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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 October, 2018

# Electoral Assistance Projects Update

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



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## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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### Brussels EU-UNDP global conference focused on democratic strengthening and electoral conflict prevention



From 8 to 10 October 2018, the EU-UNDP global conference entitled “Sustaining Peace through Elections” brought together nearly 200 participants from more than 60 countries, including representatives from 20 Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), representatives from many civil society organisations (CSOs) as well as high-level government officials. Also, most projects sent delegations to attend the event.

The conference was a part of the wider project to develop a toolbox on electoral conflict prevention, for use by the EU Delegations and UNDP Country offices in designing joint activities. The project is undertaken jointly by the European External Action Service/Prevention of conflicts, Rule of law/Security Sector Reform, Integrated approach, Stabilisation and Mediation (EEAS/PRISM), the European Parliament, the European Commission (DG DEVCO) and the UNDP and coordinated by the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance.



Reflecting a common theme of the discussions, namely that societies with strong democratic institutions are more resilient to electoral conflict, experts identified “democratic strengthening” approaches as essential components to the prevention of election-related violence. Such strategies are not limited to the pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral periods, but rather should be developed throughout electoral cycles. A “democratic strengthening” approach attempts to view assistance through a wide-angle lens, to include all the stakeholders in a comprehensive, long-term vision to strengthen

the resilience of the democratic system as a whole (including, but not limited to, electoral authorities, judiciary, parliaments, civil society organisations, media).

This approach is in line with UN's "Sustaining Peace" approach, as outlined in Secretary-General's report on "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace", as well as EU's strategy, specifically the "Pre-emptive Peace" section of the EU's Global Strategy, stating that the EU will "redouble our efforts on prevention, [and] monitoring root causes" of conflict .

View the agenda [here](#).

View the sessions here :

Monday 8 October -> <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/seminar-on-electoral-conflict-prevention-day-1>

Tuesday 9 October -> <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/seminar-on-electoral-conflict-prevention-day-2>

Wednesday 10 October -> <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/seminar-on-electoral-conflict-prevention-day-3>



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## SUMMARY

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**GUINEA:** The election of local executives has been suspended by the Minister of Territorial Administration.

**KENYA:** During the month, the project held a Project Donor Group meeting to discuss remaining components of work following challenges that had led to certain delays in project implementation.

**LEBANON:** The project provided technical assistance and relevant inputs to the MoIM in the conduct of an internal lessons learned exercise for the management and administration of the 2018 parliamentary elections. - A 2-day workshop has been organised between the Mexican Federal Electoral Tribunal and the Constitutional Council in Lebanon on topics relevant to the structure and attributions of the two institutions in the context of the elections dispute resolution system.

**LIBERIA:** The assessment of twenty warehouses belonging to the National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia was completed. - The project supported the NEC technical working group to review recommendations from the 2017 elections observers' report to identify potential areas of improvement on electoral reform. - Discussions regarding a potential collaboration between the NEC and the National Identification Registry on a single biometric registration system have been ongoing and supported by the project.

**LIBYA:** The Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL) project, which forms part of the United Nations Electoral Support Team (UNEST), continued to provide key institutional support for the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) during the month. This included: technical advice on procurement and logistics, security upgrade and rehabilitation of the new HNEC, as well as training support on voting procedure and consultation between UNEST and the HNEC leadership on the concept of operations and timeliness for the implementation of the constitutional referendum, in the event the required legislative amendments occurred this year.

**MALAWI:** The biometric voter registration (BVR) has entered the final phases. - The gender elections engagement room (GEER) has been launched. - The project supported the organisation of conflict prevention dialogue sessions for political parties.

**NEPAL:** The project completed the analytical work for the Election Commission of Nepal inclusion study.

**SIERRA LEONE:** As the project moves towards closure in the next months, there has been a clear focus on ensuring that the National Electoral Commission (NEC) can benefit from SNEC's legacy in the coming years.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS:** The project supported the drafting of the voter registration regulation. - The project's electoral operational support (EOS) supported the analysis of the voter registration data gathered during the data collection phase. - The project contributed to the on-going preparation of 16 aspiring women candidates for the upcoming national general election. - Voter education activities were implemented by civil society organisations and the project supported voter awareness campaign through, among other, the production and distribution of posters and the organisation of radio talk-shows.

**SOMALIA:** Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) provided in Mogadishu an update to international partners, including the European Union and the United Nations on the government's inclusive politics agenda. The FGS reiterated its commitment to hold universal elections in 2020. - With support of the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) revised its strategic plan and internal governance mechanism, in preparations of universal elections in 2020.

