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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 November, 2018

Electoral Assistance Projects Update

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



SUMMARY

AFGHANISTAN: On 27 November 2018, IEC Commissioners signed a memo stating that the presidential and outstanding WJ elections for Ghazni Province will be held on 20 April 2019. - The IEC also announced that the provincial and district council elections will be held on 21 September 2019.

GUINEA BISSAU: Over 708,609 voters (around 80%) have already been registered out of an estimated 886,292 eligible voters. - The UN Integrated Electoral Support Unit (IESU) supports the Elections National Commission with the conduct of inventory of electoral materials. - UN Regional Electoral Advisers prepare to deploy to each region to provide technical advice to the regional electoral commissions.

KENYA: Following the in-principle approval by the Project Donor Group in October 2018, the project continued to engage with its stakeholders in a bid to obtain approval for extension of the project implementation period from December 2018 to June 2019. The extension was sought to facilitate completion of project activities, evaluations and project closure. - The project team continued with the design of a successor 'Deepening Democracy' project.

LIBERIA: During the reporting period, the National Elections Commission with limited technical and financial support from international partners conducted two by-elections in Sinoe and Montserrado counties. The NEC has set November 20 as the date for the by-elections. Voting was conducted in a peaceful environment and polling staff managed the polls well and followed procedure. There were no technical challenges experienced. Results of the by-elections were available shortly after the tally process.

LIBYA: The High National Elections Commission (HNEC) received the Referendum Law on Thursday 29 November from the House of Representatives (HoR). - The referendum process is in principle ready to commence within 60 days after the enactment of the law (27/11/18), according to the provisions. However, the 60-day operational timeline is considered tight by the HNEC. - The project has engaged with the HNEC on issues pertaining to the drafting of the referendum regulation.

MADAGASCAR: The training of election staff was completed in November at the communal level and sensitive materials were deployed to the country's 24,852 polling stations for the first round of presidential elections. - Electoral mapping to identify and locate polling stations across the country has been finalised, printed and published online. - The first round of the presidential election was held on 7 November. Provisional results were announced by the CENI on 17 November and the final results by the High Constitutional Court

(HCC) on 28 November.

NEPAL: The project completed a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) train-the-facilitators course.

SIERRA LEONE: The project finalised its activities in November 2018. Electoral advisors have now departed, and the project is in its closure phase, with the project evaluation now underway.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: The project continued to support the drafting of a comprehensive operational plan for National General Election (NGE) in 2019. The project contributed to improving the capacities of 50 revision officers (9 female) responsible for 50 constituencies in preparation for the omission and objection phase of the voter registration process. - The project has conducted voter education and awareness campaign activities.

SOMALIA: The Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MOIFAR) submitted the draft electoral law to the Cabinet. - An electoral information sharing meeting has been organised with NIEC Chairperson, deputy SRSG, the UNDP/UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group, international partners and international electoral assistance providers to discuss and enhance technical coordination on electoral activities.

ZAMBIA: On 29 November, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) formally launched its five-year Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022. - The ECZ facilitated two consultations with media stakeholders to discuss ways of improving the electoral media landscape for the next general elections. - UNDP Zambia facilitated an in-country mission for the final evaluation of the current project and a joint EU-UNDP formulation mission for development of a future electoral cycle project.

ZIMBABWE: ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and institutional strengthening areas of election operations including planning, review processes, knowledge management, polling process, Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), training requirements in pre-election and election period, voter education, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, inclusivity and election dispute resolution. 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 (2018-2023).

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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
Guinea Bissau	Support to Electoral Cycle in Guinea-Bissau 2018-2019	EDF 2018/401-213	€ 2,500,000.00	15.10.18	15.01.20
Kenya	Strengthening of the Electoral Processes in Kenya Project (SEPK)	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	31.08.19
Malawi	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	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	28.12.19
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 (SNEC)	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	27.08.19
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	31.12.19
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



AFGHANISTAN

UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP)

The UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP) is the international community's programming vehicle to support the next elections in Afghanistan, including the parliamentary and district council elections. The project has two overall objectives: 1) to build the capacity of the Afghan electoral institutions (the Independent Elections Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission) to implement elections in line with the national electoral legal framework and Afghanistan's international commitments; and 2) to allow a programming mechanism for the international community to partially finance the elections as per the request of the Government of Afghanistan.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The UNESP support to the Independent Elections Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC), resulted in the successful conduct of the Wolesi Jirga (WJ) Election in 33 provinces between 20 and 27 October 2018. It has been estimated that over 4 million votes were cast (37% female voters).
- On 27 November 2018, IEC Commissioners signed a memo stating that the presidential and outstanding WJ elections for Ghazni Province will be held on 20 April 2019. The IEC also announced that the provincial and district council elections will be held on 21 September 2019.
- As of 1 December, the IEC had announced preliminary WJ results for 18 provinces.
- Throughout the electoral period, a total 11,277 of the registered complaints have been adjudicated and finalised at the provincial level. Another 334 appeal requests have been filed for review. The ECC also received 236 additional complaints following the announcement of preliminary election results.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Independent Elections Commission capacity building

The project supported the Independent Elections Commission (IEC) to update result sheets for the ballot recount process. New templates of the forms were developed and were submitted to the IT department for generation of candidate names on the forms. In addition, the project provided support for the development of a timeline and an operational plan for 2019 presidential election. The project also developed and shared the capacity development assessment questionnaire with IEC advisors for review and to conduct capacity/

training need assessment of their respective IEC departments. The capacity assessment will ascertain capacities of the staff and departments in general and the results will inform the design of capacity strengthening strategies to support IEC in preparing for the 2019 elections. A total of 338 newly recruited staff (269 women) for ballot recounting have been trained on the procedures. A six-member project team is providing technical support for the ballot recounting activity.

