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



# EC-UNDP

1 - 30 June, 2020

# Electoral Assistance Projects Update



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# ONGOING ELECTORAL PROJECTS WITH EU FUNDING

Country	Project Title	Reference	EU Contribution	Start Date	End Date
<b>Afghanistan</b>	UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP)	DCI-ASIE/2015/368-884	€ 15,500,000.00	29.12.15	31.12.19
<b>Central African Republic</b>	Projet d'appui au processus électoral en République Centrafricaine 2019-2022 (PAPEC)	2020/415 – 560	€ 15,000,000.00	01.09.19	31.12.22
<b>Lebanon</b>	Support to Electoral Reform and Democratic Participation in Lebanon ( LEAP)	ENI/2019/431-399	€ 3,000,000.00	01.01.20	31.12.23
<b>Liberia</b>	Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/367-723	€ 10,000,000.00	01.06.15	31.10.20
<b>Libya</b>	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5,000,000.00	01.11.17	01.11.20
<b>Malawi</b>	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	2017/389-162	€ 3,355,817.27	11.10.17	30.06.20
<b>Tunisia</b>	Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (TEAP)	ENI/2019/405-945	€ 2,000,000.00	01.07.19	30.06.21
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	30.08.20



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

 Nektarios Markogiannis/UN Photo

## PROJET D'APPUI AU PROCESSUS ELECTORAL EN REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE 2019-2022

N/A

For information on the **Projet d'appui au Cycle Electoral en République Centrafricaine (PAPEC 2019-2022)**, please contact Chief Technical Advisor Mr. Sidi Mohamed Diawara, [sidi.diawara@undp.org](mailto:sidi.diawara@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](#).

N/A

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



LIBERIA

Election Project/UNDP Liberia

## SUPPORT TO THE 2015 – 2018 LIBERIAN ELECTORAL CYCLE

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

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Senatorial Elections have been rescheduled to 8 December 2020.
- The rehabilitation of five National Elections Commission (NEC) warehouses was completed, pending handover and certification.
- NEC completed assessment of 2,080 voter registrations centers (VRC) and polling precincts.
- The project donated assorted ICT materials and equipment to the NEC Data Center.
- The project coordination and management continued uninterrupted despite COVID-19.

### Project's activities during the reporting period

#### Senatorial elections rescheduled to take place in December 2020

Government of Liberia, through the National Legislature has finally signed a Joint Resolution postponing Special Senatorial Elections and Referendum from 13 October to 8 December 2020, amidst COVID-19. The budget for elections is, nevertheless, still pending. The Election Project has been supporting the

National Elections Commission (NEC) in scenario planning for the upcoming 2020 timeline.

### **Rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses**

The rehabilitation of five out of the 12 NEC warehouses, supported by the Project to ensure secure storage of electoral materials ahead of the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections have been completed and are ready to be handed over. The completed warehouses are located in Kakata (Margibi County), Totota and Gbarnga (Bong County), Voinjama, and Kolahun (Lofa County). The completion of the remaining seven warehouses throughout Liberia is expected by the end of July. The rehabilitation works, which commenced in January, have been delayed significantly by COVID-19 -related restrictions; nevertheless, the completion of construction work is anticipated on time for the upcoming voter roll update process.



### **Assessment of voter registrations centers (VRC) and polling precincts**

Delayed amidst COVID-19, NEC has completed the assessment of 2,080 voter registration centers (VRCs) to prepare for the upcoming voter roll update process and Special Senatorial Elections. The assessment, supported by the project, aims at the revision of the centers identified for the 2017 General Elections and their present condition and availability. It presents a critical element in logistic and operational planning for the voter roll update scheduled in August 2020. NEC conducted the

activity in compliance with health protocols and COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Support to the NEC ICT Department and Data Centre**

On 10 June 2020, the Project donated assorted ICT equipment and materials to the NEC ICT Department and Data Center. The items included 72 solar batteries for the battery bank, one Network Access Storage (NAS), 7 -12000 BTU air-conditioners, 2 -24000 BTU air conditioners, and four electronic access control- security locks system. This procurement builds on the ICT infrastructure assessment conducted with the support of the Project in early 2020. The evaluation identified critical Data Center security issues and tabled numerous recommendations. The items donated by the Project address some of these priority recommendations.