**ZAMBIA:** The project and the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) conducted a monitoring visit to three voter education school clubs in two provinces of Zambia. - ECZ undertook preparations for parliamentary, district council and local government by-elections scheduled for 20 November, including conducting candidate nomination, voter education, and training and stakeholder events.

**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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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING .....	1
GUINEA .....	2
KENYA .....	3
LEBANON .....	4
LIBERIA .....	7
LIBYA .....	9
MALAWI .....	11
NEPAL .....	13
SIERRA LEONE .....	15
SOLOMON ISLANDS.....	17
SOMALIA .....	21
ZAMBIA.....	24
ZIMBABWE .....	26

# ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Title	Reference	EU Contribution	Start Date	End Date
<b>Guinea</b>	Projet d'Appui au Cycle Electoral de la Guinée (PACEG)	FED/2015/367-390	€ 10,000,000.00	06.07.15	31.12.18
<b>Guinea Bissau</b>	Support to Electoral Cycle in Guinea-Bissau 2018-2019	EDF 2018/401-213	€ 2,500,000.00	15.10.18	15.01.20
<b>Kenya</b>	Strengthening of the Electoral Processes in Kenya Project (SEPK)	FED/2016/372/463	€ 5,000,000.00	13.02.16	12.02.19
<b>Lebanon</b>	EU 2018-2020 Electoral Support to Lebanon	ENI/2018/395-460	€ 2,750,000.00	01.01.18	31.12.19
<b>Liberia</b>	Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/367-723	€ 10,000,000.00	01.06.15	31.05.19
<b>Madagascar</b>	Soutien au Cycle Electoral à Madagascar (SACEM)	FED/2018/398-673	€ 1,500,000.00	04.07.18	03.05.20
<b>Malawi</b>	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	2017/389-162	€ 2,500,000.00	11.10.17	10.04.20
<b>Nepal</b>	Electoral Support Project-Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development Support for the Election Commission of Nepal (ESP)	DCI-ASIE/2012/305-833	€ 10,050,000.00	12.01.12	28.12.18
<b>Libya</b>	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5,000,000.00	01.11.17	01.11.20
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Support to the National Electoral Commission (SNEC)	FED/2017/390-345	€ 3,000,000.00	08.08.17	07.02.19
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP)	<b>FED/2013/328-922</b>	€ 3,500,000.00	01.07.13	31.12.18
<b>Somalia</b>	Joint Programme for Support to the Electoral Process in the Federal Republic of Somalia	FED/2015/366-291 FED/2015/360-953	€ 5,193,878.00	21.11.15	01.02.19
<b>Zambia</b>	Support to the 2015-2017 Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/363-147	€ 5,250,000.00	23.06.15	31.12.18
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	30.08.20



 GUINEA

 PACEG

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

Since July 2015, the project to “Support the Electoral Cycle of Guinea” (PACEG) provides assistance to strengthen the capacities of the Electoral Commission (CENI) and its field offices, including 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

- In line with the decree dated 26 September 2018, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation set the date of the election of municipal councils for 5 October 2018. Later, the same minister issued a timetable in which the training of the prefectural supervisors (on 10-13 October), the election of mayors (14 October) and the official installation of mayors (15 October) were planned.
- However, the election of local executives has been suspended by the Minister of Territorial Administration.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

Due to delay in organizing local elections, project activities have been reduced. In response to National Independent Electoral Commission's (CENI) request, the project provided assistance in recovering and securing electoral materials.

### II. Plans for the next period

Future activities will focus on monitoring the recovery and securing of election 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](mailto: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

- Following pronouncement by the High Court on legal constitution of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the commission conducted and managed senatorial by-elections in Migori County and a member of county assembly by-election in Central Sakwa, Siaya County.
- The project held a project donor group meeting to discuss remaining components of work following challenges that had led to certain delays in project implementation. The project will then proceed full throttle with completion of all pending interventions including the ongoing project and thematic evaluations.

## I. Project activities during the reporting period

The following activities were conducted during the month:

1. Development of a broader deepening democracy project concept note that includes in part an outlook to 2022 elections.
2. Procurement of a firm to support end-term evaluation of the project.

## 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;
- Evaluation of support to electoral security arrangement programme.