IEC regulations, procedures and plans

The project supported the IEC procedures department in drafting the candidate nomination procedures for 2019 presidential election.

The top-up voter registration (VR) procedures were also reviewed. Consolidation of existing VR books and VR kits at provincial level was assessed against VR top up required. In summary, 5,616 additional VR books and 108 additional VR kits are required.

Media committee

The project supported the media committee to develop the operational plan and strategy for the upcoming elections including drafting regulations and procedures for adjudication of media related complaints, public awareness campaigns and media monitoring.

Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) capacity building

The project developed and shared the capacity assessment questionnaire with ECC advisors for review. The capacity assessment to gauge the capacities of the staff and departments will generate results that feed into the design of capacity strengthening strategies to support ECC in preparing for the 2019 elections. The ECC, with technical support from the project, is undertaking a situational analysis of ECC on aspects related to monitoring and reporting, the findings will inform production of future ECC reports.

ECC regulations, procedures and plans

The ECC public outreach strategy is drafted in line with the ECC communication policy and strategy for public outreach and stakeholder engagement. In addition, the public outreach plan for the upcoming elections was also developed. These documents integrate best practices and lessons learned from the WJ election.

The project is also providing technical assistance to ECC in drafting the operational plan for 2019 elections.

Electoral complaints

Project is supporting the ECC legal department in the investigation of the complaints from 20 October 2018 WJ election. Not less than 11,847 complaints were registered in ECC and Provincial Electoral Complaint Commissions Offices.

Public outreach

Production of regular bulletins, with technical support from UNESP, is becoming institutionalised in IEC. The fourth bulletin, incorporating a simplified flowchart of the tally procedures, was produced, disseminated to key stakeholders and uploaded onto the website in Dari and English. The ECC produced three e-bulletins, with technical support from UNESP. The second e-bulletin, produced in Dari and English covered several complaints registered per province, categorisation of complaints and a report from ECC on the WJ election. The third e-bulletin, with updated statistics on complaints' investigation, adjudication and appeal processes was produced in Dari and English and disseminated to electoral stakeholders. Further, 70,000 brochures

on electoral crimes were printed and disseminated. The public service announcement was produced and broadcasted by ECC in 12 TVs and 20 radios to register complaints on the preliminary election results.

The project trained 30 newly recruited call centre operators. In addition, the call centre received 34,111 calls from 4,229 women and 29,882 men through the toll-free number, 190.

Polling returns

With UNESP logistical support, polling returns were received from all 33 provinces and processed through the intake procedure at IEC.

Gender

The UNESP Gender Advisor has advised the IEC gender unit on the development of a draft IEC public outreach plan to improve female participation in the upcoming presidential election, including female voters, candidates, and electoral administrators. The outreach plan includes the development of leaflets targeting each of the three groups, the printing of a brochure which promotes women's legal rights from a religious perspective, billboards to encourage female candidates, a TV public service announcement (PSA) on physical and psychological violence against female candidates and voters, and a radio PSA on the prohibition of family voting in Afghanistan. Furthermore, with the support of the UNESP Gender Advisor, the IEC Gender Unit has developed a four pronged proposal to the IEC to increase female candidate nomination: 1) reduce the number of supporters a female candidate needs by 50 percent, from 100,000 people to 50,000; 2) reimburse the candidacy funds paid by female candidates if they fail to achieve two percent of the vote; 3) IEC to support female candidates with their campaign materials; and 4) the IEC assist in the provision of guards and armoured vehicles for female candidates from nomination to result announcement.

II. Plans for the next period

In preparation for the presidential and Ghazni WJ elections, as well as, provincial and district council elections in 2019, the UNESP document will be revised to include Output 6 and matching budgets.

For more information on the UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP), please contact Deputy Chief Electoral Advisor Mr. Alim Rama, alim.rama@undp.org.



GUINEA BISSAU

SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL CYCLE 2018-2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 708,609 voters (around 80%) have already been registered out of an estimated 886,292 eligible voters.
- The UN Integrated Electoral Support Unit (IESU) supports the Elections National Commission (CNE) with the conduct of inventory of electoral materials.
- UN Regional Electoral Advisers prepare to deploy to each region to provide technical advice to the regional electoral commissions.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

UN Electoral Assistance to the electoral management bodies in Guinea-Bissau – the National Electoral Commission (CNE) and the Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) – is being provided through the UN Integrated Electoral Support Unit (IESU), comprising staff of United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGIBIS) and UNDP. From 2 to 9 November, a joint CNE/IESU assessment mission deployed to the nine regions of Guinea Bissau. The primary aim of this exercise was to confirm actual quantities of election materials currently in storage at the Regional Electoral Commissions.

