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**GPECS II**   
Global Project  
for Electoral Cycle Support II



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



# EC-UNDP

1 - 31 May, 2018

# Electoral Assistance Projects Update

This report provides an overview of all active EU funded and UNDP implemented electoral assistance projects only and should be shared with EU delegations in the respective countries.



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## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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On 6 May, Lebanon conducted parliamentary elections nationwide. These elections were held after nine years (the last parliamentary elections were conducted in 2009) and several postponements.

### LEBANON

From 5 to 7 May, the Chair of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) of Somalia Ms. Halima Ibrahim, joined a mission together with other members of electoral management bodies from the Arab region to observe the municipal elections in Tunisia on 6 May 2018.

### SOMALIA

On 23 May 2018, a by-election was held to choose the member of parliament to represent the Gizo-Kolombagara constituency (Western Province). The project supported the organisation of this by-election by providing assistance to the organisation of polling staff trainings in Honiara as well as providing technical and financial support for awareness raising actions.

### SOLOMON ISLANDS

## Acronyms and abbreviations

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AVETOs	Assistant Voter Education and Training Officers
BVR	Biometric Voter Registration
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
ECN	Election Commission of Nepal
ECZ	Election Commission of Zambia
ESP	Electoral Support Project
IESG	UN Integrated Electoral Support Group
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
IEBC	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
MASI	Solomon Islands Media Association
MEC	Malawi Electoral Commission
MEHRD	Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoiM	Ministry of Interior & Municipalities
MWYCFA	Ministry of Women, Youths, Children and Family Affairs
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NIEC	National Independent Electoral Commission
PWD	People with disabilities
SCE	Supervisory Commission for Elections
SECSIP	Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project
SEPK	Strengthening the Electoral Process in Kenya
SIEC	Solomon Islands Electoral Commission
SINU	Solomon Islands National University
SNEC	Support to the National Electoral Commission
TBG	Tactile Ballot Guides
ToT	Training of Trainers
ZEC	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission
ZHRC	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission

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## SUMMARY

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**GUINEA:** A working session has been organised with the European Union Delegation to discuss the last activities and the closure of the project.

**KENYA:** The implementation of the approved SEPK annual work plan was delayed due to leadership changes at the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). - The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties continued to enhance its subnational presence by strengthening its regional offices. Officials posted to these offices benefited from capacity building and sensitisation workshops on the popular versions of the Political Parties Act. - Meanwhile, the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI), led by the President and the Former Prime Minister, provided vital pointers to fundamental electoral reform. BBI is being buttressed by civil society-led dialogue effort seeking to set the agenda for national dialogue and reconciliation and establish an independent mechanism for monitoring the dialogue process.

**LEBANON:** On 6 May, Lebanon conducted parliamentary elections nationwide. These elections were held after nine years (the last parliamentary elections were conducted in 2009) and several postponements. The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) - the Electoral Management Body (EMB) - was mandated to implement a new electoral law (Law 44/2017) and faced the challenge of a new electoral system with different voting procedures as compared with the 2009 majoritarian based elections. The introduction of a proportional system in 15 major districts, with a preferential vote on the 26 minor districts and the utilisation of uniform printed ballot papers created a new electoral environment with brand new challenges to tackle. - As a result of the broad acceptance of the final results, the newly formed parliament had the first session on 22 May, starting a new legislative mandate of four years.

**LIBERIA:** The project provided support to technical checks and a complete inventory of the voter registration equipment on retrieval from field offices. - A compendium of recommendations from international and national election observer groups was drafted.

**MALAWI:** Validation workshops have been undertaken for the Dispute Handling Guidelines and Communication Strategy. - MEC is preparing for side-by-side civic and voter registration arrangements. - HeforShe movements have been launched in six districts involving 292 participants.

**NEPAL:** The Electoral Support Project (ESP) focused on post-electoral analytical work. - The project was extended to 28 December 2018.

**SIERRA LEONE:** For the month of May, the project assisted the National Electoral Commission (NEC) in holding a post-election retreat for NEC Staff. The project team, together with NEC staff, reviewed the 2014 capacity assessment and identified key areas for further support.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS:** The project supported the Gizo-Kolombangara by-election. - An Electoral Risk Assessment has been commissioned by the project. - A total of eight young national graduates have been identified for SECSIP "graduate programme". On 30 May 2018, UNDP SECSIP and Solomon Rice Company Limited (SolRice) SolRice signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in the dissemination of voter awareness materials through SolRice networks and distribution channels. - An Electoral Operations Specialist joined the project's team on 30 May.

**SOMALIA:** From 5 to 7 May, the Chair of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) of Somalia Ms. Halima Ibrahim, joined a mission together with other members of electoral management bodies from the Arab region to observe the municipal elections in Tunisia on 6 May 2018. - From 14 to 16 May, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) participated in a workshop on voter registration facilitated by the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) and international experts. - From 13 to 21 May, an electoral Needs Assessment Mission to Somalia was deployed.

**ZAMBIA:** On 4 May, a meeting was held with civil society organisations (CSOs) on the development of a coordinated framework for domestic observation, at which CSOs formally agreed to establish such a framework. - From 14 to 24 May, 19 Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) staff attended training on Control Objectives for Information and Related Technology (COBIT) 5 business framework for the governance and management of enterprise Information Technology. - The ECZ continued its preparations for parliamentary and local by-elections scheduled for 05 June 2018.

