



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

GPECS II 
Global Project
for Electoral Cycle Support II



European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance



EC-UNDP

1 - 28 February, 2019

Electoral Assistance Projects Update

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



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

SECSIP organised a two-day awareness raising training for 22 PWDs (9 male) in Honiara. The participants were members of the Solomon Islands Association of People with Disabilities and the training provided electoral information with a focus on changes introduced by the 2018 Electoral Act.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Ahead of the elections, February saw the launch of the civic education campaign across the country.

GUINEA-BISSAU

In the last week of February, the project supported a series of SDG-based televised debates which brought a lot of visibility to the UN, the basket fund partners and constituted the first political-platform based discussions around such issues as climate change and human rights.

MALAWI

SUMMARY

GUINEA-BISSAU: The National Electoral Commission (CNE) civic education campaign has been launched on 8 February and is underway throughout the country. - The CNE conducted cascade-training for polling staff. - Final voters' list has been handed-over by Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) to CNE on 23 February. - Ballot papers and other sensitive materials donated arrived in Bissau. - The electoral campaign is ongoing since 16 February.

KENYA: The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) launched the report of the post elections evaluation for the 8 August 2017 General Elections and the 26 October 2017 Fresh Presidential Election. - The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) continued stakeholders' consultations on strengthening of political parties through an inter-agency taskforce. - The project engaged with IEBC, ORPP, Judiciary Committee on Elections (JCE), Judiciary Training Institute (JTI) and Political Parties Dispute Tribunal (PPDT) to provide guidance on implementation of activities under the revised SEPK work plan 2018-19 in view of the project end date scheduled for 30 June 2019.

LEBANON: As part of the post electoral lessons learned activities, UNDP Lebanon organised on 21 February, in Beirut, a thematic working group on the 2018 voter education campaigns.

LIBERIA: The workplan has been approved and activities include, amongst other, a full rollout of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and assets management systems, renovation of warehouses and support for voter registration. - A 5-day workshop on electoral dispute adjudication and complaints hearing procedures was conducted for the election magistrates and hearing officers of the National Elections Commission on 11-15 February in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

LIBYA: The project contributed to the HNEC institutional strengthening, through Training-of-Trainers (ToT) which benefited 55 staff members including 13 women. The two workshops were held in Tripoli from 10 to 14 and from 18 to 22 February 2019. - The HNEC moved into its new Head Office on 18 February 2019 following the decision to relocate to the new site after the 02 May 2018 terrorist attack on the old premises.

MADAGASCAR: The first phase of data collection for the Annual Review of the Electoral List (RALE) was completed on 15 February. In 2019, 10,154,639 voters are provisionally registered in the electoral register, pending its consolidation. This corresponds to an increase of 2.53%. - A new phase of the voter awareness campaign during the RALE 2018-2019, resulted in the enrolment of new enrolments of 2,222 women and 3,407 young people

in 107 fokontany (traditional villages) and 8 districts. - A pilot operation in the municipality of Marofangady addressed anomalies identified in certain targeted fokontanys and improved the reliability of the electoral register overall. - In view of the legislative elections, a number of workshops were held from 19 to 23 February 2019 in the 22 regional capitals to familiarize interested candidates with the legal framework and to train the members of the Verification and Registration Body (French acronym OVEC).

MALAWI: Voter registration inspection has been initiated. - The training of the Malawi Police Service commenced in earnest on 11 February. - Violence against women monitors and Engagement Room is fully functioning.

NEPAL: The project re-launched its professional capacity development work.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: The project provided electoral operational support, including the voter registration process, the development of an electoral managers manual, the candidate nomination process, and the coordination with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force. - The project continued voter awareness activities. Among these, the project organised a two-day awareness raising training for 22 people with disabilities in Honiara on 26-27 February. - The first women candidate school for 30 women candidates and male champions was organised from 25 February to 1 March.

SOMALIA: From 3 to 5 February, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) participated to the third General Assembly of the Organization of Arab Electoral Commissions. - The NIEC has opened in February its first field office South-West State. - To strengthen the NIEC's capacity and electoral knowledge, the UNDP/UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) provided in February a series of technical trainings to NIEC counterparts in Mogadishu, such as electoral procedures, regulations, codes of conduct, as well as on electoral logistics.

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, election and post-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).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING	1
GUINEA-BISSAU	2
KENYA	5
LEBANON	7
LIBERIA	9
LIBYA	11
MADAGASCAR	13
MALAWI	15
NEPAL	17
SOLOMON ISLANDS.....	19
SOMALIA	23
ZIMBABWE	26

ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Title	Reference	EU Contribution	Start Date	End Date
Afghanistan	UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP)	DCI-ASIE/2015/368-884	€ 15,500,000.00	29.12.15	31.12.19
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
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
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	30.08.20



GUINEA-BISSAU

SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL CYCLE 2018-2019

The “Support to Elections Cycle in Guinea-Bissau 2018-2019” project aims to address the Guinea-Bissau capacity to hold legitimate, transparent and credible elections in accordance with domestic legislation and international standards.

The project provides technical assistance to the Elections Management Bodies (CNE – National Election Commission - and GTAPE – Bureau of Technical Support to the Electoral Process) on areas of voters’ registration, elections logistics, electoral operations, civic education, information technologies. It also provides financial assistance to these operations and for the purchase of polling station kit’ consumables.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Electoral Commission (CNE) civic education campaign has been launched on 8 February and is underway throughout the country.
- The CNE conducted cascade-training for polling staff.
- Final voters’ list has been handed-over by Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) to CNE on 23 February.
- Ballot papers and other sensitive materials donated arrived in Bissau.
- The electoral campaign is ongoing since 16 February.

