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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, 2018

Electoral Assistance Projects Update

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



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), jointly with the European Union (EU), the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), organised a two-week photo exhibition entitled “The Power of Democracy” through the EC – UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance (JTF).



The photo exhibition was organised on the occasion of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly and located in the plaza of the UN Headquarters in New York City.

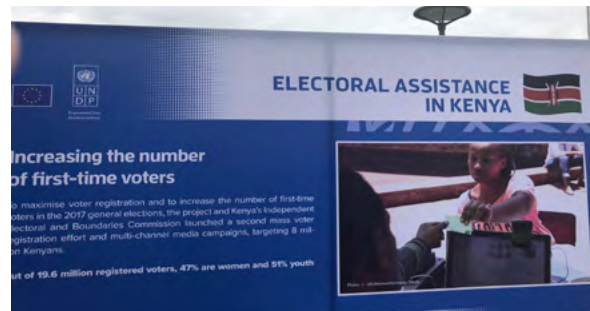
The event was launched on Wednesday 19 September by Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNDP’s Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Mr. Craig Jenness, Director of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs and a high-representative from the European Union delegation to the UN.

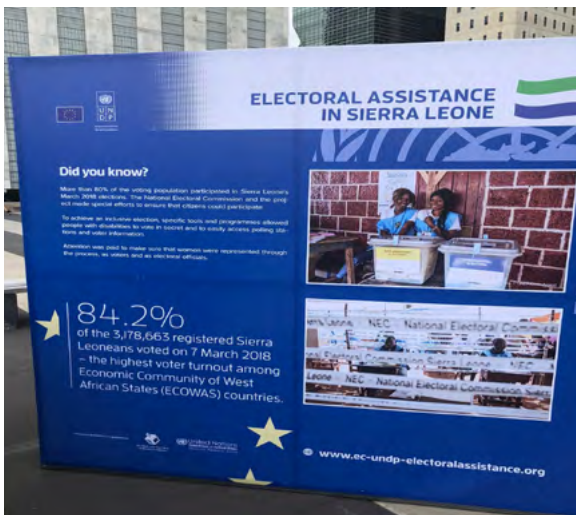


Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, UNDP, Mr Serge Christiane, European Union Delegation, and United Nation’s Police Adviser, Luis Carrilho, 19 September 2018.

The photo exhibition showcased the electoral assistance provided by the EU and UNDP and has been generously supported by all EU-funded electoral assistance projects, i.e Afghanistan, Guinea, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The event highlighted particularly the long-lasting partnership with the European Union, the largest contributor to UN’s electoral assistance projects.

The photo exhibition also displayed electoral assistance projects implemented by the UN and its partners in 20 countries worldwide and shed the light on projects carried on by the Electoral Assistance Division, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), UN Women, UNOPS and UN Volunteers.





Director of DG DEVCO, European Commission Stefano Manservigi, walking through the exhibition, accompanied by Niall McCann, UNDP BPPS, and Simon-Pierre Nanitelamio, Electoral Assistance Division, September 2018.

SUMMARY

GUINEA: This month was marked by internal changes within the Constitutional Court and the delay of the installation of the communal councillors and their executive bodies. - The issue of the Constitutional Court has an impact on the Guinean electoral process as the revised law on the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) is still being reviewed by the Court.

KENYA: The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) convened roundtable for development partners and political parties to reflect on the 2017 elections. - The Commission also convened a national stakeholders forum on the 2017 elections, in part as a build up to the completion of various components of a Post-Election Evaluation exercise. - A broader deepening democracy project concept note has been developed with an outlook to 2022 elections.

LEBANON: The project and the Lebanese NGO Women in Front organised a one-day post-election working group to discuss and exchange views on electoral management and administration from a gender perspective.

LIBYA: The process to pass a constitutional referendum law was stalled during September, which means that it is very unlikely that the High National Electoral Commission (HNEC) will be in a position to conduct the referendum this year. - With a referendum or any other electoral activity only expected next year, the project and the United Nations Electoral Support Team (UNEST) at large, are now focusing on providing the much-needed institutional capacity building for the HNEC ahead of the next election. Key institutional capacity support rendered by the project to the HNEC so far include: ICT improvement mainly on voter registration and election results management systems; and operational and logistics support through technical assistance and the procurement of 20 vehicles for use at the head office and at field level.