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](mailto: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 continued providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) Directorate-General of Political Affairs and Refugees (DGPAP) to draft a review of the elections Law 44/2017 in light of the organisation and conduct of elections in May 2018.
- The project provided technical assistance and relevant inputs to the MoIM in the conduct of an internal lessons learned exercise for the management and administration of the 2018 parliamentary elections.
- A 2-day workshop has been organised between the Mexican Federal Electoral Tribunal and the Constitutional Council in Lebanon on topics relevant to the structure and attributions of the two institutions in the context of the elections dispute resolution system.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

Following the conduct of the legislative elections, the Constitutional Council is working on the completion of the verification and adjudication of the 17 electoral complaints filed against 34 contested seats. The process will likely take three or four months to complete. The process of formation of the

new government is continuing with on-going negotiations. The Lebanese Parliament is continuing its activity with the formation of the parliamentary technical committees and works in plenary sessions.

### Lessons learned exercise

Part of the post-electoral activities, LEAP continued providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) Directorate-General of Political Affairs and Refugees (DGPARG) to draft a review of the elections Law 44/2017 in light of the organisation and conduct of elections in May 2018. The review and analysis includes checking for gaps and inconsistencies in the electoral framework and subsidiary legislation, amendments and improvement of relevant articles and provisions.

In addition, the project provided technical assistance and relevant inputs to the MoIM in the conduct of an internal lessons learned exercise for the management and administration of the 2018 parliamentary elections. The exercise focused on the challenges faced in the following areas:

- Election operations;
- Procurement of electoral materials;
- Training of electoral officials;
- Results management system;
- The out of country voting processes;
- Voter education;
- Electoral monitoring and supervision by the Supervisory Commission for Elections;
- Registration Committees and Higher Registration Committees responsibilities.

The objective of the exercise is to identify the strengths of the process and best practices, as well as areas that need further improvement.

### South-South cooperation



In the framework of south-south cooperation, UNDP Lebanon, along with UNDP Mexico, organised a 2-day workshop between the Mexican Federal Electoral Tribunal and the Constitutional Council in Lebanon on topics relevant to the structure and attributions of the two institutions in the context of the elections dispute resolution system.

The workshop took place at the Council's premises on 11 and 12 October. It aimed at exploring possibilities of cooperation, exchanging judicial-electoral information

and sharing good practices in the area of elections dispute resolution.

The first day of the workshop focused on introducing both institutions and the correlation between the two judiciary bodies. In addition, the Constitutional Council and the Mexican Federal Electoral Tribunal talked in general about the role of each institution in the context of the recent elections held in both countries in 2018. The second day started with discussions on the role of the electoral justice in the contemporary democracies, and went into the details of the electoral resolutions, i.e. how both bodies solve the challenges received, following the elections in Lebanon and Mexico. Furthermore, the participants explored cooperation opportunities in the area of capacity building in line with the programs of the judiciary school in Mexico.



## 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 (November – December 2018);
- Research on the voter education efficiency and impact followed by thematic lessons learned workshop (November - December 2018).

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



LIBERIA

Election Project/UNDP Liberia

## SUPPORT TO THE 2015 – 2018 LIBERIAN ELECTORAL CYCLE

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

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The assessment of twenty warehouses belonging to the National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia was completed.
- The project supported the NEC technical working group to review recommendations from the 2017 elections observers' report to identify potential areas of improvement on electoral reform.
- Discussions regarding a potential collaboration between the NEC and the National Identification Registry on a single biometric registration system have been ongoing and supported by the project.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

During the reporting period, the assessment of twenty warehouses belonging to the National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia was completed by a team comprising staff from UNDP Elections project and the National Elections Commission. The objective was to examine the structural conditions of each facility and the level of works required to undertake refurbishment across the country. Findings from the assessment shows that all of the existing warehouses require extensive rehabilitation and reconstruction works to bring them to required standards.

Secondly, a team of project's consultants supporting electoral reform worked with the NEC technical working group to review recommendations from the 2017 elections observers' report to identify main areas of possible improvement. Following a round of stakeholder consultations, the consultants completed the compilation of observers' recommendations from the 2017 general elections placing them into a single document (compendium). The compendium gathers recommendations grouped into nine thematic areas, presents the original text of the recommendations and combines recommendations of similar content. It also identifies which Liberian state authorities should have leading roles in implementing the recommendations. Following an internal review by a technical working group at NEC, a preliminary decision has been reached on which recommendations to prioritise. At the same time, the consultants have drafted a road map to identify areas for reform, strategy and tools for most effectively implemented observer recommendations and electoral reform.

