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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 September, 2017

# 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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The 2017 local level elections have been completed on 18 September. The UN Secretary General congratulated Nepal for this achievement.

NEPAL

During the course of September, the new MECS 2017-19 project was officially initiated with the signing of the Project Document and the signing of the 2017 Annual Workplan.

MALAWI

On 10 September, the NIEC initiated a Voter Registration Feasibility Study to examine in detail all aspects related to the introduction of a voter registration system for Somalia

SOMALIA

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## SUMMARY

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**ARMENIA:** On Friday 1 September, the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) approved the manual for the Voter Authentication Device (VAD) Operators. The manual will be used for both parliamentary and local elections. - On 5 and 6 September, the CEC held a two-day lessons-learned exercise on the voter authentication process. - The software, source code and documentation for the Voter Authentication (VA) System and Central Information Verification System (CVIS) were handed over to the CEC on 26 September; on the same day the VA process implementation for 2017 was ITIL certified.- The SEPA project officially closed on 30 September, 2017.

**GUINEA:** On 23-27 September, the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) of Guinea organised a workshop focused on the planning for the next local elections, and discussed legal, logistics and security issues. The local elections are anticipated on 4 February 2018.

**KENYA:** Following a petition by the NASA Presidential candidate Raila Odinga, the Supreme Court of Kenya annulled the August 8, 2017 presidential election. Through a majority decisions of four against two the annulment cited irregularities and illegalities in the conduct of the elections. Following nullification of the presidential election, IEBC set October 26, 2017 as the date for the Fresh Presidential Election (FPE).

**LEBANON:** As part of the preparations for the upcoming 2018 parliamentary elections, on the 14 September, the Lebanese Cabinet nominated the 11 members of the newly formed Supervisory Commission for Elections (SCE).

**LIBERIA:** A total of 77 headquarters level staff, comprised of 51 men and 26 women, were trained on polling and counting procedures. - Technical assistance was provided to the chairman's office for producing weekly press statements and updates on election preparations. - Four workshops were conducted, strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders from legal professional groups, media and civil society to file and monitor complaints and appeals related to electoral offenses.

**MALAWI:** During the course of September, the new MECS 2017-19 project was officially initiated with the signing of the Project Document and the signing of the 2017 Annual Workplan. This means that the project can begin supporting the foreseen workplan activities. The project also held its first Technical and Steering Committee meetings on 4th and 12th September respectively. Key documents (AWP 2017, Risk Log and M&E Framework) were adopted with very minor changes.

**NEPAL:** The 2017 local level elections were completed and the UN Secretary General congratulated Nepal for this achievement. - The ESP will provide support for the upcoming federal and state level elections in 21 areas.

**SOMALIA:** On 1 September, the National Independent Electoral Commission of Somalia (NIEC) became a member of the Association of the World Election Bodies (A-WEB). - On 10 September, the NIEC initiated a Voter Registration Feasibility Study to examine in detail all aspects related to the introduction of a voter registration system for Somalia. - On 20 September, the NIEC convened a donor coordination meeting with international partners and electoral assistance providers, presenting the details of its five-year strategic plan (2017-2021) including an overall budget to plan and conduct universal elections in 2020. - On 27 September, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) and the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA) led the first meeting of the Government's high-level "Pillar Working Group 1" on Inclusive Politics as part of the implementation of the National Development Plan. - On 28 September, the NIEC launched the temporary registration process for political parties.

**ZIMBABWE:** ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and technical assistance areas of Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), operational planning, voter education, 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>Armenia</b>	Support to the Electoral Process in Armenia (SEPA)	ENI/2017/383-645	€ 2,000,000.00	01.07.16	01.10.17
<b>Georgia</b>	Studies and Research of Media Election Coverage in Georgia for Local Self-Government Elections 2017	ENI/2016/378-735	€ 276,663.00	01.01.17	31.12.17
<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 Support to the Lebanese Elections Assistance Programme (LEAP): Building Sustainability for Implementation of Electoral Reforms	ENPI/2013/333-144	€ 1,810,000.00	01.01.14	31.12.17
	Lebanese Electoral Assistance Programme for the 2013 Parliamentary Elections	ENPI/2013/316-094	€ 3,000,000.00	01.01.13	31.12.17
<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	€ 8,400,000.00	12.01.12	11.01.18
<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	31.12.17
<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



## SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN ARMENIA (SEPA)

The UNDP project “Support to the Electoral Process in Armenia (SEPA)”, which started in July 2016 with the support of the EU, US, Germany, UK and the Government of Armenia, provides assistance to the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Armenia to increase transparency of the electoral process and improve confidence of voters in the process by introducing an electronic voter authentication (VA) process at polling stations. Technical assistance is provided for the procurement of the technical equipment, developing the VA software and procedures, support the CEC in training voter authentication devices (VADs) operators and support the CEC in implementing a voter education campaign to familiarize voters and other stakeholders with the VA process as well as other novelties introduced by the 2016 Electoral Code. For more information, [please visit the SEPA webpage](#).

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On Friday 1 September, the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) approved the manual for the Voter Authentication Device (VAD) Operators. The manual will be used for both parliamentary and local elections.
- On 5 and 6 September, the CEC held a two-day lessons-learned exercise on the voter authentication process.
- The software, source code and documentation for the Voter Authentication (VA) System and Central Information Verification System (CVIS) were handed over to the CEC on 26 September; on the same day the VA process implementation for 2017 was ITIL certified.
- The SEPA project officially closed on 30 September, 2017.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

On 1 September, the CEC informed that it had finalized the review of the manual for the Voter Authentication Device (VAD) Operators. The SEPA training team incorporated comments from the CEC on the final/merged manual and is now working on the design corrections. The new manual, now

final, includes procedures for both parliamentary and local elections.

The CEC conducted its internal lessons-learned exercise on the voter authentication (VA) process in Yerevan on 6 and 7 September. During the two-day exercise, 25 participants including the CEC Chairperson, CEC Commissioners, the Secretary General and other CEC staff, reviewed the VA process, identified challenges faced, what worked well and what can be improved. The CEC summarized recommendations for future electoral cycles, some of which will be introduced starting with the upcoming 5 November 2017 local elections (link to the CEC website – information on the lessons-learned exercise: <http://www.elections.am/news/>).

On 25 and 26 the Project ICT advisors conducted a refresher technical training on the VIU Client (VAD software and CVIS covering the entire VA process and procedures. During the training, the VIUC Client and CVIS software were tested and handed over, along with all relevant documentation, to the CEC. At the end of the training, the SEPA Project's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) international advisor certified the VA process implementation for 2017 following the ITIL (Information Technology Infrastructure Library) practices for IT service management (ITSM).

CEC Commissioners, Executive Director and the Spokesperson also attended a 1-day workshop organized by SEPA project on 27 September on "Introduction to Strategic Planning for Electoral Administrations". The scope of the workshop, as agreed with the CEC, was for the CEC to receive an overall view on the use and benefits of developing a Strategic Plan.

On 15 September, the Project held its 8th and final Steering Committee meeting to also mark the end of the successfully implemented project. The SCM, co-chaired by the Justice Minister and the UNDP Resident Representative, was attended by the CEC Chairman, the EU, US, German and British Ambassadors, other members and UNDP and Project staff.

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

- Distributing to partners the Project's final report (by end of October 2017).

**For more information on the Support to the Electoral Cycle in Armenia (SEPA), please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Ms. Costanza Lucangeli, [costanza.lucangeli@undp.org](mailto:costanza.lucangeli@undp.org).**



## PROJET D'APPUI AU CYCLE ELECTORAL DE LA GUINEE

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 23-27 September, the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) of Guinea organised a workshop focused on the planning for the next local elections, and discussed legal, logistics and security issues. The local elections are anticipated on 4 February 2018.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

During the reporting period, project's activities focused on providing advisory support to the electoral commission, based on their specific needs.

After the new president of the CENI, Mr. Amadou Salif Kébé, took office in August 2017, CENI organized meetings with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, the Constitutional Court and the Ministry of Justice. The main objective of these meetings was to clarify the expectations and the needs of various organizations. The meetings also focused on finding the solutions to the issues such as defining electoral boundaries in accordance with the electoral law, addressing the lack of magistrates to cover all the electoral constituencies and other issues.

