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



EC-UNDP

1 - 31 May, 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
Afghanistan	UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP)	DCI-ASIE/2015/368-884	€ 15,500,000.00	29.12.15	31.12.19
Central African Republic	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
Lebanon	Support to Electoral Reform and Democratic Participation in Lebanon (LEAP)	ENI/2019/431-399	€ 3,000,000.00	01.01.20	31.12.23
Liberia	Support to the 2015-2018 Liberian Electoral Cycle	FED/2015/367-723	€ 10,000,000.00	01.06.15	31.05.20
Libya	Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)	ICSP/2018/395-667	€ 5,000,000.00	01.11.17	01.11.20
Malawi	Malawi Electoral Cycle Support: 2017-2019 (MECS)	2017/389-162	€ 3,355,817.27	11.10.17	30.06.20
Tunisia	Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project (TEAP)	ENI/2019/405-945	€ 2,000,000.00	01.07.19	30.06.21
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Capacity Building Project (ZIM-ECO)	FED/2016/380-895	€ 5,590,000.00	01.09.16	30.08.20



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.



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



LIBERIA

Election Project/UNDP Liberia

SUPPORT TO THE 2015 – 2018 LIBERIAN ELECTORAL CYCLE

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Election Project supported the National Election Commission (NEC) with technical advice on the scenario planning regarding the organisation of the Special Senatorial Elections (SSE) and Referendum that may be postponed from October to December due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the government's decision is pending.
- The work on rehabilitation of 12 NEC magisterial warehouses supported by the Project continued, however, slowed down due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- The formulation of the new electoral assistance project is ongoing remotely through online consultations with stakeholders due to COVID-19.

Project's activities during the reporting period

Preparation for the upcoming electoral cycle

COVID-19 restrictions have continued in Liberia with the State of Emergency imposed until 8 June 2020. As of 31 May, Liberia had 296 cumulative confirmed cases. The curfew has been eased and

is now in place from 6am till 6pm. The staff of the National Election Commission (NEC) started to return to their workplace, with precautions, such as social distancing and obligatory wearing of the masks, remaining in place. NEC has held a meeting with the National Health Authorities and is working towards the establishment of protocols for the upcoming electoral activities.

On 6 May, NEC issued a statement that the Special Senatorial Elections (SSE) and Referendum could not be held as scheduled on 13 October 2020, due to COVID-19 global pandemic. At the same time, NEC has submitted a technical analysis to the Government and the Legislature proposing an alternative timeline for December 2020, considering constitutional, legal and technical issues. The Legislature held hearings with variety of stakeholders, including political parties and civil society organisations (CSOs) to determine the new date. The Election Project has supported NEC with technical advice on the scenario planning.

Meanwhile, NEC received 300,000 USD from the Government to start advancing electoral operations. Recast of remaining election budget is under negotiation; NEC is undertaking a further revision of the 2020 election budget. The work has started on the development of Referendum symbols, planning for civic and voter education, and servicing of equipment for the upcoming voter roll update. With the Project support, NEC also embarked on the assessment of the 2,080 voting precincts and the procurement of the ICT materials to enhance infrastructural security of the Data Center, building upon the recommendations from the ICT assessment commissioned by the Project. With advice by the Project, the ICT department also developed a Data Center Access Policy, and the Maintenance Policy (pending approval of the NEC Board) to ensure adequate protocols and asset management.

Rehabilitation of NEC magisterial warehouses

The work on rehabilitation of 12 NEC magisterial warehouses supported by the Project continues, however, slowed down due to the COVID-19 restrictions. While 2 sites (Vonjama and Kolahun) have completed the work, other sites will only finish in June/July (three months later than originally planned). The completion of the rehabilitation works is key to enhance security and maintenance of electoral materials for the upcoming voter roll update and elections.

UNDP electoral assistance project

The EU Financing Decision with the Government came to an end on 31 May 2020, which was supposed to bring the Election Project equally to its end. UNDP has liaised with the EU to seek options for extension, which were, nevertheless, not available in a short timeframe. Following a careful evaluation of the situation, UNDP has informed the EU on 7 May 2020 that it decided to suspend its activities under the Delegation Agreement with the EU. UNDP has requested the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to authorise extension of the Project until the end of July, with UNDP budget only.