Thirdly, during the period, the project initiated discussions leading to collaboration between the NEC and the National Identification Registry (NIR) on a possible merger of their efforts into a singular biometric registration system that would also serve the needs of NEC. UNDP deployed a voter registration consultant with whose help a number of clauses have been identified in the electoral law that are relevant to potential NEC-NIR collaboration. The capacity of NIR and readiness to expand its national register to include data required for voter registration process has also been examined.

Finally, a full rollout of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for the NEC is well on course during the reporting period. The principal agent of Techno Brain, the service provider contracted by UNDP is in country to provide additional support to the NEC for full kick-off of the system. Techno Brain will deploy two consultants for the system upgrade, training of NEC staff and asset management. Installation of the ERP system providing administrative support to the NEC's headquarters was completed in 2017 with all staff terminals linked. Finance, human resources, procurement and fixed assets management departments are connected and automated using the Microsoft Dynamics AX, with customizations technologies.

## II. Plans for the next period

- The project will present three draft papers on constitutional, statutory and regulatory amendments for the approval to the NEC Board of Commissioners (BoC) and develop options and modalities for NEC-NIR collaboration.
- The director of Monitoring and Evaluation section of NEC and the national program officer of the election project will acquire training in monitoring and evaluation in Nairobi, Kenya with the support of the project in the coming month.
- Support to the annual youth education and empowerment summit (AEES). The AEES summit will take place on 18 – 22 November and will focus on African Union agenda and post-election related issues especially in areas of development, women economic empowerment, entrepreneurship and education at all levels, drawing special attention to the post-election observers' recommendations and increase of gender-based violence on the continent.

For more information on the support to the Liberia electoral cycle, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. George Baratashvili, [george.baratashvili@undp.org](mailto:george.baratashvili@undp.org) and visit the [Project's website](#).



## PROMOTING ELECTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA (PEPOL)

### HIGHLIGHTS

• The Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL) project, which forms part of the United Nations Electoral Support Team (UNEST), continued to provide key institutional support for the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) during the month. This included: technical advice on procurement and logistics, security upgrade and rehabilitation of the new HNEC, as well as training support on voting procedure and consultation between UNEST and the HNEC leadership on the concept of operations and timeliness for the implementation of the constitutional referendum, in the event the required legislative amendments occurred this year.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

A joint revision of the bills of quantities for buildings 2 and 3 of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) new site by the HNEC, the project's engineering teams and the contractors has been conducted, with subsequent revision of the initial contract.

Senior level discussions on the election operation plan for the constitutional referendum and review of timelines have been ongoing.

### II. Plans for the next period

- An initial design workshop on Election Results Management System (ERMS) to be organised by PEPOL/UNEST and scheduled on 16-18 November in Tunis will aim at bringing together ONA Incl. (the independent software company contracted for the ERMS software and related applications) and the HNEC. Initial deliverables and modalities of service will be discussed. PEPOL retreat to review project achievements and challenges against key annual goals and targets will be organised.
- A voting simulation workshop in Benghazi to be attended by 80 HNEC staff from HQ and the field

including the East and the South.

- Regular electoral assistance coordination meeting will be convened by UNEST and attended by donors, electoral technical assistance providers and the UN agencies.



Construction works, HNEC new site, Sidi Al Masri, October 2018.  
Photo credits: Abdelhamid Kalai, UNDP, PEPOL.

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



MALAWI

Malawi Electoral Commission

## MALAWI ELECTORAL CYCLE SUPPORT 2017-2019

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

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The biometric voter registration (BVR) has entered the final phases.
- The gender elections engagement room (GEER) has been launched.
- The project supported the organisation of conflict prevention dialogue sessions for political parties.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project continued supporting the biometric voter registration (BVR) which has entered its penultimate phase by the end of October. By the end of phase 7, the following figures were available:

Total registered	6,258,690
Average turnout against 2014 voter register	91.45%
Average turnout against 2018 projection	80.82%
Female to Male %	56 % female; 44 % male



The exercise is due to end on 9 November. The process has been smooth and supported by most stakeholders. Thereafter, the deduplication process begins and should be completed by the third week of November when the final overall voter registration figures will be known. The voters' roll inspection period is due to begin on 10 December and finish on 11 January and will be carried out in 4 phases. The project continued to finance the civic and voter education process with the financing of means such as the deployment of loud speaker trucks which has proved effective in remote voter registration centres.

The project also provided support for the training of the members of the Multi-Party Liaison Committees (MPLCs), which are the district level elections dispute resolution bodies. This follows the project's support of the review of the MPLCs structures and guidelines. Because of the review, the directors of "women's wings" of all political parties represented at the MPLCs have been included and this has increased the presence and role of women within the MPLCs. The training is aimed at equipping members of the MPLCs with an understanding of their role, the functions and how to effectively conduct their activities of mediation, education and conflict resolution in the electoral process.