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, comprising staff of UNDP and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGIBIS).

On 9 February, the civic education campaign, supported by UNDP-managed basketed fund, was launched nation-wide. Civic animators started their activities in the field in that week and after a few initial logistics shortcomings (related to vehicles and fuel supply), the civic education campaign went full force. The campaign is set to finish on 8 March. Civic animators use mostly door-to-door technique, distribution

of posters, and refer to the civic animators' handbook to explain people how to vote. They also use the megaphones to call attention and spread the message in larger contexts, such as in markets, streets, etc.



Quinara Civic Animators conducting civic education activities in a village on the outskirts of Catio.
Photo credits: IESU Guinea-Bissau.

The UN Integrated Electoral Support Unit (IESU) supported the CNE cascade training for polling staff, which was initiated on 2 and 3 February with the 1st level corresponding to master trainers. On 16 February, the 2-day training of presidents and secretaries of the polling stations began in the regions, and on 23 February the training of clerks and protection agents completed the trainings cycle. In total, around 6,000 persons were trained across the country. All trainings comprised theoretical presentations and practical exercises, including simulations of possible polling day situations during voting and counting.

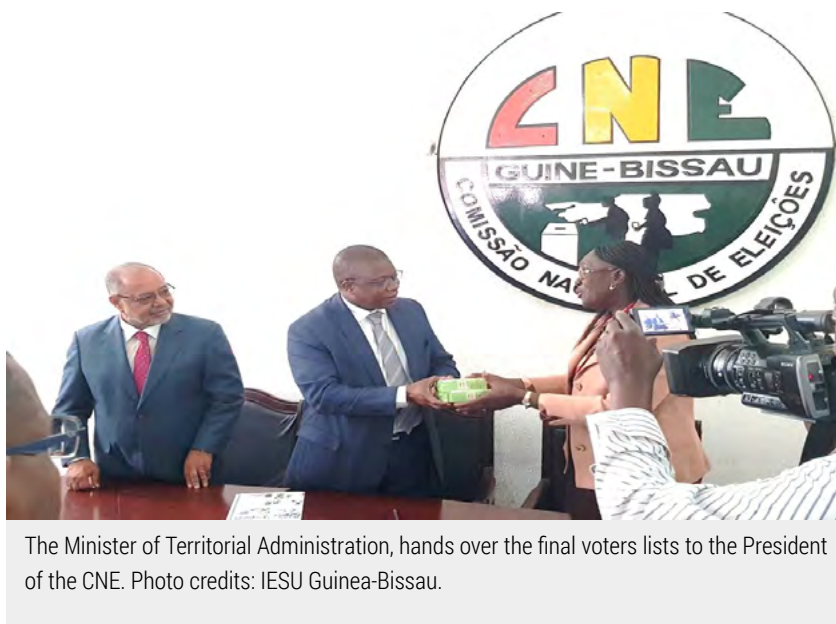
GTAPE published the voters lists for verification in early February. During the complaints' period, many errors were detected (missing entries / duplicate entries). Following a one-week extension to compensate initial delays, the exercise was completed on 14 February. GTAPE issued a press statement on 15 February informing that, "in order to guarantee respect for the principle of inclusion and accuracy of the process," GTAPE began the data consolidation of the missing records in the presence of representatives of the political parties, completing the exercise on 17 February with the database totaling 764,695 records. These were then subject to an alphanumeric de-duplication and the voter's list was finalised on 20 February. On 21 February, the Ministry of Territorial Administration officially handed over GTAPE's final voters lists to the President of the CNE, in PDF format, in two external hard drives, containing a total of 761,676 voters registered, which corresponds to 86% of the total estimated number of voters to be registered.

The UN Integrated Electoral Support Unit (IESU) provided support to CNE and Regional Electoral Commissions (CREs) in developing and finalising their logistics and movement plans for non-sensitive and sensitive election materials. The first batch of electoral materials (non-sensitive) was dispatched between 15 and 18 February to all other regions.

The ballot papers and other sensitive materials (such as results forms, stamps, etc.) donated by Portugal for 10 March elections arrived at Bissau' International Airport. On 23 February, the handover ceremony held at the airport was presided by the Ambassador of Portugal in Guinea-Bissau and CNE's President. The received sensitive material was transferred to CNE's central warehouse in Bissau where it remained until further deployment to the regional CRE's warehouses on 1 March.

Following the postponement from 11 February, political actors, including the political parties, the President

of the Republic, the Prime Minister and civil society organisations signed the Stability Pact and the Electoral Code of Conduct on 14 February. The political campaign then formally kicked-off on 16 February. The political parties have begun to accredit their party representatives in the CREs and plenary sessions should be in full force this coming week.



The Minister of Territorial Administration, hands over the final voters lists to the President of the CNE. Photo credits: IESU Guinea-Bissau.

On 16 February, the visiting delegation of the UN Security Council members met the CNE President and the Executive Secretariat. The delegation commended the CNE for its efforts to hold elections on 10 March, while the CNE President gave an overview of the electoral preparations and then fielded questions from the delegation related to the voter lists, funding, the parity law, electoral reform and the results management process.

