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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, 2019

Electoral Assistance Projects Update

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



SUMMARY

ARMENIA: The project provided the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) with professional expertise in election dispute resolution (EDR) processes in order to review the current EDR system and provide recommendations for further improvements. - The project continued its support in the implementation of the Precinct Electoral Commission (PEC) Members Licensing Training; 13,051 participants took part in the training. - ESPA supported the launching and implementation of a pilot electronic exam through the CEC's e-Learning platform with 168 participants of the PEC Members Licensing Training held in Yerevan. - The project initiated a Smartmatic visit to replace the batteries and faulty hardware components in voter authentication device (VAD) equipment. - The ESPA website has been launched and is publicly available [here](#).

GUINEA-BISSAU: Presidential election held on 24 November as scheduled, second round is scheduled for 29 December. - The National Electoral Commission (CNE) launched the national civic education campaign on 1 November in Bissau. Civic animators were deployed in all regions for 21 days to sensitise the population on the presidential election and provide information on exercising their voting rights. - Until mid-November, the CNE and the Regional Election Commissions conducted the remaining polling staff trainings.

LIBERIA: The project supported a communication training for the staff of the National Election Commission (NEC) and the production of media engagement guidelines. - The Annual Youth Education and Empowerment Summit was held in Monrovia. - The Technical Working Group conducted a number of sessions to harmonize input from nation-wide consultations on electoral reform.

MADAGASCAR: The inviolable minutes and envelopes for municipal and communal elections were deployed to the country's polling stations, as well as the ballot papers produced locally by the CENI. - The administrative courts of the country's six provinces have been provided with equipment and have benefited from capacity building on the results management. - The results transmission system has been operationalised in the 119 districts of the country, and the software for entering results updated. - Radio spots were broadcast from the beginning of November on community radio stations and a digital campaign has been launched on social networks. - The CENI, as part of a partnership with a civil society organisation, led monitoring of electoral operations in the Antananarivo commune and of results centralisation operations in the 119 districts. - On 27 November, communal and municipal elections were held peacefully.

NEPAL: Nepal completed polling for the by-elections on 30 November. - The project continued its initiatives to sustain election-related capacity-building.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: The project provided logistical and capacity building support to the Electoral Office (EO) to organise the by-election for the National Parliament seat for East Makira to be held on 11 December 2019.- The project provided capacity building support to women candidates for the East Makira Constituency by-election. - Outstanding Women Initiative activities got completed in two provinces, Central Islands and Isabel.

SOMALIA: National Independent Electoral Commission chairperson and UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General address Security Council and emphasized the importance of universal suffrage elections in 2020. - On 11- 12 November, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) organised a two-day workshop on women's participation in political party leadership in Baidoa, Southwest State. - NIEC office of political party registration issued temporary certificates of registration to six additional political parties. - On 28 November, the IESG legal team organised a workshop on electoral dispute resolution for the NIEC legal department and legal staff from the office of the political parties registrar.

NB: See the list of all ongoing joint EU-UNDP electoral projects on page 1.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING.....	1
ARMENIA.....	2
GUINEA-BISSAU	7
LIBERIA	10
MADAGASCAR	14
NEPAL.....	17
SOLOMON ISLANDS	20
SOMALIA.....	22

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
Armenia	Electoral Project Support in Armenia (EPSA)	ENI/2018/404-610	€ 1,500,000.00	25.07.18	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	14.04.20
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	31.05.20
Madagascar	Soutien au Cycle Electoral à Madagascar (SACEM)	FED/2018/398-673	€ 1,500,000.00	04.07.18	03.05.20
Malawi	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (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	31.12.19
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
Tunisia	Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (TEAP)	ENI/2019/405-945	€ 2,000,000.00	01.07.19	30.06.21
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	30.08.20



ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT IN ARMENIA (ESPA)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The project provided the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) with professional expertise in election dispute resolution (EDR) processes in order to review the current EDR system and provide recommendations for further improvements.
- The project continued its support in the implementation of the Precinct Electoral Commission (PEC) Members Licensing Training; 13,051 participants took part in the training.
- ESPA supported the launching and implementation of a pilot electronic exam through the CEC's e-Learning platform with 168 participants of the PEC Members Licensing Training held in Yerevan.
- ESPA initiated a Smartmatic visit to replace the batteries and faulty hardware components in voter authentication device (VAD) equipment.
- The ESPA website has been launched and is publicly available [here](#).