On 13 November, the IESU Electoral Operations Adviser began working with the CNE. In addition, the nine IESU Regional Electoral Advisers (REA) began work on 19 November, and immediately began pre-deployment briefings. The REAs will provide technical advice to the Regional Electoral Commissions (CREs). They also held introductory meetings with the CNE and the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative and had further IESU internal briefings on electoral operations and logistics. They are expected to deploy, one to each region, in the first week of December.



IESU Regional Electoral Advisers meeting with the CNE

GTAPE continued to conduct the voter registration exercise nationwide and in the diaspora. The voter registration exercise is expected to be completed on 5 December. As of 2 December, over 708,609 voters (around 80%) were reported to have been registered, out of an estimated 886,292 eligible voters.

The previously scheduled election date was 18 November; however, that date has since passed, and no new date has been set yet.

During the reporting period, the UNDP Support Project to the Electoral Process (PACE) transferred funds to GTAPE for the following: allowances for the voter registration teams, supervisors, and cartographers; payment for the rental of vehicles and pirogues; payment for the voter awareness activities; and allowances for GTAPE personnel monitoring the conduct of the voter registration. In the same period, the project supported CNE funds in supervision of voter registration, HQ renovations and allowances for the Regional Electoral Commissions (CREs).

Four hundred biometric voter registration kits, procured by UNDP, arrived in Bissau on 26 November. These kits will be used for the annual voter registration updates that are required by law. Twenty UNDP-procured card printers, which complement the kits, arrived earlier on 19 November.

II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the following reporting period include:

- The IESU Regional Electoral Advisers are expected to deploy on 5 December;
- The field voter registration is expected to be completed;
- Procurement of electoral materials including ballot boxes, indelible ink, seals and polling booths is expected to be underway.

For more information on the Support to the Electoral Cycle 2018-2019 project in Guinea Bissau, please contact Mr. Deryck Fritz, deryck.fritz@un.org.



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 the in-principle approval by the Project Donor Group in October 2018, the project continued to engage with its stakeholders in a bid to obtain approval for extension of the project implementation period from December 2018 to June 2019. The extension was sought to facilitate completion of project activities, evaluations and project closure.
- As a sequel, the project amended its 2018/2019 work plan to include additional activities as requested by project partners.
- The project team continued with the design of a successor 'Deepening Democracy' project.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The following activities were implemented during the month:

1. The project team continued with the design of a successor 'Deepening Democracy' project. The proposed design seeks to complement government efforts at strengthening democracy and lay the foundation for support to the 2022 elections.
2. Procurement of a firm to undertake the project end-term evaluation has been ongoing.
3. Project's partner Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) launched a report "Silhouettes of Brutality: An account of sexual violence during and after the 2017 general election". The report can be access via this link: http://knchr.org/Portals/0/KNCHR_Silhouettes_of_Brutality.pdf.
4. The project supported the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to finalise the post-election evaluation.

II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the following reporting period include:

- Closure of 2018 financial year activities.
- Re-engagement with key stakeholders on implementation of the SEPK 2018/19 revised annual work plan.
- Evaluation of project support to the 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.



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

- During the reporting period, the National Elections Commission with limited technical and financial support from international partners conducted two by-elections in Sinoe and Montserrado counties.
- The NEC has set November 20 as the date for the by-elections. Voting was conducted in a peaceful environment and polling staff managed the polls well and followed procedure. There were no technical challenges experienced.
- Results of the by-elections were available shortly after the tally process.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

During the reporting period, the twenty warehouses rehabilitation and construction technical specifications, bill of quantities and layouts have been completed. After approval of the rehabilitation plans by the NEC, the project will launch tender bids for warehouses renovation and constructions.

The project initiated the formation of the electoral reform technical working group (TWG) to discuss and coordinate electoral reform process that different organisations are planning to implement

starting from next year. The TWG group brings together representatives of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), National Democratic Institute (NDI), USAID, Embassy of Sweden, Ireland, EU, UN Women and UNDP. With the project support, reform agenda was identified based on observer recommendations, the NEC has categorised recommendations by theme and change path (constitution, statute, regulation, policy and implementation) and drafted a roadmap on implementation of the electoral reform as well as strategy for holding advocacy events to engage with interested actors and decision-makers. The project supports the advocacy of the NEC's reform agenda through preparing evidence-based policy papers mostly focusing on the priority reform issues, such as:

- Women's representation in parliament and the use of temporary special measures;
- Establishing electoral districts;
- Civil and voter registration;
- Timing / scheduling of elections;
- Adoption of a political party law;
- Principles for election management including independence of election administration;
- Access to information/transparency;
- The role of election administration in providing civic and voter education;
- Participation of special interest groups in elections (youth, persons with disabilities, minorities).

Discussions on improving the legal and regulatory framework took place at the National Elections Commission through the technical working group on legal amendments. The project legal consultant supported development of briefing papers on legal reform suggesting amendments' wording for the consideration by the NEC Board of Commissioners.

The NEC technical working group established on voter registration process completed the work considering options and modalities for NEC collaboration with National Identification Registry (NIR) to improve and streamline voter registration. The project supported development of the report on NEC/ NIR cooperation potential, developed options and modalities for NEC-NIR collaboration, including alignment options, risks and recommendations.

