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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 July, 2018

Electoral Assistance Projects Update

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



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

On 31 July, the National Elections Commission (NEC) conducted the senatorial by-elections in Montserado and Bong counties, in a peaceful environment.

LIBERIA

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) conducted by-elections on 26 July for the office of mayor of Lusaka and in seven districts and six local government wards

ZAMBIA

The European Union, Sweden and the United Nations, together with the Federal Government of Somalia, hosted the Somalia Partnership Forum (SPF) in Brussels to discuss commitments and progress on Somalia's efforts to ensure peace and prosperity in the years to come.

SOMALIA

SUMMARY

GUINEA: The project supported the CENI in the preparations of the audit of the electoral list.

KENYA: The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) continued with post-election evaluation activities, including focus group discussions and key informant interviews at county level.

LIBERIA: On 31 July, the National Elections Commission (NEC) conducted the senatorial by-elections in Montserado and Bong counties, in a peaceful environment. The project supported the by-elections through logistics and operations, including the preparation, delivery and retrieval of sensitive/non-sensitive electoral material. - The project deployed 77 civic educators and gender mobilisers to conduct public awareness campaign.

MADAGASCAR: The electoral mapping is ongoing. - Workshops on the new legal electoral framework, the capacity-building of journalists and civic education activities have been organised in all 6 provinces of the country. - The internal audit of the electoral list has been conducted. - The logistics plan for the dissemination of the electoral materials and for the addition of the votes has been updated. - The consultation framework between the CENI and the Constitutional Court is effective and operational.

NEPAL: The project finalised the Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) evaluation report and focused on analytical work.

SIERRA LEONE: For the period under review, the project engaged heavily with the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to plan for the remainder of the project period while also helping NEC set a roadmap of activities for the next national elections.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: The project continued to provide support to Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) election operations and voter awareness programme. - Registration Managers/Registration Officers training was organised. - The project organised a workshop to validate initial findings of the research on women's leadership and political participation. - Voter Awareness Stakeholder Working Group meeting was held. - SIEC and the project reached an agreement with rice wholesaler SolRice to collaborate in the distribution of voter awareness leaflets throughout Solomon Islands. - The project supported the upgrade of the SIEC website search features to facilitate registration and voter information. - The project procured equipment in support of the voter registration

SOMALIA: The European Union, Sweden and the United Nations, together with the Federal Government of Somalia, hosted the Somalia Partnership Forum (SPF) in Brussels to discuss commitments and progress on Somalia's efforts to ensure peace and prosperity in the years to come. The Chair of the National Independent Electoral Commission has highlighted their determination to hold multi-party universal suffrage elections by 2020. - The NIEC organised workshops with political parties and civil society organisations to discuss and develop awareness-raising strategies in view of the next "one-person, one-vote" elections by 2020. - On 7 and 8 July, a two-day workshop was held for media representatives on the draft Electoral Law.

ZAMBIA: A United Nations Electoral Needs Assessment Mission to Zambia was deployed to conduct consultations with stakeholders in-country from 30 July to 03 August. - On 17 and 18 July, a consultative meeting was held with civil society organisations (CSOs) to review the draft charter for a coordinated framework for domestic election observation. - The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) refined its research tools and tested the questionnaire for its survey on voter turnout. - The ECZ conducted by-elections on 26 July for the office of mayor of Lusaka and in seven districts and six local government wards and started preparations for parliamentary and local government by-elections scheduled for 06 September.

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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	31.12.18
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
Madagascar	Soutien au Cycle Electoral à Madagascar (SACEM)	FED/2018/398-673	€ 1,500,000.00	04.07.18	03.05.20
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
Libya	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5,000,000.00	01.11.17	01.11.20
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	31.12.18
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 organisational, 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 project supported the CENI in the preparations of the audit of the electoral list.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Project's activities are ongoing at slower pace pending the audit of the electoral list and the upcoming legislative elections. The project supported the CENI in the launch of the audit of the electoral list and the preparation of next steps in this regard.


To prepare the audit of the electoral list, the CENI convened a technical committee on the audit. The committee is composed of 13 members from civil society organisations, the Ministry of Administration, Territories and Decentralisation, with UNDP, the European Union, the International Organisation of Francophonie (OIF) as observers. The objective of the technical committee is to monitor and coordinate the administrative and technical stages of the audit.

II. Plans for the next period

The next period will focus on the last programmes' activities and the follow up of activities related to the audit of the electoral list, in particular the recruitment and deployment of experts in charge of this.