Furthermore, with Project's advice, NEC has developed the Data Center Access Policy. The ICT Policy, ICT maintenance, and asset Management Policy, and its link to the Enterprise Resource Management (ERP) are being finalised. The helpdesk has been installed for the entire NEC server system and is to be rolled out. These items are intended to revamp ICT services and ensure the readiness of the NEC Data Center ahead of the upcoming voter registration exercise and elections in 2020.

### **UNDP Electoral Assistance**

The ongoing UNDP Support to Electoral Cycle Project is scheduled to close on 31 July 2020. The Final Evaluation and other administrative issues related to Project closure are ongoing. On 15 June, the Joint Team composed of UNDP Liberia, Regional Bureau for Africa, and Joint Taskforce for Electoral Assistance, organised a discussion with identified partners to share parameters for the upcoming electoral assistance identified through Needs Assessment Mission, observer recommendations, lessons learnt, and meeting with electoral stakeholders. The work on the new Project document is ongoing. UNDP aims for a smooth transition from current to the next electoral assistance in August, to ensure support to the upcoming Special Senatorial Elections and Referendum. During the transition, the Project continued providing minimum technical advice and support, notably to planning and budgeting.

### **Plans for the next period**


- Support to onboarding training for the new NEC Board of Commissioners;
- Handover of five completed NEC magisterial warehouses;
- Completion of remaining seven warehouses;
- Completion of Project evaluation;
- Finalisation of draft Project Document;
- Closure of current project;
- Project Board Meeting.

**For more information on the support to the Liberia electoral cycle, please contact Ms. Lenka Homolkova, [lenka.homolkova@undp.org](mailto:lenka.homolkova@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 processe(s);
3. Promote public participation in (the) electoral processe(s) targeting vulnerable groups; and
4. Raising the electoral awareness of local partners and stakeholders.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 30 June, donor partners approved at a Project Board Meeting the extension the 'PEPOL' project until the end of 2021 to preserve the developed capacity of the Commission and supports its readiness to prepare for elections when called.

### Project's activities during the reporting period

#### PEPOL Board Meeting - project extension

During a Board Meeting on 30 June, donor partners approved the proposal from UNDP and the High National Election Commission (HNEC) to extend the PEPOL project until the end of 2021. All partners underscored that it is important to keep the momentum in support of preparations for national elections and a sustainable democratic process for Libya. The PEPOL project brings together UNDP,

the United Nations Support Mission to Libya (UNSMIL) and key donor partners in their support to the HNEC and the process of national elections in Libya. The EU, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom acknowledged the progress made by the project and noted the importance of maintaining a robust electoral support for the HNEC in order to ensure the Commission's technical readiness to implement credible elections when these are called. The Chairperson of HNEC, Dr. Emad Al-Sayeh, provided an overview of the political and electoral context in Libya, highlighting the challenges, opportunities and required preconditions for elections. PEPOL is an important component of UNDP's governance programme. A peaceful, stable and democratic Libya enables many other sectors in the country.



PEPOL Board Meeting, 30 June 2020

### Technical advisory support on electoral planning

The UN Electoral Support Team (UNEST) - which comprises PEPOL project - has been working during the reporting period on draft plans and concept notes for HNEC concerning the preparation and conduct of parliamentary and presidential elections in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic. These draft papers have been shared with the Commission following the discussions on the electoral context between the Prime Minister and the Chairperson of HNEC.

The Prime Minister mentioned the importance to create an environment conducive to new elections and promised to provide the full budget for operations as soon as there is a call for national elections. The Prime Minister asked HNEC to resume work on the Voter Registration Card (VRC) project, in coordination with the governmental focal point concerned. In this respect, UNEST/PEPOL has been reviewing the operational concept note for introduction of voter cards and electronic biometric verification for polling. HNEC is requesting UNEST to prepare for a (virtual) workshop in July on this matter with key departments and electoral advisors involved.