On 18-22 November, the project provided technical and financial support in organisation of the Annual Youth Summit 2018 in Monrovia, Liberia. This is the third consecutive conference organized by Youth Coalition For Education in Liberia (YOCEL) with support of UNDP and the most engaging since its inception in 2016. This Annual Youth Summit



Annual Youth Summit 2018 in Monrovia, Liberia, 18-22 November.
Photo credits: Special Organizing Team.

brought together 155 delegates from 12 countries in attendance: Ghana, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, U.S.A, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Liberia as well as policymakers in government and international organisations, to discuss the challenges youth face with education and empowerment. This intervention resulted in launching of a post-summit engagement platform called Action Plan to follow up on delegates and to measure how they put in use the skills acquired from the summit, how they trained young people in resource mobilisation and in understanding public-private partnership. The Action Plan platform would also expose them to trending topics such as digital marketing and accountability. Finally, a resolution was adopted for engagement of government officials on their commitment to maintain peace and adhere to the recommendations of the 2017 election observer missions.



Annual Youth Summit 2018 in Monrovia, Liberia, 18-22 November. Photo credits: Special Organizing Team.

With UNDP support, the director of monitoring and evaluation section of the National Elections Commission and the national program officer of the election project participated in a one-month long training course in monitoring, evaluation and results-based reporting in Nairobi, Kenya. The overall objective of the training is to equip participants with competencies in monitoring and evaluation of development interventions at project, program and organisational levels. The training course was hosted by AMRIF Health Africa.

II. Plans for the next period

The priority activities for the next reporting period include the following:

- Launch of tender bids for the NEC 20 warehouses renovation and constructions;
- Support finalisation and approval of the NEC 2018-2024 strategic plan that will provide a roadmap to the Commission's strategic direction for the next six years;
- Finalise eight evidence-based policy papers to support the advocacy of the NEC's electoral reform agenda.

For more information on the support to the Liberia electoral cycle, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. George Baratashvili, george.baratashvili@undp.org and visit the



LIBYA

 Iason Athanasiadis,
UNSMIL, 2014

PROMOTING ELECTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA (PEPOL)

The Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL) project is a three year electoral assistance project, designed in the spirit of cooperation and national ownership with the Libyan High National Elections Commission (HNEC). The project forms part of the UN integrated electoral assistance framework which is led and coordinated by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The project's overall objective is to help HNEC develop its overall institutional capacity in order to prepare for and administer inclusive and credible balloting events in Libya. To this end, four key outputs are identified with related activities to be implemented throughout the electoral cycle approach:

1. Support HNEC in the planning, preparation and conduct of national elections and out-of-country voting (OCV);
2. Develop HNEC institutional and staff capacities and raise awareness on the requirement of (a) transparent, credible and inclusive electoral processe(s);
3. Promote public participation in (the) electoral processe(s) targeting vulnerable groups; and
4. Raising the electoral awareness of local partners and stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The High National Elections Commission (HNEC) received the Referendum Law on Thursday 29 November from the House of Representatives (HoR). The referendum process is in principle ready to commence within 60 days after the enactment of the law (27/11/18), according to the provisions.
- The 60-day operational timeline is considered tight by the HNEC. Also, the HNEC announced that a public press conference will be held on 6 December, which will be preceded by consultations with key stakeholders, including government branches, to seek consensus on the best possible options for the implementation of the referendum process.
- The project has engaged with the HNEC on issues pertaining to the drafting of the referendum regulation.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Technical assistance towards the Constitutional referendum: The United Nations Electoral Support Team (UNEST), including the Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL) project, have engaged

with the HNEC on issues pertaining to the drafting of the referendum regulations, including campaign regulations, voter registration, including the registration of internally displaced people (IDPs), voter education and public outreach, electoral procurements and logistics, voting operations, including out-of-country voting, ballot design and results tallying and announcement, and finally, possible scenarios in the event of a NO vote.

Security upgrades and rehabilitation works at the new HNEC compound continued and are progressing well. The project and the HNEC agreed on some new changes and additional works on the compound some of which will be funded by the HNEC itself.

Procurement: The project announced a tender for the provision of voter education banners for the HNEC's 1,908 polling centres. This tender, i.e. printing, delivery and installation of the materials, is expected to be completed within the next 30 days.

IT support: UNEST and PEPOL supported the HNEC workshop on the design of the results management system (RMS) from 16 – 17 November 2018 in Tunis, with the participation of the software company. Also, the project concluded the contracting of Caktus, the firm to undertake the hosting, upgrade and maintenance of the HNEC voter registration system (VRS) for the next twelve months. Finally, PEPOL finalised the recruitment of the Information Management Specialist who will support the HNEC IT departments in areas such as data management, software development and maintenance and staff training.

Capacity building: UNEST and PEPOL supported the HNEC simulation workshop on voting procedures which was held from 25 – 27 November 2018 in Benghazi. About 80 HNEC officials, including a commissioner and some managers, and UNEST members participated in this event which also provided induction to new HNEC staff members from the East and South regions.



Results management system inception workshop in Tunis. Photo credits: UNDP Libya.

Facilitation: The monthly electoral coordination meeting was held in Tunis on 22 November, and was attended by representatives of the international community, electoral technical assistance providers and UN agencies. The meeting underscored the importance of joint planning, coordination and information sharing, particularly among the electoral technical assistance providers (ETAPs) ahead of the next electoral event.