NEPAL: The project supported the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) in the finalisation and printing of the post-election review report. - The project supported a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) strategic planning workshop for the ECN officials.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: The project has developed an action plan to support women candidates, focusing on capacity building, constituency profiling, and resource support. The project supported a discussion on 11 September with potential women candidates on preparation and plans for approaching national and provincial elections. - Voter Registration Data collection commenced on 3 September and got extended until 29 September. In all 50 constituencies, 148,000 people have registered/updated

their information through the biometric voter registration exercise. An intensive awareness campaign comprising SMS text messages, radio, press releases, and social media (Facebook) was implemented during this period.

SOMALIA: The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) is providing technical and logistical assistance to Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation for the development the Electoral Law. - The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), with IESG support, has completed the voter education handbook on the electoral process and training manual. - On 4 September, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) conducted a by-election in Dhusamarreb, in Galmudug state for a vacant seat in the Federal House of the People.

ZAMBIA: On 12 September, a draft charter for a coordinated framework of domestic election observer groups was presented for validation and agreed by around 25 civil society organisations (CSOs). - On 17 September, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) completed the field work for a diagnostic survey on voter turnout. - On 6 September, the ECZ conducted by-elections in the parliamentary constituency of Kasenengwa and in five local government wards.

ZIMBABWE: ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and institutional strengthening areas of election operations including polling process, biometric voter registration (BVR), operational planning for BVR, training of election staff, voter education, stakeholder, engagement, election dispute resolution and gender mainstreaming. An Electoral Cycle approach has been adopted by the project to ensure that issues and recommendations from one election cycle can be addressed in the next one.


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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

- This month was marked by internal changes within the Constitutional Court and the delay of the installation of the communal councillors and their executive bodies.
- The issue of the Constitutional Court has an impact on the Guinean electoral process as the revised law on the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) is still being reviewed by the Court.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The final report of the audit of the electoral register is submitted to the Technical Committee on 4 October 2018. This report will be sent in the coming days to the Monitoring Committee of the 12 October 2016 political agreement.

The request for the recovery and securing of the remaining electoral materials is being prepared but still has not been transmitted to UNDP, in view of next parliamentary elections anticipated in the first quarter of 2019.

II. Plans for the next period

Future activities will focus on finalising visibility actions and ensuring the recovery and securing of the remaining electoral materials.

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](#).



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) convened roundtable for development partners and political parties to reflect on the 2017 elections.
- The Commission also convened a national stakeholders forum on the 2017 elections, as part as a build up to the completion of various components of a Post-Election Evaluation exercise.
- A broader deepening democracy project concept note has been developed with an outlook to 2022 elections.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

IEBC convened roundtable for development partners and political parties to reflect on the 2017 elections. The Commission also convened a national stakeholders forum on the 2017 elections, in part as a build up to the completion of various components of a Post-Election Evaluation exercise. The three meetings sought to gather experiences of various stakeholder groups in the 2017 election with a view to drawing lessons for future elections, including the upcoming by-elections and 2022 General Elections. The forums reiterated the need for continued electoral support to Kenya, starting with strengthening IEBC and other electoral institutions. Discussions in these forums identified some of the challenges and complexities experienced in the completing cycle of elections in, among other areas, voter and civic education, conduct of party primaries and adjudication of electoral disputes, reform and implementation of the legal framework, sustained engagement of electoral stakeholders and confidence building. Partners shared proposals for continued improvement of the electoral process, including an early start of support to the 2022 electoral cycle to guarantee early engagement.

On the sidelines of the ongoing Building Bridges Initiative, the Dialogue Reference Group (DRG), an initiative of religious leaders in collaboration with other sector leaders with the objective of building an inclusive, just, and peaceful Kenya, convened a National Dialogue Conference which brought together over 600 delegates from religious community, women, youth and persons with disabilities as well as representatives from the civil society, business community, international development partners and trade unions. The objective of the conference was, inter alia, to:

- launch a national dialogue, reform and reconciliation process to create a New Kenya;
- create a platform for dialogue and participation by state and non-state actors on key issues identified by DRG while taking into consideration the issues raised in the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI);
- discuss and make concrete recommendations and possible strategies to offer solutions, address the identified issues of national concern;
- and, build consensus on the implementation of the dialogue framework at national and county levels.