The project provided support for the establishment of the civil society organisation - led Gender Elections Engagement Room (GEER). This included establishing the Violence Against Women in Elections (VAWE) monitoring tool which had been drafted earlier this year. The tool was coded and linked to the data collection system of Telerivet which is the hosting organisation that GEER is using. The tool has since been deployed and the first reports were consolidated and shared with stakeholders. Training of selected VAWE Monitors has commenced.

As part of its support to women political participation and representation, the project supported the organisation of capacity building training workshops for women aspirants. The aim of the trainings was to equip them with basic skills and knowledge on campaign organisation and execution, message development and delivery and public speaking. The training followed a needs assessment that was carried out to determine what relevant skills and capacity areas women aspirants require.

The project supported the organisation of conflict prevention dialogue sessions for political parties. The primary objective of the initiative was to create a platform for open dialogue among party leaders on critical issues impacting or that would likely impact on interparty peace in the electoral process. The basic question the dialogue and consultations sought to address was what issues (based on both the historical experience and current events) trigger electoral violence and how can party leaders work together to ensure peaceful process. At the end of each dialogue session, party leaders signed a peace commitment.

## II. Project activities during the reporting period

The month of November will see the basket fund prepare for a possible support to the elections security sector, to be closely coordinated with the Malawi Police Service and the other donors of the basket fund.

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



## 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 completed the analytical work for the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) inclusion study.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

October marked the beginning of the festival season in Nepal, when government offices are closed and most staff are on leave. Meanwhile, the project completed the analytical work for the Election Commission's gender and inclusion study by consolidating the findings of the key informant interviews and focus group discussions it conducted.

The project facilitated the participation of one Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) delegate in the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) Forum in the Philippines, from 8 to 10 October.

October also saw the launch of the new ACE Electoral Knowledge website by the ACE partners in Mexico City. The project significantly contributed to the website's visual improvement as part of its effort to create a version in Nepali.

### II. Plans for the next period

The festival season of Nepal continues into the beginning of November. From 12 November to 9

December, a two-member team of consultants will carry out the final evaluation of the project. ESP will also support the preparation and implementation of a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) train-the-facilitators workshop near Kathmandu that ECN will conduct from 16 to 26 November.

For more information on the Nepal ESP, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Vincent da Cruz, [vincent.dacruz@undp.org](mailto:vincent.dacruz@undp.org), and visit the [Project's website](#).



## SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (SNEC)

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

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

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- As the project moves towards closure in the next months, there has been a clear focus on ensuring that the National Electoral Commission (NEC) can benefit from SNEC's legacy in the coming years.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

The gender unit of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), assisted by the Gender and Inclusion Advisor, continues work to finalise the gender assessment for publication in early November. A series of meetings have been held in this regard with various partners such as SEND, Trocaire, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Women in Media Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), USAID, the Parliamentary Research unit and UN Women. The assessment team is also drafting an accompanying gender policy for the NEC.

As part of handover activities, the Gender and Inclusion Advisor met with the EU Delegation's gender focal point to de-brief on gender-related activities around the elections and discuss further

interventions. A UNDP colleague from the social inclusion team joined to discuss how work of the project and the findings of the gender assessment can be followed by both UNDP and the EU, and how better coordinate activities around women's participation in the future.

The NEC Disability Policy, whose development has been supported by the project, is awaiting final commissioner approval.

The project held a results management lessons learned workshop with NEC staff in late October. Two commissioners and 26 NEC staff took two days activity to examine the results management process at the March elections. The focus was on topics as human resource management, logistics, timelines, all aspect of setting up of tally centres and internal coordination mechanisms. The participants discussed their views and formulated recommendations.

## II. Plans for the next period

The project evaluation will start in mid-November. Remaining activities relate to gender and people with disabilities (PWD) mainstreaming, handover of materials and documents and contracted IT training for NEC in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and mobile app development.

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



## STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (SECSIP)

Since 2013, UNDP Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP) has contributed to the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral process. The project supported the successful introduction of a new comprehensive biometric voter registration system which resulted in a more inclusive and reliable voters' roll and continues to provide assistance in terms of its updating and sustainability. The project also supports the review of the electoral legal framework with a view to promote the strengthening of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) and assist to the fulfilment of its mandate. It also strengthens the capacity of the SIEC to advocate for women's political participation and supports the national authorities and civil society organisations 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.