Also, from 23 to 27 September, CENI organised a planning workshop on electoral operations ahead of the local elections. The workshop focused on the following points:

- Legal challenges and constraints linked to the organizational framework of the local elections;
- Logistic and security challenges of the local elections;
- Challenges and constraints related to the institutional communication, as well as participation in local elections;
- Challenges related to the capacity-building of stakeholders and election administrators;

- The role and responsibilities of territorial administrators in the organization of local elections;
- The presentation of the draft electoral calendar of the local elections.

Following the validation of key steps by the stakeholders, CENI announced that the next local elections will take place on 4 February 2018. This timeline will be maintained provided that the Ministry of Budget makes the necessary resources available to the EMB.

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

The following activities are expected in October 2017:

- Continue the implementation of the plan to monitor activities of civil society organisations in the field;
- Organising BRIDGE training for women leaders;
- Recruitment, training and deployment of the national United Nations Volunteers.

**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](#).**



KENYA

 IEBC Communications Department

## STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN KENYA

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

- Following a petition by the NASA Presidential candidate Raila Odinga, the Supreme Court of Kenya annulled the August 8, 2017 presidential election. Through a majority decisions of four against two the annulment cited irregularities and illegalities in the conduct of the elections. Following nullification of the presidential election, IEBC set October 26, 2017 as the date for the Fresh Presidential Election (FPE). IEBC relied on a decision made by the Supreme Court in 2013 to declare that only Mr. Odinga, NASA candidate, and Mr. Kenyatta, Jubilee candidate, will participate in the FPE. The Thirdway Alliance presidential candidate, Mr. Ekuru Aukot, who enjoined himself in the petition, has since gone to Court seeking to be included as a candidate in the FPE.
- The nullification of the presidential election elicited mixed reactions from both sides of the political divide. On one hand, Jubilee Party was unhappy with the verdict stating that the Judges who issued the majority decision disregarded the will of Kenyans. On the other hand, the National Super Alliance (NASA) lauded the ruling and called for radical reform of the IEBC before the FPE could be conducted. NASA submitted a list of nine demands items termed “irreducible minimums” before it could participate in the FPE. In particular, NASA called for the removal of certain IEBC officials whom they associated with some of the problems noted by the Supreme Court. NASA also insisted that Al Ghurair<sup>1</sup> should be barred from printing ballot papers and statutory forms while OT Morpho/Safran<sup>2</sup> should not supply election technologies including KIEMS kits.

1. Al Ghurair is a Dubai-based company contracted by IEBC to print ballot papers and statutory forms for the August 8, 2017 General Elections.

2. OT Morpho/Safran supplied the Kenya Integrated Elections Management Information System (KIEMS) which was used in the August 8, 2017 General Elections.

- The opposition candidate insisted that he will not participate in an election managed by the same officials. The assessed non-response to the irreducible minimums quickly took a new twist within the month with NASA calling for weekly protests under the banner of “no reform no election”. Talks by IEBC to foster consensus amongst the main political parties did not yield much results especially after the Jubilee party sponsored a Bill in both houses of Parliament seeking to amend the electoral laws in advance of the 26 August 2017. NASA has insisted that for progress to be made towards political consensus around the FPE, Jubilee needed to first withdraw the proposed amendments. The Diplomatic Community, religious leaders, and civil society organizations have made several attempts to persuade the main political protagonists to relent on hard-line positions and give full support to electoral preparedness processes for the FPE, but these efforts were not fully successful.
- Meanwhile IEBC has been going on with preparations for the FPE. The Chairman, in response to the Supreme Court ruling has put together a Project Team to support planning, coordination and management of the FPE. The Project Team is composed of members of the secretariat working closely with the commission towards the October 26 election and in part as a response to some of NASA’s irreducible minimum agenda. IEBC has also contracted OT Morpho/Safran to reconfigure the KIEMS kit and make them ready for the fresh election, and discussions are at an advance stage on ballot paper printing.
- Besides the presidential petition, a total of 338 petitions for other elective positions have been filed in various courts challenging elections of various positions. This number is unprecedented, given that only 188 petitions were filed following the 2013 General Elections.

## I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project has developed a supplementary annual work plan (AWP) for the period September – December to respond to priorities emerging from preparations for the FPE. The key interventions will focus strengthening of IEBC, stakeholder engagement, voter education, strategic communications, monitoring the FPE from a human rights lens, strengthening domestic observation and electoral dispute resolution.