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

- The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) continued with post-election evaluation activities, including focus group discussions and key informant interviews at county level.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The following activities were conducted during the month:

1. Dissemination of the Political Parties' Act in English and Swahili to political parties and other electoral stakeholders at the county level.
2. Focus group discussions and key informant interviews on post-election evaluation at county level, reaching out to a critical mass of citizens.
3. Initiation and development of a broader deepening democracy project document with a future outlook to 2022 elections.
4. Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) for targeted call for proposals to civil society organizations for capacity building of elected women leaders.
5. Finalisation of report on Violence on Women in Elections (VAWiE) based on incidences recorded during the 2017 elections.

II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the following reporting period include:

- National stakeholder post-election evaluation forum;
- Development partners round table on post-election evaluation;
- Analysis of party dispute resolution and compilation of a compendium of cases handled by the IEBC Tribunal following 2017 political party primaries;
- 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;
- Commencement of SEPK end of project evaluation.

For more information on the project on Strengthening the Electoral Process in Kenya, please contact the Team Leader - Democratic Governance, Mr. David Maina, David.maina@undp.org.



LIBERIA

Election Project/UNDP Liberia

SUPPORT TO THE 2015 – 2018 LIBERIAN ELECTORAL CYCLE

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 31 July, the National Elections Commission (NEC) conducted the senatorial by-elections in Montserado and Bong counties, in a peaceful environment. The project supported the by-elections, through logistics and operations, including the preparation, delivery and retrieval of sensitive/non-sensitive electoral material.
- The project deployed 77 civic educators and gender mobilisers to conduct public awareness campaign.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Voting was conducted in a peaceful environment and there were no incidents reported. However, the voter turnout was generally low. A total 12 candidates competed in the by-elections with only one-woman candidate in Montserado county. The two seats became vacant following the election of Mr. George Manneh Weah and Madam Jewel Howard Taylor as President and Vice-President of Liberia in the 2017 general elections. The two served as Senators for Montserado and Bong, respectively.

The UNDP election project supported the by-elections through logistics and operations, including the



Photo credit: James Salley

preparation, delivery and retrieval of sensitive/non-sensitive electoral material. The project also hired the services of the logistic company to assist in the movement of materials to the two counties.

In addition, funding support was provided by the project to deploy 77 civic educators and gender mobilisers to conduct public awareness campaign. To facilitate their work, they were equipped with voter information and awareness materials printed with support of the project. This included the printing, delivery and publication of the final registration rolls at each polling place. This allowed voters to check their names on the voter roll before the by-election day.



Photo credit: James Salley

II. Plans for the next period

Recruitment for a number of positions, among them being a technical specialist to oversee the rehabilitation of the National Elections Commission's warehousing and asset management systems; a legal and policy consultant to develop a strategy for pursuing election observer recommendations and a voter and civil registry expert to develop a strategy to align future voter registers to the newly launched civil registry.

In addition, a tender for open competition has been launched to support the implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning system for the National Elections Commission's administrative system management process. The project will also supply the Commission's magisterial offices and central office with materials necessary for proper functioning of 20 warehouses.

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](#).



MADAGASCAR

CENI Madagascar

SOUTIEN AU CYCLE ÉLECTORAL DE MADAGASCAR (SACEM)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The electoral mapping is ongoing.
- Workshops on the new legal electoral framework, the capacity-building of journalists and civic education activities have been organised in all 6 provinces of the country.
- The internal audit of the electoral list has been conducted.
- The logistics plan for the dissemination of the electoral material and for the addition of the votes has been updated.
- The consultation framework between the CENI and the Constitutional Court is effective and operational.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project will proceed with electoral mapping by identifying and locating polling stations and registration centres in the 119 districts. For the first round of data collection, the project reinforced capacities of heads of districts information centres of the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) (see [here](#) the video).

Following the work of the Outreach Committee, tasked with publicizing the electoral legal framework in July 2018, a collection of legal texts and regulations regarding electoral dispute resolution has been produced. Activities on explaining and publicizing the new legislative framework started across the country, under the leadership of CENI and the Constitutional Court (see [here](#) the video).

Four civil society organisations (CSOs) have been selected to conduct the second phase of the awareness-raising electoral campaign, in order to increase awareness among the population and encourage an inclusive electoral process. Local CSOs leaders and CENI commissioners in charge of supporting these activities will be trained by September 2018 (see [here](#) the video)

Capacity-building workshops for media professionals have started at the end of July in Ampefy. Eight workshops will be organised by September 2018 throughout the country, informing more than 200

journalists on the new legal framework, ethics and conflicts prevention (see [here](#) the video)

The project will reactivate the network of VAST telecommunications to ensure a safe transmission of electoral data. The operationalisation phase is currently ongoing.