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The project supported the drafting of the voter registration regulation.
- The project's electoral operational support (EOS) supported the analysis of the voter registration data gathered during the data collection phase.
- The project contributed to the on-going preparation of 16 aspiring women candidates for the upcoming national general election.
- Voter education activities were implemented by civil society organisations and the project supported voter awareness campaign through, among other, the production and distribution of posters and the organisation of radio talk-shows.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

#### Support to legal reform: voter registration regulation

The project provided technical advice to prepare the drafting instructions to facilitate the drafting of the voter registration regulation. The project's Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) contributed to the

development of the regulation and provided advice to senior management of the Electoral Office and the Electoral Commission. The regulation and revised forms are expected to contribute to the consistency of the decision making of the revising officers, as well as to build awareness on the grounds to object and the need to substantiate objections.

### **Electoral operational support**

The project's electoral operational support (EOS) supported the analysis of the voter registration data gathered during the data collection phase. This analysis aims to identify movement trends of the population, and potential areas for higher objections and security threats ("hot spots"). The project also provided technical advice for the development of the field operations instructions aimed at the identification of the objection centers and designed the communications and reporting system during the objections period. Police resources are being prioritised at the identified potential hot spots.

### **Coordination with Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)**

Improved coordination between SIEC and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) has resulted in engaging 3 RSIPF officials who will work from electoral office premises twice a week for the preparation of electoral security operational aspects.

### **Support to aspiring women candidates**

In line with SECSIP action plan, the project contributed to the on-going preparation of 16 aspiring women candidates for the upcoming national general election, coming from 7 out of the 9 Solomon Islands provinces. The project's women's political participation adviser sought feedback on the status of the preparation, challenges and resource needs to be prioritised. Technical advice was also provided to identify areas of interest for constituency profiling. A sample constituency profile of South Guadalcanal Constituency incorporating different development aspects and recommending several actions was developed. This sample work is expected to assist women candidates to prepare their own constituency/ward profiles.

Knowledge on media and gender analysis was enhanced for 8 young women leaders mentored under Women's Rights Action Movement (WRAM). This activity focused on the analysis of several news pieces published on newspapers and magazines to see how gender is portrayed and suggested the way to influence the work of media to improve gender equality.

SECSIP organised a group of 10 women leaders and aspiring candidates to meet with a delegation comprised of New Zealand parliamentarians. The meeting provided them with an opportunity to exchange views on issues related to the challenges for women's political leadership in Solomon Islands as well as to enhance the knowledge on the role of Members of Parliament.

### **Women support network (WSN)**

SECSIP supported a discussion on 18 October with 15 women including 5 candidates on the progress of 'Women in Leadership and Political Participation' action plan. A Facebook group was created for this network. A set of issues and recommendations provided during this meeting included:

- The importance of the role of political parties for the endorsement of women candidacies;

- Importance of encouraging women electors to consider voting for female candidates;
- Advice and suggestions on the type of events and activities that women candidates may consider for fundraising events have been discussed.

### **Graduate programme**

Graduates continued support to Political Parties Commission (PPC) and the electoral office. PPC Graduates assisted 13 political parties in drafting their brochures for civic awareness programme.

### **Voter education and awareness campaign**

- Tefila Marketing and Enterprises Development conducted 8 face-to face voter awareness activities in Baegu/Asifola Constituency with an estimated outreach of over 1000 people. Hearts of Hope (HOH) reached 813 people (340 women) of 24 communities including 695 eligible voters by age. These activities received very positive feedback from participants.
- The project provided technical advice and graphic design for the production of FAQs on the omission and objections process. The FAQ leaflet was distributed to civil society organisations (CSOs), faith groups, and to other stakeholders and was also posted on SIEC website and Facebook.
- The project helped in the logistics and distribution of a total of 829 posters to the same number of polling stations, with a view to explain and mitigate the impact of those excluded from the final lists if an objection against that registered voter are upheld. Posters will be put in each polling station besides the provisional list, and 53 additional posters were also pinned on the vessels/ferry and boats.
- Technical support was provided for the organisation of radio talk-back shows.
- SECSIP supported the airing of 7 advertisements on exhibition of provisional list and on omission and objection through SIBC<sup>1</sup>, Paoa FM and Barava FM radio stations.
- SECSIP helped to prepare and publish 6 press releases on different voter awareness issues including subjects 'Check the provisional list', 'Exhibition of Provisional List coming up', 'Provisional list can be issued upon payment'.