During the month, the project supported a strategy retreat for the project team. During the retreat, the project team developed an operations plan for the FPE and ways for harmonious working between the project team, other members of the secretariat and the Commissioners. The project also supported training of magistrates gazetted to handle petitions arising from the 2017 General Elections. The training provided an opportunity for the magistrates and judges to reflect on the impact of the Supreme Court ruling on the outcomes of the petitions they will handle and how they will uphold the integrity of the Judiciary in their rulings.

## II. Plans for the next period

The project will support IEBC to undertake a detailed review of the Supreme Court ruling with a view to generating a checklist of to-do items. This checklist will simplify monitoring of progress towards total compliance with the orders of the Court. The project will support IEBC communications around the FPE to rebuild public confidence in the process, enhance the credibility of the FPE and improve public participation in it. The project will support key media houses to mount a Media Situation Room for joint reporting of the FPE. The project will support Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to deploy human rights monitors to more than 40 counties to monitor and report any human rights abuses before, during and after the FPE. The project will support Elections Observation Group (ELOG) to deploy general and parallel vote tallying (PVT) observers, and ICT observers to observe voting, vote counting, results tallying and results transmission. The project will support the training of political party agents on electoral operations and the results transmission system.

**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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- As part of the preparations for the upcoming 2018 parliamentary elections, on the 14 September, the Lebanese Cabinet nominated the 11 members of the newly formed Supervisory Commission for Elections (SCE).

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

As part of the preparations for the upcoming 2018 parliamentary elections, on the 14 September, the Lebanese Cabinet nominated the 11 members of the newly formed Supervisory Commission for Elections (SCE). The composition of the SCE includes Abdel-Malek, president and George Mourani appointed as vice president. The remaining nine members are: Aouni Ramadan, nominated from a list of three former presidents of the Auditing Department; Andre Sader, nominated by the State Shura Council; Nouhad Jabr, nominated from a list of two former presidents of the Beirut Bar Association; Philippe Abi Akl, nominated from a list of three names proposed by the Press Federation; Moufac al-Yafi, nominated from a list of three names proposed by Lebanese Association of Certified Public Accountants; Sylvana al-Lakkis, nominated from a list of three names proposed by civil society representatives; Atallah Ghshem, Karin Geagea and Arda Kamkaji, nominated from a list of six names proposed by the interior minister based on their expertise in the field of elections.

As per the provisions of the Law 44/2017 – Article 9: “The Commission shall supervise the elections in accordance with its functions set forth in this law, independently and in coordination with the Minister of Interior and Municipalities.” Consequently, according to the Article 19 of the new electoral law the commission shall assume (among others) important functions related to: Monitoring the compliance of the candidates lists; Determining the terms and conditions of conducting opinion polls; Receiving and auditing the financial statements of the electoral campaigns within one month from the date of the election; Exercising control over the election campaign spending in accordance with the provisions of this law; Processing the applications of local and international electoral observers,

issuing their permits and establishing a code of conduct for them, and; Receiving and adjudicating complaints of alleged violations in matters related to the functions of the Commission.

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

As per the electoral calendar, during the month of October, the SCE members will take an oath before the President of the Republic and is expected to assume their responsibilities as soon as possible. The most important amendment and change from the old SCEC of 2009, is this time the appointment was for a permanent SCE and not a temporary one associated with 2018 parliamentary elections only.

**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).**



## LIBERIA

Election Project/UNDP Liberia

# SUPPORT TO THE 2015 – 2018 LIBERIAN ELECTORAL CYCLE

The project to support the electoral process in Liberia aims to strengthen the capacity of the National Election Commission (NEC) to successfully carry out electoral processes within the electoral cycle 2015-2018. Key in this regard is the preparation and conduct of the Presidential and General elections scheduled for 10th October 2017. Among other specific objectives, it introduces modern administrative systems and procedures, enhances its communications and public outreach and supports voter registration ahead of the elections. 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. For more information, [please visit the Project's website.](#)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 77 headquarters level staff, comprised of 51 men and 26 women, were trained on polling and counting procedures.
- Technical assistance was provided to the chairman's office for producing weekly press statements and updates on election preparations.
- Four workshops were conducted, strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders from legal professional groups, media and civil society to file and monitor complaints and appeals related to electoral offenses.