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Support to the CEC's capacity building: Precinct Electoral Commission (PEC) Members Licensing training and e-Learning

The project continued its support to the CEC to implement the Licensing training for PEC Members, which took place between 27 October and 29 November. ESPA supported the overall implementation of the training conducted by the CEC trainers countrywide and ensured the timely procurement and delivery of the required training materials such as manuals, exams and pens. According to statistics received by the CEC, a total number of 13,051 participants attended the trainings countrywide.

To ensure monitoring of this country-wide activity and to measure the impact of ESPA support, the project deployed a team (Capacity Building Advisor, Project Associate for Training and Events, and Translator) to observe selected number of trainings in different regions. Out of the 462 participants who attended the trainings in the five locations observed by the ESPA team, 298 (65%) were women and

164 (35%) were men, age groups varied from 21 to 60 years old. The majority of the participants had prior experience as PEC member, while a small percentage was represented by first-time applicants¹. Interviews held with a selected number of participants indicated a high level of satisfaction with regards to the quality of the training, including appreciation for the personalized invitations to the training sent through SMS, and furthermore, the study of the course material in advance through the e-Learning platform. See below the detailed calendar and statistics of participants of the trainings monitored by the ESPA team.

PEC Members Licensing Trainings monitored by ESPA in November							
	Date	Location	Number of men	% men	Number of women	% women	Total
1	1 Nov 19	Alaverdi, Lori	22	15%	126	85%	148
2	6 Nov 19	Masis, Ararat	47	47%	52	53%	99
3	11 nov 19	Dilijan, Tavush	23	33%	47	67%	70
4	12 Nov 19	Sevan, Tavush	35	40%	52	60%	87
5	21 Nov 19	Yerevan	37	64%	21	36%	58
Total			164	35%	298	65%	462

To operationalise the recently launched [e-Learning platform](#), ESPA also supported a pilot electronic exam, taken by 168 participants. The ESPA ICT Expert provided training to the CEC IT department staff on effective management of the e-Learning platform. According to discussions held with the CEC trainers and based on observations from ESPA visits to the training sites, the pilot electronic exam was conducted successfully.

To ensure continuous improvement of the CEC's e-Learning platform in the long term, the project hired an e-Learning Content Developer who will work between November and December to further enhance the platform with increased functionalities to the training modules and exams and propose additional modules in close consultation with the CEC.



PEC training. Photo credits: UNDP ESPA.

¹ The breakdown between participants with prior experience as PEC member and new applicants is not yet available. However, sample data is currently under compilation by the ESPA Training Coordinator, drawing from the evaluation questionnaires which were filled by participants who attended the trainings held in Yerevan during a week period at the end of November. In this context, an approximate breakdown between experienced and new applicants will be made available in the December report to the JTF.



PEC training. Photo credits: UNDP ESPA.



PEC electronic exam. Photo credits: UNDP ESPA.

Establishment of the Training and Resource Center

The project continued its support to the establishment of the CEC's Training and Resource Center, focusing on both the physical infrastructure and the substantive resources. The objective of the Center is to serve the CEC and its decentralised structures such as the Territorial Electoral Commissions (TECs) and PECs for continuous training and capacity building activities including through the introduction of the recently launched e-Learning platform. Furthermore, the Center will serve a broader stakeholder group, such as the media, political parties, civil society organisations, universities and students for training, information gathering and research on election related issues. Finally, the center is expected to serve as a foundation for a dedicated Training Institute or Department which can be established within the CEC in the mid to long term.

In this context, the project completed full renovation of the physical infrastructure of the Center and placement of furniture including bookshelves, desks and chairs during the month of November. In terms of substantive resources, a smartboard and ten laptops have been procured. In parallel, ESPA collected donations of publications related to elections, electoral systems, political parties and democracy in English and Russian languages from international organisations including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), International IDEA, UNDP BPPS and the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance for the Center's library. Other donations from local universities and other organisations such as IFES and the European Union will take place.

In view of the establishment of the Center and the ongoing training activities within the CEC, ESPA hired a Training Coordinator who will work between November and December to ensure the effective set-up and launch of the Center and coordinate ongoing training activities. In the long term and for sustainability purposes, ESPA aims to advocate for the creation of a permanent position of a head of the Training Institute or Department within the CEC.

CEC's gender mainstreaming process

The project continued follow-up meetings with the CEC Deputy Chair with regards to the project's gender component. On 8 November, the CEC approved the assessment report on "Ensuring equal opportunities for women and men in the electoral process, Central Electoral Commission of RA". The report has been distributed to the CEC members and staff. In addition, the report is serving as a basis to develop the CEC's strategic planning which is currently under discussion and elaboration. Furthermore, the CEC posted its brochure "Statistics: Participation of Women and Men in the Electoral Process, 2018" on its official website on 28 November, both in [Armenian](#) and in [English](#).

