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GPECS II 
Global Project
for Electoral Cycle Support II



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



EC-UNDP

1 - 31 December, 2018

Electoral Assistance Projects Update

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



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

The new election timeline for 20 July 2019 has been prepared and approved.

AFGHANISTAN

The second round of the presidential election was held on 19 December 2018. Andry Rajoelina was elected President of the Republic with 55.66% of the vote.

MADAGASCAR

While the project was scheduled to close on 28 December 2018, a one-year extension of the contribution agreement with the European Union was signed on 17 December 2018.

NEPAL

The project supported the signing of the Chiefs code of conduct, the first time the chiefs of Malawi have accepted to engage in elections following certain rules. This is a historic milestone for the country and will hopefully see the Chiefs contributing to a conducive electoral environment

MALAWI

SUMMARY

AFGHANISTAN: The new election timeline for 20 July 2019 has been prepared and approved. Candidate nomination period for presidential election have been extended until 20 January 2019. - The project supported the Independent Election Commission in the planning and facilitation of the WJ election lessons learned workshop from 18–20 December to make recommendations for the 2019 elections. - From 17-18 December, the project supported training for seven candidate nomination staff.

GUINEA: Following the promulgation of the new law on the CENI on 7 December, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation sent letters to political parties and other entities concerned to instigate them to appoint their representatives to the new EMB.

GUINEA BISSAU: The President of the Republic decreed legislative elections to be held on 10 March 2019. - Voter registration exercise has been concluded on 19 December. - UN Regional Electoral Advisers have been deployed to the regions on 14 December. - Government of Japan signed a 1 million USD contribution agreement with UNDP. - Two shipments of electoral materials arrived and storage at the National Electoral Commission(CNE) central warehouse.

KENYA: During the month of December 2018, the project supported the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission in finalizing the post-election evaluation. - The project over this period sought and received relevant approvals to extend the implementation timelines from December 2018 to June 2019. The extension will facilitate completion of evaluative and closure activities.

LEBANON: The “Break All Frames” exhibition on gender stereotypes has been launched and was open for public from Saturday 1 until Friday 7 December.

LIBYA: The High National Elections Commission (HNEC) has commenced with preparations for the constitutional referendum as required by the law. However, this process has been slowed down due to financial constraints and security in the country and the practicality of enforcement of the referendum law as passed by the House of Representatives in late 2018. - The HNEC has approached UNDP Procurement Office (PSO) in Copenhagen to explore the possibility of procuring some electoral materials.

MADAGASCAR: The second round of the presidential election was held on 19 December 2018. Andry Rajoelina was elected President of the Republic with 55.66% of the vote. - A retraining of the election staff training took place between the two rounds, in order to provide a response to the technical and material limitations that arose from the first round. - The training of the staff in charge of the

results transmission system was conducted between the two rounds.

MALAWI: The Biometric Voter Registration has been concluded and the deduplication process completed. The Voter Registration inspection has been initiated. - The month also saw the training of political parties on policy analysis and formulation. By December, 48 women aspirants seeking political office were trained in such matters as public speaking and campaigning.

NEPAL: The project completed consultations on a standard operating procedure for handling electoral disputes.- The project supported the organisation of three BRIDGE modules. - ESP was extended to 28 December 2019.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: Operational support focused on preparation of final voters’ lists and the development of specifications for a nomination application. - The project reached out 2,593 people to raise awareness on electoral cycle in December. - The project also improved the knowledge of 35 women leaders including aspiring women candidates for 2019 general election.

SOMALIA: On 10 December, a Sub-Working Group Meeting (SWG-3) on Electoral Support took place where the NIEC provided an update on its progress in preparation of the elections for a new Federal Parliament by the end of 2020. - From 9 to 12 December, the NIEC conducted a joint workshop with national stakeholders on modalities for establishing effective partnerships for implementing the NIEC Strategic Plan

ZAMBIA: On 10 December, a group of civil society organisations signed a charter of cooperation for a coordinated framework on domestic election observation in Zambia. - Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) staff attended capacity development activities on monitoring and evaluation from 05-07 December, and on information systems audit on 17-21 December. - The project operationally closed on 31 December 2018.

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).

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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	01.02.18	01.01.19
Guinea	Projet d'Appui au Cycle Electoral de la Guinée (PACEG)	FED/2015/367-390	€ 10,000,000.00	06.07.15	31.12.18
Guinea Bissau	Support to Electoral Cycle in Guinea-Bissau 2018-2019	EDF 2018/401-213	€ 2,500,000.00	15.10.18	15.01.20
Kenya	Strengthening of the Electoral Processes in Kenya Project (SEPK)	FED/2016/372/463	€ 5,000,000.00	13.02.16	12.02.19
Lebanon	EU 2018-2020 Electoral Support to Lebanon	ENI/2018/395-460	€ 2,750,000.00	01.01.18	31.12.19
Liberia	Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/367-723	€ 10,000,000.00	01.06.15	31.05.19
Madagascar	Soutien au Cycle Electoral à Madagascar (SACEM)	FED/2018/398-673	€ 1,500,000.00	04.07.18	31.08.19
Malawi	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	2017/389-162	€ 2,500,000.00	11.10.17	10.04.20
Nepal	Electoral Support Project-Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development Support for the Election Commission of Nepal (ESP)	DCI-ASIE/2012/305-833	€ 10,050,000.00	12.01.12	28.12.19
Libya	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5,000,000.00	01.11.17	01.11.20
Sierra Leone	Support to the National Electoral Commission (SNEC)	FED/2017/390-345	€ 3,000,000.00	08.08.17	07.02.19
Solomon Islands	Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP)	FED/2013/328-922	€ 3,500,000.00	01.07.13	27.08.19
Somalia	Joint Programme for Support to the Electoral Process in the Federal Republic of Somalia	FED/2015/366-291 FED/2015/360-953	€ 5,193,878.00	21.11.15	31.12.19
Zambia	Support to the 2015-2017 Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/363-147	€ 5,250,000.00	23.06.15	31.12.18
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	30.08.20