## I. Project activities during the reporting period

A total of 77 headquarters level staff, comprised of 51 men and 26 women, were trained on polling and counting procedures. An additional 40 county trainers and 416 electoral supervisors were trained as trainers to roll out polling staff training across the country. To support the training, assistance was provided in producing a training plan for polling officials down to the county level.

Technical assistance was provided to the chairman's office for producing weekly press statements and updates on election preparations, increasing public accountability and transparency.

Three regional training workshops on procedures and how to vote using the tactile ballot guide were held in Bomi, Margibi and Nimba for 200 individuals (40% female and 60% male) with disabilities, raising awareness of tactile ballot usage.

Four workshops were conducted, strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders from legal professional groups, media and civil society to file and monitor complaints and appeals related to electoral offenses.

Technical support was provided to complete tallying procedures at headquarters and county levels. A summary of tallying procedures was produced for stakeholders including election observers. IT aspects of the results management system were also updated to include a final record of count in preparation of results transmission.

A UNDP IT consultant provided updates to the SMS and website based voter registration checking tool that permits registered voters to check their polling locations and details. The final voter register was generated after completion of de-duplication processes. It was subsequently printed and distributed in line with legal timelines.

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

Elections are scheduled for 10 October 2017. During the first week of October 2017 UNDP will support training for 17,000 polling place staff in procedures and areas related to their specific tasks on election day. Material will start to be dispatched from Monrovia on 28 September 2017 with logistics support from UNDP. Training for 41 hearing officers and clerks on complaints and appeals procedures will also be conducted. The results management system will be deployed and supported throughout the election process by UNDP IT expertise. The project will continue monitoring voter education activities and has put in place a monitoring system to assess training standards.

**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).**



MALAWI

Malawi Electoral Commission

## MALAWI ELECTORAL CYCLE SUPPORT 2017-2019

### HIGHLIGHTS

- During the course of September, the new MECS 2017-19 project was officially initiated with the signing of the Project Document and the signing of the 2017 Annual Workplan. This means that the project can begin supporting the foreseen workplan activities. The project also held its first Technical and Steering Committee meetings on 4th and 12th September respectively. Key documents (AWP 2017, Risk Log and M&E Framework) were adopted with very minor changes.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

Due to the need to wait for the essential project documents to be signed off, as per above, the project was preparing for coming activities rather than implementing them during the month of September. The newly appointed Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) Legal Director has been sent to the Zambia EMB, to be sensitized on the functions and structure of an EMB Legal Department, 3-7 October. This department is new in MEC and the study tour was deemed useful exposure for the equally new Director to learn from a long-established legal department in a nearby EMB. There is a study tour of the MEC ICT staff to the India EMB on Capacity Building on Electoral Technologies which is also highly relevant to MEC as there will be some advanced technological operations in the 2019 tripartite elections, particularly around voter registration and results transmission. There is also a study tour of the MEC Chair and accompanying officials to Ghana to understand all the implications of 50+1 electoral modalities on the MEC Operational Plan, should this reform come to pass in Malawi. In addition, the project has been preparing for a Functional Review of MEC at the HQ and district levels and is preparing to advertise for Strategic Planning expertise. Finally, the project is supporting the procurement of accounting software in order to bring about stronger internal financial controls in MEC.

For UNWOMEN, a Letter of Agreement is being prepared setting out all the sub-activities UNWOMEN intend to undertake between now and the end of the year. For the Centre on Multi-party dialogue

(CMD), the project has received a Concept Note focusing on sensitization and consultations of political parties around the proposed electoral reforms which should be tabled in November.

## **II. Project activities during the reporting period**

The month of October will see the actual implementation of all the activities that were under preparation (as per above) as well as concrete progress on identifying MEC's procurement requirements under the project.

**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

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 2017 local level elections have been completed and the UN Secretary General congratulated Nepal for this achievement.
- The ESP will provide support for the upcoming federal and state level elections in 21 areas.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

As the ECN has completed polling and counting for the direct elections in the third and final phase of the local level elections, the ESP has wrapped up its support and started preparations for supporting the upcoming State Assembly and House of Representatives elections.