The training methodology for polling stations staff is being finalised. Trainings are scheduled for November 2018 and should target approximately 6,000 CENI staff.

Ahead of the external audit of the electoral list and the publication of the voter lists for each polling station, the project conducted an internal audit of the electoral list. Revisions are ongoing to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the lists.

The logistics plan has been reworked around six main hubs, taking into account the need to deploy ballot papers and other printed materials for the second round of the presidential elections within the 12-day deadline after the proclamation of the first round results.

II. Plans for the next period

- The project will continue to support the work on outreach and publicizing of the electoral legal framework and the capacity-building of the various electoral stakeholders (commissioners, CSOs, journalists). Many workshops are scheduled to take place in the six provinces of Madagascar.
- New consultation framework with CSOs, political parties, the administration and media will be in place starting in August, in order to validate the codes of conduct.
- The work to operationalise the telecommunication networks will be launched, and the mapping of the telecommunication equipment finalised.
- The result of the external audit of the electoral list, conducted by OIF, will be published on 24 August.
- Videos and radios spots will be produced to support CENI media campaign ahead of the upcoming elections.

For more information on the SACEM, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Flavien Misouni at flavien.misoni@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 project finalised the Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) evaluation report and focused on analytical work.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

In the month of July, the Electoral Support Project (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 supported ECN to analyse the findings and draft a report to document the findings of the post-election review.

The Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) evaluation report was finalised and published on the UNDP website. The impact of BRIDGE in Nepal was overwhelmingly positive, with a number of challenges to be addressed, especially in terms of the national ownership of BRIDGE and its sustainability. It is hoped that the recommendations will be relevant for other contexts and the evaluation methodology may be used for other countries as well. The Nepali version of the report is also finalised and an article on the evaluation published on the UNDP website.

In 2014, the project had conducted a survey of knowledge and perception of the electoral processes as a part of its baseline study to support public outreach and voter education. The project submitted to ECN a concept note to conduct a comparative follow-up survey, which would allow identifying changes in

people's perceptions and guide the design and development of ECN activities.

The project also submitted a concept note on "Voter List Quality Assurance – Statistical Testing" in order to improve the existing voter list.

II. Plans for the next period

The project will support ECN in finalising the report for the gender equity and social inclusion study, continue providing technical assistance for the drafting and finalising post-election review report and support in organising Election BRIDGE workshops. The project will provide technical assistance to ECN in drafting the Standard Operation Procedure for election dispute resolution. The project will also work on the follow-up survey, once it is approved from ECN.

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](#).



SIERRA LEONE

Lilah Gaafar

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 engaged heavily with the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to plan for the remainder of the project period while also helping NEC set a roadmap of activities to the next national elections.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Project's advisors worked with National Electoral Commission (NEC) to finalise a forward-looking, prioritised 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 begin addressing problems and issues that emerged. In July 2018, NEC adopted the action plan.

In response to the action plan, the Project Technical Committee agreed on a programme of activities to the end of 2018. These activities will concentrate on NEC internal capacity in the areas of planning, budgeting and organisation. At the same time the project will lead more wide-ranging discussions on electoral topics such as electoral system reform and methods for increasing women's political participation.

From 31 July to 3 August, the project team conducted a Building Resources in Democracy Governance and

Elections (BRIDGE) workshop on gender and elections for NEC's civil society organisations stakeholders. Over the four days, the participants discussed women's participation as voters, their inclusion in voter information efforts and the options for temporary special measures in Sierra Leone.

Two workshops were held for NEC staff from the District and Headquarter offices to work towards the development of a NEC system of operational planning. The lack of a consolidated operational plan was a major finding of the pre-election readiness assessment of December 2017, and NEC committed to investigate new planning methods in the next electoral cycle.

II. Plans for the next period

- Two workshops on training skills for NEC staff will take place in August, along with a further BRIDGE gender and elections workshop for NEC staff.
- The project will support internal NEC discussions on a conceptual approach to running a referendum as well as hold a stakeholder seminar on the electoral dimensions of the Constitutional Review Committee report that was published in 2017.

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](#).