CEC's strategic planning process

The project deployed its Strategic Planning expert from 25 to 29 November. The expert worked closely with the CEC Secretary on main issues pertaining to strategic planning and to further expand the outline which was presented to the CEC in September. The issues include the analyses of the recommendations drawn from activities undertaken in the post-electoral period, notably the lessons learned from the roundtables and the post-election survey, the potential vision, mission and values that the CEC wishes to uphold as well as the potential goals and pillars to be part of the strategic planning.

Review of legal and election dispute resolution processes and recommendations

The project's consultant on legal and election dispute resolution processes conducted an intensive 5-days consultations with the CEC Chairman, Commissioners, Executive Secretary and legal department from 25 to 29 November. Based on the consultant's recommendations, an enhanced complaints form was elaborated at the end of the week-long consultation. The Consultant has delivered a combined assessment report of the CEC Armenia complaints' management/ EDR processes and legal framework (including the Electoral Code, Law on Fundamentals of Administrative Actions and Proceedings, CEC regulations and decisions) incorporating recommendations as per international best practices. A draft CEC complaints form/electronic case management template has been finalised with the CEC and will be piloted during the next round of local elections.

Enhancement of the CEC and other stakeholder's IT equipment

ESPA initiated the procurement of the data center server complex including 5 servers with the required accessories. ESPA has also delivered the hardware equipment, including 2 firewalls, 1 all-in-one printer, and 2 network switches as part of the hardware procurement plan for 2019.

Jointly with Smartmatic Inc. (VAD equipment provider), ESPA finalised the requirements for the VAD's

batteries replacement based on the inventory results performed in June 2019. In the scope of this activity, all 4,000 VADs procured in 2017 will undergo CMOS battery replacement to ensure proper working status of the devices for the upcoming 8 years. Smartmatic Inc. will also replace 361 defective plastic details of the VADs revealed during the 2018 parliamentary elections as per earlier agreement between the CEC, UNDP, and Smartmatic.

The IT business analyst hired in September developed technical specifications for upgrading the CEC electoral management information system. The specifications have been shared with the CEC for comments.

ICT capacity building (implementation of management systems for CEC)

ESPA continues the development of the automated system for inventory of voter authentication devices (VADs) and registry of data operators. The modules for the registration of VADs and operators have already been developed and undergone testing by the CEC and ESPA IT staff as of November 2019.

The pilot testing of an online exam system, a part of the e-Learning platform, was initiated in November during the PEC Members Licensing Training held in one of the training sites (Economic University) in Yerevan.

II. Plans for the next period

For the month of December 2019, ESPA will:

- Organise, jointly with the CEC, the official opening of the CEC Training and Resource Center with participation of government counterparts, international partners, media representatives and civil society organisations. The results of the 2019 post-election survey will also be presented during this event;
- Organise a visit to the CEC of Georgia to exchange on elements related to strategic planning, the Training Institute/Center, legal issues, electoral dispute resolution and election administration;
- Organise the second phase/advanced training and training of trainers on Conflict Management and Negotiation Skills based on the Harvard Negotiations Project (HNP) methodology;
- Follow up on Strategic Planning drafting process with the CEC;
- Continue development of the management systems and IT solutions for the CEC;
- Continue development of the CEC strategic planning;
- Continue capacity building planning for the CEC.

For more information on the Support to the Electoral Support Project in Armenia (ESPA), please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Shalva Kipshidze, shalva.kipshidze@undp.org and visit the [project's website](#).



GUINEA-BISSAU

Photo credit: IESU

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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Presidential election held on 24 November as scheduled, second round is scheduled for 29 December.
- The National Electoral Commission (CNE) launched the national civic education campaign on 1 November in Bissau. Civic animators were deployed in all regions for 21 days to sensitise the population on the presidential election and provide information on exercising their voting rights.
- Until mid-November, the CNE and the CREs conducted the remaining polling staff trainings.

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 (UNIOGBIS).

The CNE launched the national civic education campaign on 1 November in Bissau. Civic animators were deployed in all regions for 21 days to sensitise the population on the presidential election and provide information on exercising their voting rights. IESU Regional Electoral Advisers (REA) monitored civic education activities in the regions. The civic animators displayed high motivation and approached population directly door-to-door in the rural areas or resorted to amplifier/speaker communications in

larger public areas, in an attempt to reach as many people as possible.