AFGHANISTAN

UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP)

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- The new election timeline for 20 July 2019 has been prepared and approved. Candidate nomination period for presidential election has been extended until 20 January 2019.
- The project supported the Independent Election Commission (IEC) in the planning and facilitation of the WJ election lessons learned workshop from 18–20 December to make recommendations for the 2019 elections.
- From 17-18 December, the project supported training for seven candidate nomination staff.
- The Independent Election Commission (IEC) has concluded a technical analysis and plans on biometric voter verification use for upcoming elections.
- UNESP is providing IEC and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) with technical support on a range of public outreach and communication strategies.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Independent Elections Commission capacity building

The project supported the Independent Election Commission (IEC) in the planning and facilitation of the WJ election lessons learned workshop from 18–20 December, bringing together IEC Heads of Department and all Provincial Election Officers to make useful recommendations for the 2019 elections. In preparation for the 2019 elections, the project conducted a Training of Trainers for Voter Registration (VR) Top-Up for 66 provincial trainers (32 males and 24 females) from 13 – 15 December. From 17-18 December, the project

also supported training for seven candidate nomination (CN) staff (two males and five females) on their role and responsibilities and the overall process of CN registration for the presidential election. Finally, the project is in the process of drafting the assessment report of the capacity assessment conducted in the IEC. The report will provide information on the capacity status of the departments and include UNESP recommendations for improving IEC capacity for the upcoming elections.

IEC, with the support of the project, developed a comprehensive lessons' learned document with key reforms identified to improve conduct of elections.



WJ Elections Tally Centre.
Photo credits: IEC.



IEC WJ Elections Lessons Learned Workshop, 18 December 2018. Photo credits: IEC.

IEC Institutional Governance

The project has drafted a concept note on institutional governance for the IEC. The concept note aims to bridge the divide that exists between the Commissioners and the Secretariat in the interpretation of the law on their role, authorities and responsibilities. The concept note recommends a framework of governance, based on existing law, which allows both the Commissioners and Secretariat to perform their executive and operational roles. The concept note has been shared with IEC and the Secretariat leadership.

New IEC Secretariat structure

IEC submitted to presidential administrative office the new draft structure adding 144 taskheel positions. The IEC has also re-submitted to the presidential palace the new proposed taskheel as an annex to its comprehensive lessons learned and reform proposal. Recruitment, capacity building and training plan scheduled for 3 months in the beginning of 2019.

Timely decision for the operations to be kept on track

The new election timeline for 20 July 2019 has been prepared and approved. Candidate nomination period for presidential election have been extended until 20 January 2019.

The new operational plan is being updated according to the new election timeline. The plan is expected to be finalised by the end of January. The budget preparation is also in progress.

Decision on usage of current Biometric Voter Verification equipment

IEC has concluded a technical analysis and plans on Biometric Voter Verification (BVV) use for upcoming elections including its application for other aspects of the process, such as, results transmission. The project advisors have developed a detailed analysis document on BVV use in the past WJ election.

The Government of Afghanistan has requested IEC to return BVV devices the Central Statistics Organisation that is planning to deploy a team of experts to IEC on 5 January 2019 to start the handover process.

Appointment of two international non-voting members to Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC)

UN has identified two international experts to be appointed as non-voting members to ECC Board and will submit the names of the recommended experts to the Government.

IEC regulations, procedures and plans

In December, the project supported the IEC Procedures Department in drafting the following documents and plans with indication of approval status:

- Operational Plan for Presidential election: Approved.
- Timelines for Presidential, WJ Ghazni, Provincial and District Council elections: Approved.
- Guidelines for Voter Registration Update: Approved.
- Regulations on Voter Registration top-up for the forthcoming elections (Presidential, Provincial Councils and District Councils elections, 2019). Pending approval.
- Candidate Nomination Procedures: Approved.
- Regulations on Candidate Nomination for 2019 Presidential Election: Approved.
- Regulations on Nominating New Vice-Presidential Candidate: Approved.
- Code of Conduct for the Candidates: Approved.
- 2019 Public Outreach Plan: Approved.
- Operational Plan for Ghazni WJ election: Approved.
- Voter Registration Operational Plan for Ghazni: Approved.
- New operational plan for Presidential, WJ Ghazni, Provincial and District council elections: Pending

Media Committee

With the support of the project, the Media Committee (MC) has developed a draft concept for a Media Monitoring Unit aimed at defining IEC strategic communication and enabling the MC to fulfil its mandate. The media monitoring unit is planned to be operational by mid-February 2019.

Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) capacity building

In December, UNESP drafted four provincial impact assessment questionnaires for provincial ECC staff, candidates, complainants, and public to gather data for the ECC WJ Election Report. An internal assessment questionnaire was also drafted by the project that will inform a capacity building training plan. On 10 December, ECC held a consultation meeting with the International Community where international partners

advised ECC to seek technical support from UNESP legal advisors in the process of disputes resolution and decision-making process.

Electoral Complaints

Through four dedicated legal advisors (two national and two international), UNESP continued to support the ECC Legal Department in the investigation of the complaints from 20- 27 October 2018 WJ election.