## Visit Head of EU Delegation to HNEC

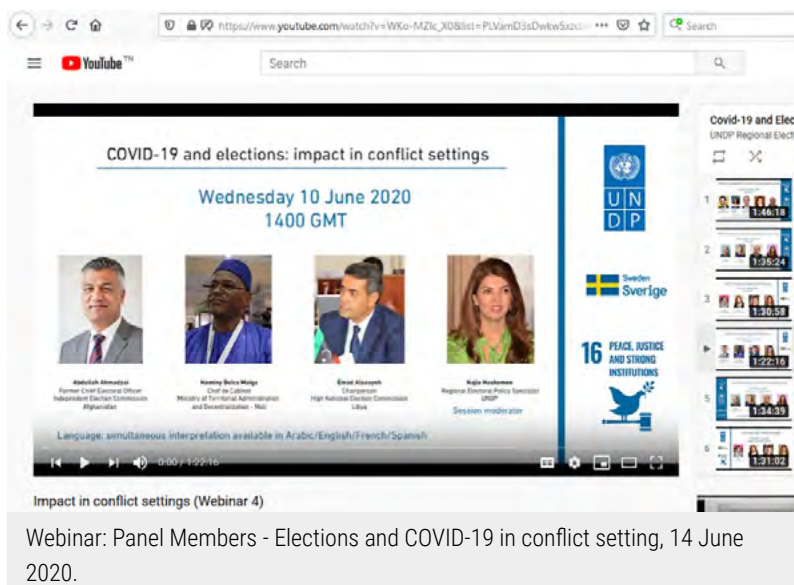
On 28 June, the Head of the EU Delegation to Libya, Mr. Bugeja, visited the new HNEC compound in Tripoli, expressing appreciation for the refurbishment works undertaken by the mostly EU-funded PEPOL project following the May 2018 attack on the former HNEC compound. In a meeting with the Commissioners, the Ambassador discussed the electoral context and the support of the EU through the UNDP electoral assistance project.



Visit of Head of EU Delegation to Libya to HNEC, Tripoli, 29 June 2020.  
Photo credits: HNEC.

## Webinar: elections and COVID-19 in conflict settings

On 10 June, the Chairman of the HNEC was invited as a key speaker of a webinar panel organised by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) on “Elections and COVID in conflict settings”. HNEC provided examples and challenges that Libya is facing while contributors from Afghanistan and Mali also provided good lessons learnt.



Webinar: Panel Members - Elections and COVID-19 in conflict setting, 14 June 2020.

## Plans for the next period

- PEPOL is supporting UNEST with the organisation of workshop on the operational concept note for introduction of voter cards and electronic biometric verification for polling;
- In the upcoming month, PEPOL project continues with the operational and logistical support to enhance the institutional capacity of HNEC, such as the procurement and delivery of generators for the compound, a security surveillance system, and vehicles.

**For more information on the project, please contact Mr. Filip Warnants, [filip.warnants@undp.org](mailto:filip.warnants@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 that is currently financed by the EU and UNDP. The project will support the internal capacities of the Malawi Electoral Commission through stronger planning, operational and administrative support, as well as in the areas of dispute resolution, communication, voter education, voter registration and results transmission. It will also encourage and support female aspirants to stand for office through mentoring, as well as ensuring that the political and cultural landscape is more accepting of the role women in the political life. The project will also partner with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy-Malawi, the organization 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

- A total of 150 lorries have been hired for the delivery of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials to polling stations.
- A total of 350,000 units of COVID-19 personal protection equipment have been procured for the protection of polling staff and voters.
- Training of 611 district-level political party monitors has been conducted.

### Project’s activities during the reporting period

This month, after a year of largely suspended basket fund activity, awaiting the results of the Court rulings on the Tripartite elections of 2019, the basket fund project provided essential assistance to the Fresh Presidential Elections (FPE) that took place on 23 June.