The IESU team visited the Autonomous Sector of Bissau' CRE and completed regional field trips with a visit to Quinara and Tombali regions, with the purpose to discuss ongoing activities with the CREs, accompany civic animators work in the field and assess the Regional Electoral Advisers integration and support to the CREs.

II. Plans for the next period

- Support to CNE's logistics plan for distribution of sensitive materials to the regional CRE headquarters and to the distribution of polling stations electoral kits in the regions;
- Support to CNE's communication plan for the election day;
- The elections will take place on 10 March.

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.



KENYA

IEBC Communications Department

STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN KENYA (SEPK)

The UNDP Electoral Assistance Project in Kenya (SEPK) provides technical assistance to the Kenyan Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and other stakeholders to support credible and peaceful electoral process. The project started in February 2016 and focuses on strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the electoral process, increasing electoral participation with specific attention being paid to youth, women, and disable people, and consolidating electoral justice and dispute resolution mechanisms to increase compliance with electoral framework.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) launched the report of the post elections evaluation for the 8 August 2017 General Elections and the 26 October 2017 Fresh Presidential Election.
- The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) continued stakeholders' consultations on strengthening of political parties through an inter-agency taskforce.
- The project engaged with IEBC, ORPP, Judiciary Committee on Elections (JCE), Judiciary Training Institute (JTI) and Political Parties Dispute Tribunal (PPDT) to provide guidance on implementation of activities under the revised SEPK work plan 2018-19 in view of the project end date scheduled for 30 June 2019.
- The project is spearheading design of a project document for a broader deepening democracy programme.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Launch of the post-election evaluation report: The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) launched a report of the post-election evaluation of the 8 August 2017 General Election and 26 October 2017 Fresh Presidential Election. The launch was attended by high profile government and non-government stakeholders, including the speaker of the Senate, the majority leader in the National Assembly, representatives of political parties, several legislators, the Secretary, the Judiciary Committee on Election, representatives of the Office of the Attorney General, civil society organisations and development partners. The report, titled "Moving Kenya Towards a Stronger Democracy", identified key learnings and recommendations for strengthening electoral processes ahead of 2022. The report can be found here: <https://www.iebc.or.ke/uploads/resources/strategicplan20152020.pdf>.

End term evaluation of the SEPK project: With the assistance of an independent evaluator, there was continued engagement on the SEPK project end-term evaluation. The end term evaluation is an assessment

of the progress made by the SEPK project and will provide recommendations for improving programming on elections for UNDP and other UN agencies. Initial engagement of key national level partners through key informants interviews is ongoing. This assignment will generate important lessons to inform future electoral assistance to Kenya.

Evaluation of donor support to 2017 elections: The Donor Group on Elections (DGE), with membership that includes UNDP, UN Women and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), among others undertook a review of the findings of the report of the Review of Democratic, Electoral and Diplomatic Support Towards and During Kenya's 2017 General Election. The objectives of the evaluation were to assess the extent to which recommendations from previous electoral assistance projects were implemented; to review election observer evaluation reports to establish the impact of the DGE support; to ascertain actions and public perception of the diplomatic interventions and highlight recommendations to subsequent electoral assistance initiatives. The report will be disseminated to targeted stakeholders to inform engagement, resourcing and coordination of donor support to future elections.

Strengthening regulation of political parties in Kenya: The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) continued stakeholder consultations on strengthening of political parties through an inter-ministerial taskforce. The taskforce was put together by the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties to identify entry points for capacity building of political parties through political party training, party primaries and development of party lists, strengthening internal party democracy, party dispute resolution processes, social inclusion (gender, youth, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), marginalized) in political parties, working with independent candidates, political party membership lists (synchronizing with the register of voters) and strengthening inter-party liaison and collaboration through the Political Parties Dispute Tribunal (PPLC).

Implementation of 2019 priorities: The project continued to hold bilateral engagements with various project implementing partners to guide implementation of activities in the project's 2018/19 workplan. Key engagements were with Judiciary Committee on Elections, IEBC, ORPP and Media Council of Kenya (MCK). Project guidance in this phase is for the terminal phase of the project, with an end date of 30 June 2019.

Preparation of SEPK successor project: The project continued spearheading design of a project document for a broader deepening democracy programme. There was continued inter-agency consultation towards a draft that will be subjected to review by external stakeholders. This programme will address key governance and democracy issues, including access to justice, security, capacity building of electoral institutions and civic engagement through the media and civil society organisations. The programme will lay a firm foundation for a management of the 2022 elections. The programme will be implemented by UN Women, the OHCHR, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) under the leadership of UNDP.

II. Plans for the next period

- Dissemination of the post-election evaluation report;
- SEPK end-term evaluation;
- Finalisation of the IEBC gender and inclusion policy;
- Reflection meetings with the High Court on 2017 elections petitions.

For more information on the project on Strengthening the Electoral Process in Kenya, please contact Mr. James Wagala, james.wagala@undp.org.



