Stages of Change) until the end of June 2019 to conduct face to face awareness activities. A no-cost extension was issued for Church of Melanesia (ACOM) until 30 April 2019. Among three new CSOs, Tawatana Community Conservation Development Association (TCCDA) engaged to conduct awareness activities in East and West Makira Constituencies. Proposals from Ngela Forum Trust Board (NFTB) and Nuo Theatre Trust Board (NTTB) to cover Ngela Constituency and Temotu Pele and Temotu Nende have been endorsed by the CSO Steering Committee.
- Four weekly radio programs, pre-recorded and edited by the project's Media Consultant using project provided recording equipment, aired on Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) this month. These were 15-minute programs aired on every Friday at 5.45 pm.
- The project also contributed in the designing of three brochures on 1) election activities, 2) electoral offences and penalties, and 3) SIEC, and revising the handbook of media code of conduct.
- The project's National Media Consultant helped to prepare and broadcast 2 press releases named respectively 'Final Voters List approved' and 'Candidates must return to constituency to file nominations'.

## **II. Plans for the next period**

- Ongoing operational support to the Electoral Office;
- Roundtable discussion on electoral update and project resource mobilisation;
- Capacity-building of female intending candidates who will be either contesting in the National General Elections (NGEs) and/or Provincial Government Elections (PGEs). The candidate schools will be two 5-day workshops starting from the end of February.
- Visit to the Malaita province: voter media training in Auki, inspection of potential site for Malaita resource centre.
- Press conference on SolRice distribution of voter awareness booklet.
- Market awareness campaign.

**For more information on the SECSIP, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Ms. Olga Rabade, [olga.rabade@undp.org](mailto:olga.rabade@undp.org) and visit the [project's website](#).**



## 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

- An electoral information sharing meeting with international partners and international electoral assistance providers has been organised on 23 January.
- The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) has opened its first field office in Garowe, Puntland.
- On 28 January, the NIEC conducted by-election in Baidoa for a vacant seat in Federal House of the People.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

#### Electoral information sharing meeting

On 23 January, co-chaired by the Ms. Ibrahim Halima, Chairperson of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), Mr. Rai Zenegna, Deputy SRS (Political), the NIEC and the and the UNDP/UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) organised an electoral information sharing meeting with international partners and international electoral assistance providers. The meeting provided a forum for information-sharing and enhanced technical coordination on electoral matters and related activities between the different international actors and the NIEC. Progress and challenges were discussed, including

the NIEC’s ongoing recruitment of field officers, the opening of the NIEC Field Office in Puntland, voter education planning, etc. The NIEC confirmed the support of the Prime Minister to reactivate the Somali Electoral Task Force in charge of planning and securing voter registration and elections, and the ongoing revision of the five-year NIEC Strategic Plan which is to be concluded by end of January. It was reiterated that the finalisation of the Electoral Law is a crucial requirement to plan for voter registration. The NIEC had also visited the headquarters of different newly-established political parties to evaluate their progress following temporary registration.



NIEC-IESG information sharing meeting, 23 January 2019.

### **NIEC opens first field office in Puntland**

The NIEC has opened its first field office in Garowe, Puntland. IESG provided logistical support to the NIEC, including hand-over of assets from the previous 2016 electoral process. The NIEC also visited Baidoa, in South-West State, to explore office modalities for this region. Over the next months, the NIEC plans to open state offices in all the Federal Member States of Somalia. These offices will spearhead the Commission’s electoral operations at state level.

### **By-election**

On 28 January, the NIEC conducted by-election in Baidoa for a vacant seat in Federal House of the People. The by-election was conducted according to the procedures of the ‘2016 clan-based limited franchise electoral process’, with 51 clan-members voting for the two candidates from their respective clan.



Baidoa by-election, 28 January 2019.

## **II. Plans for the next period**

N/A

**For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Filip Warnants, [filip.warnants@undp.org](mailto:filip.warnants@undp.org) and visit the [Project’s website](#).**



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

- ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and institutional strengthening areas of election operations including planning, review processes, knowledge management, polling process, Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), training requirements in pre-election, election and post-election period, voter education, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, inclusivity and election dispute resolution. An electoral cycle approach has been adopted by the project to ensure that issues and recommendations from one election cycle can be addressed in the next one (2018-2023).

