

Elections are fundamental political processes and are a critical (albeit insufficient) element of **democratic governance**. Yet, elections that reflect the will of the people (and are also popularly perceived as doing so) depend on far more than the technical administration of electoral operations on polling day.

Rather, the **credibility** of elections is dependent on a complex interplay of electoral **laws, systems, institutions** and **processes** that transcend any election event. Focusing in a sustained manner on this range of processes, capacities and entry points – rather than the election per se – is known as the electoral cycle approach.

GPECS II allows for earmarked and unearmarked contributions and features a mechanism that allows donor contributions to be channeled to specific countries and features a fast-track mechanism to fund these electoral processes in very short timeframes.

GPECS II will provide for bridge financing before more sizeable contributions are received by donors. Channeling funding for national electoral processes through **GPECS II** will, moreover, provide the added benefit of linking country-level support to global and regional lessons learned and policies and vice versa. This promotes and reinforces the overall coherence and quality control of electoral assistance. A Steering Committee will govern the strategic direction of **GPECS II** and the allocation of country funds.

The total project budget is expected to be **USD \$35 million** for a period of **three years** (2015 -2017). **GPECS II** will be led from UNDP headquarters in New York to ensure synergies with other UN entities and further areas of governance and peacebuilding, especially those focusing on inclusive political processes.

ADDRESS

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GPECS II

Global Project
for Electoral Cycle Support II



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Global Project for
Electoral Cycle
Support
Phase II, 2015-2017

UNDP works in more than **170 countries** and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion.

UNDP ensures inclusive and **effective democratic governance** by bringing together its ability to advocate, advice, foster impartial spaces for dialogue, achieve consensus and build institutions. UNDP helps governance institutions in countries bring **constitutional reforms, organize credible elections, strengthen parliaments** and **address policy** and **institutional options for peace**, risk-reduction and development through **reconciliation, empowerment** and **inclusion**.

This means that UNDP's policy advice, technical support and advocacy must be aimed at one end result: **sustainable improvements** in people's lives and in the choices and opportunities open to them.

In 2009, UNDP launched the first-ever global project in electoral assistance – the **Global Programme for Electoral Cycle Support** (GPECS – 2009 - 2014). GPECS has focused on capacity development during the electoral cycle and provided direct support to the electoral institutions and processes in **15 countries** worldwide. It has contributed to significant improvements in the UN's policy and applied practice in electoral assistance in all regions and in promoting gender mainstreaming in electoral processes and institutions.

One of the most successful features of GPECS has been its ability to be the 'first on the ground' by using a rapid response, fast-track mechanism to request and approve country-level electoral support and also funding through a Quick Intervention Fund for gender and elections. Because funding for all activities were already in the pipeline, GPECS was able to evaluate expressions of interest and assign spending limits to country offices within days of being made aware of needs. This greatly improved the UN's ability to react quickly to emerging priorities, while also ensuring that funds go both to support specific elections and to enhance longer-term electoral institutions and processes.

GPECS Phase II (2015 - 2017) continues the successful approach of GPECS I in order to strengthen the electoral laws, institutions and processes that deepen democracy and accelerate human development. The project seeks to accomplish this goal by:

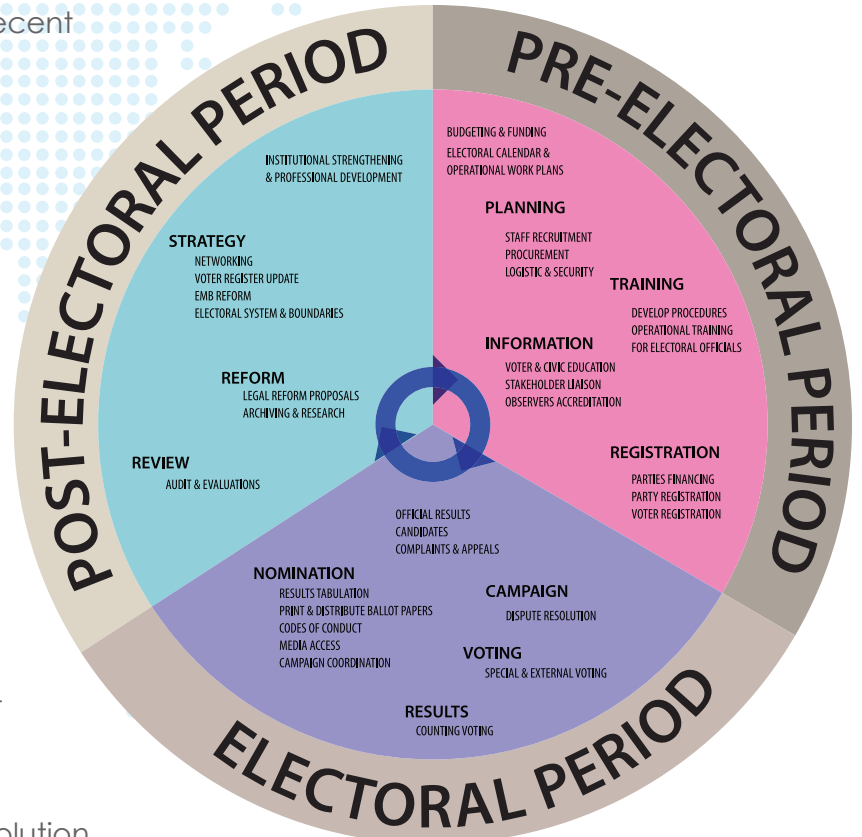
1. Providing leadership, advocacy and capacity development in the field of electoral cycle support at the global level;
2. Supporting peer cooperation and promoting regional knowledge development, exchanges and capacity; and
3. Supporting electoral cycle interventions and lessons learned at the national level.
4. Mainstreaming gender in electoral assistance and promoting women's political participation.

FOUR
Components



GPECS II builds on the successes and achievements of GPECS I as well as lessons learned in recent evaluations and studies examining the UNDP electoral assistance portfolio, and concentrates activity in those areas that have proven to be highly strategic and yielding high-quality results. The four pillars – **global, gender, regional and national** – will be inter-dependent and mutually reinforcing.

Globally, GPECS II concentrates on cutting-edge knowledge products that advance the electoral cycle approach in identified gap areas such as civil and voter registration registries, the application of new technologies, and identity management in the biometric age, political party registration and finance regulation, and electoral risk assessment and dispute resolution.



The project will support UNDP's efforts to better integrate electoral assistance into other areas of governance. At the regional level, GPECS II will focus on the exchange of good practices, per networking and knowledge creation and dissemination in all regions—**Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe** and **CIS and Latin America and the Caribbean**.

The gender work will take gender responsive electoral assistance to the next level, and engage with multiple global and regional organizations, which share similar objectives and mandates.