II. Plans for the next period

- Project donor information session scheduled for December 2018 in Tunis;
- Announcement of two more tenders on behalf of the HNEC during the week of 3 December 2018, for the landscaping and IT network at the new HNEC site;
- Organisation of an inception meeting with Caktus and the HNEC in the next two weeks, to discuss modalities for the implementation of the contract, including Caktus immediate support to the HNEC voter registration campaign ahead of the referendum.

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



MADAGASCAR

CENI Madagascar

SOUTIEN AU CYCLE ÉLECTORAL DE MADAGASCAR (SACEM)

From 2017 to 2019, the SACEM project intends to support the CENI and other stakeholders in the electoral process in the organisation of credible, inclusive and peaceful elections on the Big Island. It focuses on the reliability and security of the electoral register, the promotion of electoral governance through legal framework reforms, the raising of electoral awareness, the capacity building of electoral agents, the provision of voting material and the rapid and secure transmission of electoral data.

The project, implemented by UNDP, is supported by the European Union, USAID, Norway, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, South Korea, Switzerland and Australia.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The training of election staff was completed in November at the communal level and sensitive materials were deployed to the country's 24,852 polling stations for the first round of presidential elections.
- Electoral mapping to identify and locate polling stations across the country has been finalised, printed and published online.
- The training of staff to support the operationalisation of the results reporting system continued prior to the first round.
- The first round of the presidential election was held on 7 November. Provisional results were announced by the CENI on 17 November and the final results by the High Constitutional Court (HCC) on 28 November.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Publication of the electoral mapping. In November, the SACEM project has consolidated data on the location of polling stations and registration centres in 119 districts of the country. The national electoral mapping was published on the CENI website and printed in the form of Atlas organised by region (22 in the country), before the first round of the presidential election. The mapping must be shared with the candidates for the second round of the Presidential Election and with international observers.

Support to the institutional communication of the CENI. Awareness-raising spots on the use of a single ballot paper and to encourage citizens to cast their ballots were broadcast in the run-up to the first round

of the presidential election. Facing proliferation of fake news on social media, CENI's capacities in terms of institutional and digital communication have been strengthened. The number of subscribers on Facebook has increased from 7,000 to 90,000.

Support for the transmission of results. The project's experts supported the CENI in the transmission of results to its field offices and in the centralisation of results at the central level. The software developed by the CENI with the support of SACEM has been the subject of an international audit, which found no discrepancies in its operation.

Training of the members of the CENI and deployment of the equipment. The last step of the cascade training, designed to reinforce capacities of nearly 130,000 election workers for polling operations and data collection, continued in November at the level of the country's communes. The participants then sent the electoral material to the different polling stations in the country.

Support in the provinces. The six UN Volunteer (UNV) logisticians deployed in the provinces of Madagascar have provided substantial support for the implementation of training, deployment of equipment and results processing at the lower levels.

First round of the presidential elections. The first round of the presidential election was held on 7 November. Provisional results were announced by the CENI on 17 November and the final results by the High Constitutional Court on 28 November. A second round will take place on 19 December 2018.

Review of the first round. After evaluations conducted internally, the CENI and SACEM also organised joint evaluation sessions to discuss activities during the first round of elections draw lessons learned and formulate recommendations for the second round.

Second national awareness campaign. The national awareness-raising campaign continued in November to encourage citizens to vote. In preparation for the second round, the events will focus on the acceptance of results, the withdrawal of voter cards and the marking of the single ballot, in order to increase turnout and reduce the number of invalid ballot papers.

II. Plans for the next period

- The Annual Review of the Electoral List (RALE) will begin on 1 December 2018.
- The SACEM project will support the deployment of materials to the six main hubs identified in Madagascar and will support in the dispatch to the country's polling stations.
- Election and data transmission staff will be further strengthened in capacity to improve the management of operations at all levels and address the shortcomings identified during the first round of the presidential election.
- The results processing software will be presented to both candidates and their delegates during a session supervised by international experts.
- The awareness campaign will continue in order to increase voter turnout.
- The second round of the presidential election in Madagascar will take place on 19 December 2018.

For more information on the SACEM, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Flavien Misoni, flavien.misoni@undp.org.



ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT (ESP)

The Electoral Support Project- Phase II (ESP) is a technical assistance initiative which focuses on a long-term institutional and professional capacity development of the Election Commission (ECN) for conducting credible, inclusive and transparent elections at a national. The objectives of the project are 1) to strengthen the capacity of the ECN to function as an independent and credible institution, 2) to allow the conduct of the election cycle in an effective, sustainable, and credible manner, and 3) to increase democratic participation, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society. For more information, [please visit the ESP website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The project completed a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) train-the-facilitators course.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The festival season in Nepal continued for the first half of November. During this time, government offices are closed and most staff are on leave.

From 16 to 26 November, the project provided extensive support to a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) Train-the-Facilitator (TTF) workshop for 19 participants, of which 16 were from the Election Commission. This was the first TTF to be facilitated exclusively by Nepalese facilitators and successfully piloted some elements of BRIDGE version 3.

On 12 November, the European Union launched its final evaluation of ESP. The two consultants are scheduled to present their preliminary findings on 4 December. The evaluation is expected to make recommendations regarding future electoral assistance in Nepal.

II. Plans for the next period

The operational closure of ESP is scheduled for 28 December 2018. Apart from preparing closure, the main work in the remaining weeks will consist of support to six workshops.