Until mid-November, the CNE and the Regional Election Commissions (CREs) conducted the remaining polling staff trainings. On 8 and 9 November, CNE held a training of trainers at its premises for polling staff on electoral operations in the diaspora, while in the regions the training for polling staff were held on successive weekends between 2 and 17 November. The two-day trainings followed participatory and practical methodologies. The participants were mostly reassigned from past election duty. The training focused on the counting process, completion of protocols and step-by-step guidance on procedures to be taken until the handover of materials to the CREs.

On 9 November, CNE received the ballot papers for the presidential election, which were produced, printed and transported by Portugal, as an in-kind contribution to the project. The IESU logistics adviser supported CNE logistics department in the preparation for loading and deployment of election materials to the regions, which entailed a thorough verification at the CNE Bissau warehouse of all sensitive election materials, i.e. ballot papers and miscellaneous election documents and division according to regional allocations. Election materials were dispatched to the ten diaspora countries (14 to 16 November) and to the nine CRE regions on 15 and 16 November. The deployment was escorted by elements of the National Guard, Rapid Intervention Police and Public Order Police for secure transportation. Materials were received by the CREs in the presence of candidate representatives at the regional levels. Following the reception and verification of the quantities, CREs initiated the process of sorting out materials into polling station kits which were distributed in the early hours of 24 November to the different polling stations.

The electoral campaign was conducted from 2 to 22 November and no major incident was reported.

On 21 and 22 November, early voting for military, police, aeronautical and maritime personnel, who would be on duty on 24 November, was held successfully in all CREs. The early votes were placed in envelopes and forwarded to the voter's original electoral district polling stations and added to the ballot boxes on 24 November.

The presidential election was held as scheduled on 24 November. The majority of polling stations opened on time at 7am in all regions. During the morning, ink efficacy issues were reported from most regions. It was detected that in roughly 15 to 20% of ink bottles, the indelible ink had lost immediate efficacy and was taking about one hour to get darker in the skin. The situation was progressively solved by the Regional Election Commissions (CREs) and the issue was openly addressed by the CNE and explained to the population and candidate representatives. Voting proceeded normally throughout the day with procedures being well followed.

The closing of polls happened generally at 5pm sharp and counting started immediately after; counting procedures were mostly correctly followed. The operations for retrieval of polling stations ballot boxes and protocols to the CREs initiated just after end of count in the night of 24 and were completed 25 November. The data entry for results aggregation



was conducted at the regional level by the CREs, in the presence of Public Ministry magistrates, candidate representatives and IT technicians and displayed by projector on a large screen for enhanced transparency in CREs Gabu, Bafatá, SA Bissau.

The National Election Commission announced the provisional results of the Presidential Election in the morning of Wednesday 27 November (see table of results on the right), in the presence of candidate representatives, national civil society, international community and media. The participation rate was 74,37%. During the announcement of results, CNE President, Mr. José Pedro Sambú, informed that according to the electoral law and the two-round system, given that none of the candidates had reached the majority (50%+1) of the vote to win, there would be a second round on 29 December.

CANDIDATOS	TOTAL DE VOTOS	%
MUTARO INTAI DJABI	2385	0,43
DOMINGOS SIMÕES PEREIRA	222870	40,13
VICENTE FERNANDES	4250	0,77
ANTÓNIO AFONSO TÉ	1061	0,19
NUNO GOMES NABIAM	73063	13,16
BACIRO DJÁ	7126	1,28
CARLOS GOMES JÚNIOR	14766	2,66
GABRIEL FERNANDO INDI	1982	0,36
IDRIÇA DJALÓ	2569	0,46
JOSÉ MÁRIO VAZ	68933	12,41
UMARO SISSOCO EMBALÓ	153530	27,65
MAMADU IAIA DJALÓ	2813	0,51
VOTANTES	566473	74,37
VOTOS EM BRANCO	5821	1,03
VOTOS NULOS	5097	0,90
VOTOS PROTESTOS/RECLAMAÇÃO	207	0,04
VOTOS VÁLIDOS	555348	100,00
INSCRITOS	761676	100,00
VOTANTES	566473	74,37
ABSTENÇÃO	195203	25,63

CNE presidential election results

In accordance with the electoral law, electoral challenges to the provisional results can be made to the Supreme Court within a 48-hour period following the announcement of the provisional results, that is to say, until the morning of Friday 29 November. On 29 November, the CNE issued a communique stating that the 48-hour period had elapsed without any complaints being lodged, and thus the provisional results were therefore final results.