Public Outreach

The project is providing IEC and ECC with technical support on a range of public outreach and communication strategies. The IEC Bulletin No.5 was finalised and shared with the donors and the international community, providing information on IEC decision regarding election timeline, a short description on how seats of WJ will be distributed based on the law, and an update on the tally process and BVV. Two IEC Public Service Announcement (PSA) messages have been developed on 1) dates and conditions for presidential candidacy, launched 22 December; and on 2) VR Top-Up to clarify the dates for VR and locations in provinces, due to launch on 1 March. Additional VR Top-Up messaging is being supported by UNESP through the design and procurement of billboards, posters and factsheets.

For the first time in Afghanistan, social media monitoring will be used to support the presidential election. UNESP has drafted a social media monitoring plan to monitor the social media engagement of candidates, political parties and selected stakeholders. The plan will be combined with the media monitoring plan being drafted by the IEC Media Commission.

The ECC Bulletin No. 4 was produced and shared with the stakeholders. The bulletin covers the status of complaints adjudication, open sessions on appeals investigation and adjudication, appeals by province and key decisions.

Voter Registration Top-Up

UNESP finalised the Security Concept of Operations for VR Top-Up. A total of 458 VR Centers (VRCs) across 33 provinces have been identified. The security assessment report on Ghazni VRCs is still pending.

Presidential candidate nomination

With the project support, IEC finalised candidate nomination packages in time for the candidate nomination (CN) period. Initially scheduled for 22 December to 2 January, CN has been extended until 20 January 2019. The UNESP provided technical advice for the printing of the documents and compilation of the packages. As of 31 December, 65 kits were collected by potential candidates, including 2 women. UNESP also supported IEC in setting up the CN registration centre at IEC Media Centre and the production of visibility material (banners).

Stakeholder engagement

With the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)/ UN Electoral Support Team (UNEST) support, the Counterpart International facilitated the Civil Society Election Coordination Group (CECG)

pre-meeting on 9 December. In the meeting, CECG finalised its Action Plan and suggested that further discussions should focus on: the status of electoral preparations; relationship between IEC and ECC; finalisation of recounts and publication of preliminary results; accreditation of observers for the upcoming elections; preparation of presidential election; practicality of the timeline; and the status of complaints related to WJ election. IEC decided not to hold the next CECG meeting until (i) the Wolesi Jirga election preliminary results have been fully announced; (ii) the review of the lessons' learnt have been completed; and (iii) consultative sessions with different stakeholders on the upcoming elections have been concluded. CECG further discussed electoral violence and Declaration of Principles for electoral observation.

IEC held a coordination meeting on 31 December with the state actors including the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF), the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs. Preparation for the 2019 elections was discussed, in particular, the cooperation between IEC and the state institutions involved.

IEC held a meeting with media editors on the same day with the aim to reinforce cooperation to improve transparency and ensure correct information is shared with the public. The meeting focus was on the reasons behind postponement of the Presidential election and the need to separate facts from rumours.

Election Observation

According to the new electoral timeline approved on 1 January, the accreditation of observers is scheduled to start from 10 January to 10 May 2019. UNESP provided support in reviewing related documents and regulations. UNESP also drafted a paper detailing challenges and recommendations related to the process of observer accreditation and electoral observation, for the consideration of IEC.

Gender

The project has advised the IEC on the development of special measure to encourage the participation of female candidates in the upcoming presidential election. On 15 December, the project facilitated Violence Against Women in Elections training for five IEC Gender Unit Staff and the Kabul IEC Gender Officer.

II. Plans for the next period

In January 2019, UNESP will progress action on the approvals of Output 6 in the Project Document while providing continued support to EMBs, with priority focus on VR Top-Up, CN, and complaints and appeals adjudication.

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



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

Since July 2015, the project to “Support the Electoral Cycle of Guinea” (PACEG) provides assistance to strengthen the capacities of the Electoral Commission (CENI) and its field offices, including organizational, technical, communicational, financial and operational capacities. The main objective of the PACEG is to enable a credible, inclusive and peaceful 2015-2017 electoral process in Guinea, complying with international standards, while ensuring the effective and inclusive participation of women and young people through providing civic education and coaching. For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Some communal councils are still not established, particularly in the urban communes of Matoto and Kankan and in several other rural communes. This can have an impact on the organisation of future elections. The mandate of the National Assembly deputies legally ends on 13 January 2019 and to date, no official provision has been made either to organise the next legislative elections, nor to extend the mandate of the current National Assembly. However, when the last finance law passed, a budget for the organisation of the legislative elections has been planned.
- Following the promulgation of the new law on the CENI on 7 December 2018, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation sent letters to political parties and other entities concerned to instigate them to appoint their representatives to the new EMB.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Due to delay in organising local elections, project's activities have been reduced. They mostly encompassed support of the needs expressed by the CENI for the recovery and securing of electoral material, as well as visibility actions.

II. Plans for the next period

In line with the agreement with the EU, the project ended on 31 December 2018.

Future activities will focus on finalizing the recovery and securing of election materials, initiated late 2018, communication and visibility activities as well as the drafting of the project's final report.

For more information on the Projet d'appui au cycle électoral de la Guinée (PACEG), please contact Mr. Abdoul Latif Haidara, abdoul.haidara@undp.org and visit the [project's website](#).



GUINEA BISSAU

SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL CYCLE 2018-2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- The President of the Republic decreed legislative elections to be held on 10 March 2019.
- Voter registration exercise has been concluded on 19 December.
- UN Regional Electoral Advisers have been deployed to the regions on 14 December.
- Two shipments of electoral materials arrived and storage at the National Electoral Commission (CNE) central warehouse.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

UN Electoral Assistance to the electoral management bodies in Guinea-Bissau – the National Electoral Commission (CNE), and the Technical Support Office to the Electoral Process (GTAPE) – is being provided through the UN Integrated Electoral Support Unit (IESU), comprising staff of United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGIBIS) and UNDP.

