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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 - 30 June, 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.



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

The Electoral Commission of Zambia conducted by-elections in one parliamentary constituency and six local government wards on 05 June and started preparations for further by-elections scheduled for 26 July.

ZAMBIA

The new Prime Minister and political actors have met to reinitiate the political dialogue and resolve the post-electoral crisis that prevent local elected officials from taking office, four months after the elections.

GUINEA

A joint Department of Political Affairs/ Electoral Assistance Division /UNDP Regional Office mission has been deployed to Malawi Country Office.

MALAWI

SUMMARY

GUINEA: The new Prime Minister and political actors have met to reinitiate the political dialogue and resolve the post-electoral crisis that prevent local elected officials from taking office, four months after the elections.

KENYA: Despite delays in the implementation of the project's approved Annual Work Plan, the project engaged with other electoral stakeholders, including Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, Judiciary Training Institute and Political Parties Dispute Tribunal. Post-election evaluation activities were commenced with high level buy-in from Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission's (IEBC) Commissioners.

LIBERIA: A review of the Inter-Party Consultative Committee's performance during the 2017 general elections has taken place to identify lessons learnt.

MALAWI: Side-by-side civil and voter registration process has been launched. - The project has undertaken the procurement of spare parts for the Biometric Registration Kits (BRK). - The project supported the drafting of the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) gender policy. - A joint Department of Political Affairs/Electoral Assistance Division /UNDP Regional Office mission has been deployed to Malawi Country Office.

NEPAL: ESP supported organising the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) review of the 2017 elections in all seven provinces.

SIERRA LEONE: For the period under review, the project continued its assistance to the National Electoral Commission (NEC) through the development of a NEC action plan for the electoral cycle 2018-2023, and conduct of the deferred local council elections for wards in Port Loko and Makeni City Councils and Bonthe Municipality. - NEC, together with the Gender and Inclusion Advisor has commenced a gender assessment of the electoral process, which was deferred to after the March elections.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: The project provided support to the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) election operations, especially on national voter registration. - Two additional graduates will be engaged as Field Coordination Assistants. - The project supported Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) data-centre and information systems.- The project has provided support to the SIEC voter awareness programme.

SOMALIA: The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) offered temporary registration certificates to five political parties, bringing the total number of registered political parties to 15. - On 25 June 2018, the NIEC organised in Mogadishu a consultative

forum for all temporary registered political parties, discussing the indispensable role of political parties in the electoral process. - The federal 'Electoral Task Force' met on 27 June to discuss and improve the draft law and to agree on a road map leading to the passage of the law by December 2018.

ZAMBIA: A technical working group of civil society organisations (CSOs) participated in a three-day working session to define a proposed charter for a coordinated framework for domestic election observation. - Four Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) staff attended a five-day training on ISACA Certified Information Systems Auditor. - A two-day working session was held with ECZ staff to consider the methodology and research tools for conducting a diagnostic survey on voter turnout. - The ECZ conducted by-elections in one parliamentary constituency and six local government wards on 05 June and started preparations for further by-elections scheduled for 26 July.


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ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Title	Reference	EU Contribution	Start Date	End Date
Guinea	Projet d'Appui au Cycle Electoral de la Guinée – PACEG	FED/2015/367-390	€ 10,000,000.00	06.07.15	05.07.18
Kenya	Strengthening of the Electoral Processes in Kenya Project	FED/2016/372/463	€ 5,000,000.00	13.02.16	12.02.19
Lebanon	EU 2018-2020 Electoral Support to Lebanon	ENI/2018/395-460	€ 2,750,000.00	01.01.18	31.12.19
Liberia	Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/367-723	€ 10,000,000.00	01.06.15	31.05.19
Malawi	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019	2017/389-162	€ 2,500,000.00	11.10.17	10.04.20
Nepal	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
Sierra Leone	Support to the National Electoral Commission	FED/2017/390-345	€ 3,000,000.00	08.08.17	07.02.19
Solomon Islands	Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP)	FED/2013/328-922	€ 3,500,000.00	01.07.13	31.12.18
Somalia	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
Zambia	Support to the 2015-2017 Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/363-147	€ 5,250,000.00	23.06.15	31.07.18
Zimbabwe	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

- The new Prime Minister and political actors have met to reinitiate the political dialogue and resolve the post-electoral crisis that prevent local elected officials from taking office, four months after the elections.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Upon the request by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), UNDP, the European Union Delegation (EUD) and the CENI met at the UN house on 25 June to discuss the audit of the voter list. Participants shared the latest developments on the elections and supported the CENI's request to deploy experts for auditing of the voter list, as per the October 2016 political agreement.

