Introduction:
The elections for the National Congress in 2012 and the Constitutional Drafting Assembly in 2014 were critical milestones in Libya’s transition to full democratic rule, and represented a significant achievement for Libyans. As the country moves forward in its transition, several additional electoral events are expected, requiring further action by lawmakers and Libya’s High National Elections Commission as well as continuing engagement by voters, candidates, political parties, observers, media, government ministries and security forces.

UN electoral assistance in Libya is delivered by an integrated team comprising resources from United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and UNDP LEAP, operating under the overall leadership of UNSMIL. Assistance is provided in accordance with the mandate contained in UN Security Council Resolution 2095 (2013). UNEST works in close cooperation with other international assistance providers and international partners active in the electoral sector in Libya.

Project objective:
Support to electoral operations
For both electoral processes, UNDP LEAP provided operational support in the form of procurement and delivery of essential materials for polling, including ballots, ballot boxes, voting screens, polling kits, training materials and indelible ink. UNDP LEAP was ready to provide support to areas such as out of country voting operations. Finally, specialists in highly technical and specialised areas such as ballot design were identified and delivered by UNDP LEAP.

Support to strengthening legal and institutional capacity to conduct elections
Directly following the appointment of the HNEC Board of Commissioners in March 2012, UNDP through the LEAP project supported targeted professional development activities. The following year, HNEC was established as a permanent, independent body, enabling it to extend its capacity to administer elections.

UNDP LEAP as part of wider UN electoral assistance provides technical assistance to HNEC to assist it in strengthening its capacity in identified areas of electoral administration, both through day-to-day mentoring and structured capacity development opportunities. A coterie of between six and eleven LEAP advisors provide advice and training in areas such as legal planning, field operations, logistics, procedures, training, data management, external relations, public awareness, security liaison, candidate and party liaison.

At the end of 2013, feedback from HNEC indicated that staff felt increasingly confident in their roles. Additionally, during the 2013-14 CDA election HNEC acted on nearly two-thirds of observer recommendations from the first election in 2012, evidence of clear determination to deliver transparent, credible elections that reflect the will of Libyan voters.

Facts:

| Project budget(2012-14) | USD 31,848,693 |
| Unfunded resources     | USD 1,719,816   |
| Delivery 2013          | USD 17,048,059  |
| Donor                  | Australia, Denmark, Japan, Libya, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom |
| Start date             | 5 March 2012    |
| End date               | 31 December 2014|
| Location               | Nationwide      |
| Partners               | UNSMIL          |
| Key national counterparts | HNEC           |

Knowledge and awareness on critical electoral issues
UNDP LEAP engages decision- and opinion-makers on topics of relevance for the development of strong
electoral institutions and processes through conferences, forums, workshops and roundtables in Libya and abroad. Topics addressed between 2012 and 2014 included electoral administration, electoral systems and voter registration models, out of country voting, women in elections and the role of media in elections. In 2013 alone, UNDP LEAP reached over 600 decision-makers and opinion-formers on these topics (including 30 per cent women).

**Project Strategy:**

UNDP through the Libya Electoral Assistance Project (LEAP) assists Libyan authorities to strengthen their legal and institutional capacities to conduct credible elections through the transitional period and beyond. It provides operational support to the High National Elections Commission through the procurement of electoral materials as well as day-to-day mentoring and structured capacity development opportunities, assisting the institution to consolidate and extend its capacity to conduct successive electoral events. UNDP LEAP also assists a variety of Libyan actors in their efforts to establish strong electoral practices in the country, by working with partners to generate dialogue on critical electoral issues.

**Future support**

UNDP plans to continue supporting the electoral sector in an integrated fashion as Libyan authorities implement the remaining stages of Libya’s transition. Areas of assistance envisaged are consistent with those areas in which UNDP LEAP is already engaged, notably operational and technical support to the implementation of electoral events as called for in Libya’s transitional roadmap; further strengthening of HNEC’s capacity to administer successive credible electoral events in manner this is consistent with the principles of electoral administration; development of skills and knowledge in complementary players such as the media and civil society; and promotion of awareness and knowledge on key electoral issues as lawmakers move forward with the development of the electoral legal framework governing future electoral institutions and processes in Libya.

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**Key beneficiary**

The beneficiary of the project is HNEC.

- Professional development of electoral authorities delivered through advice and mentoring by complement of embedded international advisors.
- Electoral materials essential to the conduct of 2012 and 2014 elections successful procured, including ballots, ballot boxes, polling kits, and indelible ink.
- Cultivation of knowledge amongst key decision makers in areas such as: electoral administration, electoral systems, voter registration models, out of country voting, women’s role in elections and the role of media.
- Internationally-accepted principles of electoral administration increasingly reflected in law.
- Provision in electoral legal framework for component groups and vulnerable groups.

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