On 20 December, following consultations with GTAPE, CNE, the Prime Minister, political parties and the Council of State, the President of the Republic decreed that the legislative elections will be held on 10 March 2019.

GTAPE concluded the voter registration exercise nationwide and in the diaspora on 19 December. A projected total of 800,000 eligible voters (approximately 95%) had been registered but final results are to be announced. The registration process was stopped from 5-12 December due to the decision of the Prosecutor-General to suspend all voter registration activities.

The IESU Regional Electoral Advisers (REA) were deployed to the regions on 14 December and began their activities in support to the Regional Electoral Commissions (REs). They held introductory meetings with RE and local authorities and also followed the last days of voter's registration. Their first logistics/

operational assessment of the CRE offices in each region concluded that office supplies, IT equipment and vehicles are priority needs for the CREs.

Two shipments of electoral materials including ballot boxes, plastic seals, indelible ink, voting booths, arrived in Bissau on 24 and 28 December respectively. IESU arranged for logistics and security together with the CNE for the reception and storage of this cargo at the CNE central warehouse Bissau.

A draft CNE Operational Plan for the 2019 legislative elections was prepared by the IESU Electoral Operations Adviser. The IESU also supported the CNE in drafting concept notes for the training of civic educators and training of polling centre staff, which are set to begin in January and February 2019.



Arrival and storage of electoral materials at the CNE Central Warehouse Bissau.

II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the following reporting period include:

- Support to the training of civic educators to begin in January
- Support to the publishing of the provisional list
- IESU to work with CNE on the planning for the production of the ballot papers

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



STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN KENYA (SEPK)

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the month of December 2018, the project supported the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in finalising the post-election evaluation. This includes a national perspective, an electoral cycle review and a comprehensive stakeholder engagement. The post-election evaluation seeks to continue to solidify future approaches to electoral management in Kenya, based on a deliberate consolidation of emerging lessons over the current and previous cycles.
- The project over this period sought and received relevant approvals to extend the implementation timelines from December 2018 to June 2019. The extension will facilitate completion of evaluative and closure activities.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project team continued with the design of a successor 'Deepening Democracy' programme. The proposed programme will complement government efforts at strengthening democracy and lay the foundation for support to the 2022 elections.

The procurement of a firm to undertake the project end-term evaluation is ongoing.

The project supported the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to finalise the post-election evaluation. This includes a national perspective, an electoral cycle review and a comprehensive stakeholder engagement. The post-election evaluation seeks to continue to solidify future approaches to electoral management in Kenya based on a deliberate consolidation of emerging lessons over the current and previous cycles that includes amongst others: (i) electoral legal reforms linked to global best practices completed at least two years in advance of the actual elections and their implementation to the letter and spirit; (ii) completion of all appointive procedures for office holders (Commissioners, staff and temporary staff) within good timelines to enable comprehensive deployment of functions during the electoral cycle; (iii) availability of all financial, technical and institutional resources way in advance to enable predictable planning and deployment of electoral activities; (iv) further strengthening registration of voter processes;

(v) sustaining continuous voter and civic education, with periodic review of voter education curriculum and materials, throughout the electoral cycle; and others.

Closure activities of 2018 financial year have been carried out.

II. Plans for the next period

The activities planned for the following reporting period include:

- Project's end-term evaluation.
- Re-engagement with key stakeholder on implementation of the SEPK 2018/19 revised work plan.
- Evaluation of project support to the electoral security arrangement programme.

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



LEBANON



LEBANESE ELECTIONS ASSISTANCE PROJECT (LEAP)

The EU-funded UNDP Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP) started its activities in October 2012 with the main objective to strengthen the institutional capacity of the national institutions and stakeholders in terms of electoral management and administration, for the conduct of credible, periodical, transparent and inclusive elections in Lebanon.

To achieve these objectives, UNDP LEAP works closely with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), responsible for electoral management, administration and overall electoral operations. The project also supports other electoral stakeholders, such as the Constitutional Council, State Council, Supervisory Commission for the Election (SCE), judicial bodies and works in close cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs). Within this context, UNDP LEAP provides electoral technical assistance and advisory support focused on: 1) management & administration of elections; 2) supervisory commission for elections; 3) voter education; 4) electoral dispute resolution; and 5) women's participation in elections. For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- The "Break All Frames" exhibition on gender stereotypes has been launched and was open for public from Saturday 1 until Friday 7 December.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Saad Hariri, the UNDP, EU and the Lebanese NGO "Women in Front" launched a thematic art exhibition entitled "Break All Frames" on Friday 30 November, at "Beit Beirut" in Sodeco.

The exhibition aims to challenge stereotypes and shatter misconceptions of Lebanese women, through the exhibited work of artists whose different perspectives are displayed in their arts. The Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Lebanon Ms. Christina Lassen, and the UNDP Resident Representative in Lebanon, Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, gave the opening remarks in the launching ceremony, along with

the artists whose work is showcased in the exhibition, leading actors from women non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs), women party members, and representatives from UN agencies, amongst others.

The “Break All Frames” exhibition was open for public from Saturday 1 until Friday 7 December.

The short video of the opening ceremony is accessible [here](#).



II. Plans for the next period

- Development and design of gender assessment report/brochure on the 2018 Parliamentary elections.

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](#).