After much uncertainty concerning the budgetary availability of the government to finance the FPE, the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) was provided with the necessary resources to complete the organisation these elections. However, the basket fund was requested to provide 150 trucks for transporting secure and non-secure materials to the required polling stations. The project also

provided 250,000 masks and 6,000 units each of hand sanitizers, soaps, washing buckets and basins to try and ensure that the spread of COVID-19 would be contained as far as possible in and around the polling stations.

In order to support MEC's voter education drive, the project hired 61 loud-hailing trucks that focused on the more rural and remote towns and villages and provided instructions on how to vote and encourage people to participate. This was complimented by the production of radio jingles and TV spots to mobilise people to vote and encourage peaceful balloting. A total of 13 national and community radio stations and 3 national TV stations were contracted and started broadcasting on 18 June.

In terms of work undertaken by the project with political parties, 611 District level party monitors were trained (496 males 115 female) so that they understood their role as well as the limits of their mandates. This was an essential action for the credibility of the process. Political parties were also supported in putting together radio broadcasts of their political manifestos and for messaging around the need for peaceful elections. In order to reduce the tension in some of the hotspot Districts in the country, 3 Multiparty Liaison Committee Meetings (MPLCs) were held between 18-20 June in Mulanje, Nsanje and Chikwawa in the south of the country.

## Plans for the next period

A new MEC Chairperson and college of Commissioners were appointed on 7 June, just a couple of weeks before the FPE polling day. Although there was no time for an induction training of this new MEC senior management, the project will be supporting a one-week BRIDGE training from 6-10 July in order to bring this new team up to speed on the administration and implementation of elections. Thereafter, the emphasis for the project will be preparing for the post elections reviews and lessons learned which will have the added logistical challenge of taking place at a time when COVID-19 infection rates are increasing dramatically in the country.

The planning and organisation of the post-election reviews will only happen once MEC has undertaken some urgent by-elections for 6 vacant Parliamentary seats which have to be filled within 60 days of them becoming vacant. After that, the project will line up a series of meetings with the MEC Secretariat to plan for the stakeholder reviews and determine the best way of managing this in the context of a global pandemic. The reviews are seen as particularly relevant considering the turbulence that was triggered in the period after the 2019 Tripartite elections up until the announcement of the results of the FPE.

**For information on the Malawi Electoral Cycle Support Project, please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Richard Cox, [richard.cox@undp.org](mailto:richard.cox@undp.org) and visit the project's [website](#).**



## ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT (ESP)

The Electoral Support Project- Phase II (ESP) is a technical assistance initiative which focuses on a long-term institutional and professional capacity development of the Election Commission (ECN) for conducting credible, inclusive and transparent elections at a national 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

- The project board has extended the Electoral Support Project until 31 October 2020.
- The final report for the closure of the European Union contribution agreement was submitted to the European Union.

### Project's activities during the reporting period

In response to the request from the Government of Nepal for continued United Nations electoral assistance, the Electoral Support Project (ESP) executive board extended ESP up to 31 October 2020, while an assessment for future electoral assistance is ongoing. In addition to continuing to provide technical assistance to the Election Commission, Nepal (ECN), the project will now also support the formulation of a successor project and continue to contribute to the UNDP COVID-19 response.

In the context of COVID-19, ESP collaborated with the UNDP country office to organise a youth webinar on the topic Access to Basic Facilities with over 60 participants this month. The webinar was organised by the youth and for the youth across the seven provinces of Nepal to bring matters of inclusion to the forefront. It was an insightful event where UNDP youth volunteers surveyed their community members to better understand the issues of access to basic facilities such as health, water, sanitation, education, food, and the socio-economic impact of the pandemic at the grassroots. The webinar series is the first of its kind and more of such webinars are anticipated in the months that follow. These webinar reports will be used as a vital tool to inform effective UNDP programming

against COVID-19.

The virtual support from ESP also entailed sharing a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the implementation of the Third Strategic Plan (2019-24) of the ECN.