II. Plans for the next period

- Arrival of ballot papers for the second round on 13-14 December;
- Second round electoral campaign begins 13 December;
- Second round election day is 29 December.

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 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 project supported a communication training for the staff of the National Election Commission (NEC) and the production of media engagement guidelines.
- The Annual Youth Education and Empowerment Summit was held in Monrovia.
- The Technical Working Group conducted a number of sessions to harmonise input from nation-wide consultations on electoral reform.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Strengthening communication of the National Elections Commission

The project convened a three-day training for the Communication Department of the National Elections Commission (NEC) from 13 to 15 November. A total of 15 staff (3 women and 12 men), including representatives from the office of the Chairperson, and Political Parties' Liaison department, participated to the training. The training aimed at strengthening the communication skills of staff to be

able to communicate both internally and externally with electoral stakeholders in a timely and effective manner.

The project further produced news stories published on UNDP and NEC websites, as well as press release from the Youth Summit, to enhance visibility of NEC's activities and the project. Moreover, the Media Guide for the NEC, based on the approved communication strategy 2019-2022, has been developed, to support NEC's professional interaction with the media.



NEC Communication Department Training (13 – 15 November) delivered by UNDP Communication Consultant Ms. Sylvia Namuju.



NEC's Communications Officer, Mr. Lorenzo Harmon (center) actively participating at the Communication training.

Annual Youth Summit

The 2019 Annual Youth Education and Empowerment Summit, organised by YOCEL – a youth-led educational NGO focusing on empowerment, and supported by the project, took place in Monrovia from 18 to 22 November. Hundred-thirty participants attended the workshop, representing 13 countries, including Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, and USA. Speakers included Minister

of Youth from Sierra Leone, Deputy Minister for Information from Liberia, a former governor and current Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who spoke about youth empowerment through education. NEC Director for political affairs chaired a panel on Youth and Electoral Violence, while former Liberian Chief Justice and current UNDP Electoral Reform Consultant, delivered a presentation on the ongoing electoral reform. The presentation provided insights into ongoing processes and outcomes of various stakeholders' consultations, with specific emphasis on addressing electoral observers' recommendations for the 2017 elections. The reform is intended to improve Liberian electoral administration, bringing it even further in line with international best practices.



Youth Summit participants from different countries (standing) with the Liberian Government Deputy Minister, representative of the European Union, and the UNDP representatives, following the inauguration workshop and opening remarks.

Electoral reform

With the support from the project, the Technical Working Group (TWG) started its work on the harmonisation of inputs to the electoral reform received through the 5 nation-wide consultations. The consolidated inputs included 15 comments on elections administration, 9 on voter registration, 16 on electoral justice and 13 issues requiring constitutional changes. The TWG will now produce a zero draft, to be presented to the Board of Commissioners. The National Legislature is then expected to follow up upon its return to the session in the late January, to finalise amendment to the electoral law.



UNDP Electoral Reform Consultant and former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Scott leading the discussion on ongoing electoral reform.

Other activities of the National Elections Commission

On 21 November, the NEC Board of Commissioners held a meeting with the development partners to update on the activities of the Commission, discuss budget for upcoming Senatorial Elections and Referendum, as well as to present finding of the UN Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) and discuss support. The project has been working closely with the NEC to support discussions on budget revision and planning.

II. Plans for the next period

- Commencement of the warehouses' renovations and construction ;
- Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training;
- Renovation of two security boots at NEC headquarters ;
- Cataloging of NEC's fixed assets in magisterial offices ;
- Retrieval of elections and voter registration equipment and materials from magisterial warehouses ;
- Recruitment of the ICT Consultant to evaluate ICT infrastructure for the NEC voter registration ;
- Revision of the project's annual workplan, including discussions with the development partners.

For more information on the support to the Liberia electoral cycle, please contact Ms. Lenka Homolkova, lenka.homolkova@undp.org and visit the [Project's website](#).



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

HIGHLIGHTS

- The administrative courts of the country's six provinces have been provided with equipment and have benefited from capacity building on results management.
- The results transmission system has been operationalised in the 119 districts of the country, and the software for entering results has been updated.
- Radio spots were broadcast from the beginning of November on community radio stations and a digital campaign has been launched on social networks.
- The CENI, as part of a partnership with a civil society organisation, led monitoring of electoral operations in the Antananarivo commune and of results centralisation operations in the 119 districts.
- On 27 November, communal and municipal elections were held peacefully.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Deployment of sensitive prints supported by the SACEM project: The inviolable minutes and envelopes supported by the SACEM project, as well as locally-printed materials were deployed to the 25,388 polling stations across the country, in line with the operations' calendar.