LIBYA

Jason 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

- The High National Elections Commission (HNEC) has commenced with preparations for the constitutional referendum as required by the law. However, this process has been slowed down due to financial constraints and security in the country and the practicality of enforcement of the referendum law as passed by the House of Representatives in late 2018.
- The HNEC has approached UNDP Procurement Office (PSO) in Copenhagen to explore the possibility of procuring some electoral materials. These include the polling kits and the indelible ink for use in the constitutional referendum which by law should take place within 60 days after the passing of the law.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The PEPOL project issued three tenders, one for the IT network installation at HNEC's new headquarter and the second for the production of voter education banners to the 2000 HNEC polling centres across the country, and the third being the landscaping tender for the new HNEC compound.

The refurbishment and security enhancement at the HNEC new compound in Tripoli is on schedule and

expected to be completed by mid-February 2019. The HNEC is expected to commence with phased relocation to the new site starting early January 2019.

The project held a Technical Committee on 18 December and discussed, inter alia, the HNEC public outreach strategy and activities for the constitutional referendum.

PEPOL hosted an end-of-year donor meeting in Tunis on 20 December 2018. The meeting reviewed project budget and achievements for 2018.

II. Plans for the next period

- The first Project Board meeting in Tunis will take place in January 2019, to discuss and approve the project annual budget and work plan for 2019, with the participation of all HNEC Commissioners and Chairperson, project donors, UNDP and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).
- Commencement of landscaping at the new HNEC compound by mid-January 2019.
- Commencement of IT network installation at the HNEC new compound.
- Phased relocation of PEPOL project staff - together with the rest of the UN and UNDP staff - back to Tripoli following the temporary evacuation of 2018 occasioned by inter-militia clashes in August-September 2018 around Tripoli.

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



MADAGASCAR

CENI Madagascar

SOUTIEN AU CYCLE ÉLECTORAL DE MADAGASCAR (SACEM)

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- The second round of the presidential election was held on 19 December 2018. Andry Rajoelina was elected President of the Republic with 55.66% of the vote.
- A retraining of the election staff training took place between the two rounds, in order to provide a response to the technical and material limitations that arose from the first round.
- The training of the staff in charge of the results transmission system was conducted between the two rounds. An independent international audit of the software used by the CENI for the processing and transmission of the results made it possible to strengthen the transparency of the electoral process.
- Six main hubs have been operationalized to accommodate election materials coming from South Africa for the second round.
- Communication was strengthened, awareness spots were produced for television and radio, and an awareness SMS campaign was organised.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Second round of the presidential election. The second round of the presidential election was held on 19 December 2018. The provisional results were pronounced by the CENI on 27 December. In its decision, the High Constitutional Court confirmed the verdict of the CENI on 8 January 2019. Andry Rajoelina was elected President of the Republic of Madagascar with 55.66% of the votes. Compared to the first round, the second round saw a decreased turnout, which fell to 48%.

Support to the institutional communication of the CENI. Between the two rounds, new awareness-raising spots have been released to limit the number of invalid ballots, remind citizens to withdraw their voter cards, ensure a good marking of the ballot and to encourage the citizens to cast their ballots in a peaceful environment and to accept the results. A large awareness raising campaign through SMS was conducted with the support of two major operators in Madagascar (Airtel and Orange) and has reached several million people in the run-up to the poll and on the day of the vote.

Support for the transmission of results. As shortages were noted during the first round, staff in charge of the compilation and transmission of results to 119 districts in the country and centralization at the central level were further strengthened in capacity ahead of the second round. In response to a request from the candidates and following a recommendation of the High Constitutional Court, the CENI submitted its results processing system to a second international audit, conducted by the independent firm Moore Stephens, which found no anomaly in its operation. The results processing software was then presented to both candidates and their delegates during a session led by international experts. The various stakeholders in the process congratulated the CENI for its efforts to increase transparency since the launching of the electoral process.

Training of the CENI members. Following the recommendations of the evaluations carried out after the first round by the CENI and the SACEM project, the training of the members of the polling stations was re-organised in-between the two rounds. Memos were produced for the different members of the electoral offices.

Logistics and hubs operationalization. In order to address the issue of limited deadlines for the delivery of election materials between the two rounds of the presidential election, the CENI and the project have proceeded to the operationalisation of six main hubs in the country (Majunga, Sambava, Antananarivo , Tulear, Fort Dauphin, Diego Suarez). Sensitive printed products, produced in South Africa, were directly deployed from Johannesburg to these six hubs on 5-6 December 2018, and were sent to the country's 24,852 polling stations.

Support in the provinces. The six logistics UN Volunteers deployed in the provinces of Madagascar have provided substantial support for the implementation of training, deployment of equipment and results processing at the decentralized level.

Second national awareness campaign. The national awareness campaign continued in December to mobilize citizens to go to polls. In the run-up to the second round, the campaign activities focused on encouraging citizens to accept the results, collect their voter's card and on how to fill out the ballot, in order to increase voter turnout and reduce the rate of invalid ballots.

Annual Review of the Electoral List. The Annual Review of the Electoral List (French acronym RALE) began on 1 December 2018 and will continue, for its first phase, until January 31, 2018.

II. Plans for the next period

- The awareness raising campaign will continue with a view to reach acceptance of the results by all electoral stakeholders and will focus on voter education for the parliamentary elections, which will be held in the second quarter of 2019.

- The SACEM project will continue to provide logistics and technical support to the CENI, as part of the operations of the annual review of the electoral list and for the reliability of the voters' list. Launched on 1 December 2018, data collection continues until 15 February 2019 and the final voters' list will be closed on 15 May 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](#).