SOLOMON ISLANDS

SECSIP

STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (SECSIP)

Since 2013, UNDP Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP) has contributed to the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral process. The project supported the successful introduction of a new comprehensive biometric voter registration system which resulted in a more inclusive and reliable voters' roll and continues to provide assistance in terms of its updating and sustainability. The project also supports the review of the electoral legal framework with a view to promote the strengthening of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) and assist to the fulfilment of its mandate. It also strengthens the capacity of the SIEC to advocate for women's political participation and supports the national authorities and civil society 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 continued to provide support to Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) election operations and voter awareness programme.
- Registration Managers/Registration Officers training was organised.
- The project organised a workshop to validate initial findings of the research on women's leadership and political participation
- Voter Awareness Stakeholder Working Group meeting was held.
- SIEC and the project reached an agreement with rice wholesaler SolRice to collaborate in the distribution of voter awareness leaflets throughout Solomon Islands.
- The project supported the upgrade of the SIEC website search features to facilitate registration and voter information.
- The project procured equipment in support of the voter registration

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Support to the national voter registration

The Electoral Operations Specialist (EOS) continues to provide daily advisory and technical support to the Office of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (OSIEC) Operations Department.

As part of preparations for the upcoming voter registration, the EOS worked closely with provincial registration managers and registration officers on voter registration teams and proposal for the allocation of voter registration centres. In that respect, the EOS defined the guidelines for creation of movement plans distributed to the Provinces. The final allocation of centres and teams was discussed and completed during the Registration Managers/Registration Officers training in Honiara from July 17 to 27 2018.

EOS facilitated the training module on movement plans and biometric voter registration (BVR) timeline with a follow up Q&A session and led working groups on finalisation of movement plans.

Workshop on women's leadership and political participation

In February 2018, the project commissioned a research on Women's leadership and political participation in selected constituencies in Solomon Islands.

An initial presentation on the main findings of the research on women's leadership and political participation in selected Constituencies of Solomon Islands was made by a representative of the service provider Sustineo on 25 July 2018. The two key findings of the research are:

- a) the electoral environment of Solomon Islands and perceptions of women's leadership and;
- b) important candidate characteristics; elements of a competitive campaign and perceptions of political participation.

The presentation was well received by the participants which included representatives from the donors - the Australian High Commission and a bilateral assistance programme, as well as managers of the UNDP Peace Building and Anti-Corruption projects and the Technical Advisor and staff of the project. All agreed that the way forward was to use the findings to enhance their work in a coordinated manner to support the promotion of women's political leadership in Solomon Islands.

Solomon Islands has one of the lowest rates of female members of parliament. Given the diversity of Solomon Islands culture involving a variety of values, principles and beliefs that have an impact on perceptions and sensitivities, the research is expected to enhance the knowledge on the barriers and obstacles and to identify/recommend strategies to increase women's political representation in the Solomon Islands.

On 25-26 July 2018, the project organised a workshop at Mendana Hotel, whose overall purpose was to develop a roadmap/strategic plan to help increase the number of female candidates standing for election and successfully elected. More specific objectives were to:

- Validate and interpret findings from the research project;
- Identify practical actions which can be taken to contribute to improving women's leadership and political representation in the Solomon Islands;
- Outline the planned activities to support women candidates under the project.

The strategic plan will include recommendations related to the different roles that civil society

organisations, political parties and other stakeholders can play.

Forty-five participants attended the session, including a Commissioner and staff of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission, staff from the Government of Australia and the SECSIP project and representatives from some of the UN Agencies in Honiara.

Meeting with civil society organisations

On 4 July 2018, a workshop with civil society actors who have expressed willingness to partner with SIEC/ SECSIP to conduct voter awareness actions was organised by the project. With a view to maximize outreach and resources, a geographical mapping exercise was conducted to identify physical presence of these organisations at the community level throughout the 50 electoral constituencies.

This approach is consistent with the SIEC voter awareness strategy and the multi-actor voter awareness initiative prepared by the project's Senior Voter Adviser. A total of 15 representatives of the civil society and national authority actively participated in this meeting.

Voter Awareness partnership with SolRice

The SIEC and SECSIP II established an agreement with rice wholesaler SolRice to collaborate in the distribution of voter awareness leaflets throughout Solomon Islands. As of 23 July, distribution of 110,000 leaflets informing voters that they must register and check the provisional voter list for omissions and corrections started throughout the country, utilizing SolRice networks. The Association of People with Disabilities (PWD) collaborated in this innovative action, inserting the leaflets into the self-adhesive envelopes which will be adhered to the 40lb bags of rice.

It is expected that this joint action will enhance outreach of voter awareness information reaching remote parts of the Solomon Islands. This will later be followed by a second round of information on how to vote.