The formulation of the new electoral assistance project document is underway. Hampered by COVID-19 restrictions, the consultations with stakeholders could only take place remotely, nevertheless, revealed unified stance on areas necessitating support. The project document is being co-created with partners within the larger Governance Portfolio and SDG-16 approach, and with support from the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance and Regional Bureau for Africa. The first focus group discussion with international development partners should take place in the coming weeks, also to solicit support to the upcoming 2020 to 2024 electoral assistance in Liberia. In parallel, the external evaluation of the Support to Liberia Electoral Cycle Project 2015-2018 (extended till 2020) is ongoing.

Plans for the next period

- Support to onboarding training for the new NEC Board of Commissioners;
- Completion of the assessment of voting precincts;
- Installation of equipment procured with Project support in the Data Center;
- Handover of two completed NEC magisterial warehouses;
- Completion of remaining 10 warehouses;
- Completion of Project evaluation;
- Finalisation of draft Project Document.

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



 LIBYA

 Iason Athanasiadis,
UNSMIL, 2014

PROMOTING ELECTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA (PEPOL)

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- The UN electoral support team (UNEST) developed an operational guidance document for the High National Election Commission (HNEC) of Libya with considerations for election planning and implementation during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Project's activities during the reporting period

Operational guidance paper for planning of elections in period of COVID-19 epidemic

In May, the UN electoral support team (UNEST) developed an operational guidance document for the High National Election Commission (HNEC) to assist the Commission with considerations for election planning and implementation in case Libya would call for elections or referendum as long as the COVID-19 epidemic is a threat. The guidance document touches upon the impact of the pandemic and

how this can affect different aspects of electoral planning and implementation. It provides input and thoughts for the Commission to guarantee the safety of voters, stakeholders and staff while ensuring that key electoral principles remain in place. Electoral policies, procedures, practices were reviewed through the angle of COVID-19 risks and related health care measures that have been imposed accordingly. It includes lessons learnt from other countries that organised elections in the recent past period when they were facing the pandemic. It is recommended that health organisations become a new major stakeholder of HNEC during the planning and implementation of all electoral processes which require people to interact physically and/or in great numbers. The document has been shared with the Commission. The team plans to discuss the processes further in detail with the different sections of HNEC.

Plans for the next period

- HNEC and UNDP discussed the possibility of organising a Project Board Meeting at the end of June to discuss the current electoral context, upcoming plans and resource requirements for the continuation of the project.
- 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 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.

N/A

For 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 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 Electoral Support Project continues to support the Election Commission remotely with its stakeholder engagement and the development of strategies and tools.

Project's activities during the reporting period

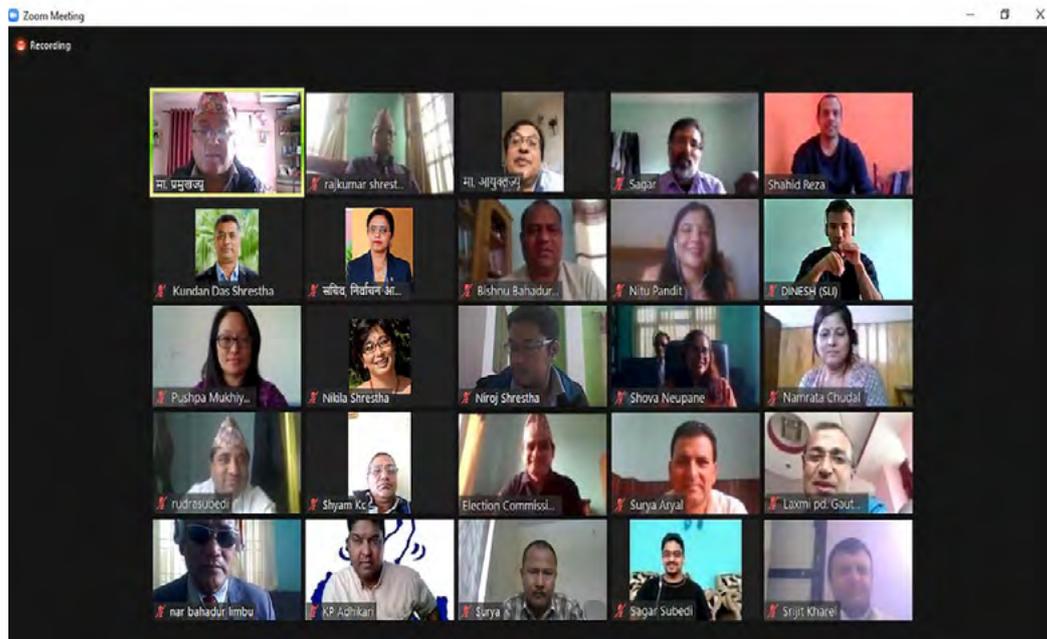
The complete lockdown, implemented across Nepal since 24 March to prevent the spread of COVID-19, continued throughout the months of April and May. While the Electoral Support Project (ESP) contributed to the work of UNDP and its partners to respond to the crisis, it also continued supporting the electoral process in Nepal.