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

- The Biometric Voter Registration has been concluded and the deduplication process completed. The Voter Registration inspection has been initiated.
- The month also saw the training of political parties on policy analysis and formulation. By December, 48 women aspirants seeking political office were trained in such matters as public speaking and campaigning.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project continued to support the voter registration process which is now finalised and the deduplication process completed. The final voter registration figure is 6,859,375 once all the necessary adjustments had been made. This represents 80% of the projected number of registrants as set out by the National Statistical Office for December 2018.

December saw the commencement of the voter registration inspection process whereby those who registered can check that their details have indeed been correctly captured in the system. It is also an opportunity for certain registrants to request a change of the assigned polling station if their personal circumstances have changed. The project is supporting this process by providing an SMS verification option through the two phone operators in Malawi. The inspection period will end on 10 January 2019. It is also supporting the civic and voter education measures to ensure that as many people as possible participate

in the inspection which acts as a nationwide audit of the register.

The project also supported the signing of the Chiefs code of conduct, the first time the chiefs of Malawi have accepted to engage in elections following certain rules. This is a historic milestone for the country and will hopefully see the Chiefs contributing to a conducive electoral environment and discourage them from establishing 'no go zones' for certain political parties.

By December, 48 women aspirants seeking political office were trained in such matters as public speaking and campaigning. This was an important activity to undertake before the respective political party primaries take place. Also, 410 monitors were trained in matters of detecting and reporting political violence against women running for office. Reports have started reaching the Gender Elections Engagement Room and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the police will shortly be signed to follow up on identifying and arresting perpetrators.

The month also saw the training of political parties on policy analysis and formulation. Directors of elections, national campaign directors from the five parliamentary parties were the recipients of the training that should lead to the definition of manifestos setting out each party's vision for the future of Malawi. The project also supported the registrar of parties to develop the new forms that are foreseen in the new Political Parties Act, triggered on 1 December. These include the application form, assets declaration form, change of particulars form and declaration of donations form.

Finally, the project officially widened its scope and received further funds in order to undertake support to the Malawi Police Service (MPS). Due to repeated requests by the senior management of MPS and due to the will of development partners to provide this extra support, the project added an extra Output to the project. This addition required UNDP Malawi to go through a Human Rights Due Diligence Process and the adjusted Prodoc now needs to be signed off by the Steering Committee, having been accepted by the Technical Committee. December saw the deployment of experts from the UN Standing Police Capacity come and undertake a needs assessment mission (to be finalized and presented to the Inspector General in early January 2019). It is anticipated that the project will support the MPS in areas of Operational Planning, Training in key areas such as Crowd Management and Community Policing and establishing a Police Elections Command Centre.

II. Plans for the next period

January 2019 will see the finalisation of the voter inspection exercise and the preparations for candidate nomination. It will also see the beginning of capacity development activities for the Malawi Police Service, the continued training of women aspirants and the monitoring of violence against women and preparations for a National Peace Conference.

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 completed consultations on a standard operating procedure for handling electoral disputes.
- The project supported the organisation of three BRIDGE modules.
- The Electoral Support Project (ESP) was extended to 28 December 2019.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

The project was scheduled to close on 28 December 2018. The reporting period was marked by the project delivering a last set of support activities before the operational closure as well as by work for the annual and project closure itself. However, based on a request for continued United Nations electoral assistance by the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN), the Ministry of Finance asked the European Union to extend the project by one year. The extension of the contribution agreement was signed on 17 December and the annual work plan for 2019 approved by 23 December.

On 2 to 3 and 5 to 6 December, ESP supported ECN-led consultation workshops on the standard operating procedure for handling election disputes which the project helped draft. The workshops involved internal and external stakeholders and provided valuable practical inputs for the procedure and strengthened the Commissions resolve in having it adopted. A final workshop with high-level representatives from other national institutions, political parties and civil society was held in Kathmandu on 26 December.

The project supported three three-day BRIDGE workshops from 8 to 14 December. Two were introductory workshops for new ECN staff, one in Kathmandu and one in the field. The third workshop covered Gender and Social Inclusion for ECN and stakeholders from other constitutional commissions and political parties. All workshops were much appreciated by the participants and the one with external stakeholders served to strengthen bonds between the Election Commission and other stakeholders. ECN also presented the study on gender and inclusion in the 2017 elections, which it conducted with ESP support, in the workshop and it was well received by the participants.

All three workshops are part of the ESP efforts to implement BRIDGE in more sustainable ways and to hand over full responsibility for running BRIDGE to the Election Commission. They are also part of the efforts to accredit more Election Commission staff as facilitators, following the Train the Facilitator (TTF) that the project supported in November.

ESP also presented a glimpse of its work in support of women's political participation at the fair and roundtable on EU supporting women in Nepal that the European Union Delegation organised on 5 December.

II. Plans for the next period

In January 2019, ESP plans to fill some of the positions left vacant in view of the anticipated project closure and that will be required for the implementation of electoral support in the extended period. The extension is primarily to consolidate ESP achievements, so the project will explore sustainable mechanisms for civic education through social study teachers, prepare broadening the range of its professional development activities and may support the Election Commission with preparations for a set of by-elections that a Parliamentary Committee requested to be organised by mid-May 2019.

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

- Operational support focused on preparation of final voters' lists and the development of specifications for a nomination application.
- The project reached out 2,593 people to raise awareness on electoral cycle in December.
- The project also improved the knowledge of 35 women leaders including aspiring women candidates for 2019 general election.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Draft Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2019

A draft projection for the annual work plan for 2019 was prepared and presented to the Project Board on 7 December. Key activities planned for this financial exercise include operational support throughout the nomination, polling and announcement of results, enhancement of voter awareness through face-to-face activities, support to upgrade physical infrastructure of Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) premises, support to media and communication, women participation and political leadership, etc.