**ZIMBABWE:** ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and institutional strengthening areas of election operations, Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), operational planning for BVR, training of election staff, voter education, stakeholder, engagement, election dispute resolution and gender mainstreaming.

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# ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Title	Reference	EU Contribution	Start Date	End Date
<b>Guinea</b>	Projet d'Appui au Cycle Electoral de la Guinée – PACEG	FED/2015/367-390	€ 10,000,000.00	06.07.15	05.07.18
<b>Kenya</b>	Strengthening of the Electoral Processes in Kenya Project	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>Malawi</b>	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019	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	28.12.18
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Support to the National Electoral Commission	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)	FED/2013/328-922	€ 3,500,000.00	01.07.13	31.12.18
<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	01.02.19
<b>Zambia</b>	Support to the 2015-2017 Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/363-147	€ 5,250,000.00	23.06.15	31.07.18
<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

 PACEG

## PROJET D'APPUI AU CYCLE ELECTORAL DE LA GUINEE (PACEG)

Since July 2015, the project to “Support the Electoral Cycle of Guinea” (PACEG) provides assistance to strengthen the capacities of the Electoral Commission (CENI) and its field offices, including organizational, technical, communicational, financial and operational capacities. The main objective of the PACEG is to enable a credible, inclusive and peaceful 2015-2017 electoral process in Guinea, complying with international standards, while ensuring the effective and inclusive participation of women and young people through providing civic education and coaching. For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

### HIGHLIGHTS

- A working session has been organised with the European Union Delegation to discuss the last activities and the closure of the project.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

During this month, the main activity was the evaluation of national volunteers' experiences and their briefing on the reporting requirements.

A working session has been organised with the EU Delegation to discuss the last activities of the project, ahead of the operational closure scheduled in July.

The National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) held two working sessions with the National Assembly. The first session focused on preparations for the next legislative elections. Both the CENI and the National Assembly agreed to start preparations for the next elections and conduct the audit and revision of the electoral roll, in line with the electoral law and the 2016 political agreement. In order to accelerate operations, it was decided to shorten legal deadlines regarding the revision of the electoral roll and to issue a calendar of electoral operations shortly.

The second session focused on the revision of the organic law<sup>1</sup> on the composition, the organisation and the functioning of the CENI.

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

- The project will proceed to the inventory of material and equipment of the project.
- A technical committee, a steering committee and a lessons-learned meeting of the PACEG will be held.

**For more information on the Projet d'appui au cycle électoral de la Guinée (PACEG), please contact Mr. Abdoul Latif Haidara, [abdoul.haidara@undp.org](mailto:abdoul.haidara@undp.org) and visit the [project's website](#).**

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<sup>1</sup> Organic law L/2012/016/CNT





KENYA

IEBC Communications Department

## 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 implementation of the approved SEPK annual work plan was delayed due to leadership changes at the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).
- The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties continued to enhance its subnational presence by strengthening its regional offices. Officials posted to these offices benefited from capacity building and sensitisation workshops on the popular versions of the Political Parties Act.
- Meanwhile, the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI), led by the President and the Former Prime Minister, provided vital pointers to fundamental electoral reform. BBI is being buttressed by civil society-led dialogue effort seeking to set the agenda for national dialogue and reconciliation and establish an independent mechanism for monitoring the dialogue process.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

The following activities were conducted during the month:

1. Dissemination of popular versions of the Political Parties' Act in English and Swahili to political parties and other electoral stakeholders at the county level.
2. Participation in the Donor Group on Elections monthly meeting.

## II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the following reporting period include:

- Roll out of post-election evaluation and related activities;
- Development of a project document for a deepening democracy project to succeed SEPK.

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



LEBANON

UNDP LEAP

## LEBANESE ELECTIONS ASSISTANCE PROJECT (LEAP)

The EU-funded UNDP Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP) started its activities in October 2012 with the main objective to strengthen the institutional capacity of the national institutions and stakeholders in terms of electoral management and administration, for the conduct of credible, periodical, transparent and inclusive elections in Lebanon.

To achieve these objectives, UNDP LEAP works closely with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), responsible for electoral management, administration and overall electoral operations. The project also supports other electoral stakeholders, such as the Constitutional Council, State Council, Supervisory Commission for the Election (SCE), judicial bodies and works in close cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs). Within this context, UNDP LEAP provides electoral technical assistance and advisory support focused on: 1) management & administration of elections; 2) supervisory commission for elections; 3) voter education; 4) electoral dispute resolution; and 5) women's participation in elections.

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 6 May, Lebanon conducted parliamentary elections nationwide. These elections were held after nine years (the last parliamentary elections were conducted in 2009) and several postponements. The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) - the Electoral Management Body (EMB) - was mandated to implement a new electoral law (Law 44/2017) and faced the challenge of a new electoral system with different voting procedures as compared with the 2009 majoritarian based elections. The introduction of a proportional system in 15 major districts, with a preferential vote on the 26 minor districts and the utilisation of uniform printed ballot papers created a new electoral environment with brand new challenges to tackle.
- As a result of the broad acceptance of the final results, the newly formed parliament had the first session on 22 May, starting a new legislative mandate of four years.