ESP provided assistance to the Election Commission of Nepal for work to continue during the lockdown. Using a Zoom license supplied by the project, the Commission was able to maintain communications across departments and with field offices to work on documents and plans. The Commission and ESP also reviewed and further developed documents, strategies and tools that were initiated by ESP.

These included:

- a review of the 30 November by-elections and the resulting recommendations;

- a guideline and software for political parties to assess their compliance with legal obligations;
- a mobile application to deliver civic and voter education, which was presented to District Election Officers from all 77 districts in Nepal;
- the Commission’s social media strategy; and
- a study on including electoral content into the work of training institutions.



Moreover, on 31 May, the Election Commission conducted its first virtual meeting with electoral stakeholders. Four partner organisations, the Nepal Association of the Blind, the National Federation of the Deaf Nepal, the women journalist organisation Sancharika Samuha and the Shikharapur Community Learning Centre shared the lessons and recommendations from the 2019 field-level activities that ESP had supported. The meeting strengthened the partnership with the Election Commission and saw the Chief Election Commissioner reiterate the Commission’s commitment to inclusive elections.

The project also completed the compilation of the court cases of the 2017 elections, which it prepared for publication in a book form.

Plans for the next period

In response to the request of the Government of Nepal for continued UN electoral assistance, UNDP Nepal decided to extend the Electoral Support Project until 31 October 2020, a decision that is expected to be endorsed in a project board meeting scheduled for 10 June. As well as producing the final report for the EU contribution, the project expects to continue supporting the Election Commission remotely on conceptual work. The engagement in June should cover three additional products: a new monitoring and evaluation framework for the Commission’s strategic plan, a new voter and civic education policy and an update to the Commission’s gender equality and social inclusion policy.

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](#).



UNDP/UNSOM JOINT PROGRAMME FOR SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

The overall strategic objective of the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme for “Support to the Electoral Process to the Federal Republic of Somalia” is to prepare the country for universal elections through institutional capacity development of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), the development of the legal framework for elections, and support to promote better understanding of electoral processes.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) handed over new Data Centre building to the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC).
- The NIEC has designed a tool to map the potential locations of the voter registration and polling sites.

Project's activities during the reporting period

IESG hands over new Data Centre building to NIEC

The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) /UNDP Elections Project provided support for the construction of a Data Centre at the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) compound in Mogadishu. Construction began on 28 October 2019 and was completed in mid-May 2020. The keys to the Data Centre was handed over to NIEC on 28 May 2020. Financial support of USD 835,922 was provided through the Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) for the Electoral Support Programme (Donors: Germany, EU,

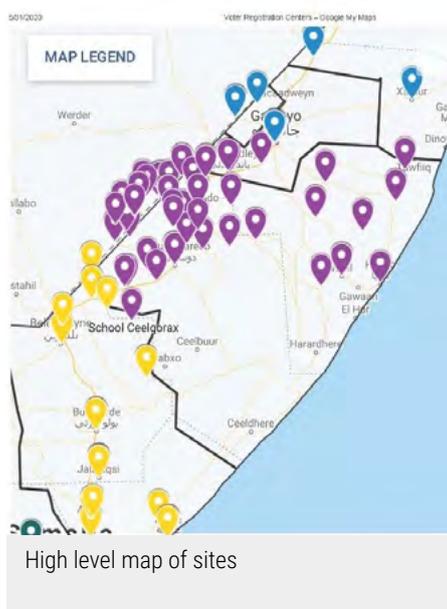
DFID, SIDA, Norway, USAID and UNDP). The Data Centre is part of a range of infrastructure assistance including ongoing construction of a hard wall warehouse with support of United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)/ United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) and the construction of an Electoral Dispute Resolution Centre with support provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