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

**Development of Annual Work Plan 2019:** Annual Work Planning process for 2019 was completed indicating the actions and activities to be supported by the UNDP ZIM-ECO project and other ZEC partners including the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA). An integrated approach has been adopted to ensure synergy in programming, avoiding duplication and maximizing technical support from technical assistance partners.

**Comparative analysis of the observer reports:** A detailed comparative analysis of the observer reports has been undertaken to collate the observations and recommendations across areas of legal framework, election administration, election environment, public outreach & stakeholder consultation, inclusivity and media coverage. This analysis has been shared with ZEC and development partners for ensuring that areas of new

programming are developed, and the recommendations are followed up. The Government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Task Force for reviewing and addressing recommendations from observer missions.

**ZEC internal post-election review:** The review processes will continue in 2019 with other stakeholders like political parties and Chapter 12 Commissions and conclude with a Stakeholder Conference to agree on a way forward. UNDP is supporting an important component of the review process for the Commission members, which has been planned for February 2019.

**Longer term capacity development approach:** The feedback and recommendations from the ZEC internal review processes, observers and stakeholders, have identified weaknesses in the training methodology, its implementation and monitoring for the electoral staff. In 2018 harmonized elections ZEC engaged more than 100,000 staff for several important processes including voter registration, voter inspection, voter education, candidate nomination, polling and election management. To address this weakness the BRIDGE training methodology will be used as a longer-term capacity development tool for training and mentoring. The BRIDGE workshops use an activity-based approach that maximizes retention of knowledge and skills learned. In addition, the workshops are designed to promote or reinforce professional confidence, ethics, understanding of principles of best electoral practice, and access to networks of peers. To implement this approach, Training the Facilitator (TtF) will be organised, followed by curriculum development, roll out of the trainings and BRIDGE certification of ZEC facilitators.

**Gender mainstreaming:** UNDP together with UN Women is working on development of a Gender Policy for ZEC, which is planned to be finalised by first quarter of next year. A capacity building approach has been adopted to capacitate ZEC gender focal points and for them to lead the process of development and bring transformational change in attitude towards gender issues. Two workshops have been planned to sensitize the ZEC Commissioners, Senior Management and field operations on gender issues and build their capacity to understand and address issues of gender mainstreaming. These workshops will lead towards development of a gender policy, which will take inputs from other electoral stakeholders.

**Post-Election survey:** A post-election survey is being administered based on a qualitative approach to get feedback and opinion from citizens on the 2018 Harmonized Election process. A workshop has been planned in February to train enumerators for undertaking data collection, data collection is being planned in March and the report is expected to be finalised by April 2019.

**Partnership with universities:** To promote youth participation and make the election process more inclusive, a program is being developed to establish partnerships between ZEC and universities. These partnerships will be a joint effort by ZEC and universities towards improved and increased participation of youth in the electoral process. The first step will be undertaking an assessment of potential universities to gauge their interest in such a program, do their capacity assessment in terms of their program that are related to civic and voter education and identify mutual areas of interests. Once the assessment is finalised, a Program Note will be developed together with the universities. The assessment is planned in February 2019.

**Strengthening the capacity of ZEC data centre:** A review of the existing ZEC data centre revealed need of increasing the storage capacity of ZEC data centre as the current storage has been consumed by the voter registration data of 5.69 million voters. Additional data storage was delivered to ZEC and training of the ZEC staff on optimal utilization of the data storage was completed.

## II. Plans for the next period

- Approval of the 2019 Annual Work Plan;
- Develop Concept Note and TORs for election training;

- Strategize on partnerships with universities to promote youth participation;
- Developing TORs for review of voter education materials and manuals;
- Discussions on development of a sustainable voter registration process.

**For more information on the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO), please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Azhar Malik, [azhar.malik@undp.org](mailto:azhar.malik@undp.org) and visit the project's [website](#).**