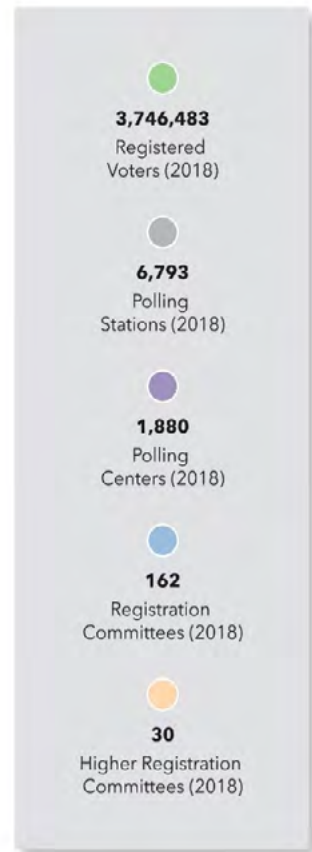
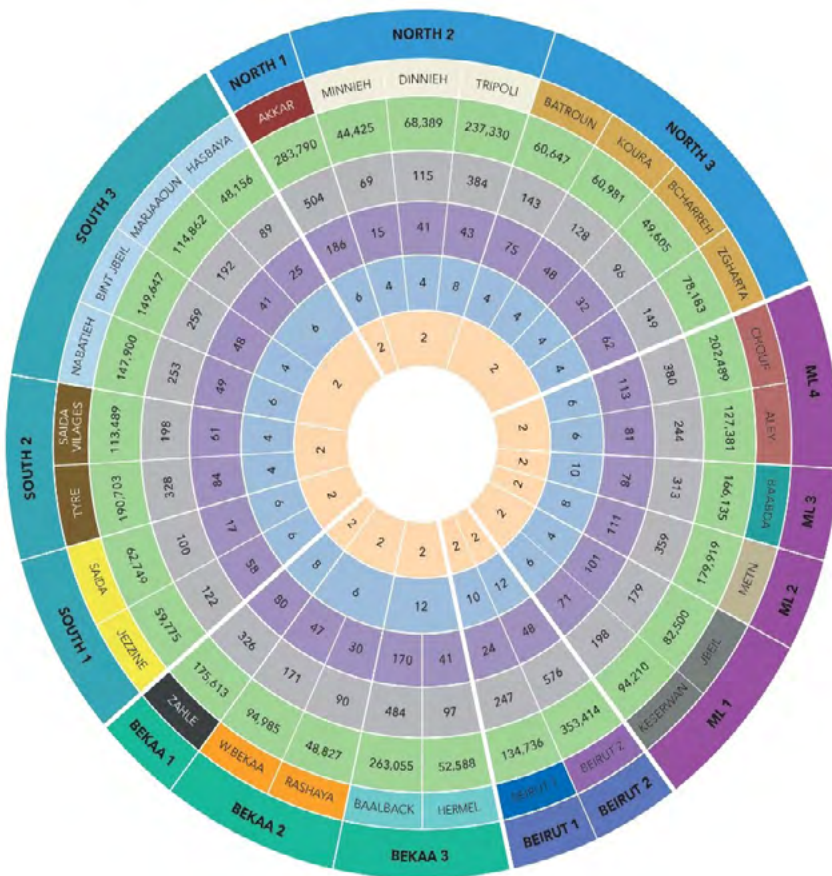
## I. Project activities during the reporting period

The MoIM and the other relevant state institutions initiated the preparations in the last quarter of 2017 with the formation and set-up of the Supervisory Commission for Elections (SCE) and the start of the voter registration abroad, process managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since then, the Government and particularly the MoIM prepared, organised and conducted all the required electoral processes, according to the legal framework and electoral calendar. The E Day witnessed by and large calm and well-organised elections with isolated incidents that were managed timely by the security forces.

As a result of the broad acceptance of the final results, the newly formed parliament had the first session on 22 May, starting a new legislative mandate of four years. Following the successful conduct of Parliamentary Elections on 6 May and the formation of the parliament, Lebanon entered in the post-electoral period which will observe the challenges and complaints. In this phase, the Constitutional Council is mandated to receive, analyse and adjudicate the relevant electoral complaints. This process will take, according to the law, several months. As these processes proceed according to the law, the consultations for the formation of the new Government continue.

As the project presented in April's report a detailed account of the technical assistance and advisory support provided to the Lebanese stakeholders for the organisation and conduct of the 2018 parliamentary elections, we are presenting below some relevant electoral data, figures and information summarizing concisely number of candidates, electoral results, women participation and other relevant data.





## II. Plans for the next period

For the month of June, the project will continue to work in the following electoral areas:

- Preparations for lessons learned exercise;
- Post-electoral activities;
- Continuation of the support to the EDR process;
- Continuation of the support to the SCE.

For more information on the project on LEAP, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Dan Radulescu, [dan.radulescu@undp.org](mailto:dan.radulescu@undp.org) and visit the [project's website](#).



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 project provided support to technical checks and a complete inventory of the voter registration equipment on retrieval from field offices.
- A compendium of recommendations from international and national election observer groups was drafted.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project provided support to technical checks and a complete inventory of the voter registration equipment on retrieval from field offices. Plans and specifications were also drafted in preparation for logistics support for the future by-elections.