The aim of this first distribution phase of leaflets is to encourage first time voters to register and others to update their details in preparation for the General Elections scheduled for 2019, as well as upcoming provincial elections.

At a press conference held on 30 July and hosted by SolRice, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Moses Saitala took the opportunity to confirm that voter registration in the field is expected to commence in late August.

SIEC website

The project's Operations Adviser worked very closely with Novus Ltd. on the development of search features to facilitate registration and voter information through the SIEC website. Through this feature, it is expected that registered citizens will provide their first name, family name and voter ID number and their polling centre and polling station will be confirmed prior to e-day.

NOVUS Ltd was engaged by the project to build a new institutional website for SIEC with upgraded features and to provide technical support thereof.

Procurement of equipment in support of the voter registration

Upon request from the SIEC Head of Operations, the project procured portable generators (200), spare parts and batteries for biometric voter registration kits.

Given the lack of infrastructure and geographical challenges in the field with no stable power supply, the generators will be utilized during the voter registration campaign to provide power to biometric voter registration (BVR) kits deployed with the registration teams.

Spare parts (namely printer, battery printer, finger print reader, Microsoft LifeCam Studio Webcam, tripod, colour and black cartridge) have also been received and handed over to SIEC. Batteries for the BVR kits are expected to be received in early August.

Engagement of national consultants

At the request of the electoral commission, the project engaged a National Consultant with expertise in human resources with a view to support the SIEC in the engagement of temporary and casual staff for the upcoming electoral events.

A national Senior Gender Adviser on women's political participation has been engaged by the project as focal point for the implementation of the project's actions particularly those in support of women's candidates. The consultant commenced her duties as of 9 July 2018.

Engagement of project staff

Two national Field Coordination Assistants (contracted under the graduate programme) are also expected to commence work in the coming weeks to strengthen SIEC operations team during the upcoming electoral events.

II. Plans for the next period

List of activities planned for the following reporting period:

- Formalisation of partnerships with CSOs for voter awareness activities;
- Visit of Ms. Helen Clark (20-23 August 2018);
- First training for aspiring women candidates (21-24 August 2018).

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 European Union, Sweden and the United Nations, together with the Federal Government of Somalia, hosted the Somalia Partnership Forum (SPF) in Brussels to discuss commitments and progress on Somalia’s efforts to ensure peace and prosperity in the years to come. The Chair of the National Independent Electoral Commission has highlighted their determination to hold multi-party universal suffrage elections by 2020.
- The NIEC organised workshops with political parties and civil society organisations to discuss and develop awareness-raising strategies in view of the next “one-person, one-vote” elections by 2020.
- On 7 and 8 July, a two-day workshop was held for media representatives on the draft Electoral Law.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Somalia Partnership Forum, Brussels

On 16 and 17 July, the European Union, Sweden and the United Nations, together with the Federal Government of Somalia, hosted the Somalia Partnership Forum (SPF) in Brussels. The event aimed to

inform international partners on commitments and progress and encourage the international community to continue support for Somalia's efforts to build a more secure and prosperous future following years of conflict. The SPF took note of the Baidoa Meeting in June between Somalia's Federal and State leaders, where it was agreed on the country's electoral model for "one person, one vote" suffrage elections based on political multi-party competition and closed list-proportional representation; a historic decision, as Somalia's last nationwide elections date from 1969. The Chairperson of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) was a keynote speaker on inclusive politics at the Forum, underscoring the determination to adhere to the constitutional framework and subsequent timelines to hold multi-party universal suffrage elections by 2020 when the term of the Federal Parliament expires. The Chair urged all stakeholders to fulfil their responsibilities, highlighting women's representation as a critical factor for the development of an inclusive, responsive, and transparent democracy.



NIEC Chairperson Halima attending the Somalia Partnership Forum, Brussels, 16 July 2018. Photo credit: NIEC

NIEC voter education curriculum workshop for civil society organisations (CSOs) and political parties

From 25 to 30 July, the NIEC organised workshops with national political entities as well as ministries and civil society organisations (CSOs) from the Federal Member States, to seek input on the development of a voter education curriculum in preparation for universal elections in 2020.

Participants stressed that the level of elections-related awareness is very low in the country, calling for intensive awareness raising on electoral processes to educate the public on the importance and advantages of "one-person, one-vote" elections. The workshop with political actors provided an opportunity for parties and associations to foster networking and share knowledge for the development of a voter education curriculum with the aim of providing parties with guidance on developing strategies to reach out to citizens. The NIEC highlighted that the political parties and associations have an opportunity to contribute to the development of the voter education curriculum that will help them to develop strategies for their party's awareness raising campaigns.



Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia opening the NIEC workshop on voter education. Mogadishu, 29 July 2018. Photo credit: NIEC

NIEC institutional governance retreat, Nairobi

With the support of the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG), the NIEC held the first of a series of planned retreats to strengthen its internal governance mechanism in Nairobi from 9 to 11 July. The objectives of the retreat were to build the capacity of the NIEC Commissioners in corporate governance, integrate corporate governance principles into the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Commission and to address existing internal concerns within the Commission, as well as to develop a programme of action leading to the development of the NIEC Corporate Governance Framework. On effective governance, the Commissioners were taken through their roles and responsibilities, which included: leadership, strategy, policy and oversight. The outcome of the retreat was the realisation by the Commissioners of the need to enhance ethical conduct in the Commission by focusing on: transparency, accountability and good governance.

Media engagement and sensitization on the draft electoral law

On 7 and 8 July, a two-day workshop was held for media representatives on the draft electoral law, organised by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) in Mogadishu, and supported by IESG. During the two-day workshop, journalists were informed on a broad range of issues through presentations, panel discussions, plenary meetings, panel discussions and question and answer sessions. Journalists were briefed on the historical background of electoral laws, basic concepts of electoral legal framework, electoral systems, electoral constituencies and the electoral cycle and introduced to the Somali Lexicon of Electoral Terminology.

IESG has had intensified advisory sessions with MOIFAR's electoral law working group (ELWG), to assist the Ministry with the finalisation of an advanced draft, for further review, discussion with key stakeholders, and presentation to the Council of Ministers, followed by submission to Parliament to ensure timely conclusion before the end of 2018 as committed by the FGS.

II. Plans for the next period

- 5-7 August IESG - NIEC Logistics planning for electoral cycle - focus on voter registration preparation
- 18-19 August IESG - NIEC Media and elections workshop
- 27-29 August IESG - NIEC Civic education workshop
- 30-August IESG - NIEC: Professional behaviour and conduct in the workplace workshop

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 United Nations Electoral Needs Assessment Mission to Zambia was deployed to conduct consultations with stakeholders in-country from 30 July to 03 August.
- On 17 and 18 July, a consultative meeting was held with civil society organisations (CSOs) to review the draft charter for a coordinated framework for domestic election observation.
- The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) refined its research tools and tested the questionnaire for its survey on voter turnout.
- The ECZ conducted by-elections on 26 July for the office of mayor of Lusaka and in seven districts and six local government wards and started preparations for parliamentary and local government by-elections scheduled for 06 September.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

UN Electoral Needs Assessment Mission

Following a formal request by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) on behalf of the Republic of Zambia, a UN Electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) was deployed to Zambia on 29 July to hold consultations with national and international stakeholders during the week of 30 July to 03 August. The

Mission aimed to develop recommendations on future electoral assistance after the end of the current project in light of general elections due to take place in 2021 and the explicit request from the ECZ for broader electoral cycle support. The NAM team comprised representatives of the UN Electoral Assistance Division, UNDP Regional Center for Africa, and the Department for Political Affairs Liaison Office in Gaborone.

Domestic Observation Framework

Following development in June by a technical working group of a draft charter for a coordinated framework for domestic observation, on 17 and 18 July, this draft charter was presented to a wider group of around 25 civil society organisations (CSOs) for their feedback. This meeting is part 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 and sustainable engagement throughout the electoral cycle. The draft charter includes principles of observation, scope of work and coordination structures, and will be refined in the coming weeks on the basis of inputs from attendees.

Diagnostic survey on voter turnout

The project continued to provide technical support to the ECZ on its preparations for conduct of a diagnostic survey on voter turnout in Zambia. The survey aims to utilise a range of tools to gather both quantitative and qualitative information on voter turnout that may inform strategies to increase voter turnout for future elections. From 29 July to 01 August, a working session was held for 13 ECZ staff to review the methodology and research tools, and consider the ethics of conducting the survey, followed by testing of the survey questionnaire within a local community. The working session was financed by the ECZ with consultancy services provided by the project, under a cost sharing arrangement.

II. Plans for the next period

- Conduct of training and a working session on resource mobilization strategies for domestic election groups.
- Roll-out of field research for the diagnostic survey on voter turnout.
- Preparations for by-elections scheduled for 06 September in one parliamentary constituency and in five local government wards.

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.