

EC-UNDP

1 - 31 August, 2020

Electoral Assistance Projects Update



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ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Title	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	01.01.20	30.06.21
Central African Republic	Projet d'appui au processus électoral en République Centrafricaine 2019-2022 (PAPEC)	2020/415 – 560	€ 15,000,000.00	01.09.19	31.12.22
Ivory Coast	Projet d'Appui aux Elections en Côte d'Ivoire (PACE)	FED/2020/417-796	€ 1,000,000.00	01.07.20	01.03.22
Lebanon	Support to Electoral Reform and Democratic Participation in Lebanon (LEAP)	ENI/2019/431-399	€ 3,000,000.00	01.01.20	31.12.23
Liberia	Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/367-723	€ 10,000,000.00	01.06.15	31.10.20
Libya	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5,000,000.00	01.11.17	01.11.20
Malawi	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	2017/389-162	€ 3,355,817.27	11.10.17	10.08.21
Tunisia	Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (TEAP)	ENI/2019/405-945	€ 2,000,000.00	01.07.19	30.06.21
Zambia	Democracy Strengthening in Zambia (2020-2022)	FED/2020/418-076	€ 6,000,000.00	15.08.20	31.12.22
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	30.08.20

SUMMARY

BOLIVIA: Electoral authorities in Bolivia have set 18 October 2020 as the final date for the holding of the general elections. As a consequence, the workload on all fronts, for the project and the teams on the ground, has increased substantially.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: The highlights of PAPEC activities during the month of August focused around the technical and logistical support provided to the National Elections Authority (french acronym A.N.E) in the continuation of the voters' registration. - The project deployed 12 people to the various prefectures to monitor and pay registration agents as well as the A.N.E local branches. - By end of August, over 1 million entries were recorded in the database with 72% of the android tablets returned to Bangui. - Despite the uncertainties, the COVID-19 pandemic and insecurity in many areas in the Western part of the country, a good number of eligible citizens have turned out to register.

LIBERIA: Electoral preparations intensify ahead of 2020 elections and referendum. - The National Elections Commission (NEC) holds election roundtable / 'national dialogue' with Government counterparts. - Political parties signed a revised Code of Conduct. - Eleven out of 12 rehabilitated NEC warehouses in the counties have been completed and handed over to the NEC. - House Committee on Elections and Inauguration holds public hearing on electoral reform. - The new UNDP Electoral Support Project to Liberia is ready for Local Project Appraisal Committee.

LIBYA: Following the Prime Minister's call on 21 August for a ceasefire in Libya and an opening for the resumption of the political process which could potentially include a view of holding elections in March next year, the UN Electoral Support Team (UNEST) has been working with the High National Election Commission (HNEC) on considerations to strengthen

HNEC's immediate readiness for elections.

NEPAL: The Report on Electoral Need Assessment Desk Review for future electoral assistance to Nepal has been approved by the Under-Secretary General of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and United Nations Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities. - The Election Commission, Nepal has updated its Gender and Inclusion Policy, where the Electoral Support Project provided technical assistance. - The Report on Assessment of the ICT of the Election Commission has been submitted by UNDP consultant.

SOMALIA: Indirect expanded clan-based electoral model announced as direct elections deferred.

ZIMBABWE: The COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown continued to impact life and election activities in Zimbabwe. However, in the latest update to the Public Health Order, the work of the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) is recognised as an essential service, allowing the Commission to conduct some critical operations. ZEC notably worked on filling vacant seats that are elected through proportional representation and adopted, in principle, its policy on conducting COVID-19 compliant electoral activities.



BOLIVIA

CULTURA DE LA PAZ Y FORTALECIMIENTO DEL ÓRGANO ELECTORAL PLURINACIONAL (OEP) DE BOLIVIA

HIGHLIGHTS

- Electoral authorities in Bolivia have set 18 October 2020 as the final date for the holding of the general elections. As a consequence, the workload on all fronts, for the project and the teams on the ground, has increased substantially.