The DRG developed a communique which was shared with key stakeholders including government agencies, civil society groups and development partners. The DRG is planning a series of subnational forums to cascade the dialogue process from the national level. These subnational forums will provide fodder for a comprehensive position paper on key national cohesion, electoral justice and reconciliation issues to be presented to the BBI secretariat, the President and Parliament.

II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the following reporting period include:

- 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 concept note for a deepening democracy project to succeed the SEPK project;
- Evaluation of support to electoral security arrangement programme;
- Commencement of IEBC restructuring process.

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.



LEBANESE ELECTIONS ASSISTANCE PROJECT (LEAP)

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- The project and the Lebanese NGO Women in Front organised a one-day post-election working group to discuss and exchange views on electoral management and administration from a gender perspective.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project and Women In Front organised a one-day post-election working group on September 25, 2018 to:

- Evaluate the parliamentary elections from a gender perspective and identify challenges, best practices and lessons learned;
- Exchange views and visions on the electoral reforms among main stakeholders; and
- Identify short-term and long-term recommendations to be part of the gender strategy for the next cycle.

Participants representing the main parliamentary political parties, the Office of the Minister of Women Affairs (OMSWA), National Commission For Lebanese Women (NCLW), Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE), MAHARAT Foundation, National Democratic Institute (NDI), the office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) and UN Women had the opportunity to discuss and exchange views on electoral management and administration (gender perspective), women's participation and representation in the 2018 parliamentary elections and the role of key stakeholders in the upcoming electoral cycle. The recommendations made during the working group will be included in a thematic report which will be shared with all stakeholders to contribute to the development of a national gender road-map for the 2020-2022 cycle, which will include elements of mainstreaming gender in the management of the elections and strengthening inclusive political participation.



Thematic working group on women's political participation.

II. Plans for the next period

- Development and design of gender assessment report/brochure on the 2018 Parliamentary elections;
- Thematic exhibition on gender and elections;
- Research on the voter education efficiency and impact followed by thematic lessons learned workshop.

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



Jason Athanasiadis,
UNSMIL, 2014

PROMOTING ELECTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA (PEPOL)

HIGHLIGHTS

- With a referendum or any other electoral activity only expected next year, the project and the United Nations Electoral Support Team (UNEST) at large, are now focusing on providing institutional capacity building for the HNEC ahead of the next election. Key institutional capacity support rendered by the project to the HNEC so far include: ICT improvement mainly on voter registration (VR) and election results management systems (ERMS); and operational and logistics support through technical assistance and the procurement of 20 vehicles for use at the Head Office and at field level.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project has issued two contracts for the rehabilitation and security upgrades of the High National Electoral Commission (HNEC), respectively. These construction works are expected to be completed by late December 2018. The project also procured 20 vehicles which were handed over to the HNEC at the end of September and were received by HNEC Commissioner Abdelhakim Belkhair.

The selection and contracting of a company to support maintenance of HNEC voter registration (VR) and provide training is underway, as well as selection and contracting of a company to develop HNEC's election results management system (ERMS). The UNDP launched the process to provide network installation at the HNEC new headquarters. The project also completed procurement of HNEC IT equipment for use at the head office and field level.

Psycho-social support sessions have been held at the UN compound for the HNEC staff on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These sessions follow the 2 May 2018 terrorist attacks on the HNEC headquarters.

II. Plans for the next period

- Continued support to HNEC in order to increase its operational ability to implement the next electoral event in credible manner;
- Support HNEC's efforts to promote mutual learning and cooperation with other organisations, including electoral management bodies (EMBs) in the region and the larger Global South;
- Participation in the EU-UNDP Global conference on Promoting Peace through Elections in Brussels, Belgium, from 08 - 10 October 2018.
- Field workshop on voting simulation with the view to preventing electoral fraud to be held in October/ November 2018 by the HNEC in Benghazi. This will be a follow-up workshop after similar workshop was held in Tripoli in August 2018 with both technical and financial support from PEPOL and the UNEST.