LEBANON

UNDP LEAP

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

- As part of the post electoral lessons learned activities UNDP Lebanon organised on 21 February, in Beirut, a thematic working group on the 2018 voter education campaigns.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

2018 voter education campaigns working group

As part of the post electoral lessons learned activities, UNDP Lebanon organised on 21 February in Beirut, a thematic working group on the 2018 voter education campaigns. This activity aimed at discussing the findings of a technical study developed on the voter education campaigns that were produced during the 2018 Parliamentary elections. Furthermore, the objective of the working group was to increase the coordination between the participants coming from different organisations, that contributed to the voter

education initiatives, as well as to enhance the effectiveness and impact of future campaigns. The project will issue a report on the findings and recommendations that will be the basis for further engagement in the area of voter and civic education for the next electoral cycle.



Voter education campaign working groups, 21 February 2019, Beirut.
Photo credits: UNDP Lebanon


II. Plans for the next period

N/A

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



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 workplan has been approved and activities include, amongst other, a full rollout of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and assets management systems, renovation of warehouses and support for voter registration.
- Institutional capacity building as well as support for electoral reform remain key areas of focus for UNDP and other electoral stakeholders in 2019.
- A 5-day workshop on electoral dispute adjudication and complaints hearing procedures was conducted for the election magistrates and hearing officers of the National Elections Commission on 11-15 February in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.
- The ERP training continues in preparation for the full rollout of the system.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

A 5-day workshop on electoral dispute adjudication and complaints hearing procedures was conducted for the election magistrates and hearing officers of the National Elections Commission (NEC) on 11-15 February in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. The purpose of the workshop was to address the shortcomings

identified during the 2017 general elections and further enhance complaints hearing skills of the NEC election magistrates through intensive learning and coaching, practical exercises, including mock hearings, role plays and drafting of judgments. The training comes at a time when the Board of Commissioners have repeatedly stressed the need to build the capacity of magistrates and hearing officers to adequately handle election complaints, judging from the experiences of the Commission during the 2017 elections. Meanwhile, a new complaint tracking and coordination system has been introduced for the NEC Hearing office.

The project succeeded in compiling and printing the Supreme Court decisions on election complaints from 2005 to 2017. The document which is now available at the Commission for use by magistrates and legal practitioners will serve as reference document that can be used to guide future legal proceedings on elections dispute adjudications. The five-day training brought together all elections magistrates, hearing officers and representative of the Board of Commissioners.

The Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) training continues in preparation for the full rollout of the system. The training for the ERP commenced on 28 January after the completion of the system upgrade and approval of the training materials by NEC. Training for finance and procurement, asset management, logistics and warehouse staff has been completed. The training of human resources and payroll teams is in progress and is expected to end on 1 March. At the end of this training these teams will use the ERP and therefore process all transactions in the system. Meanwhile, the ERP system is expected to go live on 11 March. A draft budget and concept note for the launch of a nationwide consultation for an electoral reform process was submitted to the project by the National Elections Commission. The activity, which is one of the major focus of the 2019 work plan, is expected to get on the way in the coming month when administrative and logistical arrangements are concluded.

II. Plans for the next period

- Preparation for the asset and supply chain management training completed ahead of the training which is slated to take place in the port city of Buchanan from 4 - 8 March;
- Launch of tender bids for warehouses renovation and constructions;
- Arrival of internationally purchased materials including 3 tone forklift, pallets, uniforms, first aid kits and others;
- Rollout of the asset management training and ERP warehouse module;
- Field visits to assess assets management system in magisterial offices.

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



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 processes;
3. Promote public participation in (the) electoral processes targeting vulnerable groups; and
4. Raising the electoral awareness of local partners and stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the month, the political leadership in the country issued a joint statement committing themselves to holding a general election to end the transitional arrangement; no date was set for the general election as yet.
- The project contributed to the Libyan High National Elections Commission (HNEC) institutional strengthening, through Training-of-Trainers (ToT) which benefited 55 staff members including 13 women, during February 2019. The two workshops were held in Tripoli from 10 to 14 and 18 to 22 February 2019.
- The HNEC moved into its new Head Office on 18 February 2019 following the decision to relocate to the new site after the 02 May 2018 terrorist attack on the old premises.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The tender for the IT network installation was launched on 13 February for the procurement of equipment and on 14 February, for the installation of the network service.

The Libyan High National Elections Commission (HNEC) moved into its new Head Office on 18 February 2019 following the decision to relocate to the new site after the 02 May 2018 terrorist attack on the old

premises. The Commission has so far occupied one of the three buildings on the site: the first building, now ready for use, was rehabilitated by HNEC with own funds, while the other two buildings being renovated by the project will be ready by mid-March 2019.

The landscaping contract for the new HNEC compound commenced during the week of 24 February and is expected to be completed in two months.

The tender notice for the exterior painting and related items at the HNEC's new compound closed on 17 February 2019 and the evaluation of the 12 received bids is underway.



Visit of the EU's Ambassador to the new HNEC Head Office in Sidi Al Masri, on 12 February 2019.
Photo credits: Abdelhamid Kalai, UNDP, 2019.

II. Plans for the next period

- Third and last session of the Training-of-Trainers induction session to be organised in Benghazi from 3 to 7 March;
- Re-launching of tender for the polling centre banners of the HNEC;
- Consultative meeting with donors to discuss project update and validate the 2019 proposed annual work plan and budget.