Project's activities during the reporting period

- Accompanying the government's mediation processes with the social sectors opposed to the change of the electoral date (by the Resident Coordinator and the Resident Representative).
- Participation in the final quality tests of the rapid results transmission software (DIREPRE), which development is financed by the project.
- Preparation, execution and evaluation of around thirty dialogue events, with different actors (political organisations, electoral authorities, political analysts, indigenous leaders, youth organisations, among others), focusing on critical issues such as biosecurity and the new electoral calendar.
- Initiation of the gender component of the project with the hiring of specialised coordinators on the subject and implementation of strategic plan.
- Hiring of multiple national consultancies to complement the work of the electoral authorities at the national and departmental level.
- Accompaniment and advice in meetings with other institutional actors (police, armed forces, civil society organisations) with the aim of dealing with the integrity, logistics and security issues of the electoral process.
- Drafting of documents to support the administrative work within the project (rosters of consultants and annual work plans at the departmental level).

Plans for the next period

- Finalise and deliver the rapid results transmission software (DIREPRE) to the electoral authorities;
- Continue technical support to TSE and TED;
- Finalise recruitment of indigenous facilitators for the electoral period;
- Continue national and departmental dialogs with TED, political parties and civil society organisations;
- Continue daily contact with electoral authorities, supporting them on emerging issues.

Project's website

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

Contact

For information on the Project "Cultura de la Paz y Fortalecimiento del Órgano Electoral Plurinacional (OEP) de Bolivia, please contact Chief Technical Advisor Mr. Luis Martinez-Betanzos, luis.martinez-betanzos@undp.org.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Nektarios Markogiannis/UN Photo

PROJET D'APPUI AU PROCESSUS ELECTORAL EN REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE 2019-2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- The highlights of PAPEC activities during the month of August focused around the technical and logistical support provided to the National Elections Authority (french acronym A.N.E) in the continuation of the voters' registration.
- The project deployed 12 people to the various prefectures to monitor and pay registration agents as well as the A.N.E local branches.
- By end of August, over 1 million entries were recorded in the database with 72% of the android tablets returned to Bangui.
- Despite the uncertainties, the COVID-19 pandemic and insecurity in many areas in the Western part of the country, a good number of eligible citizens have turned out to register.

Project's activities during the reporting period

- Organising the return logistics for the materials used for the registration and the registration Agents in collaboration with ENABEL/EU (Belgian development agency) and MINUSCA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic). In August, 9 out of the 16 prefectures had completed the registration process, thus prompting the return of the agents and the tablets that were deployed throughout the month of July.
- Treatment of data collected in the field for the establishment of the voters' list. As data collected in the field arrive in Bangui, they are retrieved and transferred onto the server with support from teams of technicians recruited and paid by the project.
- Small grants awards to 6 civil society organisations for the civic/voters' education campaign through March 2021: the funding contracts for six civil society groups were reviewed and agreed upon before an official signing by the Resident Representative.
- Design of a "Boite à images" civic education tool that will be distributed to civil society groups: PAPEC

has contracted a local artist to draw images that will be used in face-to-face civic/voters education sessions. The civic/voters 'education expert developed the concept for the artist to materialize the messages through drawing that will be used by field animators.

Plans for the next period

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

- Completion of the voters' registration activities with the return of the last groups of registration agents;
- Technical support to the data treatment center in generating the voters' list from the data collected in the field;
- Planning and launching of the procurement process of election day materials;
- Official handout of equipment (multifunction printers) and a utility vehicle to the A.N.E data treatment center;
- Launch of the PAPEC website;
- Signature of RPA (Responsible Party Agreement) with a Ndekeluka Radio Station for the information and sensitization campaign;
- Launch of the civic education sensitization campaign by civil society grantees and by UN Women. The later will specifically target the female population;
- Monitoring visits to the interior by PAPEC experts.

Contact

For information on the Projet d'appui au Cycle Electoral en République Centrafricaine (PAPEC 2019-2022), please contact Chief Technical Advisor Mr. Sidi Mohamed Diawara, sidi.diawara@undp.org.