A compendium of recommendations from international and national election observer groups was drafted to consolidate all recommendations to improve the legal and electoral system in one resource document. It will be used to guide a national event on electoral reform planned later in 2018, as a follow up to recent election observation missions, including the European Union Election Observation Mission.

## II. Plans for the next period

- Project support will be provided to the senatorial by-elections following agreement by donors to fill funding gaps in training, civic and voter education and logistics. No date has been set for the senatorial by-elections to be conducted in Montserado and Bong counties.
- Terms of reference for a number of positions are published including those to oversee the rehabilitation of the National Elections Commission's warehousing and asset management systems, a legal and policy consultant to develop a strategy and roadmap for pursuing election observer recommendations, and a voter and civil registry expert to develop a policy strategy to align future voter registers to the newly launched civil registry.
- Phase 2 of the implementation of the enterprise resource planning system, that is a business process management infrastructure that will act as the core administration system for all activities of the National Elections Commission, is expected to commence shortly and the work is being tendered for open competition presently.
- Key decision makers from registered political parties in Liberia are invited to attend a review of the Inter-Party Consultative Committee's performance during the 2017 general elections to identify important lessons learnt and shape the future work of the committee. The review aims to develop a clear roadmap and workplan for this platform, which serves as the primary interface between political parties and the National Elections Commission.

**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](#).**



MALAWI

Malawi Electoral Commission

## MALAWI ELECTORAL CYCLE SUPPORT 2017-2019

The “Malawi Electoral Cycle Support 2017-2019” project is supported by a basket fund that is currently financed by the EU and UNDP. The project will support the internal capacities of the Malawi Electoral Commission through stronger planning, operational and administrative support, as well as in the areas of dispute resolution, communication, voter education, voter registration and results transmission. It will also encourage and support female aspirants to stand for office through mentoring, as well as ensuring that the political and cultural landscape is more accepting of the role women in the political life. The project will also partner with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy-Malawi, the organization that brings political parties together around common interests, to assist political parties to be more resilient organisations working around genuine political programmes and principles of transparency, accountability, fairness and merit.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Validation workshops have been undertaken for the Dispute Handling Guidelines and Communication Strategy.
- MEC is preparing for side-by-side civic and voter registration arrangements.
- HeforShe movements have been launched in six districts involving 292 participants.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

The month of May saw the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) continue to develop and finalise key documents which will play a vital role in the conduct of the 2019 tripartite elections. After the Media Code of Conduct and the Multi-Party Liaison Committee (MPLC) Guidelines last December, the five-year strategic plan in February, the voter education strategy in April, it was the turn of the dispute handling guidelines and the Communication strategy to be validated, in separate conferences.

The dispute handling guidelines were put together by expertise supported by the project. The new legal department did not have a proper policy on how to manage the petitions and disputes generated by political parties and their candidates during an electoral campaign, despite MEC receiving some 350 such complaints in 2014. These guidelines should therefore render MEC’s handling of these disputes



more efficient and only pass onto the judiciary the cases that have a genuine basis for submission.

The communication strategy sets out a clear direction that should allow MEC to take active control on the information around the electoral process. This strategy was again supported by the project and was based on extensive consultations with all electoral stakeholders who were then given the opportunity to provide final comments to the draft.

MEC has maintained a clear strategy for undertaking the voter registration process. It will only use the new biometric national ID cards (supported by another UNDP project) as the legitimate source of identification, thus ensuring the accuracy of the roll. However, although the civil registration process has registered more citizens than originally forecast (approximately 9.2 million people), not every single citizen might have taken part in the original mass registration exercise nor the continuous civic registration. Therefore, to ensure that no one is left out, MEC is instigating a 'side-by-side' civic and voter registration facility whereby those who come forward to register as voters but are not yet on the civil register, will be able to quickly register as citizens and produce the temporary receipt (while their information is being confirmed) for voter registration.

MEC has been undergoing a 'genderisation' of its work processes leading to a Gender and Elections Reference Guide for its field officers and all senior managers went through an intensive gender training. On a wider gender front, the project conducted HeforShe movement orientations in 3 regions covering 6 districts i.e. North: Karonga and Mzimba; Centre: Nkhosakota and Dedza; South: Mulanje and Zomba. It involved 292 participants (176 male and 116 female), meaning that 176 men became HeforShe Champions to promote women's political participation at district and grassroot level. Those targeted were district and community political party leaders, traditional leaders, religious/faith leaders, community-based organisations (CBO) networks, youth networks, media and female aspirants.

On 9 and 10 May, common agenda setting workshops for leaders of Youth and Women Wings of 7 political parties were held. Seven political parties participated and the outcome was a common cross-party agenda document for effective support to youth and women developed to provide parties with clear action points for youth and women participation and representation in the 2019 tripartite elections. Finally, a sensitisation workshop on the new Political Parties Act took representatives of the main political parties through key provisions of the Act and what is required from them for compliance.



EU Ambassador was the guest of honour at the validation of the disputes handling guidelines. Photo credits: UNDP

## II. Plans for the next period

The next period will be very much centred on voter registration which will commence on 26 June and be deployed in eight phases of 2 weeks. The project will support the side-by-side civic and voter registration system. This aside, the establishment of the violence against women engagement room will commence as will the wider deployment of the HeforShe campaign.