Technical training and equipment provided to administrative courts. Administrative courts of the 6 country's provinces, in charge of the electoral dispute resolution and proclamation of the final results of the 27 November municipal and communal elections, were each provided with a computer, printer and consumable items. Presidents and IT technicians of the 6 courts also benefited from the expertise and experience of the High Constitutional Court in the electoral dispute resolution during an information and capacity-building workshop organised by the project. In view of sustaining the support provided to the 2018 and 2019 national elections, and as suggested by the project, the software solution developed by the High Court for processing the results of the last presidential and legislative elections was made available free of charge to administrative courts and adapted to the specific needs of municipal and communal elections.

Operationalisation of the telecommunications network. The result transmission system has been operationalised at the level of the 119 electoral material collecting sections (Sections de Recensement Matériel de Vote, SRMV¹) located in the country's districts. A total of 110 SRMV were connected to the VSAT satellite system for these elections, but the 9 others, including in Antananarivo, were organised in a closed "FH" network. For communal and municipal elections, an additional level of centralisation has been introduced at the level of the six provincial capitals ("chefs-lieux"). The software for entering results at the SRMV has been updated, with the support of the SACEM project, to handle local election data.

Communication. Four radio spots pertaining respectively to the electoral campaign, raising awareness among young people and women, the importance of voting peacefully and electoral dispute resolution started being broadcast in November 2019. A third digital campaign on social networks temporarily increased the number of people following the page of the electoral commission to 145,000 (compared to 7,000 in October 2018).

Additional monitoring of voting operations. As part of a partnership with a civil society organisation, the CENI conducted the monitoring of electoral operations on polling's day in the urban municipality of Antananarivo. This activity made it possible to control the results of the counted votes in order to preserve the integrity of the operations and to have, a priori, relevant data on the progress of the operations, via the capture and transfer of the images of the minutes of 1202 polling stations covered by 406 attendants with smartphones.

Monitoring of results centralisation operations in the 119 SRMVs. As part of the same partnership, delegates delocalised to the country's SRMVs reported daily on highlights and any other situation that could affect the integrity of the results during the vote compilation operations.

Communal and municipal elections. On 27 November 2019, on the election day, despite some anomalies noted by the CENI - without impacting the integrity of the operations -, calm was observed in the polling stations. National and international observers considered the elections to be generally well organised. The participation rate is estimated at slightly over 40%. While the publication of the provisional results of the elections is scheduled for 14 December at the latest, the proclamation of the final results by the administrative courts will not take place before January 2020.

¹ There are 119 SMRVs in Madagascar – one per district. SMRVs do an inventory of the documents sent by each electoral office and their roles is verify the accuracy of the counting and procès-verbaux transmitted by polling stations.

II. Plans for the next period

Proclamation of provisional results. The CENI will announce the provisional results of the elections in the six provinces of Madagascar during the month of December 2019.

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](#).



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 level. 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

- Nepal completed polling for the by-elections on 30 November.
- The project continued its initiatives to sustain election-related capacity-building.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) organised polling for Nepal's by-elections on 30 November, with 337 candidates competing for 52 vacant positions at all three levels of government. A total of 454,114 voters were registered to take part across 37 of Nepal's 77 districts. The turnout was 65.4 percent, the percentage of invalid votes was 1.7 percent.

The project supported ECN in the three trainings of Chief Returning Officers and District Electoral Officers for the by-elections as well as in conducting four multi-stakeholder capacity-building workshops on electoral dispute resolution using the manuals that ESP developed for this purpose. The project also updated the ECN information posters on candidate nomination, counting and electoral disputes that it produced for the 2017.

ESP also supported ECN in implementing its first voter education campaign on social media. For this, ESP drafted a social media strategy with an outreach plan for the by-elections, developed key



Polling day, 30 November 2019.

November, this included support to 18 events of six different initiatives. The month saw the completion of the capacity building for people living with visual disability and people living with hearing disability, with the two federations carrying the electoral education and political participation programme to schools.