LIBERIA

Election Project/UNDP Liberia

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

- Electoral preparations intensify ahead of 2020 elections and referendum.
- The National Elections Commission (NEC) holds election roundtable / 'national dialogue' with Government counterparts.
- Political parties signed a revised Code of Conduct.
- Eleven out of 12 rehabilitated NEC warehouses in the counties have been completed and handed over to the NEC.
- House Committee on Elections and Inauguration holds public hearing on electoral reform.
- The new UNDP Electoral Support Project to Liberia is ready for Local Project Appraisal Committee.

Project's activities during the reporting period

Electoral preparations intensify ahead of 2020 Special Senatorial Elections and Referendum

On 19 August, the National Elections Commission (NEC) launched civic and voter education (CVE) for voter roll update and other electoral activities. Earlier in a month, 325 community-based organisations (CBOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) from the fifteen counties of Liberia, were accredited to conduct CVE across the nation. As part of the awareness-raising about the upcoming elections, NEC also held a stakeholder consultation in Gbarnga, Bong County on 29 and 30 August. The Conference gathered about 100 key stakeholders from the fifteen counties of Liberia. Topics presented included the legal basis for conducting the voter roll update, the Special Senatorial Elections (SSE), and the Referendum; non-violent approach to elections; highlights of CVE activities, and gender parity. Following the Issuance of Writ of Elections on 5 August and two-day stakeholder conference, NEC's 2020 activities will intensify with the start of the candidate nomination on 1 September (till 21 September 2020). The Commission will also commence the Voter Roll Update (VRU) from 11 to 25 September 2020 (postponed ten days due to delays in procurement). The VRU will be on a mobile basis, for 15 days. Each of the mobile teams will spend three days at each of the 2,080 registration centers across Liberia. As UNDP is transitioning from the Support to the 2015-2018 Liberia Electoral Support Project to the new 2020 – 2024 electoral assistance project, the focus has been on technical advice. The launch of the new project in September will allow UNDP to provide additional support to the upcoming electoral activities. The focus will be placed notably on enhancing the credibility of the voter list and NEC data center operations, public outreach, and prevention of electoral violence.



NEC Board of Commissioners launches civic and voter education.



NEC Headquarters in Monrovia during the issuance of writ of Elections to the NEC Magistrates (Heads of NEC Offices in 15 Counties).

NEC holds roundtable with government agencies and line ministries

With the advice of the Election Project, NEC held the 'national dialogue'/ roundtable on elections with Government counterparts and line Ministries. The meeting held on 22 August aimed at leveraging the potential of government partners to decrease electoral costs, enhance the sustainability of the process, and foster national ownership. The meeting was the first in a series of discussions aiming to seek concrete steps towards soliciting Government partners' support. Eight out of 11 Ministries and Agencies participated, including the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Health / National Public Health Institute, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Liberia National Police, Liberia Broadcasting System, Liberian Telecommunication Company, and General Services Agency. The dialogue helped to identify areas of support and concrete steps to follow up to materialize the dialogue.

Political parties sign revised Code of Conduct

On 19 August, 26 registered political parties signed the revised Code of Conduct (CoC) at the National Elections Commission. The revised CoC is a result of an inclusive consultation held on 27 and 28 February 2020 with project's support. The CoC focuses on the peaceful conduct of the electoral process.

Rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses

Throughout the month of August, UNDP Elections Project handed over additional 9 warehouses, fences, generator rooms, and where possible wells with water pumps, renovated/constructed with project's support. Overall, 11 out of 12 rehabilitated warehouses and related facilities have now been completed and handed over to the NEC, right before the start of VRU. At the handing over ceremonies, UNDP, on behalf of its partners, EU, Ireland, Sweden, and Canada, emphasized the important aspect of the security of electoral staff and materials, critical for the overall integrity of the electoral process, and underlined the need to ensure proper maintenance of the facilities.



Women groups welcome the renovation of magisterial warehouse, construction of fence and generator room in Bopulu, Gbarpolu County.



Sannequillie, Nimba County, NEC Magisterial Office starting its electoral preparations, with the newly renovated warehouse (white-blue building in the back).