For more information on the project on PEPOL, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Joram Rukambe, joram.rukambe@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 supported the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) in the finalisation and printing of the post-election review report.
- The project supported a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) strategic planning workshop for the ECN officials.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

As an important building block for the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) efforts to update its strategic plan, the project supported a three-day BRIDGE strategic planning workshop for 24 substantive ECN Secretariat staff from 9 to 11 September. The workshop familiarised participants with the general concepts of strategic planning in electoral administration. It was held at ECN itself and marked a step forward in efforts to implement BRIDGE workshops in a cost-effective, more sustainable manner.

ESP supported ECN in the finalisation and printing of the post-election review report. The report has been distributed to development partners and other stakeholders in Nepal. The report has consolidated recommendations to improve future elections in Nepal which will be used as guideline for ECN Third Strategic Plan (2019-23).

Based on its analysis of a selection of court cases resulting from the 2017 electoral process, the project submitted to ECN a background note and draft Standard Operation Procedures developed in consultation

with ECN counterparts for systematic handling of electoral complaints and disputes.

The project revised the annual work plan for 2018 and the Project Executive Board meeting endorsed the plan on 27 September.

II. Plans for the next period

While Nepal enters its festival season, the project will continue the analytical work on the gender and inclusion study and follow up on the standard operation procedures for electoral disputes.

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](#).



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 has developed an action plan to support women candidates, focusing on capacity building, constituency profiling, and resource support. The project supported a discussion on 11 September with potential women candidates on preparation and plans for approaching national and provincial elections.
- Voter Registration Data collection commenced on 3 September and got extended until 29 September. In all 50 constituencies, around 148,000 people have registered/updated their information through the biometric voter registration exercise. An intensive awareness campaign comprising SMS text messages, radio, press releases, and social media (Facebook) was implemented during this period.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Support women candidates

Action plan. The project has developed an action plan to support women candidates to be implemented within seven months. The plan focuses on capacity building (trainings for aspiring candidates, pre-nomination phase and candidate schools, post-nomination phase), constituency profiling, and resource

support.

The plan will be implemented in three phases:

- 1- Set up and preparations (activities include design new project, identify and contract project partners, establish “women candidate support committee” and its secretariat, etc.);
- 2- Pre-nomination (i.e. design operational timetable based on electoral timetable and the nomination period, conduct public awareness campaign, build capacity of pre-candidates (“leadership schools”), conduct trainings for media on gender issues, etc.);
- 3- Post-nomination and electoral campaign period (activities include set-up candidate support resource centres, public awareness campaign, conduct lessons learned exercises; conduct an evaluation study and develop recommendations for longer-term promotion of women’s political participation, etc.).

It is expected that around 100 women leaders, including aspiring women candidates and nominated women candidates, will benefit from these activities.

Women Support Network (WSN). The project supported a discussion on 11 September with potential women candidates on preparation and plans for approaching national and provincial elections. A total of 17 people (including 15 women) participated in this discussion. Outcomes included the following recommendations:

- Development of guidelines and checklist for the preparation/updating of constituency profiles;
- Support to develop election campaigning materials;
- Support to the awareness campaign centered in women participation.

Field visit to Malaita. UNDP Senior Electoral Advisor and the National Expert on Women’s Leadership and Political Participation met aspiring female candidates for Central Malaita constituency, Aoke/Langalanga constituency, and a ward in Central Malaita constituency (for provincial elections). Discussion focused on election timeline, the new Electoral Act and priorities for the support to aspiring women candidates.

Voter Registration Data Collection Phase

This phase commenced on 3 September and was initially scheduled to end on 27 September. Due to high attendance at the Honiara out of constituency centre, a two-day extension was granted exclusively for this centre. In all 50 constituencies, around 148,000 people have registered/updated their information through the biometric voter registration (BVR) exercise. The Electoral Commission has received information that a significant number of already registered voters have transferred themselves to other constituencies, which is made possible by the vagueness of the concept of ‘ordinarily resident’ and the out-of-constituency centre. The number of entries is expected to be significantly reduced once the biometric voter data undergoes the process of data-matching and deduplication. In accordance with the electoral timeline, provisional voters’ lists will be in display by 29 October.