The work with Sancharika Samuha for women journalists on election reporting and the Nepal Transition to Peace Institute's field-level dialogues were also completed. The two organisations are consolidating their findings and recommendations for discussion at the central level. The remaining trainings for civic and voter education through the Ministry of Education's community learning centres (CLCs) were also held. A total of 298 CLCs in the by-election constituencies took part and committed to supporting voter education through their centres. The Chief Election Commissioner addressed the training in Pokhara and highlighted the important role that community-level organisations can play in dispensing civic and voter education at the grassroots to ensure that no vote is invalid. For the by-elections, ESP also used the CLC network to distribute voter education materials.

In a new initiative, ESP and Nepal's National Judicial Academy (NJA) launched a series of five workshops on electoral justice. These provide orientations to high court judges and high court attorneys on electoral issues in order to make the delivery of electoral justice more effective. The course is built around an electoral justice resource book that was commissioned by ESP and developed with input from NJA and ECN. This resource book should serve as reference on this topic in Nepal and the materials developed will allow the National Judicial Academy to add electoral justice and electoral dispute resolution courses to its standard offering to the judiciary.

Taken together, the different capacity-building endeavours had a total of 945 participants, including 45 percent women. ESP implements a consistent monitoring and evaluation system across the different initiatives and the data collected show that 94 percent of participants feel that their knowledge in the areas concerned has increased. However, the capacity-building efforts do not just concern the individual participants but also the institutions involved, produce reference and course materials as a legacy and seek to strengthen the relationships between the institutions in support of democracy in Nepal.

On 7 November, the United Nations Resident Coordinator received a request from the Government of Nepal for the UN to continue providing electoral assistance. An extension of ESP, currently scheduled to end on 28 December 2019, is being considered as a transitional measure while the possibility and content of future UN electoral assistance is being explored.

messages and provided graphic design services. This support was provided in close collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), which produced animations for ECN, contributed to the content development and helped boost the posts. At the end of November, the campaign had a reach of over 800,000 with more than 75,000 engagements.

Despite the by-elections, the main focus of the project continued to be long-term capacity-building of a variety of electoral stakeholders across the country. In

II. Plans for the next period

The month of December will be dominated by efforts to complete all ongoing work in view of the annual financial closure. This includes substantive and financial reporting of the various capacity-building initiatives, completion and handover of the refurbishment work to set up Electoral Education and Information Centres in Biratnagar and Surkhet, delivery of a civic education documentary on the electoral process, finalisation and printing of civic education booklets for the community learning centres and the production of an online application to deliver electronic civic education content.

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](#).



SOLOMON ISLANDS



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 logistical and capacity building support to the Electoral Office (EO) to organise the by-election for the National Parliament seat for East Makira to be held on 11 December 2019.
- The project provided capacity building support to women candidates for the East Makira Constituency by-election.
- Outstanding Women Initiative activities got completed in two provinces, Central Islands and Isabel.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Electoral operations support

The project provided logistical and capacity building support to the Electoral Office (EO) to organise the by-election for the National Parliament seat for East Makira to be held on 11 December 2019. For the first time, the by-election is to be simultaneously conducted with the elections for the Makira Provincial Assembly. The project also assisted with the dissemination of voter awareness products and face-to-face voter activities conducted earlier in November. Assistance was also provided to the organisation of the Returning Officers training in Honiara. The project's Field Coordination Assistant assisted in the review and

preparation of the electoral forms.

The project's Field Coordination Assistant also supported the organisation of Pacific Islands Forum Election Observer Mission to the Republic of the Marshall Islands to observe the National General Election on 18 November 2019.

Support to women's political participation

Capacity building of female candidates for the East Makira by-election

The project trained 2 female candidates running for East Makira parliamentary seat. The focus of this training was to enhance candidate capacities to organise their campaign strategies, their messaging and presentation. Candidates were welcomed to use the equipment provided by the project to the Makira Women Resource Centre which included generators and access to computers and printers.

Outstanding Women (OW) Initiative in Solomon Islands

Two provinces, Central Islands and Isabel completed their OW activities for the election of their 2 Outstanding Women. This involved the voting of approximately 60 people from the community including some members (male and female) of the respective Provincial Assembly Governments.

The project's Women's Political Participation Adviser visited Central Island to raise awareness and encourage participation of the 12 wards in the outstanding women initiative. She observed the OW election process and distributed voter awareness materials and information sheet on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The project also engaged a video producer to conduct the filming of 10 videos (1 per each of the 9 provinces plus Honiara City Council) on the Outstanding Women initiative. The videos will be used as a tool to enhance women's normalisation of women's leadership.