During the meeting, focus has been put on the necessity to guarantee a good cooperation of experts' work to ensure high quality results and their acceptance by all political actors.

In June, CENI received representatives from the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commission (Réseau des Structures de gestion électorale en Afrique de l'Ouest)¹, whose objective was to assess the implementation of 2015 elections observation missions' recommendations.

¹ See <http://econec-resao.org/>.


Ahead of upcoming legislative elections, the CENI met the government, the national assembly and all the technical and financial partners involved in the electoral process. The main goal of the meeting was for the technical and financial partners to discuss the electoral context and to present the assistance requests for the deployment of experts in charge of auditing the voter list.

II. Plans for the next period

The next period will focus on analysing CENI requests, in particular the deployment of international experts in charge of auditing the voter list, and considering appropriate actions to be taken.

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 and visit the [project's website](#).



 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

- Despite delays in the implementation of the project's approved Annual Work Plan, the project engaged with other electoral stakeholders, including Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, Judiciary Training Institute and Political Parties Dispute Tribunal.
- Post-election evaluation activities were initiated with high level buy-in from Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission's (IEBC) Commissioners.

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;
3. Project Steering Committee meeting;
4. Post-election evaluation methodology workshop;

5. County cluster consultative forums on the post-election evaluation.

II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the following reporting period include:

- Continuation of post-election evaluation activities;
- Support to Judiciary Training Institute and Political Parties Dispute Tribunal strategic planning;
- 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.



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

- A review of the Inter-Party Consultative Committee's performance during the 2017 general elections has taken place to identify lessons learnt.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Key decision makers from registered political parties in Liberia (40 men and 26 women) attended a review of the Inter-Party Consultative Committee's performance during the 2017 general elections to identify important lessons learnt to shape the future work of the committee. The review aimed to develop a clear roadmap and workplan for this platform, which serves as the primary interface between political parties and the National Elections Commission.

II. Plans for the next period

Project support will be provided to the by-elections following agreement by donors to fill funding gaps in training, civic and voter's education and logistics. The Senate has passed a resolution outlining a new date for the two by-elections to take place after the constitutional timeline passed. The House of Representatives is expected to ratify the resolution before forwarding to the presidential office for signing. A date for the by-elections is expected to be published shortly.

The National Elections Commission has completed candidate nomination and the replacement of lost voter identity cards. It has also commenced the procurement of polling place kits, printing of the final voter registers and is designing public outreach. Recruitment for a number of project positions are advertised, including those to oversee rehabilitation of the National Elections Commission's warehousing and asset management systems. Additionally, 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 will be recruited. The National Elections Commission has started internal and external consultations to inform a new six-year strategic plan.

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 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, DFID, Ireland, Norway, USAID 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

- Side-by-side civil and voter registration process has been launched;
- The project has undertaken the procurement of spare parts for the Biometric Registration Kits (BRK);
- The project supported the drafting of the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) gender policy;
- A joint Department of Political Affairs/Electoral Assistance Division /UNDP Regional Office mission has been deployed to Malawi Country Office.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

With voter registration commencing on 26 June, preparation for this was the overriding focus for the whole month. The voter registration (VR) exercise is using the new biometric national ID card that has been distributed to all those on the civil register as the source of identification. This will ensure optimal accuracy of the voter register. To ensure that those who have not yet had the opportunity to get on the civil register are not turned away if they want to be on the voters’ roll, Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC), with UNDP’s support, has organised side-by-side civil and voter registration arrangements so that people can do both processes in the shortest possible time. The UNDP basket fund (that now has contributions from EU, DFID UK, UNDP, Norway, Ireland and USAID) is covering the cost of the civil registration officers.