**For more information on the Malawi Electoral Cycle Support Project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Richard Cox, [richard.cox@undp.org](mailto:richard.cox@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. 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) focused on post-electoral analytical work
- The project was extended to 28 December 2018

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

The ESP continued to support analytical work of the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) for the review of the 2017 elections, electoral dispute resolution, as well as gender equity and social inclusion. The project also supported the conduct of the final project evaluation and, for archiving its public documents, contributed to the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network.

ESP supported ECN with the drafting of a comprehensive guidance document for the review of the 2017 elections. It contains the proposed methodology, overall guiding questions, facts and data sources for the review report, a survey questionnaire and a set of questions for consultations that are to include ECN staff, local authorities, contestants, observer organizations and media.

The independent consultants conducting the final evaluation of ESP presented their initial findings. The team concludes that electoral support was needed and relevant for the 2008–2018 transition and that ESP played a valuable role in supporting ECN to hold credible elections. Major accomplishments include: building ECN institutional and professional capacity, the establishment of a continuing voter registration system, establishment of the Electoral Education and Information Centre, strengthening

ECN strategic planning and other processes, and ECN adoption of the participatory BRIDGE methodology for training.

The team recommends staying engaged and supporting ECN, government and civil society efforts to consolidate the progress made with ESP support, further strengthening ECN, supporting the decentralization of the electoral process, and continuing to work for the inclusive participation of voters, especially women, people with disabilities and marginalized groups.

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

The project will continue the analytical work in the areas of electoral dispute resolution as well as gender equity and social inclusion, and support consultations for the review of the 2017 elections.

**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](#).**



## SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (SNEC)

In response to a request from the Government of Sierra Leone and the National Electoral Commission (NEC), UNDP established a multi-donor project to support the technical preparations for voter registration and the 2018 elections. This follows a successful project that supported the NEC in the drawing of new electoral boundaries in 2016.

Previous Sierra Leone elections received large amounts of donor support, not only for technical assistance but also through meeting the cost of processes such as voter registration and polling itself. Recognizing the maturation of Sierra Leonean institutions, the project focuses only on key processes and areas that require support or improvement.

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- For the month of May, the project assisted the National Electoral Commission (NEC) in holding a post-election retreat for NEC Staff. The project team, together with NEC staff, reviewed the 2014 capacity assessment and identified key areas for further support.

## I. Project activities during the reporting period

### Project activities during the reporting period

From May 2-4, NEC held a post-election retreat with over 180 staff from all NEC offices across the country. The retreat was held in Freetown to review the electoral process, its successes, challenges, lessons learned from the March 2018 elections and to make recommendations for NEC's future. During the retreat, different issues were raised including financial, managerial and operational challenges. The report from the retreat will include action points and recommendations for NEC.

The partners supporting the project paid a brief visit during the working session. In his remarks, the Country Director of UNDP Sierra Leone congratulated NEC for successfully organising the election

and also thanked the donors for their support and collaboration.



NEC post-election retreat.  
Photo credits: Kwalar Vera Muring



(R-L ) EU Ambassador, British High Commissioner, UNDP  
Country Director  
Photos credits: Kwalar Vera Muring

NEC directors, assisted by the project team, have completed reviewing the 2014 capacity assessment and have identified key areas of intervention. The outcome of this review suggested capacity building for NEC field and HQ staff in the following areas:

- Operational, logistical planning around an electoral cycle;
- Electoral training, implementation, quality control, report system;
- Procedures and instructions writing: concepts, policy decisions, coordination, user-friendly documents;
- Electoral budget development;
- Warehouse management;
- Gender and elections.

The Gender Unit of NEC, assisted by the Gender and Inclusion Advisor, has started preparations to re-start the gender assessment. A series of meetings have been held in this regard.

## II. Plans for the next period

In the first week of June, NEC will commence capacity building workshops on operational and logistical planning around the electoral cycle. This will be followed by a series of gender assessment consultative workshops alongside workshops on electoral training on implementation, quality control and reporting systems

**For more information on SNEC, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Ms. Kate Sullivan, [kate.sullivan@undp.org](mailto:kate.sullivan@undp.org) and visit the [Project's website](#).**



## 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 organizations 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.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The project supported the Gizo-Kolombangara by-election.
- An Electoral Risk Assessment has been commissioned by the project.
- A total of eight young national graduates have been identified for SECSIP "graduate programme".
- On 30 May 2018, the project and Solomon Rice Company Limited (SolRice) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in the dissemination of voter awareness materials through SolRice networks and distribution channels.
- An Electoral Operations Specialist joined the project's team on 30 May.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

#### Support to Gizo-Kolombangara by-election

On 23 May 2018, a by-election was held to choose the member of parliament to represent the Gizo-Kolombangara constituency (Western Province). The project supported the organisation of this by-election by providing assistance to the organisation of polling staff trainings in Honiara as well as

providing technical and financial support for awareness raising actions. SECSIP National Media Consultant accompanied SIEC team deployed to the field. Since the Minister of Home Affairs (MOHA) did not sign off the public holiday declaration for polling day, an issue of concern was the reluctance of a major logging company to allow employees time to vote during working hours.