ESP will support ECN-led consultation workshops on the standard operating procedure for handling election disputes which the project helped draft. Two of the workshops will be held in the field on 2-3 and 5-6 December and the final one in the Kathmandu, around 17 December.

The project is preparing to present its work in support of women's political participation at the fair and roundtable on EU supporting women in Nepal that the European Union Delegation will organise on 5 December.

The project plans to support three more three-day BRIDGE workshops from 8 to 14 December. One will cover Gender and Social Inclusion for ECN and other stakeholders, and two will be introductory workshops for new ECN staff, one in Kathmandu and one in the field.

ECN is expected to present the study on gender and inclusion in the 2017 elections, which it conducted with ESP support, in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) workshop. The study should also be available for the EU fair.

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



SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (SNEC)

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

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

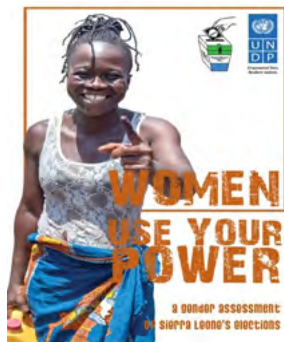
For more information, please visit the [Project's website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The project finalised its activities in November 2018. Electoral advisors have now departed, and the project is in its closure phase, with the project evaluation now underway.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project supported National Electoral Commission (NEC) to finalise three major documents: the report of the Gender Assessment of the Sierra Leonean electoral process, a first-ever NEC Gender Policy that was adopted by Commissioners in November and informed by the Assessment report, and a refreshed NEC disability policy, also adopted by the Commissioners in November. The disability policy was informed both by the 2017 report of the Disability Access Assessment of Sierra Leone's electoral arrangements (an early output of the SNEC project) and by NEC's experience of improving access at the March elections. The two policies provided clear, time-bound commitments by NEC to improve in these important areas.



An initial training with NEC staff from headquarters and the districts was held on 29 November on how to use the commitments in the policies to mainstream gender and disability issues within NEC's work. The workshop was attended by 9 women and 9 men. The NEC's gender and disability unit will be able to replicate the workshop with more colleagues in the coming months.

In November, NEC staff finished a series of training workshops on office IT, specifically MS Word and MS Excel. A total of 17 women and 53 men from NEC headquarters and district offices participated in the training which was a need noted in the post-election action plan developed earlier in 2018. In addition, two NEC staff (1 female, 1 male) were supported by the project to undertake specialised training in the development of mobile applications, to help NEC communicate with the large number of Sierra Leoneans who access the internet purely via smartphone.

SNEC also finished a consultancy on revamping NEC's electoral budget process, building on project experience and the findings of electoral observation missions. The report provides NEC with straightforward steps to implement for a new and more accessible budget process.

The project's external evaluator conducted her in-country mission in November, and de-briefed Country Office management, project staff, project donors and the NEC on her preliminary conclusions before departure. The project evaluation will be finished in December 2018.

A project supported initiative for the UNDP Country Office, the conduct of a lessons learned exercise on the Electoral Steering Committee, has been concluded and the report is currently being printed.

II. Plans for the next period

The project has no more operations planned and this will be the final update.

For more information on SNEC, please contact Zvisineyi Hwede, zvisineyi.hwede@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 continued to support the drafting of a comprehensive operational plan for National General Election (NGE) 2019.
- The project contributed to improving the capacities of 50 revision officers (9 female) responsible for 50 constituencies in preparation for the omission and objection phase of the voter registration process.
- The project has conducted voter education and awareness campaign activities. This included the preparation of a FAQs booklet, public questions/answers session through radio shows, one-to-one capacity-building sessions for civil society organisations.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Electoral Operational Support (EOS)

The project provided technical advice for the development of the field instructions for registration managers and officers on issues related to provisional voter lists, objections reporting and communication. The operational plan was revised given the extension of omission and objection period. The support of the project has been instrumental to map out potential hot spots, analyse voter registration statistics and

enhance communication and reporting procedures.

On-going support to draft a comprehensive operational plan for National General Election (NGE) 2019 with focus on pre-poll period for police forces, on poll workers and on access to elections for persons with disabilities has continued. SECSIP EOS prepared guidelines for RSIPF/CSSI (Correctional Services of Solomon Islands) on information required for identification of police officers for early voting.

The EOS's paper on risks affecting the implementation of the election and operational timeline helped to select a potential date (3 April) for national election to be recommend to electoral office.

The project has initiated contacts with the Association of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) to gather information with a view to tailor a pilot project in support of the PWDs accessibility to electoral processes.

Procurement

Coordination continued with the Procurement Services Unit (PSU) Copenhagen on procurement of electoral materials. All election materials are now in production with expected delivery to Honiara from mid-January to mid-February. Project has supported enhancement of security of electoral office premises, with a focus on the access to the office compound, expected to ensure better security of premises and staff safety.

Capacity building of revision officers

The project contributed to improving the capacities of 50 revision officers (9 female) responsible for 50 constituencies in preparation for the omission and objection phase of the voter registration process. During the four-day training, the project facilitated sessions on media, communication and reporting during public hearing period. The training is expected to enhance knowledge on rules and procedures to deal public inquiry process on voter registration.