Awareness Campaign

An intensive awareness campaign comprising SMS text messages, radio, press releases, and social media (Facebook) was implemented during this period. The project’s national media consultant updated the Facebook page on daily basis, posting press releases, messages and responding to queries. The institutional

website of the Electoral Management Body (EMB) was also regularly updated resulting in an increase in the number of visitors during this month, in particularly those searching whether their names were on the 2014 register. The campaign focused on reinforcing the message of the importance of registration (particularly with youth) and eligibility requirements, timetable and location of centres.

Six civil society organisations (CSOs) were engaged to implement face-to-face awareness activities in 147 communities of 9 provinces. Faith-based groups (FBOs) also contributed to the awareness efforts by making announcements concerning voter registration events.

CSOs and FBOs provided awareness materials produced by the project which included stickers, brochures, t-shirts, flow charts, deployment plans/schedules of registration teams.

Memorandum of Understanding between Electoral Commission and police forces

The Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13 September. The MOU establishes a framework of collaboration between the two institutions with a view to jointly implement operational aspects related to electoral security.

II. Plans for the next period

List of activities planned for the following reporting period:

- Support to the development of subsidiary legislation;
- Preparations for the objections and omissions phase of voter registration;
- Procurement of polling materials;
- Support SIEC electoral operations plan;
- Support to the enhancement of SIEC data centre and general security at SIEC compound.

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 UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) is providing technical and logistical assistance to Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation for the development the Electoral Law.
- The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), with IESG support, has completed the voter education handbook on the electoral process and training manual.
- On 4 September, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) conducted a by-election in Dhusamarreb, in Galmudug state for a vacant seat in the Federal House of the People.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Development of the Electoral Law

In September, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MOIFAR) continued to work together with other members of the federal government and the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) on the drafting process of the Electoral Law for the country’s first universal “one person, one vote” elections

since 1969. The Ministry is expected to submit the draft to the Cabinet shortly, for the Government to meet its commitment to finalise the Electoral Law by the end of 2018. The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) is providing technical and logistical assistance to MOIFAR for the development the Electoral Law.

NIEC Voter Education Manual

The NIEC, with IESG support, has completed the voter education handbook on the electoral process and training manual and plans to hold consultation meetings with external stakeholders to discuss its implementation.

Conduct of by-elections

On 4 September, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) conducted a by-election in Dhusamarreb, in Galmudug state for a vacant seat in the Federal House of the People. The by-election was conducted according to the procedures of the '2016 clan-based limited franchise electoral process', with 51 clan-members voting for the two candidates from their respective clan.

II. Plans for the next period

- NIEC consultations with civil society on its Voter Education;
- NIEC workshops on institutional governance and review of its Strategic Plan;
- Commencement NIEC pilot project to verify the mapping of voter allocation areas.

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

- On 12 September, a draft charter for a coordinated framework of domestic election observer groups was presented for validation and agreed by around 25 civil society organisations (CSOs).
- On 17 September, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) completed the field work for a diagnostic survey on voter turnout.
- On 6 September, the ECZ conducted by-elections in the parliamentary constituency of Kasenengwa and in five local government wards.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Domestic Observation Framework: The project provided technical and financial support for a validation meeting for around 25 civil society organisations (CSOs) on the charter for a coordinated framework for domestic observation on 12 September. This is part of a series of activities, implemented in partnership with the Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG), for representatives of domestic observer groups and other CSOs to consider mechanisms for promoting collaborative, sustainable engagement throughout the electoral cycle. The charter includes provisions of the scope of work for participating CSOs, guiding principles for election observation, and coordination structures. At the meeting, all CSOs agreed to the charter and confirmed this

would be signed by the end of October.