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, Australia and South Africa.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The first phase of data collection for the Annual Review of the Electoral List (RALE) was completed on 15 February. In 2019, 10,154,639 voters are provisionally registered in the electoral register, pending its consolidation. This corresponds to an increase of 2.53%.
- A new phase of the voter awareness campaign during the RALE 2018-2019, resulted in the enrolment of new enrolments of 2,222 women and 3,407 young people in 107 fokontany (traditional villages) and 8 districts, which were selected based on the low enrolment rate in those areas during 2017-2018.
- A pilot operation in the municipality of Marofangady addressed anomalies identified in certain targeted fokontans and improved the reliability of the electoral register overall.
- In view of the legislative elections (scheduled for 27 May 2019), a number of workshops were held from 19 to 23 February 2019 in the 22 regional capitals to familiarize interested candidates with the legal framework and to train the members of the Verification and Registration Body (French acronym OVEC).

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Annual Review of the Electoral List (RALE) 2018-2019. The first phase of data collection took place from 1 December 2018 to 15 February 2019. There was a total of 666,599 new registrations and 415,875 deductions, resulting in a net total of 250,724 new voters being registered, pending consolidation of the file. In 2019, 10,154,639 voters are now registered in the electoral roll, pending deduplication, resulting in an increase of 2.53% as compared to the 2017-2018 RALE. The 2019

Annual Review of the Electoral List will officially end on 15 May 2019.

Awareness activities during RALE 2018-2019. Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), an NGOs, organized a targeted awareness campaign from 1 to 15 February 2019, with a focus on the of young people (18-35 years) and women. The campaign was conducted in 107 fokontany in 8 districts and selected on the basis of a low enrolment rate in 2017-2018. Activities targeting women took place in the districts of Mahabo, Miandrivazo, Ihosy and Sakaraha, while those targeting youth were conducted in the Sava region, including the districts of Sambava, Antalaha, Vohemar and Andapa. The door-to-door campaign, conducted by a team comprising an EISA member and a fokontany chef, contributed to the new registration of 2,222 women (20% increase) and 3,407 young people (increase of nearly 16%).

Pilot operation for the reliability of the electoral file. An operation aimed at correcting anomalies and promoting the reliability of the electoral register was carried out from 30 January to 1 March 2019 in five fokontany of Marofangady commune, Arivonimamo district. The pilot municipality was chosen due to a large number of anomalies identified in a random sample. The operation succeeded in correcting all of the anomalies initially identified, but will not be expanded nationally due to lack of funding and the conflicting schedule considering the calendar plan of legislative elections.

Capacity building workshops for potential candidates and OVEC members for the legislative elections. Workshops aiming to familiarize interested candidates with the legal framework and the training of the members of the Verification and Registration Body (French acronym OVEC) took place from 19 to 23 February 2019 in the 22 regional capitals. They aimed to familiarize potential candidates and all stakeholders with the new legal framework (454 participants). They also trained the members of the Verification and Registration Body (OVEC), who are responsible for the candidate registration files, to assist them in carrying out their duties in all the districts (575 participants).

II. Plans for the next period

Retraining of defence and security forces. The project will support the capacity building of defence and security forces for the parliamentary elections by repeating the training carried out in 2018. Twenty-three districts with potential risks of public disorder will be targeted, based on the lessons-learned during the presidential election.

Printing of ballots and other sensitive materials. The printers will launch the printing of materials for the purposes of the awareness campaign, the training of the members of polling stations, the election campaign and polling stations.

For more information on the SACEM, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Flavien Misoni, flavien.misoni@undp.org and visit the project's [website](#).



MALAWI

Malawi Electoral Commission

MALAWI ELECTORAL CYCLE SUPPORT 2017-2019

The “Malawi Electoral Cycle Support 2017-2019” project is supported by a basket fund. 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Voter registration inspection has been initiated.
- The training of the Malawi Police Service commenced in earnest on 11 February.
- Violence against women monitors and Engagement Room is fully functioning.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project continued to support the voter registration inspection process via SMS until 1 February. A total of 585,435 people had used the system to check their details. Thereafter, the project supported a National Elections Consultation Forum on 15 February whereby the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) was able to give a detailed account of the state of its readiness on the elections. MEC saw itself being congratulated on the voter registration process and on the professional manner in which it conducted the candidate nomination process from 4-8 February. In the meantime, the project is advising on the architecture and process of the Results Transmission System (RTS), which will be the subject of a specific meeting with political parties at a validation session on 7 March.

The training of the Malawi Police Service commenced in earnest on 11 February with the participants being the Officers-in-Charge of District-level police headquarters. The training looked at deployment strategies and appropriate conduct of officers during the campaign period and around polling day. A clear emphasis

was placed on soft measures for keeping the peace and on the advantages of strong community policing as of now in order to instil trust in the police prior to polling day. This aside, a specialist in crowd control was sent from the UN Standing Police Capacity to reinforce the other two police reform experts currently inside the Malawi Police Service providing technical assistance.

In the first week of February, the project supported a meeting between political parties and Malawi Police Service (MPS) to discuss electoral/political violence. This was a follow up to the first meeting held on 4 October 2018. The meeting resulted in a joint communique signed between the police and the political parties committing to working together to ensure peaceful elections. The signed commitments were shared with the press in a press briefing that followed the meeting.

In the last week of February, the project supported a series of SDG-based televised debates which brought a lot of visibility to the UN, the basket fund partners and constituted the first political-platform based discussions around such issues as climate change and human rights.