Public hearing on electoral reform

On 26 and 27 August, the Liberia House of Representatives Committee on Elections and Inauguration held a public hearing on electoral reform. The current draft election law includes some recommendations submitted by the NEC and the civil society, notably on the participation of women. The reform, if passed, would allow NEC to reject the party list if it does not fulfill the 30% gender quota. The delayed reform, which started with 2019 inclusive consultations supported by the UNDP Election Project has been largely delayed, including due to COVID-19, therefore, will not affect the upcoming SSE. It is, nevertheless, an important step forward, in improving some aspects of the electoral law. The Project has supported NEC in preparing its reform submission to the legislature earlier in the year, as well as worked closely with other partners in translating civil society recommendations into the electoral legal draft.

UNDP Electoral Assistance

The draft electoral support project (2020-2024) to Liberia has been completed and is currently undergoing a final UNDP management review. The Local Project Appraisal Committee is scheduled for 8 September. The Project, with a projected 16 million USD budget, aims at supporting Liberia's two electoral cycles – 2020 Special Senatorial and 2023 General Elections. The meeting scheduled for 8 September is also to mark the completion of an ongoing Support to the 2015 – 2018 Electoral Support Project. The terminal evaluation of the Project has been completed.

Plans for the next period

- Complete and hand over last warehouse in Cestos;
- Local Project Appraisal Committee;
- Closure of current project / Project Board Meeting;
- Recruitment and deployment of Referendum Consultant to support NEC;
- Recruitment and deployment of Data Center Consultant to support NEC in enhancing credibility of the voter list and upcoming data center processes.

Project's website

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

Contact

For more information on the support to the Liberia electoral cycle, please contact Ms. Lenka Homolkova, lenka.homolkova@undp.org.



 LIBYA

 Iason Athanasiadis,
UNSMIL, 2014

PROMOTING ELECTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA (PEPOL)

The Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL) project is a three year electoral assistance project, designed in the spirit of cooperation and national ownership with the Libyan High National Elections Commission (HNEC). The project forms part of the UN integrated electoral assistance framework which is led and coordinated by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The project's overall objective is to help HNEC develop its overall institutional capacity in order to prepare for and administer inclusive and credible balloting events in Libya. To this end, four key outputs are identified with related activities to be implemented throughout the electoral cycle approach:

1. Support HNEC in the planning, preparation and conduct of national elections and out-of-country voting (OCV);
2. Develop HNEC institutional and staff capacities and raise awareness on the requirement of (a) transparent, credible and inclusive electoral processe(s);
3. Promote public participation in (the) electoral processe(s) targeting vulnerable groups; and
4. Raising the electoral awareness of local partners and stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Following the Prime Minister's call on 21 August for a ceasefire in Libya and an opening for the resumption of the political process which could potentially include a view of holding elections in March next year, the UN Electoral Support Team (UNEST) has been working with the High National Election Commission (HNEC) on considerations to strengthen HNEC's immediate readiness for elections.

Project's activities during the reporting period

Action paper with considerations to strengthen HNEC's immediate electoral readiness

On 21 August 2020, Prime Minister and the Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), called, in separate statements, for a ceasefire and the resumption of the political process. The PM also proposed to hold simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections in March 2021. The HNEC voiced its

support to the intention to hold national elections within six months, underscoring preconditions are first to be met including agreement on the electoral parameters and the legal framework.

To prepare and strengthen the Commission's readiness for elections, UNEST developed a paper with immediate actions that can be taken by the HNEC already prior to a formal political agreement. These include steps regarding the software platforms for the voter registration data, the results management process, candidate nomination, and accreditation of observers and agents; as well as a review of the polling centre list, an inventory of all electoral assets, decisions on the public outreach approach and the development of a solid elections budget for submission and timely release of the funds. The operations plan will have to take into consideration the rise of COVID-19 cases in Libya. The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and PEPOL continue to engage international partners for support to HNEC and the project.