Diagnostic survey on voter turnout: The project continued to provide technical support to the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) on its conduct of a diagnostic survey on voter turnout in Zambia, which aims to gather quantitative and qualitative information that may inform strategies to increase voter turnout for future elections. The field research component of the survey, launched on 30 August, was completed on 17 September. This included household questionnaires, conducted by staff of the Central Statistics Office, key informant interviews and focus group discussions with specific target groups of women, youth, persons with disabilities and ECZ staff and monitors who were present in the polling stations for the 2016 elections. Data compilation and analysis is currently underway. The project has provided ongoing technical and financial support to the initiative.

Capacity development on ICT governance: The final phase of a series of trainings and certification for ECZ staff in COBIT 5 took place on 3 – 6 September in Lusaka. Control Objectives for Information and Related Technology (COBIT) is a framework created by ISACA for the governance, management and operation of IT across any business. Six ECZ staff attended this final phase, which was implemented in partnership with the ECZ, under a cost-sharing arrangement.

II. Plans for the next period

- Signing of the charter for a coordinated framework on domestic election observation;
- Conduct of provincial public consultations on the Public Order Act;
- Preparations for by-elections scheduled for 20 November in one parliamentary constituency, for one district Council Chairperson and in four local government wards;
- Initiation of a project final evaluation and formulation of a new programme of support;
- Presentation of the NAM recommendations to key stakeholders.

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.



ZIMBABWE

UNDP Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT (ZIM-ECO)

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and institutional strengthening areas of election operations including polling process, biometric voter registration (BVR), operational planning for BVR, training of election staff, voter education, stakeholder, engagement, election dispute resolution and gender mainstreaming. An Electoral Cycle approach has been adopted by the project to ensure that issues and recommendations from one election cycle can be addressed in the next one.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Post-Election Review Process: Discussions were started with Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) for a post-election review process. A methodology has been agreed with ZEC that includes feedback and critical review of the election process by ZEC staff, political parties, civil society organisations (CSOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs) and media. The methodology will be a mix of qualitative and quantities elements with review sessions and targeted questionnaires to be used. The review process will also take into consideration the detailed recommendation coming out of the observer missions. The internal review is planned to start in October 2018 and the outcome of the review process will provide inputs to the parliamentary submission to be made by ZEC.

Media Monitoring: A discussion and stock taking exercise was undertaken over a 2-day period (26-27 September 2018) to review the media monitoring performance of the Media Monitoring Committee of the Commission. The discussions were led by 4 commissioners part of the committee and identified issues in the legal framework, media bias, polarization, unbalanced reporting and inequity in provision of airtime to the electronic media as some of the key challenges. The qualitative and quantitative inputs from the Media Monitoring Unit supported by the UNDP provided an objective analysis and insight into the monitoring issues.

Gender Mainstreaming: UNDP together with UN Women is working on development of a gender policy for ZEC. The process is being led by a commissioner, who acts as a gender focal point and is steering the development of gender policy. The approach adopted is called Gender Equality and Inclusion Self-Assessment (GESAI), which is a participatory process that encourages staff to 'take stock' of all their work, to see how far it promotes gender equality and inclusion. Reviewing and reflecting on the quality and relevance of our current work with a gender and inclusion lens allows staff to understand what is working well, where the gaps are, and to decide on clear actions to improve the quality of this work in future. Gender focal points have been appointed at different levels and they are participating and leading the process of development of gender policy.

A **Gender in Elections Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training** has been planned from 1-5 October 2018, which will not only capacitate the ZEC staff but will also provide inputs to the development of gender policy.

South-South cooperation: In the spirit of South-South cooperation, the National Election Board of Ethiopia visited Zimbabwe in the last week of September to learn from ZEC on the new initiatives undertaken in Zimbabwe during the 2018 harmonized elections including the implementation of biometric voter registration (BVR) process. The project is sharing lessons learnt from the UNDP support with the UNDP office in Ethiopia.

Strengthening the capacity of ZEC data centre: A review of the existing ZEC data centre revealed need of increasing the storage capacity of ZEC data centre as the current storage has been consumed by the voter registration data of 5.69 million voters. In addition, the enhanced capacity for data centre, discussions have been held to identify the gaps in the training needs of the ZEC staff and build their capacities in the areas of data management and analysis.

II. Plans for the next period

- Post-election review process;
- Development of gender policy;
- Gender and Elections BRIDGE training;
- Developing additional storage capacity of data centre.

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