Electoral Operational Support

With project's support, SIEC completed 16,500 public hearings held in 50 constituencies by 190 revising teams in 3 weeks. Police Operation Center served as a communication hub in some areas where the revising officers had challenges to send their reports. Project's Graduates played an important role for collecting public hearing reports from provinces, collating and disseminating those to various stakeholders.

With the support of SECSIP, 502 cases involving multiple registrations have been referred to Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) for further investigation by SIEC to assess whether these cases constitute an electoral offence.

The project prepared draft guidelines on candidate nomination articulating electronic nomination form's structure and on spot verification process of candidates contributing to the development of specifications for a nomination web-based application. This guideline outlined the relevant areas of the nomination process of the new Electoral Act.

A revision of the art-work print test on polling kits was conducted and approved for the final production. The ink was tested by the independent lab and results confirmed the required concentration of silver nitrate. All election materials are expected to be delivered in Honiara from mid-January to mid-February 2019.

Capacity building support to women political leadership

Improved knowledge resulted from a four-day training organised for 35 women leaders including few aspiring candidates for national election. The participants improved their knowledge on democracy, leadership, electoral legal framework, provincial government, gender and women empowerment, confidence building and public speaking, etc. This training was built on the achievements of the four-day National Women's Leadership Workshop organised by SECSIP in August 2018 which was attended by national and international women leaders from the Pacific region.



Participants presenting their group work during the Training of Trainer.
Photo credits: UNDP Solomon Islands

Voter Education and Awareness

- Face-to-face awareness activities: Tefila, a SECSIP grantee, reached over 1,600 people (455 female) through face-to-face awareness activities conducted in Auki of Malaita.

- Given the importance of face-to-face awareness activities, proposals from Tefilla, Stages of Change (SOC), Hearts of Hope and Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women (GPCW) were being reviewed for extending their contracts to conduct these activities further in 11 Constituencies of Malaita, Choiseul and Guadalcanal provinces. Extension of contract period was issued for Transparency Solomon Islands (TSI) to use the unspent fund till December 2018 based on their justification.

- SECSIP graduate support to the Political Parties Commission (PPC) was instrumental to reach out 963 people in five provinces for raising awareness on the “Role of Political Parties in our Parliamentary Democracy and Government”. These awareness activities were conducted from 5 to 31 December 2018.
- Cost efficient radio programme capacity has been enhanced due to procurement of recording equipment and in-house production. The project identified, procured and funded this equipment for the electoral office in the amount of SBD 100,000. Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) aired 4 weekly radio programmes produced using this equipment in December.
- The project helped prepare and broadcast 4 press releases respectively on “informing of the public hearings process”, “checklist of claims”, “not to do campaign outside the campaign period”, and “progress on the compilation of final voter list”.

II. Plans for the next period

- Lessons learned workshop with civil society organisations (CSOs) in Honiara.
- Extension of micro-grants agreements with CSOs to continue implementing face-to-face awareness activities.
- Recruitment of international training consultant for women candidate school.
- Development of resource centre for women candidate in three 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

- On 10 December, a Sub-Working Group Meeting (SWG-3) on Electoral Support took place where the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) provided an update on its progress in preparation of the elections for a new Federal Parliament by the end of 2020.
- From 9 to 12 December, the NIEC conducted a joint workshop with national stakeholders on modalities for establishing

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Sub-Working Group Meeting (SWG-3) on Electoral Support – 2019 plan

On 10 December, preceding the Pillar Working Group on Inclusive Politics (PWG-1), the Sub Working Group on Elections (SWG-3) held its last meeting in 2018, co-chaired by the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) and the United Kingdom (UK), and attended by representatives from the NIEC, European Union (EU), Sweden, UK, USAID, UNDP/UNSOM and other international stakeholders. The NIEC provided an update on its progress in preparation of the elections for a new Federal Parliament by the end of 2020, the country's first 'universal suffrage' elections in half a century. IESG presented to the Board an outline of its

budget and support to the NIEC in 2019. Mid-2019, stock will be taken on the status of the electoral law, the NIEC mapping exercise of potential voter registration sites, and the development of a voter registration plan.



Partners discussing with NIEC cooperation and implementation of electoral strategic plan. NIEC workshop 9-12 December, Mogadishu.
Photo credits: NIEC

NIEC workshop on building partnership for elections

From 9 to 12 December, the NIEC conducted a joint workshop with national stakeholders on modalities for establishing effective partnerships for implementing the NIEC Strategic Plan. The workshop was attended by the civil society organisations and other Somali electoral stakeholders. The workshop was conducted in two phases. The first phase focused on the capacities of the NIEC in managing partnerships, identified potential partners for implementation of the NIEC’s electoral operations plan, and designed tools for engagement to assist NIEC with managing these partnerships. The second phase reviewed the NIEC’s stakeholders map, developed a shared understanding of the NIEC’s strategic direction, and looked at joint work plans with local partners, based on the NIEC’s Strategic Plan.



IESG facilitating workshop on GIS mapping to identify voter registration locations in Somalia. Mogadishu, December 2018.
Photo credits: NIEC

NIEC opens first field office in Puntland

The NIEC has recruited field staff and is looking for office space to open its first field office in Puntland. Over the next months, the NIEC will open state offices in all the Federal Member States of Somalia. These offices will spearhead the Commission's electoral operations at state level.

II. Plans for the next period

N/A

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



ZAMBIA

Public Relations Department of the Commission

SUPPORT TO THE ZAMBIA ELECTORAL CYCLE

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 10 December, a group of civil society organisations signed a charter of cooperation for a coordinated framework on domestic election observation in Zambia.
- Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) staff attended capacity development activities on monitoring and evaluation from 05-07 December, and on information systems audit on 17-21 December.
- The project operationally closed on 31 December 2018.