The VR exercise will be taking place in eight phases of two weeks (plus three days turnaround time between phases), meaning that the process will end on 9 November. It is starting in the Central Region, then moving to the Southern Region and finally to the Northern Region.

The Biometric Registration Kits (BRKs) that are being used for this dual civil/voter registration purpose are the same ones that had been used for the mass registration exercise in 2017. As a result, there is a strong likelihood that some of them may start to breakdown. For this reason, the Malawi Electoral Cycle Support (MECS) project has undertaken a procurement exercise which will see the importation of critical spare parts as well as high-level technical support for the reparation of the kits and the correction of software malfunction.

The MECS gender expert was attached to the Malawi Electoral Commission to continue the gender mainstreaming work of the Commission's policies, practices and administrative procedures. It also led to the drafting of the MEC gender policy which is currently being reviewed and would constitute a genuine reform inside the organisation.

From 11-19 June, a joint Department of Political Affairs/Electoral Assistance Division/UNDP Regional Office mission was deployed to Malawi. The elections and peace-building project teams hosted the mission and organised all the necessary meetings with the local institutions.

II. Plans for the next period

The next period will still focus on voter registration with an added impetus to civic and voter education activities depending on the results of the Phase 1 data. There will also be preparatory activities for establishing the Women's Engagement room for monitoring political violence against women and on the streamlining of women's wings into the mainstream of political parties. There will also be a large Women and Elections National Conference as well as a stakeholders forum where MEC's progress on organising the elections will be shared with political parties, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the media.

For more information on the Malawi Electoral Cycle Support Project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Richard Cox, 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

- ESP supported organising the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) review of the 2017 elections in all seven provinces.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project supported the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) in organising national and provincial level workshops for the review of the 2017 elections in all the seven provinces. A total of 323 people, including ECN staff, Chief Returning Officers (CROs), provincial assembly members, contestants, observer organisations, security and media personnel, participated in the event. The objective was to document the lessons learned and challenges of different aspects of the electoral process and provide recommendations for the credibility of elections in future.

Following the completion of the review of Nepal's implementation of BRIDGE professional development courses that the project commissioned, ECN held a BRIDGE coordination committee meeting and is now formulating a plan to implement the recommendations. The methodology developed for the Nepal review will be presented at a global BRIDGE meeting in August so that it can serve as a reference for similar work in other countries.

The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network is the world's leading provider of knowledge resources and services in the field of elections. The project is supporting efforts to update and improve the ACE

website for ESP to archive public documents and to expand the version in Nepali. The project has uploaded 198 videos to the ACE YouTube channel and 34 knowledge products, including posters and infographics, to the ACE website.

II. Plans for the next period

The project will support ECN in conducting statistical analysis of the questionnaires distributed in the review workshops and in producing the review report to document the findings.

For more information on the Nepal ESP, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Vincent da Cruz, 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 period under review, the project continued its assistance to the National Electoral Commission (NEC) through the development of a NEC action plan for the electoral cycle 2018-2023, and conduct of the deferred local council elections for wards in Port Loko and Makeni City Councils and Bonthe Municipality.
- NEC, together with the Gender and Inclusion Advisor has commenced a gender assessment of the electoral process, which was deferred to after the March elections.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Based on recommendations from the National Electoral Commission's (NEC) post-election retreat held in May 2018, NEC, supported by the project team, has developed a forward-looking action plan for the electoral cycle 2018-2023. This action plan covers areas of work for NEC to improve upon their 2018 performance as well as target known problems and issues. The action plan will be a living document and will guide NEC's work as well as relations with development partners.

On 16 June, NEC conducted deferred local council elections for selected wards in Port Loko and Makeni City Councils and in Bonthe Municipality. In preparation for the elections, the project's Advisors

assisted NEC to update polling and counting procedures. A new tracking sheet to disaggregate voter turnout by women/men was trialled during this election. A two-day cascade training was held in each of the concerned districts for polling staff.