Graduate programme

SECSIP graduates contributed in the production of art-works for electoral materials and testing of the indelible ink. The project facilitated a session to graduates working with the Political Parties Commission (PPC) on performance indicators for voter education and awareness, case study checklist, and issues related to reporting, in preparation for PPC awareness activities to be conducted in December.

Capacity building support to women political leadership

The project completed preparatory work for a four-day Training of Trainers (TOT) planned from 4 to 7 December. A total of 37 women including some aspiring women candidates will participate in this training. The TOT expects to build their skills as Master Trainers after completion of it.

Women Support Network (WSN) and Women Support Technical Committee (WSTC)

SECSIP supported a discussion on 1 November with 13 women including 4 aspiring women candidates. A proposal was accepted on the formation of a technical committee and two members were selected from WSN to assist the implementation of 'Women Leadership and Political Participation' action plan. WSTC organised their first meeting on 26 November to discuss the Terms of Reference of this committee and the

Training of Trainer Manual planned for aspiring women candidates.

Voter education and awareness campaign

- The project has supported the electoral office to prepare a FAQs booklet, 'You, me and our country' to contribute to enhance basic knowledge on civic and electoral related issues. It is expected that 110,000 people will benefit directly from these published booklets after distribution through SolRice network.
- SECSIP supported hotline clarified the queries of 43 people (4 female) during this reporting period on voter registration, objectives and omissions. The hotline is operational seven days a week from 7am to 9pm.
- Radio programme: Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation aired five weekly radio programmes on omission and objection, public enquiry, and other messages on voter education. This weekly programme is a 15-minute broadcast on every Friday from 5.45pm to 6.00pm.
- Radio show: the project responded to public questions and queries through a two-hour radio talk show on voter registration and election.
- The project's Grants Manager conducted one-to-one capacity-building sessions for civil society organisations (CSOs) on a reporting and identification/response to issues raised in the implementation of their activities. Tefila, Hearts of Hope, Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women (GPCW), and Friends of the City benefited from the orientation on quality improvement and results reporting. Two CSOs (MASI and Hearts of Hope) received their final tranche to complete their field activities for face-to-face awareness campaign.
- SECSIP provided technical advice and sponsor the production of the factsheet development, Media Code of Conduct revision, and ballot poster design.

Monitoring visit to Auki

The project conducted a field monitoring visit (22-25 Nov) to Auki in Malaita to monitor the face to face awareness activities conducting by Tefila (a SECSIP grantee). Ten community people have been interviewed to assess the effectiveness of awareness activities conducted during voter registration period. It was found that all respondents have seen electoral awareness materials (either poster/booklet/leaflet), and 100% female and 60% male understood the message and could recall it.

II. Plans for the next period

- 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;
- Training of Trainers workshop for aspiring women candidates.

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

- The Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MOIFAR) submitted the draft electoral law to the Cabinet.
- An electoral information sharing meeting has been organised with NIEC Chairperson, deputy SRSR, the UNDP/UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group, international partners and international electoral assistance providers to discuss and enhance technical coordination on electoral activities.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Draft Electoral Law submitted to the Cabinet

On 11 November, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MOIFAR) submitted the draft Electoral Law to the Cabinet. The electoral law is an essential priority for the Federal Government of Somalia as it defines the future system of representation and the regulatory framework for the NIEC to organise universal elections.

The draft developed by MOIFAR is in line with the ‘Baidoa Agreement on the Electoral Model’ endorsed by

country's leaders in June 2018. The chosen electoral system for the next federal parliament is based on a closed list, multi-party system with proportional representation, and assuring women's representation in Parliament.

The draft included an annex with comments formulated by civil society and political parties. On 6 and 21 November, MOIFAR, in presence of representatives of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) and the federal government, presented the draft law to international partners. The UN and international partners provided comments and suggestions for consideration. The draft law has yet to be discussed by the Council of Ministers, before submission to Parliament.

Electoral information sharing meeting

On 15 November, co-chaired by the Ms. Ibrahim Halima, Chairperson of the NIEC and Mr. Rai Zenegna, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the NIEC and the UNDP/UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) organised an electoral information sharing meeting with international partners and international electoral assistance providers. The meeting established a forum for information-sharing and enhanced technical coordination on electoral matters and related activities. Progress and challenges were discussed, including the NIEC's ongoing recruitment of field officers, the voter education curriculum, and the pilot project of the GIS verification exercise to identify 111 potential voter registration sites in 2 districts. It was reiterated that the finalisation of the electoral law is a crucial requirement to plan for voter registration.

Capacity development

From 14 to 17 November, IESG and NIEC directors and senior staff worked together on the development of an election operations calendar plan in line with the NIEC strategic plan. On 27 and 28 November, IESG organised a social media training for NIEC staff, to enhance NIEC's public outreach on social media platforms and how to use targeted messages.

NIEC Secretary-General

On 26 November, the NIEC announced the recruitment of a new Secretary-General to lead the Secretariat.