HNEC workshop on the concept of a biometric voter card

On 23 August, the HNEC organised a workshop with key Directors and Heads of Department to discuss the concept of a biometric voter card for Libya in the longer-term. UNEST and PEPOL advisors have been working closely with the HNEC on technical aspects of this concept note. PEPOL Project is supporting the Commission with the development of a detailed process document, starting from biometric registration steps to card development and distribution and polling day verification. HNEC envisages to submit a proposal to the Government with request for support and funding for its endeavor of the biometric voter card. The introduction of a voter card in Libya is a major fraud prevention measure and would enhance the transparency of voting process. In the meantime, PEPOL continues to support the HNEC's current voter registration data maintenance and is in the process of developing a sound results tabulation system for polling day.

Development of a twin-track strategy in support of HNEC

The extension of the Project until the end of 2021 ensures that the HNEC's readiness for elections is maintained and enhanced, anticipating that the way forward in finding a political consensus will be challenging. In light of this context and taking into account the additional challenges due to COVID-19, PEPOL is working on a strategy and action plan that also looks into the longer-term capacity development of the HNEC. On the one hand, this twin-track approach enhances the HNEC's current readiness for elections for when they are called, with the possibility of falling back on the existing SMS-based voter registration system. On the other hand, the project works with HNEC on a longer-term perspective of introducing in Libya a biometric voter roll with QR-coded voter cards, which would strengthen the transparency and accountability of the process and enhance the overall credibility of elections. Both tracks could concur in parallel but require a conducive political and security environment with also other preconditions in place.

Gallery



Visit of H.E. the Ambassador of Germany to the Chairman of the High National Commission to discuss electoral aspects as part of a political agreement for Libya. Tripoli, 16 August 2020, Photo credit: HNEC



HNEC workshop on the concept of a biometric voter card system. Tripoli, 23 August 2020, Photo Credit: HNEC



HNEC workshop on the concept of a biometric voter card system. Tripoli, 23 August 2020, Photo Credit: HNEC

Plans for the next period

- PEPOL is engaging with donor partners to discuss support for electoral processes in light of the latest political statements for elections and to seek project funding to cover the last quarter of 2020 and the activities for 2021;
- UNEST will continue to work with the HNEC on the conceptual planning for introduction of voter cards and electronic biometric verification for polling;
- PEPOL is finalising a procurement process to establish a security surveillance system at the HNEC's headquarters.

Project's website

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

Contact

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



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 level. 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 Report on Electoral Need Assessment Desk Review for future electoral assistance to Nepal has been approved by the Under-Secretary General of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and United Nations Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities.
- The Election Commission, Nepal has updated its Gender and Inclusion Policy, where the Electoral Support Project provided technical assistance.
- The Report on Assessment of the ICT of the Election Commission has been submitted by UNDP consultant.

Project's activities during the reporting period

In its fifth month of the nation-wide lockdown, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Electoral Support Project (ESP) continued to provide virtual technical assistance to the Election Commission, Nepal (ECN). This month, the Commission updated its Gender and Inclusion Policy. The project provided technical input to the document. ESP also provided technical support in the ICT assessment of the Commission. It consists of the assessment of the present ICT situation of the Commission and a detail work plan to be implemented to reform the areas of ICT as envisaged in the Commission's Third Strategic Plan (2019-24).

The project provided virtual support to the Commission on its Human Resources Development Policy, which is in the process of being finalised and will be the first of its kind at the Commission. Moreover, as per the request of the Commission, ESP initiated the process of updating the Nepal's Election History Book Part 1 for re-printing and also drafting of Nepal's Election History Book Part 2 covering the 2017 electoral cycle and the 2019 by-elections of vacant positions.

This month, ESP marked the youth day in collaboration with the National Youth Council. Together with the youth council, ESP facilitated a presentation from ECN on the role of youth in elections. The virtual programme was attended by over 300 youths from across the country. In it, the Under Secretary of Election Commission Mr. Komal Prasad Dhamala delivered a presentation highlighting that ECN remains committed to ensure the meaningful participation of youth to make credible, transparent elections for strengthened democracy.



A virtual celebration of the Youth Day event, where the Commission conducted a presentation on the role of youth in elections.