The UN Secretary General issued a press statement expressing appreciation to the people of Nepal for the peaceful conduct of the polls, which marks a crucial step in the transition towards federalism as enshrined in the 2015 Constitution.

As an important contribution to Phase III of the local elections, the project completed the ECN voter education campaign supporting community-level meetings through local implementing partners with a special focus on inclusion of women and social excluded groups. The activities were monitored through a SMS-based reporting system.

In the meantime, the ESP team provided technical input to the ECN voter education and information strategy for upcoming elections 26 November and 7 December. Specific emphasis is given to gender equality and social inclusion.



Local people being briefed on the proper way to mark in a ballot paper during the voter education campaign in Birgunj district.  
Photo credits: UNDP Nepal



Local journalists participating in a mock polling during a media training on elections, conducted in Parsa district.  
Photo credits: UNDP Nepal

The Electoral Violence Mitigation programme implemented by the UNDP Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme (SCDP), supported by ESP, successfully completed its series of multi-stakeholder dialogue forums and youth meetings, with events in the remaining districts to be covered under the partnership agreement.



A Training of Trainers (ToT) Program on Voter Education for local trainers under progress in Kailali district.  
Photo credits: UNDP Nepal

## II. Plans for the next period

- With a spirit to support the ECN in upcoming federal and state level elections, the project drafted a concept note on proposed areas of support. A total of 21 areas were identified and agreed with the commission.
- The ECN requested substantive, operational and logistic support for the training cascades in the fields of election management, information technology management, security management, logistics and finance, voter education and media relations. Trainings will be organized and implemented at national and regional level. Apart from these trainings, support to ECN for electoral dispute resolution and the promotion of a peaceful environment for the elections are also among the agreed support areas. ESP will continue to provide general technical assistance and advice to the process, guided by international experience and the lessons learned during planning, polling and counting of the local level 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).**



## 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.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

NTR

### II. Plans for the next period

NTR



## 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.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 1 September, the National Independent Electoral Commission of Somalia (NIEC) became a member of the Association of the World Election Bodies (A-WEB).
- On 10 September, the NIEC initiated a Voter Registration Feasibility Study to examine in detail all aspects related to the introduction of a voter registration system for Somalia.
- On 20 September, the NIEC convened a donor coordination meeting with international partners and electoral assistance providers, presenting the details of its five-year strategic plan (2017-2021) including an overall budget to plan and conduct universal elections in 2020.
- On 27 September, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) and the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA) led the first meeting of the Government’s high-level “Pillar Working Group 1” on Inclusive Politics as part of the implementation of the National Development Plan.
- On 28 September, the NIEC launched the temporary registration process for political parties.

## I. Project activities during the reporting period

### • NIEC initiates a Voter Registration Feasibility

Study On 10 September, the NIEC initiated a Voter Registration Feasibility Study to examine all aspects related to the introduction of a voter registration system for Somalia in preparation of universal elections. The study is assessing the feasibility of different voter registration options and methodologies in the specific context of Somalia, where there has not been any nation-wide registration of people in decades. The team sought input and guidance from key government partners of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member States (FMS), as well as from different stakeholders including civil society. The study is to inform the NIEC of the voter registration methodology to be decided and accepted by all key stakeholders in 2018, in order for actual voter registration to commence in 2019 according to the NIEC strategic plan. Preliminary feedback from various stakeholders relate to the issues of accessibility (including security), the wider electoral legal framework, and the need of a political agreement on crucial constitutional issues. The citizenship law will be an important piece of legislation to define eligible voters. Other issues raised relate to the internally displaced persons (IDPs), nomadic population and the unknown size of the total population.

### • NIEC's Launch of the temporary Political Party Registration

On 28 September, the NIEC launched the process of temporary registration of political parties. After decades of conflict resulting into a fragmented country, Somalia does not have formal nationwide political parties. In line with the political party law adopted in June 2016, the temporary registration of political associations into political parties will take place in anticipation of official registration at a later stage once supporting voters are registered across different regions. During the launch, which was broadcast publicly, the NIEC presented to political associations the steps and forms required for temporary registration. The main objective of this ceremony was to show that NIEC is ready to accommodate the temporary registration process of political parties, to inform the public and specifically to invite political associations to come forward and register as a political party.