With the support provided by the project to develop the capacities of 48 women aspirants and the sensitization and training of over 5,000 people (traditional leaders, local political party leaders, civil society organisations, community-based organisations, area development councils, village development councils, religious leaders), the candidate nomination process has largely brought to an end the meaningful support that can be provided in that area. From now on, the project will be focusing on the protection of women candidates and voters and the memorandum of understanding just signed between the implementer of the Gender Election Engagement Room (GEER) and the inspector general of the police should contribute strongly to this.

II. Plans for the next period

The project will be continuing to support MEC with its RTS plans as well as contracting/conducting the training of its warehouse managers that will be operating at the district level. This aside, the project will be supporting MEC in the consultation, validation and communication on the results transmission system. It will also be working on preparing the contracting for the legal support on the handling of petitions.

The police training will intensify to include electoral security management, community policing, police drivers' certification, the creation and training of joint mobile teams investigators/prosecutors on electoral related offenses. In the meantime, a training to political party leadership on how to counter and avoid "Incitement to Hatred/ Hate Speech" is planned for 14 March and the planning of a national peace conference is in the works.

For more information on the Malawi Electoral Cycle Support Project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Richard Cox, 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 re-launched its professional capacity development work.

I. Project activities during the reporting period



निर्वाचन समीक्षा ज्ञान प्रदान गरेको तीन वर्षे सम्मारे
 यो वेबसाइट ACE Electoral Knowledge Network से विभिन्न निर्वाचन प्रक्रियाको विवरण तथा र पर्यवेक्षणलाई प्रदर्शन गर्ने निर्वाचन समीक्षा गर्ने उद्देश्यका साथ अत्यन्तै मोडर्न सामग्री सहित बनाइएको छ ।

Screenshot of the Nepali language version of the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network website homepage.

The project also presented to the Election Commission the Nepali language version of the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network website that the project set up. The objective was to acquaint Election Commission officials with the website, to encourage its use and for the Commission to share its knowledge more widely. The website will also provide broad and continuous access to much of the substantive work that the project produced over the years.

In February 2019, the project conducted three Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) capacity-building workshops on gender equality and elections for political party and civil society stakeholders. The workshops took place in three of the districts most likely to see major by-elections in 2019 (Bhaktapur, Sankhuwasabha and Sunsari).

In addition to providing key stakeholders with a better understanding of promoting the participation of women in elections, it gave an opportunity for the Election Commission to engage with them and to contribute to creating a conducive environment for the by-elections.

The workshops also allowed for the accreditation of additional Election Commission BRIDGE facilitators, bringing their total number to seven.



Ms. Nikila Shrestha, BRIDGE Accrediting Facilitator and ESP team member, handing the certificate of accreditation as BRIDGE Workshop Facilitator to Mr. Ram Krishna Aryal, District Electoral Officer of Kathmandu, Election Commission, Nepal.
Photo credits: ESP

II. Plans for the next period

In addition to the continuation of BRIDGE workshops for electoral stakeholders, March is expected to be dominated by conceptual work in preparation of capacity-building activities later in the year. The emphasis will continue to be on handing over project work to Nepalese institutions so that it can be sustained. For this, ESP expects to facilitate collaboration between the Election Commission and the Ministry of Education and between the Election Commission and the National Judiciary Academy. The project also expects to submit to the Election Commission a draft manual on election dispute resolution for finalisation.

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



STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (SECSIP)

Since 2013, UNDP Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP) has contributed to the inclusiveness and integrity of the electoral process. The project supported the successful introduction of a new comprehensive biometric voter registration system which resulted in a more inclusive and reliable voters' roll and continues to provide assistance in terms of its updating and sustainability. The project also supports the review of the electoral legal framework with a view to promote the strengthening of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) and assist to the fulfilment of its mandate. It also strengthens the capacity of the SIEC to advocate for women's political participation and supports the national authorities and civil society 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 provided electoral operational support, including the voter registration process, the development of an electoral managers manual, the candidate nomination process, and the coordination with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.
- The project continued voter awareness activities. Among these, the project organised a two-day awareness raising training for 22 people with disabilities in Honiara on 26-27 February.
- The first women candidate school for 30 women candidates and male champions was organised from 25 February to 1 March.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Electoral Operational Support

Analysis of final voter lists: the project support has been instrumental throughout the voter registration process. The 2019 voters' roll includes 359,521 registrants (48.54% are female). The highest number of registrants (27.10%) are from 18-25 years age group.

Manual: With the support of the project, the electoral operations plan has been completed and shared with

stakeholders. SECSIP has contributed to the Electoral Managers Manual designing the templates for complaints forms in connection with polling and counting.

Candidate nomination (CN) process: The nomination process was completed as scheduled on 20 February despite challenges due to bad weather which was preventing candidates to travel to the constituency nomination centres to submit their nomination. In order to facilitate the timely submission of nominations and in accordance with the Electoral Act, secondary nomination centres were opened outside the constituencies which were located in provincial capitals and in Honiara. After final verification of candidate eligibility, the total number of candidates contesting in 2019 National General Election (NGE) is 333 (1 male was disqualified, 2 males withdrawn their nominations) including 26 female candidates.

Australian Government support to NGE: The Australian Defense Force (ADF) has confirmed their support to providing 4-6 cargo helicopters, 1 battle ship, satellite phones and a stand-by cargo plane by 18 March 2019.

Coordination with Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF): During the Provincial Police Commanders conference held in Honiara 18-22 February, the project briefed the RSIPF on Operational Plan and election preparations.