The gender assessment of Sierra Leone's electoral arrangements started with a consultative workshop with NEC staff to assess the status of gender mainstreaming within NEC. The NEC, supported by the project's advisors, has held series of informal discussion groups with political parties. The framework for the gender assessment has been adapted from the UNDP-UN Women publication on "Inclusive Electoral Processes: a Guide for Electoral Management Bodies in Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Participation".

The national disability Advisor recruited for the project attended a summer school on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability from 18-22 June in Ireland. This was sponsored directly by IrishAid, who is also one of the project's partners. The theme for the course was Intersectionality Is A Tool For Social Change and focused on the application of the Convention in differing contexts. During the course, the project's advisor made a presentation of a case study for Sierra Leone.

II. Plans for the next period

In the month of July, the project will commence capacity building workshops on operational and logistical planning around the electoral cycle. This will be followed by the continuation of the gender assessment alongside workshops on electoral operations.

For more information on SNEC, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Ms. Kate Sullivan, 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 provided support to the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) election operations, especially on national voter registration.
- Two additional graduates will be engaged as Field Coordination Assistants.
- The project supported Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) data-centre and information systems.
- The project has provided support to the SIEC voter awareness programme.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Support to the national voter registration

Electoral Operations Specialist (EOS) worked closely with the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) Head of Operations on defining the voter registration timeline and on the creation of a detailed operational plan following up from the operational concept developed earlier in the year. The

operational plan provides a detailed explanation on various phases of the Biometric Voter Register (BVR) update. With the support and advice of the project's EOS, the Office of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (OSIEC) developed a more realistic timeline setting the start of the voter registration commencing on 20 August 2018, as well as the BVR model to be implemented. The BVR modality and the timeline was adopted during SIEC session on Friday, 29 June 2018.

Together with OSIEC Head of Operations, EOS facilitated several departmental roundtable discussions to define individual workplans for the areas of public outreach, logistics, human resources and finance. At present, EOS is working on creation of a field coordination and reporting structure for OSIEC. The aim is to collect information on events in the field at scheduled intervals. This will ensure that OSIEC is better aware of progress being made and to anticipate difficulties that may arise during voter registration in the field. It is expected that this will enhance OSIEC reaction time and contingency planning.

The project's graduate programme

In line with EOS advice to enhance field coordination and reporting structures and the good reception of the project's graduate programme, OSIEC Head of Operations has requested the support of SECSIP to expand the graduate programme by engaging two additional graduates to work as Field Coordination Assistants. Given that field operations are integral to any electoral event, the addition of these two graduates will be expected to strengthen the programme initiative.

Support to Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) data-centre and information systems

Following the completion of the construction phase of the data-centre and under the guidance of the project's Biometric Voter Adviser, work on the architecture and setup of the networks and computer-side requirements (i.e. wiring and ensuring the right connectivity is available for the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) kits and for the servers) has commenced with a view to achieve an efficient operation of equipment and human resources. Also, in preparation for the voter registration update, work on a baseline for future upgrades to the current BVR HQ system has also been initiated by the project's Software Developer focusing on automation of backups and migration of biometric data to a proper database system to protect data integrity. Further, as per the request of OSIEC, the project's BVR experts have also commenced work to add search functions to the BVR kits software as well as the creation of SMS platforms for voter information and results data entry.

Voter awareness stakeholder group seminar

On 7 June, a workshop with civil society actors was organised by the project with a view to establish partnerships and enhance outreach to citizens, in preparation for the upcoming voter registration and electoral events. This is consistent with the SIEC Voter Awareness Strategy and the multi-actors' voter awareness initiative prepared by the project Senior Voter Adviser. A total of 15 representatives of the civil society actively participated in this meeting. During this meeting, it was agreed to establish a Voter Awareness Stakeholders Working Group (WG) and the Terms of Reference were discussed and agreed. This WG will have monitoring and evaluation responsibilities and is expected to contribute the consistency of the message as well as to have a better use of the available resources avoiding duplicities. As a result, a mapping exercise was carried out to pinpoint and identify the current civil society organisations (CSOs) activity in the field in order to fill the missing spots in the area.