I. Project activities during the reporting period

Domestic Observation Framework: On 10 December, a group of civil society organisations signed a charter of cooperation for a coordinated framework on domestic election observation in Zambia. This represented the outcome of a series of activities supported by the project during 2018 and implemented in partnership with the Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) for domestic observer groups and other CSOs to consider mechanisms for collaborative, sustainable engagement throughout the electoral cycle. The charter affirms the commitment of these CSOs as the Domestic Election Monitoring and Observation Group to their ‘collective willingness to improving the electoral process in Zambia for effective participation of all stakeholders and improved electoral integrity’ and aims to establish a set of principles and guidelines on election monitoring

for forthcoming elections. The constituent members intend to operationalise the charter in 2019 in light of the review of electoral legislation and preparations for 2021 general elections.

Capacity Development for ECZ: The project provided technical and financial support to the conduct of a Monitoring and Evaluation Planning Workshop on 05 to 07 December. Facilitated by project staff, this introduced the ECZ Public Relations Department to concepts of monitoring and evaluation, translated the concepts into practice, and worked with the team to embed a monitoring and evaluation component within the Department's three-year work plan. In addition, the project supported the training of three ECZ staff in Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), a globally recognised ISACA programme that promotes good practices in ICT governance through audit controls for information systems. The five-day training took place from 17 to 21 December, and provided tools to assess systems vulnerabilities, institute controls and report on compliance to assure the security and integrity of the large volumes of information that drive a business enterprise.

Stakeholder Consultations on the Public Order Act: The project supported the Ministry of Justice, together with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Zambia Law Development Commission, in convening a targeted consultation with the Zambia Police Service on the Public Order Act from 19–21 December. This followed a two-week programme of public consultations on the Act that took place at provincial level in October, and specifically aimed to seek feedback from the Police Service on issues raised during the provincial consultations from their own perspective. The consultations are part of a government process of review of applicable legislation leading up to 2021 general elections, to which the project has been providing ongoing support, with a specific focus on ensuring broad-based and inclusive stakeholder consultations.

II. Plans for the next period

- Further refinement of future programming interventions for incorporation into a final draft project document for future electoral cycle support.
- ECZ preparations for by-elections scheduled for 12 February 2019 in one parliamentary constituency and eight local government wards.

For more information on the Support to the Zambia Electoral Cycle, please contact the project's manager Ms. Katie Green, katherine.green@undp.org.



ZIMBABWE

 UNDP Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT (ZIM-ECO)

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO) focuses on developing the institutional and organizational capacity of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) to meet its Constitutional mandate. The project provides technical assistance to voter registration process to promote its credibility and inclusiveness, strengthens election dispute resolution mechanism, fosters gender mainstreaming during the electoral cycle and promotes participation of women, youth and people with disabilities in the electoral process. For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- ZIM-ECO project has been providing support in key capacity building and institutional strengthening areas of election operations including planning, review processes, knowledge management, polling process, Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), training requirements in pre-election, 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: Annual work planning process for 2019 was completed indicating the actions and activities to be supported by the UNDP ZIM-ECO project and other Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) partners including the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA). An integrated approach has been adopted to ensure synergy in programming, avoiding duplication and maximizing technical support from technical assistance partners. The Technical Working Group has endorsed the work plan and it will be approved in the Project Board meeting planned for January 2019.

Comparative analysis of the observer reports: A detailed comparative analysis of the observer reports has been undertaken to collate the observations and recommendations across areas of legal framework, election administration, election environment, public outreach & stakeholder consultation, inclusivity and media coverage. This analysis will be shared with ZEC and development partners to ensure that areas of new programming are developed, and the recommendations are followed up.

ZEC internal post-election review: The post-election review process continued and targeted consultation with Disabled People Organisation (DPO) was organised from 03-05 December 2018. Participation of the People with Disabilities (PWDs) in the electoral process was discussed in depth and the issues, challenges and constraints that they face. It was clear from the data shared by ZEC that only 29,803 were registered for the 2018 elections and it needs to be analysed to determine the number of PWDs who polled their votes. According to the Ministry of Health and UNICEF estimates, Zimbabwe has a prevalence of 7% PWDs in the population. Based on an estimated total population of 13 million this translates to over 900,000 individuals with at least 450,000 eligible voters¹. This shows that many PWDs remain disenfranchised in the electoral process.

Key recommendations made include legal reforms to align the domestic laws with international and regional instruments on PWDs; ZEC to develop electoral disability policy and set up a disability desk/focal person within ZEC structures; need for a joint steering committee to facilitate capacity building of DPOs and ZEC and to have quarterly meetings between ZEC, National Disability Board and DPOs representatives, empower PWDs to participate in elections, design electoral materials including voter education materials in accessible formats and language.

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

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

Strengthening the capacity of ZEC data centre: A review of the existing ZEC data centre revealed need of increasing the storage capacity of ZEC data centre as the current storage has been consumed by the voter registration data of 5.69 million voters. Additional data storage was procured delivered to ZEC, training of the ZEC staff on optimal utilisation of the data storage in planned in January 2019.

II. Plans for the next period

- Approval of the 2019 Annual Work Plan;
- Develop concept note and Terms of Reference (TORs) for election training;
- Strategize on partnerships with universities to promote youth participation;

¹ Living conditions among disabled people, a study by M/O Health and UNICEF in 2013.

- Developing TORs for review of voter education materials and manuals;
- Discussions on development of a sustainable voter registration process.

For more information on the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO), please contact the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Mr. Azhar Malik, azhar.malik@undp.org and visit the project's [website](#).