Following the operational closure of the European Union contribution agreement to the Electoral Support Project on 28 December 2019, a final report capturing the project's work was submitted to the European Union on 27 June 2020. EU will have 45 days to comment on the report, if no comments are received within that timeframe, the report will be taken as having been accepted.

## Plans for the next period

In the next period, ESP's support will involve submitting a plan to provide an orientation to ECN's officials in the new monitoring and evaluation framework, a concept on paperless ECN, a new voter and civic education policy and an update to the Commission's gender equality and social inclusion policy. In addition, the next period will also see the desk review for future electoral assistance and more of the youth webinar series unfold.

**For more information on the Nepal ESP, please contact Mr. Kundan Das Shrestha, [Kundan.shrestha@undp.org](mailto:Kundan.shrestha@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

- National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) informed House of the People on its readiness to conduct parliamentary elections.
- The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) supported NIEC Advisor on Finance and Administration nominated to Board of Commissioners.

### Project's activities during the reporting period

#### **NIEC informs House of the People on its readiness to conduct federal parliamentary elections**

The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) Chairperson, Ms. Halima Ismail Ibrahim, presented the NIEC's report to the House of the People on the 27 June on the Commission's operational plan to implement the electoral law and hold federal parliamentary elections in the country. Because of the delay in finalising the necessary electoral legislation, the NIEC put forward two options for Parliament's consideration: Same Day Voter Registration and Polling, with elections taking place in March 2021; and

Elections with Standard Biometric Voter Registration, with polling taking place in August 2021. According to the Electoral Law, if there is a delay in meeting the constitutional deadline, the Parliament will decide when the elections will be held.



27 June 2020, Mogadishu: Ms. Halima Ismail Ibrahim, Chairperson, National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) presents the report to Parliament on the Commission's operational plan to implement the electoral law and hold federal parliamentary elections in the country.

### **IESG supported NIEC Advisor on Finance and Administration nominated to NIEC Board of Commissioners**

On 10 June, the House of the People endorsed the Cabinet nominee for NIEC Commissioner, Ms. Sadia Shurie to fill a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners. Approval by the Upper House is also required. Ms. Shurie's appointment brings the gender quota to 33% on the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Shurie is currently an IESG supported NIEC Advisor on Finance and Administration, a position she has held since 2018.



10 June 2020, Mogadishu: Ms. Sadia Shurie receives the endorsement of the House of the People to fill a vacancy on the NIEC's Board of Commissioners.

## **Amendments to the Political Parties Law gets first reading in Parliament**

The Amendments to the Political Parties law received its first reading in the House of the People on 10 June and was referred to the Committee on Internal Affairs, Regional Administration and Security for review and consultation with stakeholders. The NIEC met with the Committee on 11 June to discuss their concerns with the Amendments, in particular to highlight contradictions in the timelines with the electoral law as well as the need to amend the wording related to the official registration of political parties. Currently political parties require 10,000 'registered' voters to receive official registration, among other conditions. As no voters have yet being registered, it is necessary to amend the requirement to 10,000 'eligible' voters.

## **House of the People debates Joint Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee Election Report**

The report and recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on Elections were submitted to the House of the People on 17 June. The issues under consideration are: 1) allocation of seats in both Houses of Parliament; 2) guaranteeing a minimum representation of women; 3) representation rights for Banadir region in Upper House; and 4) a modality for electing members from Somaliland in Mogadishu. The House of the People passed resolutions on maintaining the current women's quota at 24%, increasing the number of seats in the Upper House to 13 to give political representation to the Banadir Region (which contains the country's capital Mogadishu), approved a separate electoral modality for electing members from Somaliland to both Houses of Parliament in Mogadishu and on 30 June passed the resolution on the allocation of seats in Parliament.

## **Plans for the next period**

- Support to NIEC in drafting the operational plan to implement the electoral law;
- Support ongoing review and implementation of NIEC governance framework and related internal policies;
- Support online personal and professional development for NIEC staff;
- Procurement of internet support and provision of staff support to NESTF Secretariat.

**For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Mary Cummins, [mary.cummins@undp.org](mailto:mary.cummins@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](#).

N/A

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