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 Relations 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 29 November, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) formally launched its five-year Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022.
- The ECZ facilitated two consultations with media stakeholders to discuss ways of improving the electoral media landscape for the next general elections.
- UNDP Zambia facilitated an in-country mission for the final evaluation of the current project and a joint EU-UNDP formulation mission for development of a future electoral cycle project.
- ECZ conducted by-elections on 20 November for Mangango parliamentary constituency, for Lopusoshi District Council Chairperson and for Councillor in five local government wards.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022: On 29 November, the ECZ formally launched its five-year Strategic Plan for the period 2018 – 2022 at an event attended by representatives of parliament, traditional leaders, government bodies, media, academic institutions, political parties, civil society, the private sector and international partners. This represented a culmination of a comprehensive review of the Commission’s plan, to embed its framework within the Zambia Seventh National Development Plan (7th NDP),

amended Constitution of Zambia, and incorporate lessons learned from the 2016 general elections. The project provided financial and technical support to this review process.

ECZ stakeholder engagements: The project supported two consultations with media stakeholders convened by the ECZ to discuss ways to enhance the electoral media environment in Zambia and increase media's capacity to play an effective role in providing professional media coverage before, during and after elections. The first was held on 08 November with editors of public and private media, and the second on 09 November with media regulatory bodies and media membership organisations. The meetings aimed to target the Commission's strategic objective of continuous engagement with stakeholders, to increase their awareness and effective participation throughout the electoral cycle as well as improve the ECZ internal processes to respond to stakeholder expectations.

Project evaluation and formulation missions: The project facilitated a final evaluation of the current electoral cycle project due to close at the end of 2018, with the evaluation team conducting consultations in-country from 09 to 17 November. This was followed by a joint EU-UNDP formulation mission from Brussels, which held consultations with partners and stakeholders in Zambia between 19 and 26 November, in order to provide support in defining the future programming interventions for deepening democracy, on the basis of the mandate established by the recent UN Needs Assessment Mission.

II. Plans for the next period

- Conducting a monitoring and evaluation planning workshop for ECZ staff of the Public Relations Department, facilitated by project technical staff;
- Signing of the charter for a coordinated framework on domestic election observation;
- Further refinement of future programming interventions for incorporation into a draft project document for future electoral cycle support.

For more information on the Support to the Zambia Electoral Cycle, please contact the project's manager 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 planning, review processes, knowledge management, polling process, Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), training requirements in pre-election and election period, voter education, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, inclusivity and election dispute resolution. 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 (2018-2023).

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Development of annual work plan 2019: Annual work planning process for 2019 was started with discussions on the actions and activities to be supported by the UNDP ZIM-ECO project and other ZEC partners including the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA). An integrated approach has been adopted to ensure synergy in programming, avoiding duplication and maximizing technical support from technical assistance partners. A technical working group meeting was organised on 29 October 2018 to discuss the details and recommend actions and activities for 2019 to the project board planned for January 2019.

ZEC internal post-election review: The post-election review process, which was started in September

continued into November with review processes involving media and voter education. ZEC internal review involving district, provincial and HQ staff was concluded and with external stakeholders was started, details of which are:

- Review with media entities: One of the external review with media entities, including both public and private media, was organised from 05-06 November 2018 to review the achievements and identify weaknesses in the media landscape. The review concluded that journalists have a social role to inform and not to misinform the public, they were challenged to return to objectivity and impartiality. Impartiality should be reflected on the choice and use of sources avoiding value judgements. It was agreed that the legal framework needs to be reviewed and aligned to the new Zimbabwe Constitution, journalists to focus on investigative journalism, continuous training on reporting of election news and the requirement to transform ZBC as true public service broadcaster.

- Review of voter education: A post-election review was organised with civil society organisations (CSOs) from 08-09 November 2018 to review the voter education campaign. Several recommendations were made that included comprehensive voter education covering the entire electoral cycle, continuous voter education including for voter registration, strengthened partnership with CSOs, ensuring inclusivity by reaching out to people with disabilities, youth and women and adequate training of voter educators.

The review processes will continue in 2019 with other stakeholders like political parties and Chapter 12 Commissions and conclude with a stakeholder conference with a way forward. The discussions from these review processes will bring forward a set of resolutions for improvement in the ZEC processes and will provide insight for UNDP future programming.

Inclusivity in the election process: Voter education and outreach processes during the 2018 harmonised elections were recognised by all observer as vast improvements from the earlier elections with targeting of women, youth and People with Disabilities (PWDs). The PWDs, however, remained marginalised in terms of their participation and representation in election- and political- processes. With the objective of ensuring inclusivity, the ZEC together with ZIM-ECO project has planned a stakeholder consultation with Disabled People Organisations (DPOs) from December 03-04, 2018. This consultation will also review the 2018 harmonised elections and come up with way forward to ensure a sustainable partnership between ZEC and DPOs.

Despite high number of registered women, the 2018 harmonised elections saw a decrease in the representation of women from the 2013 elections on the directly elected national assembly seats. Considering that the women quota has a sunset clause and will not be available in 2023 elections, there is a need for advocacy with the relevant stakeholders on highlighting this as a major issue. The issue of political violence against female candidates was a major issue that was highlighted by observer reports in addition to the representation of women. In partnership with UN Women the project will be supporting evidence-based advocacy by women organisations and gender equality advocates on addressing issues of women political participation and violence against women during elections.

Gender mainstreaming: UNDP together with UN Women is working on development of a gender policy for ZEC, which is planned to be finalised by first quarter of next year. A capacity building approach has been adopted to capacitate ZEC gender focal points and for them to lead the process of development and bring transformational change in attitude towards gender issues.

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 completed, expected delivery of the equipment is in December 2018. Support was also provided for additional software requirements for the data centre.

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