### **Knowledge management**

- SECSIP CTA facilitated a presentation to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) on issues concerning the electoral risk and potential measures on 2 October, based on the Electoral Risk Assessment commissioned by the project.
- The project's WPL Advisor facilitated a presentation and QA sessions on "Exercising Your Democratic Rights by Voting" on 16 October at the Parliament compound. A total of 50 young people (50% female, 1 male with disability) representing 50 constituencies in Solomon Islands attended the session.

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<sup>1</sup> Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation.



## II. Plans for the next period

- Capacity building support: training for revising officers;
- Continuing support to voter awareness campaign;
- Monitoring visit to CSO's face to face awareness campaign;
- On-going procurement of polling materials;
- Support SIEC electoral operations plan;
- Capacity building support to aspiring women candidates including constituency profiling for women candidate.

For more information on the SECSIP, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Ms. Olga Rabade, [olga.rabade@undp.org](mailto:olga.rabade@undp.org) and visit the [project's website](#).



## 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

- Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) provided in Mogadishu an update to international partners, including the European Union and the United Nations on the government’s inclusive politics agenda. The FGS reiterated its commitment to hold universal elections in 2020.
- With support of the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) revised its strategic plan and internal governance mechanism, in preparations of universal elections in 2020.
- The NIEC finalised a desk study identifying 1,763 potential voter catchment areas across the country based on satellite images, GIS data and tentative population estimates, as a first step toward the establishment of future voter registration centres.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

Federal Government of Somalia meeting with international partners on inclusive politics: Federal Government restates commitment to hold universal elections in 2020

On 1 October 2018, the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) provided



NIEC Chairperson, Ms. Halima Ibrahim Ismael, addressing members of the International Community in a meeting Chaired by the Prime Minister on inclusive Politics and preparations for universal elections in 2020, on 1 October 2018.  
Photo credit: UNDP.

in Mogadishu an update to international partners, including the EU and the UN, on the government's inclusive politics agenda. The Federal Government and the chair of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) reiterated the government's commitment of holding 'one-person-one-vote' elections in 2020, highlighted the progress made in preparation for universal elections, and called on the international community to continue to support inclusive constitutional review, electoral and federalization processes in the country. The EU and the UN underscored the importance of women's participation in political

processes and the importance the finalise the electoral law by the end of 2018, and called on continued collaboration between the Federal Government and Federal Member States.

### Development of the electoral law

From 23 to 28 October, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MOIFAR) held in Mogadishu consultations with political parties, political entities and civil society organizations on the draft of the electoral law. Comments from the participants are added as an annex to the draft law that MOFIAR will submit in November to the Council of Ministers. According to the schedule, the electoral law is to be finalised by the end of 2018, including passage through the Parliament.

### NIEC workshops on institutional governance and strategic review

From 15 to 24 October, with support of the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) revised its strategic plan and internal governance mechanism, to enhance its institutional and electoral capacity in preparations of universal elections in 2020.

### NIEC mapping of voter catchment areas and possible voter registration locations

In October, the NIEC finalised a desk study identifying 1,763 potential voter catchment areas across the country based on satellite images, GIS data and tentative population estimates. The identification of voter catchment areas is a first step in the process of establishing future voter registration centres. In October, the NIEC conducted a pilot exercise in two districts to verify on the ground the voter catchment areas. Equipped with GIS tools, the NIEC recruited enumerators to map 140 potential voter registration points in two districts and to identify suitable locations to possibly serve later as voter registration centres. The results of the pilot project will feed into the NIEC's planning of a nationwide verification process of voter catchment areas in the upcoming months.

## Meeting of newly appointed UN Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General with NIEC

On 17 October 2018, the newly appointed UN Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia, Nicholas Haysom, had a meeting with the Chairperson of the NIEC, Ms. Halima Ibrahim, to discuss the preparations of the country's important 2020 elections. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment of Nicholas Haysom of South Africa as his Special Representative for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia. Mr. Haysom had a long international career with a focus on democratic governance, constitutional and electoral reforms, reconciliation and peace processes.



Newly appointed SRSG to Somalia, Nicholas Haysom, meeting with Halima Ibrahim Ismael, Chairperson NIEC. Mogadishu, 17 October 2018.  
Photo credit: UNDP.

## 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](mailto:filip.warnants@undp.org) and visit the [Project's website](#).



ZAMBIA

Public Relation Department of the Commission

## SUPPORT TO THE ZAMBIA ELECTORAL CYCLE

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- From 19–31 October, the Ministry of Justice together with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Zambia Law Development Commission conducted public consultations in all provinces of Zambia on the Public Order Act.
- The project and the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) conducted a monitoring visit to three voter education school clubs in two provinces of Zambia.
- ECZ undertook preparations for parliamentary, district council and local government by-elections scheduled for 20 November, including conducting candidate nomination, voter education, and training and stakeholder events.