The project has proposed to the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) to hold a lesson learned exercise in mid-June with a view to extrapolate areas to be improved in preparation for the national general election.

### **Electoral Risk Assessment**

To identify challenges around the upcoming Solomon Islands general election, the project commissioned a risk assessment exercise to better understand how the project activities can be strengthened to anticipate and mitigate risks including electoral related violence as well as those in connection with logistical, financial and legislative factors. The results of this assessment are expected to facilitate the adoption of informed decisions on electoral risk mitigation and contribute to enhance an integrated programmatic approach of the electoral support for the upcoming electoral events. The assessment was carried out through a contextual analysis based on the collection of feedback and relevant documents supported by SECSIP team and a one-week in-country mission assessment conducted during the last week of May during which the assessors met with national authorities and stakeholders including SIEC, the Political Parties Commission (PPC), MOHA, the Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development (MEHRD), the Ministry of Women, Youths, Children and Family Affairs (MWYFA), EU Ambassador, Australian High Commission. The in-country mission ended with the provision of a debriefing session for the presentation of initial findings.

### **SECSIP graduate programme**

Following written technical assessment and an interview, jointly designed by the national authorities and SECSIP, a total of eight young national graduates have been identified for the SECSIP “graduate programme”. The successful candidates are expected to report to duty during the second week of June. Five graduates will be supporting the Office of the SIEC as human resources, logistics, IT and voter awareness assistants. Three other graduates will be working for the PPC as legal, research and training assistants.

The graduate programme is an integral part of SECSIP Phase II to support to the Office of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Commission. The programme is expected to contribute to the institutional strengthening by building the national expertise and the self-sustainability of these partner entities.

### **Memorandum of Understanding with SolRice**

On 30 May 2018, UNDP SECSIP and Solomon Rice Company Limited (SolRice) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in the dissemination of voter awareness materials through SolRice networks and distribution channels. With some 900 islands, Solomon Islands faces enormous logistical challenges when it comes to circulating information to its citizens and welcomes the collaboration of this company to this end.

SolRice is a leading rice wholesaler and has agreed to allow self-adhesive plastic document envelopes carrying voter awareness leaflets to be affixed to its 40lb rice bags. These rice bags will be transported



and distributed via the company's networks throughout the country, reaching villages located in the most remote parts of the Solomon Islands. The first phase of this action will focus on the distribution of voter registration information leaflets to encourage the registration of eligible citizens, and will be followed later in the year by a second round of information on how to vote. This collaboration is expected to make a significant contribution to enhance the challenging mission of reaching out to inform the citizens of their rights and responsibilities as voters.

### **Support to the national voter registration**

An Electoral Operations Specialist joined the project's team on 30 May 2018. The specialist will be working very closely with SIEC Head of Operations providing technical support to the SIEC for the upcoming national registration and in the preparation of the national general election.

As per the current SIEC operational plan, the field operations for the national registration campaign is due to commence on 27 July 2018. In preparation for this upcoming electoral event, SECSIP has commenced the procurement of the voter registration equipment and materials identified by SIEC which include spare parts for Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) kits and generators.

The project, with the assistance of the Awareness Specialist, is also supporting the design, development and provision of materials for an integrated awareness campaign.

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

List of activities planned for the following reporting period:

- Round-table discussion with Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) Director (5 June);
- Voter Awareness Committee Seminar (7 June);
- By-election lessons learned exercise (16 June TBC);
- Strategic workshop on research on women's candidacies (21 June, TBC);
- SECSIP Board Meeting (22 June TBC).

**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).**



## 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

- From 5 to 7 May, the Chair of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) of Somalia Ms. Halima Ibrahim, joined a mission together with other members of electoral management bodies from the Arab region to observe the municipal elections in Tunisia on 6 May 2018.
- From 14 to 16 May, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) participated in a workshop on voter registration facilitated by the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) and international experts.
- From 13 to 21 May, an electoral Needs Assessment Mission to Somalia was deployed.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

#### Exploratory Mission to Tunisian Municipal Elections 2018

From 5 to 7 May, the Chair of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) of Somalia joined a mission together with other members of electoral management bodies from the Arab region to observe the municipal elections in Tunisia on 6 May 2018. This mission was organised in collaboration with the Tunisia Independent High Authority for Election (ISIE), the Organization of the Arab Electoral

Management Bodies (known by the acronym Arab EMBs), and with joint support from the UNDP Regional Electoral Assistance Project and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

The programme represented a unique opportunity for the representatives of the Arab EMBs to share best practices and experiences in election processes, was a valuable opportunity for the Tunisia ISIE to showcase its experience to regional colleagues, and for the NIEC of Somalia to enhance its understanding of electoral processes. The mission of more than 35 participants focused on the technical and logistical arrangements of the ISIE in preparation for the different stages of the elections and allowed them to witness the polling and counting procedures. Participants included several EMBs' presidents, commissioners, and officials representing Algeria, the Comoros, Croatia, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine and Somalia.



Several EMB' presidents, commissioners, and officials representing Algeria, the Comoros, Croatia, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine and Somalia, and representatives of international organization such as IFES, Leagues of the Arab States – 6 May 2018, Tunis. Photo credit: Arab EMB

### **Workshop on voter registration**

From 14 to 16 May, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) participated in a workshop on voter registration facilitated by the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) and international experts. It was an opportunity for the NIEC to analyse the outcomes of the Voter Registration Feasibility Study and its implications to inform the strategic and operational decisions in the next months required for a model to conduct a successful voter registration process.