### • NIEC membership of the Association of the World Election Bodies

On 31 August, supported by UN Joint Programme for electoral support, the NIEC attended the third General Assembly of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), held in Bucharest, Romania. During the session, the request for membership of the NIEC was accepted, along with the ones from Papua New Guinea, Colombia and Peru. The new members will join the existing 106 members. The organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (Arab EMBs) also became an associate member of the AWEB. The NIEC, also member of the Arab EMBs since 2016, intends to capitalize on the electoral experience and knowledge of these international institutions.

## II. Plans for the next period

- Finalization of the voter registration feasibility study
- In-depth working sessions with MOIFAR Electoral Law working group and NIEC through senior

technical expert on electoral systems

- Support to NIEC workshop on internal processes
- Preparation for the conduct by the NIEC of three by-elections

**For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Filip Warnants, [filip.warnants@undp.org](mailto:filip.warnants@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 technical assistance areas of Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), operational planning, voter education, election dispute resolution and gender mainstreaming.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

**Technical Assistance for Voter Registration Operations:** Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) based on the Presidential Proclamation launched the new Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) process on 14 September 2017 with the registration of President, Vice Presidents, Parliamentarians, leaders of political parties, representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs) and Independent Commissions. Sixty-three permanent registration centres were also established throughout the country to start the process and test the software, procedures and processes before the large scale roll out planned in October 2017 to cover 10,000 registration centres. UNDP technical experts provided inputs to improve the software, procedures and reporting during this limited registration process to undertake corrective measures before the large scale roll out.

**Training of BVR Operators:** With the technical and financial support of ZIM-ECO project funded by EU, the Training of Trainers (TOT) for BVR Operators and Technicians was conducted from 04-08 September 2017 resulting in training of 90 Master Trainers, 50 Technicians and 10 Monitors. After the TOT, detailed training and monitoring plans were developed for the roll out of the training. A total of 8,500 BVR operators have been trained as part of the roll out, who will operate the BVR kits in the registration centres.

**Procurement of the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) Kits and Data Centre Upgradation:** The final delivery of 2,600 BVR Kits was received on 25 September 2017 and after clearance, the kits were moved into the warehouse for testing and charging before shifting to the provinces for large scale roll out planned by mid-October 2017. Based on the requirements identified by ZEC, UNDP has placed an order with its data centre equipment provider for upgradation of the ZEC data centre. There were some delays in the supply of equipment due to the disruptions caused by hurricane in the United States and the delivery is now expected by the 3rd week of October 2017.

**Stakeholder Consultations:** The stakeholder consultations are continuing with the political parties, CSOs, FBOs and media to discuss issues and challenges regarding the implementation of the BVR process. ZEC conducted a special briefing on 21 September 2017 for the diplomatic community on the preparations for the elections. The briefing was well participated by diplomats from Europe, US, Africa, Middle East and Asia. Another round of stakeholder consultations has been planned from the 1st week of October to discuss preparations for the full scale BVR roll out and share the roll out plans.

**Voter Education Strategy and its Implementation:** With the support from UNDP, a comprehensive BVR Voter Education Campaign has been planned. Printed material has been developed and is currently being translated into regional languages, story boards and concepts for jingles, radio and TV advertisements have been developed. Call Centre set up is in advanced stages, provision of SMS services and roadshows has been planned. Training of Trainers for Voter Educators was conducted from 13-14 September 2017 and lead trainers will be training the voter educators in the field. An innovation has been added to the methodology of voter education with voter educators using pocket projectors with pre-loaded programs for effective communication.

**Human Rights and dispute resolution:** A discussion was organized between Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and UNDP for programming additional funds. Three areas were agreed that included development of an election strategy, a discussion on the role of ZHRC as defined within the Electoral Law and use of Human Rights Monitors during the voter registration process. Concepts are being developed in this regard.

**Gender Mainstreaming:** UNDP is working in partnership with UN Women to implement gender mainstreaming interventions across all the project activities. A gender baseline survey covering 2,000 households is being conducted to determine the baseline on gender issues and challenges. After fielding of the survey instrument, data collection has been completed and analysis is currently being undertaken with the report expected in late November 2017.

## II. Plans for the next period

- Starting of the roll out of the BVR across 10,000 registration centres
- Upgradation of data centre
- Implementation of Voter Education activities

**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).**