Procurement: The project procured 1,700 polling kits which have been delivered to the electoral office warehouse with additional 100 ink bottles and packing materials as well. Technical guidance was provided to prepare the tender document for printing of 550,000 ballot papers. A contingency plan is in place to meet the timeline for ballot production.

SECSIP support to voter awareness

Building on the first innovative and successful collaboration with SolRice for distribution of voter information, the project and SolRice have conducted a second collaboration to distribute 110,000 voter awareness booklets through SolRice networks on a pro-bono basis. This booklet will provide basic voter awareness information on concepts of democracy, parliament, election, role of members of parliament, civil society and media.

Voter awareness training for People With Disabilities (PWD)

SECSIP organised a two-day awareness raising training for 22 PWDs (9 male) in Lunga, Honiara on 26-27 February. The participants were members of the Solomon Islands Association of People with Disabilities. Participants included representatives from different provinces and 2 sign language interpreters. The focus of the training was to provide electoral information particularly about those changes introduced by the 2018 Electoral Act. The participants expressed their interest on the topics discussed noting that for the majority this was the first time that they have been invited to learn and discuss about the electoral process and their voting rights. This was also an opportunity for the Electoral Office to receive information on the needs and challenges experienced by this segment of voters and the feedback received will assist electoral authorities to explore possible mechanisms to enhance their participation. It is expected that participants will share their learnings with other PWD upon return to their provinces.

"I have finally known the rights of disable people during election. Knowing that our ballot paper has the same power as any able person is encouraging and should send a clear message that we are equally important, and our disabilities should never be counted."

Quote from a PWD participant.

Voter Education and Awareness

Two voter awareness assistants of the electoral office (SECSIP graduates) have been conducting voter awareness actions in market places of Renbell province starting from 28 February. The project funded this program as an innovative idea to reach larger number of people (sellers, buyers, and others) gathered in rural markets.

The project continue to support the telephone hotline to address electoral related questions/doubts including those referring to nomination requirements, campaign period, candidate symbols, etc.

Electoral information has been disseminated through an intensive campaign utilizing SMS text messages, radio, press releases, and social media (Facebook).

Support to Women's Political Participation

Women candidate schools: A five-day women candidate school commenced on 25 February and will end on 1 March. This first candidate school is attended by women candidates running for the national general election and one male supporter for each candidate. The candidate school aims to provide participants with information and materials they can immediately incorporate into their campaigns to continue building skills and developing practical tools for women candidates. Training modules include design of campaign strategies, fundraising opportunities, communications, canvassing. An average of 15 women candidates for the National General Election and 15 male supporters have regularly participated throughout the one-week training.



Women candidate school, 25 February - 1 March 2019.

Photo credits: SECSIP

Women candidates' resource centres: Three suitable locations to host the women candidate resource centres have been identified in Honiara, Auki (Malaita province) and Kira-Kira (Makira province). A site inspection has been conducted to assess the suitability/needs of the offices in terms of equipment, communication/internet availability, office materials, furniture, etc.

Media refresher workshop

On 13 February, eighteen media professionals and civil society representatives based in Malaita province participated in the project's media refresher workshop on electoral related topics. Participants, which included 5 provincial journalists, 2 women with disabilities, 4 CSOs members, 3 women candidates, 2 women leaders, & 2 male champions, debated issues related to the role of media concerning elections, impartial and respectful reporting, inclusiveness, the new electoral act, etc.

Support to Political Parties Commission (PPC)

The project's graduates (legal and research assistants) working in the PPC were instrumental in the process conducted by this body to assess the applications for registration of new political parties and the issuance of certificates for candidates endorsed by political parties, to be referred to the electoral office as requested by the law.

II. Plans for the next period

- Ongoing operational support to the Electoral Office;
- Second women candidate school (for intending candidates for provincial assemblies);
- Field monitoring visits;
- Ongoing market awareness campaign;
- Continue face-to-face awareness actions in 9 provinces.

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

- From 3 to 5 February, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) participated to the third General Assembly of the Organization of Arab Electoral Commissions.
- The NIEC has opened in February its first field office South-West State.
- To strengthen the NIEC's capacity and electoral knowledge, the UNDP/UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) provided in February a series of technical trainings to NIEC counterparts in Mogadishu, such as electoral procedures, regulations, codes of conduct, as well as on electoral logistics.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

NIEC participation in the third General Assembly of the Organization of Arab Electoral Commissions

From 3 to 5 February, the Commissioners of the Somali National Independent Electoral Commission attended in Jordan the third general assembly of the Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (EMB) and the follow-up conference on electoral complaints and appeals.

The three-day conference gave an opportunity to different electoral management bodies from the Arab region to exchange views about the international principles and standards in the field of electoral complaints and identify the key challenges facing the EMB and the judiciary in charge of the electoral dispute resolution.



NIEC Chairperson, Halima Ismail Ibrahim, chaired the session on Electoral Complaints & Appeals related to Gender Equality, Jordan, 5 February 2019.

Photo credit: Arab EMB

NIEC Chairperson Ms. Halima Ismail chaired last session of the conference which elaborated on electoral complaints and appeals, related to gender equality in the Arab region. The participants discussed women struggle for their rights during election periods and stressed on ways EMBs to cater for women rights. UNDP's Regional Electoral Support Project and the Independent High Electoral Commission of Jordan assisted the Organization of Electoral Management Bodies of Arab countries in the preparation of the third General Assembly of Arab EMBs and of the international conference on the electoral dispute resolution.