The workshop included a certified BRIDGE module (Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections) on Voter Registration Course, designed and customised to suit the needs of the NIEC. International experts and IESG advisors took participants through an intensive programme covering: reasons for registration, guiding principles of voter registration, eligibility; types of registers, information management; steps to a final voter's list; operational considerations; voter education; stakeholders;

information technology in voter registration and voters roll audit. The emphasis was made on the following cross-cutting themes such as access, sustainability, technology, integrity as they relate to the context of the country.



Group photo - Voter Registration Workshop– 16 May 2018, Mogadishu. Photo credit: UNDP.

## **UN Electoral Needs Assessment Mission**

From 13 to 21 May, an electoral Needs Assessment Mission to Somalia was deployed to assess developments pertaining to the preparations for multiparty universal suffrage elections in 2020/2021, the ability of UNSOM to fulfil its strengthened electoral mandate and make recommendations for resource requirements.

## **Somalia Priority Sub-Working Group**

On 29 May, the NIEC co-chaired in Mogadishu the Priority Sub-Working Working Group on Elections, a coordination platform between federal, subnational, and international partners. The NIEC highlighted recent key developments, including the conduct of nationwide consultations with stakeholders in the regions, progress on institutional capacity, the completion of Phase 1 of its future HQ, the conduct of several by-elections, and the temporary registration of 14 political parties. The NIEC also indicated that progress on the development of the Electoral Law would facilitate its decision-making and planning for voter registration.

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

- From 4 to 6 June, Somalia's National Security Council (NSC), which comprises the country's Federal and State-level leaders, will hold a meeting to discuss, amongst other topics, and seek agreement on the 'electoral model of representation', which would provide strategic direction for the drafting process of the Electoral Law.

- On 16-17 July 2018 (tbc), the EU and Sweden will host in Brussels together with the Government of Somalia a high-level Somalia Partnership Forum. This Forum directly builds on two earlier meetings: The London Somalia Conference in May 2017, where the landmark Security Pact and the New Partnership for Somalia were agreed; and the meetings in Mogadishu in December 2017, which called for a security Transition Plan and to take a first substantive review of the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF). The agenda includes a key topic on inclusive politics and the roadmap towards elections by end 2020, in addition to security, political stability, reconciliation, constitutional review, federalism, resource sharing, economic growth and humanitarian assistance.

**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](#).**



ZAMBIA

Public Relation Department of the Commission

## SUPPORT TO THE ZAMBIA ELECTORAL CYCLE

The project “Consolidation of the Electoral Process in Zambia: Support to the Electoral Cycle” provides targeted support to the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and other national entities to enhance the quality and credibility of electoral processes. Building upon previous electoral support, the project focuses on developing the capacity of the ECZ, enhancing public confidence in election results, strengthening modalities for dispute resolution and support to key electoral partners and stakeholders (political parties, media, CSOs, security agencies). The project started in February 2016, supported by the European Union, DFID, Irish Aid, USAID and UNDP.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 04 May, a meeting was held with civil society organisations (CSOs) on the development of a coordinated framework for domestic observation, at which CSOs formally agreed to establish such a framework.
- From 14 to 24 May, 19 Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) staff attended training on Control Objectives for Information and Related Technology (COBIT) 5 business framework for the governance and management of enterprise Information Technology.
- The ECZ continued its preparations for parliamentary and local by-elections scheduled for 05 June 2018.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

#### Domestic observation framework

The project provided technical and financial support to the convening of a second consultative forum with around 25 representatives of domestic observer groups and other civil society organisations (CSOs) on 04 May to consider potential development of a sustainable framework for domestic observation. This followed an initial event held in March and is part of an initiative implemented in partnership with the Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) to facilitate consideration of options for strengthening collaboration

amongst CSOs on election observation and creating more sustainable engagement throughout the electoral cycle. The meeting has resulted in positive outcomes on how to take the initiative forward, with attendees agreeing to establish a more formalised coordinated framework, to form a technical working group to draft terms of reference and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and to designate the CCMG as Secretariat for the coalition.

### **Capacity development in ICT governance**

The project supported the training of 19 ECZ staff from different departments in Control Objectives for Information and Related Technology (COBIT) 5 business framework for the governance and management of enterprise Information Technology. COBIT is a framework created by the global association ISACA for the governance, management and operation of IT across any business. It aims to help an organisation create value from IT by optimizing risk levels and resource use and enabling managers to bridge the gap between control requirements, technical issues and business risks. Training took place from 14 to 24 May in Lusaka and included different levels of examination for certification. The activity was implemented in partnership with the ECZ, under a cost-sharing arrangement.

### **Diagnostic survey on voter turnout**

In May, with the technical support of the project, the ECZ commenced an initiative to conduct a diagnostic sampling survey on voter turnout in Zambia in the 2016 general elections. This aims to enable the ECZ to ascertain with greater precision reasons for varying levels of turnout amongst different sectors of the population throughout the country. The results of the survey will inform strategies to increase voter turnout for future elections.