Domestic observers for National General (NGE) by-elections and Provincial Assembly East Makira Constituency 2019

The EO, supported by the project, facilitated the process of accreditation and deployment of 3 domestic observers for the East Makira By-Election held simultaneously with the election for the Makira Provincial Assembly. The successful experience of deploying domestic observers for NGE held on 3 April 2019 coordinated by the platform of national civil society organisations Development Services Exchange/ SISAC (SI Social Accountability Coalition) helped to reinitiate this activity.

II. Plans for the next period

- Assistance to the analysis of the East Makira by-election held simultaneously with its Provincial Assembly Election;
- Completion of Outstanding women initiative implementation.

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](#).



★ SOMALIA

📷 Ilyas Ahmed/UN Photo

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

- National Independent Electoral Commission chairperson and UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General address Security Council and emphasised the importance of universal suffrage elections in 2020.
- On 11- 12 November, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) organised a two-day workshop on women’s participation in political party leadership in Baidoa, Southwest State.
- NIEC office of political party registration issued temporary certificates of registration to six additional political parties.
- On 28 November, the IESG legal team organised a workshop on electoral dispute resolution for the NIEC legal department and legal staff from the office of the political parties registrar.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

NIEC Chairperson and UN SRSO Somalia address Security Council

In her address to the Security Council on 21 November 2019, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) Chairperson emphasized the importance of universal suffrage elections in 2020 which will be a pivotal year for Somali citizens whose rights to political participation have been denied for over 50 years.

UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General James Swan also addressed the Security Council where he emphasized that progress on the ambitious agenda for 2020 election will require a high degree of political consensus and flagged the need for Somalia's Parliament to pass the necessary electoral legislation before end of December 2019.

The Security Council welcomed the commitment by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to adopt an Electoral Law by December 2019 in order to ensure that federal one-person-one-vote elections are held in late 2020/early 2021, and underlined that holding a peaceful, inclusive, credible and transparent election in line with Provisional Constitution, would be a historic step in the rebuilding of Somalia and would assist the country's continued democratic development.



NIEC Chairperson addressing the UN Security Council on Somalia's electoral preparations for the one-person, one-vote elections due to be held in 2020. 21 November 2019.

Workshop on women's participation in political party leadership

On 11-12 November, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) organised a two-day workshop on women's participation in political party leadership in Baidoa, Southwest State. Participants included women and youth organisations as well as university students. During the two-days training, information was shared on topics ranging from the importance of political parties, how citizens can join their preferred party and how the NIEC works on achieving gender balance during the registration process of the political parties. Participants were also given time to deliberate on the role of women in political parties, the obstacles they face and how they can overcome them.

Registration of political parties

On 23 November 2019, NIEC office of political party registration issued temporary certificates of registration to six political parties at a ceremony held at the NIEC headquarters in Mogadishu. The six newly registered political parties bring the total number of provisionally registered parties to 63.

NIEC induction training for new staff

On 27 November IESG together with NIEC training unit conducted training for newly recruited NIEC staff, 8 men and 3 women, to introduce the main aspects of the legislative framework which pertains

to the mandate of the NIEC (vision, mission and core values) and enhance their understanding of electoral administration, the electoral cycle as a planning tool and principles of voter registration to enable participants better understand their roles within the organisational structure of the NIEC. The new staff will take up positions within public outreach, electoral operations, admin & finance, office of the Secretary General and office of the Commissioners.

Update on electoral bill

The Parliamentary Ad-Hoc Committee established in July 2019 to review the draft electoral bill completed its consultations and report which was shared with members of parliament for their review ahead of its second reading of the bill expected in early December. The revised bill proposes a new electoral model based on 'first past the post' with 275 constituencies instead of the original proposal for a closed list, proportional representation system with a single national constituency.

Workshop on electoral dispute resolution (EDR)

On 28 of November, the IESG legal team organised a workshop on electoral dispute resolution (EDR) for the NIEC legal department and legal staff from the office of the political parties registrar. IESG presented and discussed with the participants different models of centralised and decentralised EDR processes. EDR expert Judge Kriegler (former Chair of South Africa's Independent Election Commission) moderated a session on 'practitioner's knowledge, challenges to be expected and how to mitigate risks in EDR processes. Participants appreciated the opportunity to discuss the EDR process with Judge Kriegler which helped to increase their knowledge and awareness to effectively manage electoral disputes.



Mogadishu - construction of the NIEC data centre and warehouse is in progress and work is expected to be completed by the end of February 2020.

II. Plans for the next period

N/A

For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Mary Cummins, mary.cummins@undp.org, and visit the [Project's website](#).