### I. Project activities during the reporting period

**Public consultations on the Public Order Act:** The project provided support to a two-week programme of public consultations on the Public Order Act. These were conducted by the Ministry of Justice together with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Zambia Law Development Commission and took place in each of Zambia’s ten provinces between 19 and 31 October. The consultations sought feedback from a range of stakeholders on provisions of the Act and its implementation, as part of a process of review of applicable legislation leading up to 2021 general elections. The project has provided ongoing technical advice to the Ministry of Justice and its partners on designing the roadmap for these consultations, as well as financial

support for the holding of the consultative events, with a specific focus on ensuring a broad-based and inclusive process.

**Voter education school clubs:** As part of a current ECZ evaluation of its Voter Education School Club programme, the project supported and participated in a monitoring and evaluation field visit to school clubs in different districts of Zambia between 30 September and 4 October. Building upon a review in February this year that obtained feedback from those who run the clubs at local level, the exercise aimed to evaluate the programme to assess the methodology for monitoring performance and to explore best practices that may be replicated in other schools. The ECZ, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, has established 40 school clubs throughout Zambia as a means of enhancing understanding of electoral issues amongst teachers and youth, promoting their participation in democratic processes within their communities and creating a pool of voter educators among young people. The ECZ is aiming to expand and establish additional clubs to reach populations in a greater number of districts. This evaluation provides useful insights on mechanisms for developing the programme, as part of the ECZ's strategic objective to maintain continuous voter education throughout all phases of the electoral cycle.

## II. Plans for the next period

- Signing of the charter for a coordinated framework on domestic election observation;
- Follow up support to provincial public consultations on the Public Order Act;
- In-country missions for a project final evaluation and formulation of a new programme of support;
- Presentation of the Needs Assessment Mission recommendations to key stakeholders;
- **Conduct of by-elections on 20 November for Mangango parliamentary constituency, Lapososhi District Council Chairperson and for the office of Councillor 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](mailto:katherine.green@undp.org).



## 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

**Observer reports :** The European Union, Zimbabwe International Electoral Observation Mission (comprising of International Republican Institute and National Democratic Institute) and Zimbabwe Election Support Network came up with their detailed election observation reports. These reports provide a range of recommendations to further improve the electoral process, which includes the legal framework, electoral administration, voter registration, political parties and campaign environment, media, participation of people with disabilities, polling & counting, results management and electoral disputes. These recommendations will provide inputs to the post-election review process being conducted by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

**ZEC internal post-election review:** The post-election review process was started with a bottom-up approach,

starting with feedback from the district offices (63) to provincial offices (10) to the headquarters with culmination of the final review process with representation from the 3 tiers. The review processes have focused on the legal framework, voter education, voter registration, polling and counting, results management, stakeholder engagement, public relations, internal communication, election logistics and operations. These discussions will bring forward a set of resolutions for improvement in the ZEC processes and will provide insight for UNDP future programming.

**Review with media entities:** Media forms an important part of the electoral process, citizens get their news and information from it and media shapes citizens perceptions and preferences during elections. After an internal review by ZEC media monitoring committee, an external review has been planned with the media entities from 05-06 November 2018 to review the achievements and identify weakness in the media landscape.

**Review of voter education:** For the first time, ZEC implemented a voter education campaign that used innovative and creative means of reaching to citizens, informing them of their rights and the process of registration and voting. The campaign resulted in 80% registration of eligible citizens as voters and 85% of voter turnout. It's important to review the campaigns that were rolled out by ZEC for voter registration, voter inspection and election to identify the challenges and issues for improving future programming. This will enable ZEC to enfranchise the underprivileged, marginalized and disadvantaged citizens for ensuring their effective participation in the democratic process.

**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 (GESA), 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. A Gender in Elections BRIDGE training was organised from 1-5 October 2018, to capacitate the ZEC staff, which was followed by a two days gender focal point meeting to start the development process of gender policy. A way forward was agreed with a timeline for coming up with a draft policy by end of this year.

**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. Procurement process was started for the additional data storage and it is expected to be finalised early November 2018.

## II. Plans for the next period

- Post-election review of media and voter education areas;
- Consultations for development of gender policy;
- Discussion with Chapter 12 Commissions on their role during elections;
- Developing ZEC partnerships with disability people organisations.

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