NIEC to make presentation to Parliament on holding parliamentary elections

The NIEC was due to make a presentation to Parliament on 27 May on their operational plan to implement the electoral law and hold federal parliamentary elections. However, on 21 May, Parliament requested the NIEC to delay their presentation until 27 June 2020. The Speakers of Parliament informed NIEC that Parliament will resume work on 6 June following which the Ad Hoc Committee will present their report for debate and adoption. This will be followed by the amendments to the Political Parties Law which requires approval of the Parliament. NIEC will then be in a position to deliver their report on holding the elections. Elections are due to be held in the last quarter of 2020. The delay will likely impact the electoral timelines.

NIEC Google mapping tool for voter registration and polling sites

The NIEC has adapted a Google Maps application to be used as a tool to map the potential locations of the voter registration and polling sites. The mapping tool allows the user to have a high-level view of the sites and then be able to zoom in to view each site and its surrounding buildings, roads and other features and see them on the map and with a satellite image. The intention is for the security planners to use the tool to match their forces to sites and refine the lists of the voter registration and polling sites to those that they are confident can be secured and protected. This tool has particular benefits for planning during the current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on movement and assembly. The mapping tool is owned by the NIEC who will grant access to selected users through a password protection system.



High level map of sites



High level map of sites

International Assistance Partners Group established

NIEC, in collaboration with IESG, established the International Assistance Partners Group which will meet every month to discuss progress on implementation of assistance to NIEC. The purpose of the group is to ensure coherence in support, complementarity and avoid duplication of effort among the partners providing technical assistance support to the NIEC.

Five sub/working groups have been formed to take forward complementary support activities focused on specific thematic areas such as: gender mainstreaming, public outreach and communications, political party liaison, security, and capacity-building/institutional strengthening & professional development. The Political Party working group held its first meeting on 14 May. This group will be co-chaired by the NIEC Political Parties Registrar and the USAID's Bringing Unity, Integrity and Legitimacy to Democracy (BUILD) BUILD/International Republican Institute (IRI). The Gender working group held their first meeting on 19 May with gender electoral assistance providers, co-chaired by NIEC Gender advisor and UNWOMEN. It is expected that the other working groups will be fully established in June.

COVID-19 and impact on electoral cycle

IESG provided daily technical support to NIEC staff across the broad spectrum of electoral activities, using the teleconferencing tools such as WebEx, Zoom and Microsoft Teams to facilitate meetings. IESG in collaboration with NIEC, prepared a number of documents in both English and Somali for the NIEC's Board of Commissioners consideration. These documents include:

- Coronavirus Policy and Coronavirus Protocol;
- Business Continuity Policy, Business Continuity Plan and Business Continuity Checklist;
- Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures;
- Questions & Answers on COVID-19;
- Various reporting templates.

NIEC holds virtual ceremony for temporary registration of new political parties

On 9 May, six new political parties were registered, which brings the total number of temporarily registered parties to 84. One of the six newly registered parties is led by a woman who is an activist for the minority communities. The Political Parties Registrar and his staff held the certification ceremony through teleconferencing when awarding the certificates of registration to the parties. NIEC has quickly adopted to the new way of working virtually. The NIEC plans to conduct extensive online outreach meetings with political parties as part of their oversight responsibilities and to build on the relationship.

II. Plans for the next period

- Support to NIEC in preparation for their presentation to Parliament on implementing elections;
- Support review and implementation of NIEC governance framework and related internal policies;
- Support online personal and professional development for NIEC staff;
- Procurement of equipment and furniture and provision of staff support to National Electoral Security Task Force (NESTF) Secretariat.

For more information on the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme, please contact Mary Cummins, 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 Ms. Tafadzwa Muringi, tafadzwa.muringi@undp.org, and visit the project's [website](#).