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

- ECZ conduct of stakeholder events, including a provincial Public Forum and an open day event at the Commission;
- Establishment of the technical working group to initiate drafting of the framework for the national domestic observation framework;
- Conduct of by-elections in one parliamentary constituency and six local government wards on 05 June;
- Preparations for a Needs Assessment Mission which has been requested by the ECZ on behalf of the Republic of Zambia.

**For more information on the Support to the Zambia Electoral Cycle, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Ms. Katie Green, [katherine.green@undp.org](mailto:katherine.green@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.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and institutional strengthening areas of election operations, Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), operational planning for BVR, training of election staff, voter education, stakeholder engagement, election dispute resolution and gender mainstreaming.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

#### Electoral reform bill

The electoral reform bill has passed the Parliament and was enacted by the President. The bill is progressive in many aspects, the main areas being the new code of conduct of political parties, improvement of voter registration processes, gender mainstreaming, voter education and some improvements in electoral dispute resolution processes. The main issues raised by political parties and civil society remain, further strengthening of the independence of the EMB, responsibility for investigating politically motivated violence cases, which now rests with police and areas of election operations.

It is expected that the code of conduct<sup>1</sup> is publicly signed by the major political parties. The National

<sup>1</sup> In the case of Zimbabwe, the Code of Conduct is part of the Electoral Act and is also a legally enforceable instrument.



Peace and Reconciliation Commission is planning to convene the parties on signing a “Peace Pledge” in the presence of several influential witnesses who will be invited by the Government of Zimbabwe.

## **Election roadmap**

The election day has been fixed on 30 July 2018 and proclamation was made by the President with detailed timelines for nomination and election processes on 30 May 2018. The date for the Nomination Court has been set for 14 June 2018.

## **Inspection of the voters roll**

The final stage of the voter registration process, inspection of the voter’s roll was undertaken from 19 May to 29 May 2018. This was the last and most critical step of the process to ensure credibility, transparency and accuracy of the voter’s roll. To inform the voters about their registration details, several facilities were set up with the assistance from UNDP.

UNDP has provided technical support for developing procedures and processes for conduct of registration and inspection. ZEC established around 9,500 inspection centres country wide for this exercise, and 1.48 million people visited these centres. UNDP supported ZEC to send out SMS messages to 3.2 million voters, who had provided their phone numbers. UNDP also supported setting up of a USSD<sup>2</sup> for those voters who either didn’t give their numbers or don’t have phones but still can get their details by messaging ZEC by dialling \*265#. A total of 910,000 people used the USSD to get their details. Online verification of voter’s data has also been made available, which was accessed by 50,000 voters. A Call Centre, offering citizens toll free numbers is also available for those who are not able to access other platforms.

The voter registration exercise ended on 1 June 2018 and ZEC registered a total of 5.5 million voters. Considering that only 3.2 million people voted in the 2013 harmonised elections it is expected that the voter turnout will be much higher than 2013. The voters roll is representative of the population with youth (aged 19-34) being 44% and women 54% of the registered voter.

## **Voter education**

A voter inspection campaign was developed and rolled out that includes posters, flyers, road shows, call centre, and voter educators were trained to do mobilisation in the field. An estimated 3,200 radio adverts for voter inspection were aired in English, Shona and Debele informing and encouraging people to inspect the voters roll.

Voter education campaign for elections and a gender specific campaigns have been developed that will be launched by mid-June. It will be for the first time that ZEC will be having a nationwide voter education campaign on such a scale and penetration. The campaign is expected to have an outreach to over 6 million people.

## **Stakeholder consultation**

ZEC has continued stakeholder consultation process with political parties, civil society organisations (CSOs) and media. This has been more information based forums with ZEC briefing the stakeholders and less of consultations. After the nomination court, Multi Party Liaison Committees will be

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<sup>2</sup>Unstructured Supplementary Service Data.

established as dispute resolution forums with representation of candidates at national, provincial and constituency levels.

### **Training of police officials**

After agreement with senior police officials, Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) has set up a technical team to work with UNDP to develop the training material for elections. The focus of the content for training includes human rights principles, international and regional standards, conflict mitigation and gender mainstreaming.

### **Media monitoring**

UNDP has been providing technical advice to ZEC to develop ZEC monitoring capacity. In a meeting between ZEC and ZBC on 16 May, ZBC was directed to give equal coverage to political parties. This was brought up based on the feedback from observer groups indicating inequitable coverage for opposition parties.

### **Preparations for polling**

One main area of technical support from UNDP is the cascade training of 100,000 polling staff, where a training video and training material has been developed, and roll out of the cascade is planned to start in June with trainings of provincial and district Election Officers and constituency Elections Officers.

As part of preparations for elections, the list of polling stations has been shared with the electoral stakeholders. The voter inspection centres were established at the same locations as that of polling stations. The initial analysis suggests that the polling station list is a significant improvement from the 2013 polling station list. The polling stations have been increased from 9,735 to approximately 11,000. The average people per polling stations in the country is 504, whereas for Harare this average is 743 and Bulawayo 580.

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

- Roll out of the inspection process and voter education campaigns for inspection;
- Finalisation of training material for polling staff trainings;
- Discussion on media monitoring and conflict management training with ZEC;
- Developing procedures and processes for voter registration inspection;
- Involving the police management in developing training methodology and materials.

**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).**