ESP also continued carrying out its youth-led webinar series, along with the UNDP Country Office in Nepal. It organised a webinar on issues of persons with disabilities related to COVID-19 as well as on the issues of senior citizens in the context of the pandemic. The virtual event was attended by participants across Nepal and marked the celebrations under UN@75.

Meanwhile, the Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) released its report into the needs for future electoral assistance in Nepal. The report, which is based on an extensive desk review and stakeholder interviews conducted by EAD between 29 June and 14 July, has been approved by Under Secretary General of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and United Nations Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities. The desk review, led by the EAD,

also included a representative of UNDP-EC Joint Task Force (Brussels), DPPA Asia-Pacific Division and a team of UNDP Nepal led by Deputy Resident Representative.

The project has also been engaged in preparing an initial draft of an online course on a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) module for the ECN staff, which will materialize over the months. It has also been facilitating between BRIDGE participants in Nepal for a global BRIDGE evaluation.

The Commission also carried out its virtual Annual Review of the ECN this month, through a software that was provided by the project. The participants were from the ECN headquarters and its 77 district level field offices.

Plans for the next period

The project will provide necessary support (in coordination with the UNDP Country Office) on drafting of a new project document for future electoral assistance to Nepal which will be based on the parameters set in the above-mentioned Desk Review Report. In addition, the project will continue providing virtual support to the Commission on: ECN's social media policy, civic and voter education policy. After these are finalised, the focus of the Commission will shift to the Monitoring and Evaluation plan and the Human Resources Development policy. Moreover, the project's support on the Nepal's Electoral History Book (Part 1 and 2) will continue over the next period.

Project's website

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

Contact

For more information on the Nepal ESP, please contact Mr. Kundan Das Shrestha, Kundan.shrestha@undp.org.



UNDP/UNSOM JOINT PROGRAMME FOR SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

The overall strategic objective of the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme for “Support to the Electoral Process to the Federal Republic of Somalia” is to prepare the country for universal elections through institutional capacity development of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), the development of the legal framework for elections, and support to promote better understanding of electoral processes.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Indirect expanded clan-based electoral model announced as direct elections deferred.

Project's activities during the reporting period

Indirect expanded clan-based electoral model announced as direct elections deferred

Following the consultative meeting in Dhusamareb in July between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member States (FMS) to discuss the technical path to holding timely 2020/2021 elections, a follow up Summit was held on 15 August. President Farmajo announced on 20 August that a compromise had been reached on elections between his government and three of the five leaders of the FMS. The proposed indirect electoral model, termed the ‘Electoral Constituency Caucuses’ model, includes improvements over the 2016 modalities, such as the inclusion of civil society in the previously ‘elders’ only committee that selects voting delegates; a larger number of voting delegates for the Lower House seats (301 delegates per seat compared to 51 in 2016); an increase in voting locations (four locations in

each FMS compared to one in 2016); clustering of three to five sub-clan seats at each voting location to form a constituency that allows the 301 delegates allocated for each seat to vote on every seat in that constituency; guarantees to secure the 30% quota for women; and mandating the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) to organise and conduct the elections. FMS Parliaments will indirectly elect the members of the Upper House and both Houses of the Parliament will elect the Federal President. Efforts are underway to secure the support of Puntland, Jubaland, who were not present at the Dushamareb 3 talks, as well as Parliament and the political parties.

Security Working Group holds inaugural meeting

The National Independent Electoral Commission Security Working Group had its first meeting (online) on 9 August attended by the NIEC Security Advisor, UNPOL, AMISOM (African Union Mission to Somalia) Police and the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG). The NIEC confirmed it has provided access for UN IESG and AMISOM elections advisors to its Google mapping tool. This will enhance ongoing elections security planning. The NIEC reported on the survey of voter registration/polling sites in Mogadishu that started in July. A total of 21 sites have been assessed in 5 districts led by the National Electoral Security Task Force (NESTF) Secretariat the NIEC Security Advisor and meetings held with the District Police. Because of the difficulty the NESTF Secretariat has with movement around Mogadishu, UN IESG has offered to rent a vehicle for them. All participants agreed to urge the NESTF to have a meeting as soon as possible to consider next steps in security planning based on the new electoral model.