NIEC opens first field office in South-West State

The NIEC has opened in February its first field office South-West State. The NIEC office, located in the city of Baidoa will help the NIEC with the exploration of potential voter registration sites in the State and with the security and logistical planning for voter registration next year, with the engagement of local electoral actors and informing the electorate on upcoming electoral processes.

The UNDP/UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) conducted a field trip to Baidoa to provide logistical support to the NIEC, including hand-over of some assets from the previous 2016 electoral process. After Puntland last month and Hirshabelle in process, over the next months, the NIEC plans to open state offices in all the Federal Member States of Somalia. These offices will spearhead the Commission's electoral operations at state level.

Capacity development trainings on electoral preparations

To strengthen the NIEC's capacity and electoral knowledge, IESG provided in February a series of technical trainings to NIEC counterparts in Mogadishu, such as electoral procedures, regulations, codes of conduct, as well as on electoral logistics. The electoral logistics management training targeted the NIEC Operations

secretaries. The training was focused on logistics work-plan for the electoral cycle. The participants were trained on the three phases of the electoral logistics process includes; pre-election, election (voting) period, and the post electoral period. The key topics covered electoral logistics planning and implementation, procurement of materials for voter registration and polling, voter education and public awareness, voting (polling and counting), tabulation etc.

From 18 to 22 February, the recently appointed Secretary-General of the NIEC was invited by the electoral commission of South-Africa for a study-tour to experience first-hand electoral operations and challenges. South Africa is at the apex of preparations for its national and provincial elections planned in May 2019. With support from IESG, the study-tour was an opportune time for the SG to learn the behind-the-scenes preparations, planning, leading and coordinating with other stakeholders and benefit on how best he can steer the NIEC on its developmental path in the field of electoral management.



UN/IESG field mission to Baidoa, South West State, to assist the NIEC with the establishment of its field office, 25-25 February, Baidoa.

Photo credit: UNDP

II. Plans for the next period

- NIEC - IESG working sessions and retreat on institutional governance and strategic decisions to be made with regard voter registration methodologies and operational timelines;
- NIEC workshop with political parties to discuss voter registration methodologies;
- IESG capacity development workshops with NIEC on: "training of master trainers", "strategic communication and media", etc.

For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Filip Warnants, filip.warnants@undp.org and visit the [Project's website](#).



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, election and post-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: An integrated annual work plan 2019 was approved that included the actions and activities of UNDP and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), both of whom are partnering with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). The focus of the integrated work Plan 2019 is on developing longer term capacity of ZEC, analysis on results management system, addressing weaknesses in voter registration, working towards a new delimitation process, continued stakeholder engagement, enhanced voter education, development of gender and inclusion policy and its implementation.

ZEC post-election review: An introspection process was undertaken with discussions among ZEC Commission and Management during a 3-day workshop from 25-27 February 2019. This process examined several internal and external factors influencing the 2018 harmonized elections, and covered areas like the legal framework, election environment, election administration, communication, public outreach, voter education, inclusivity, media and ZEC capacity, etc. Participants also identified strategic areas for intervention that will be addressed in

short, medium- and longer-term timeframe. This process will conclude with holding of a national post-election review conference planned in March / April.

Longer term capacity development approach: The feedback and recommendations from the ZEC internal review processes, observers and stakeholders, have identified weaknesses in the training methodology, its implementation and monitoring for the electoral staff in 2018 harmonized elections. To address these weaknesses, Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training methodology will be used by ZEC as a longer-term capacity development tool for training and mentoring. The BRIDGE workshops use an activity-based approach that maximizes retention of knowledge, focuses on skills and promotes professional confidence, ethics and understanding of principles of best electoral practices.

Results management system: Considering that ZEC internal review processes and observer reports identified results management system as an area that needs further improvement, the project is providing technical support to undertake research in this area. This technical assistance will enable ZEC to have a deeper understanding of the issues and challenges before narrowing down on options for results management and engaging stakeholders in a dialogue process.

Gender mainstreaming: Following a capacity building approach, ZEC has identified gender focal points, trained them to lead the process of developing a gender and inclusion policy and bring transformational change in attitude towards gender issues. To get an appreciation within the entire organisation, ZEC Commissioners, Senior Management and field operations were sensitized on gender issues, their capacity developed to understand and address inclusion issues leading to development of a gender and inclusion policy in a 2-day workshop from 28 February to 01 March 2019. UN Women is providing lead support in this.

Post-election survey: A post-election survey is being administered based on a qualitative approach to get feedback and opinion from citizens on the 2018 Harmonized Election process. A 3-day workshop was organised from February 19-21 to train enumerators for conducting the survey, data collection was started immediately after the workshop and the survey report is expected to be finalised by April 2019.

Partnership with universities: To promote youth participation and make the election process more inclusive, a program is being developed to establish partnerships between ZEC and universities. These partnerships will improve and increase participation of youth in the electoral process.

II. Plans for the next period

- Post-election review conference;
- Develop a concept note and TORs for BRIDGE training;
- Strategize on partnerships with universities to promote youth participation;
- Developing TORs for review of voter education materials and manuals;
- Discussions on development of a sustainable voter registration process.

For more information on the project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Azhar Malik, azhar.malik@undp.org and visit the project's [website](#).