Support to voter awareness programme

Kodili festival is held every two years and it has been a huge event held in Buala attracting thousands of people from all across Isabel Province. At the request of OSIEC, the project's National Media and Communication Consultant was deployed to support OSIEC in a voter awareness and mock registration activity conducted from 26-28 June. It is estimated that around 500 people participated in these events and that over 200 pamphlets/posters on voter registration were distributed during these three days.

The project provided technical advice and funding for the production of three TV commercials to promote voter registration. These commercials have been aired during the football World Cup championship. The project's Awareness Adviser considered that this was an effective way to reach a wide audience during a critical period as the national voter registration campaign is expected to commence in August and the few options available to reach a wide public. The World Cup generates considerable enthusiasm in the Solomon Islands and people go to extraordinary lengths to view the matches.

With respect to other voter awareness materials and actions, under the guidance of the project's Awareness Adviser, a range of materials including a voter registration poster, tri-folded pamphlets, stickers, pull-up banner have been in support of the upcoming voter registration. Additionally, the Awareness Adviser is currently providing technical expertise for the production of five videos focusing on voter registration, registration claims procedures, secrecy of the vote, role of Members of Parliament and electoral offences.

II. Plans for the next period

List of activities planned for the following reporting period:

- The voter awareness stakeholder group meeting is to be held on 4 July;
- On-going support from SECSIP graduate programme to conduct voter awareness sessions with churches every Sunday;
- Continuous support to the operational planning for the upcoming voter registration process;
- Engagement of people with disabilities to insert registration pamphlets in plastic envelopes to be adhered to bags of rice;
- Round table discussion on upcoming voter register update with participation of OSIEC Head of Operations, Registration Manager, 14 Registration Officers and SECSIP EOS, in Malaita on 04 – 06 July.

For more information on the SECSIP, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Ms. Olga Rabade, 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

- The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) offered temporary registration certificates to five political parties, bringing the total number of registered political parties to 15.
- On 25 June 2018, the NIEC organised in Mogadishu a consultative forum for all temporary registered political parties, discussing the indispensable role of political parties in the electoral process.
- The federal ‘Electoral Task Force’ met on 27 June to discuss and improve the draft law and to agree on a road map leading to the passage of the law by December 2018.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

‘Baidoa’ Agreement on the Electoral Model

Somalia’s National Security Council (NSC), comprising the country’s Federal Government and the State Presidents, agreed on 6 June in Baidoa on the electoral model for the federal elections, confirming “one person, one vote” suffrage elections based on political multi-party competition and closed list-proportional representation. The agreement paves the way for the development and submission of

the Electoral Law to Parliament, and subsequent passage in Parliament envisaged before the end of the year.

NIEC temporary registration certificates for five more political parties

On 11 June 2018, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) offered temporary registration certificates to five political parties, bringing the total number of registered political parties to 15. Names and details of the different political parties can be found on the NIEC's website: www.niec.org.

The political party registration is envisaged to be conducted in two phases: temporary certification until general registration of voters, followed by official political party registration based on the submission of the required signatories of 10,000 registered voters, from minimum 9 of the 18 regions that existed before 1991.



NIEC registration of political parties. Mogadishu, 11 June 2018.
Photo credit: NIEC

NIEC consultative forum with political parties

On 25 June 2018, the NIEC organised in Mogadishu a consultative forum for all temporary registered political parties, discussing the indispensable role of political parties in the electoral process. NIEC Chair Ms. Halima Ismail emphasized the requirement for political parties to organise themselves, and develop their regulations based on the legal framework and party policies. The Chair also highlighted the need for collaboration between political parties and the Commission to make the election process inclusive and transparent. The NIEC stressed the importance for political parties to be fully registered after the current temporary registration.



NIEC consultative dialogue with political parties: Mogadishu, 25 June 2018. Photo credit: NIEC

Consultative meeting on development of voter education curriculum

Voter education enhances the public awareness of the democratic process, builds confidence in the transparency and accountability of the electoral process, and promotes opportunities for inclusive participation. The NIEC has an important responsibility to optimise public participation in the electoral process and to safeguard the democratic process, and has identified voter education as top priority in its Strategic Plan.