International Assistance Partners Group review progress on technical assistance to NIEC

The NIEC and IESG co-chaired the International Assistance Partners Group meeting on 18 August to discuss progress on implementation of assistance to the NIEC. The group ensures coordination and coherence on the provision of technical assistance by international partners to the NIEC to ensure maximum impact of partner's resources. The NIEC outlined the institution's plans on reviewing internal policies, programmes and preparations to ensure the organisation is ready to conduct the federal elections. The IESG emphasized the importance of the ongoing consultations in Dhusamareb to provide guidance on the way forward regarding operational planning and implementation phase for the federal elections and highlighted the delays in completing the electoral legal framework and political agreements which will impact the electoral timelines.

Training on electoral process for NIEC staff

On 19 August, IESG conducted a warehouse logistics training using the virtual platform, to build the technical capacity of the NIEC Headquarters logistics and operations staff on the principles of inventory and warehouse management. The training is part of a series designed for Training of Trainers who will train NIEC field staff with IESG providing the resource persons to support the trainers. Topics included: principles of inventory and warehouse management; electoral materials receipt; electoral materials inspection and sorting; electoral materials checklist; electoral materials quality control; electoral materials loss and damage management; electoral materials labelling and dispatch and kits packaging following distribution plan (by region and FMS).

During this month, IESG supported the NIEC in revising their procurement policy, which included defining the scope and composition of the Procurement Review and Approval Committee (PRAC) and establishing thresholds and classifications of procurement actions subject to committee review. PRAC will ensure that

procurement activities are conducted in compliance with the FGS procurement rules and regulations with accepted professional purchasing practices. PRAC will confirm that offers received are the result of a fully compliant process, sufficient funding exists, and risks have been assessed and mitigated.

100 political parties have provisional registration

On 17 August in Mogadishu, the NIEC issued certification of temporary registration to ten new political parties. The NIEC stated that political parties represent the only way to compete politically and reminded the parties to adhere to the Political Parties Law as official registration will enable the political parties to compete in the federal elections. To date, 100 political parties have received provisional registration.

Plans for the next period

- Support to NIEC with technical advice on electoral options;
- Support ongoing review and implementation of NIEC governance framework and related internal policies.

Project's website

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

Contact

For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Mary Cummins, mary.cummins@undp.org.



ZIMBABWE

UNDP Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT (ZIM-ECO)

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO) focuses on developing the institutional and organizational capacity of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) to meet its Constitutional mandate. The project provides technical assistance to voter registration process to promote its credibility and inclusiveness, strengthens election dispute resolution mechanism, fosters gender mainstreaming during the electoral cycle and promotes participation of women, youth and people with disabilities in the electoral process. For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown continued to impact life and election activities in Zimbabwe. However, in the latest update to the Public Health Order, the work of the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) is recognised as an essential service, allowing the Commission to conduct some critical operations. ZEC notably worked on filling vacant seats that are elected through proportional representation and adopted, in principle, its policy on conducting COVID-19 compliant electoral activities.

Project's activities during the reporting period

Considering the special conditions that the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) works under, the project provided a selection of critical ZEC staff with data and airtime to facilitate remote working. The support greatly assisted ZEC business continuity, allowing staff to conduct virtual meetings and other essential work from the safety of their homes.

Together with the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance, UNDP Zimbabwe and ZEC launched the process of reformulating the project document.

Plans for the next period

In September, ZIM-ECO plans to support ZEC with the stakeholder engagement and outreach relating to the newly adopted COVID-19 policy.

The project is also preparing support for the upcoming boundary delimitation exercise.

Ways of proceeding with the customization of BRIDGE modules without the face-to-face interactions will be explored.

ZIM-ECO will also update a manual and handbook for the Zimbabwe Republic Police that the project produced earlier. This is to ensure that it is aligned with the latest changes in the legal framework.

All these plans assume that a no-cost extension to the EU contribution agreement is processed.

Project's website

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

Contact

For information on the project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Vincent da Cruz, vincent.dacruz@undp.org.