With this in mind, on 9 and 10 June, the NIEC organised a two-day consultation session with civil society, education institutions, media, youth and women associations, and government agencies on the development and implementation of a voter education curriculum. Prominent participants included the Somali National University (SNU), academy of science, culture and arts as well as ministries of education, women and information.



NIEC consultative meeting with CSOs on the development of the voter education curriculum – Mogadishu, 9-10 June 2018. Photo credit: NIEC

Meeting of the Electoral Task Force on the drafting of the Electoral Law

Following the Baidoa Agreement, the federal 'Electoral Task Force' met on 27 June to discuss and improve the draft law and to agree on a road map leading to the passage of the law by December 2018. The meeting was attended by the NIEC, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), representatives from the Office of the President (OoP), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA), Boundaries and Federation Commission (BFC), Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MoWHRD) and the Ten-person committee.

II. Plans for the next period

- From 9 to 11 July, IESG will organise for the Commissioners of the NIEC a governance workshop to review the responsibilities of the Commission vis-à-vis the Secretariat and to facilitate Commission decision-making by the Commission.

- On 16 and 17 July, the EU, Sweden and the UN will organise in Brussels together with the Government of Somalia a high-level Somalia Partnership Forum. The agenda includes a key topic on inclusive politics and the roadmap towards elections by end 2020, in addition to items on security, political stability, reconciliation, constitutional review, federalism, resource sharing, economic growth and humanitarian assistance.

- In late July, the NIEC plans to organise a workshop with civil society organisations (CSOs) from the Federal Member States and political party entities on the development of the voter registration curriculum.

For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Filip Warnants, 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

- A technical working group of civil society organisations (CSOs) participated in a three-day working session to define a proposed charter for a coordinated framework for domestic election observation.
- Four Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) staff attended a five-day training on ISACA Certified Information Systems Auditor.
- A two-day working session was held with ECZ staff to consider the methodology and research tools for conducting a diagnostic survey on voter turnout.
- The ECZ conducted by-elections in one parliamentary constituency and six local government wards on 05 June and started preparations for further by-elections scheduled for 26 July.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Domestic observation framework

From 20 to 22 June, a selected technical working group of eight civil society organisations (CSOs) met to prepare a draft charter on the development of a coordinated framework for domestic observation. This represents the third of a series of activities, implemented by the project in partnership with the Christian

Churches Monitoring Group, for representatives of domestic observer groups and other CSOs to consider options for promoting collaborative, sustainable engagement throughout the electoral cycle. The working session resulted in a draft charter covering structure, internal governance and scope of work for a coordinated framework that will be presented to the wider group of CSOs for feedback.



Technical Working Group on the Framework for Domestic Election Observation. Photo credit: UNDP Zambia.

Capacity development in ICT governance

The project supported the training of four ECZ staff in Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA). CISA is a globally recognised ISACA programme that promotes good practices in ICT governance through audit controls for information systems. It aims to provide tools to assess systems vulnerabilities, institute controls and report on compliance to assure the security and integrity of the large volumes of information that drive a business enterprise. The five-day training took place from 18 to 22 June in Lusaka and was attended by staff from IT, audit and finance units of the ECZ.

Diagnostic survey on voter turnout

The project provided technical and financial support to a two-day working session to review and revise the methodology for conducting a diagnostic survey on voter turnout in Zambia. The intervention is initiated in response to lessons learned from the 2016 elections that highlighted a general decline in voter turnout in Zambia over the last 20 years, with significant variations between different areas of the country. The survey aims to utilise a range of research tools to gather both quantitative and qualitative information on voter turnout that may inform strategies to increase voter turnout for future elections. The working session took place on 23-24 June for five ECZ staff, supported by two consultants, and resulted in a revised methodology and draft research tools for further refinement in the coming weeks.

II. Plans for the next period

- Conduct of provincial stakeholder consultations on the review of the Public Order Act;
- Presentation of the draft charter on a framework for domestic election observation to domestic observer groups and other CSOs for feedback/agreement;
- Conduct of by-elections on 26 July for the office of mayor in Lusaka, and in seven districts and six local government wards;
- Preparations for a UN electoral Needs Assessment Mission 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.