**About the Project**

**Project Title:** Electoral Support Project - Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development Support for the Election Commission of Nepal - Phase II

**Award ID:** 00049636

**Web link:** [www.np.undp.org](http://www.np.undp.org)

**Geographic coverage of the project**

- **National level coverage (Yes/No):** Yes
- **Number of Regions covered:** 5
- **Number of Districts Covered:** 75

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**Strategic Results**

**UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome:** Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance

**UNDP Strategic Plan Output:** Parliaments, constitution making bodies and electoral institutions enabled to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation and representation, including for peaceful transitions

**UNDAF Outcome:** Institutions, systems and processes of democratic governance are more accountable, effective, efficient and inclusive

**UNDAF/CPAP Output:** Election Commission of Nepal has the capacity to conduct credible, inclusive and transparent elections at national, provincial, and local levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Duration (day/month/year)</th>
<th>Implementing Partner(s)</th>
<th>Implementation Modality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start Date: 12 January 2012</td>
<td>1. Election Commission of Nepal</td>
<td>DIM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Date: 12 January 2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project Budget (US$)**

- **Total Project Budget:** 24,630,000
- **Total Project Expenditure till 2016:** 20,147,917
- **Budget 2016:** 4,130,000
- **Expenditure 2016:** 3,907,147
- **Budget Utilization % (2016):** 94.60

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**Signature:** [Signature]

**Name:** Vincent da Cruz  
**CTA and Project Manager**

**Date:** 30.05.2017

**Signature:** [Signature]

**Name:** Renald Meyer  
**Country Director**

**Date:** 09/06/2014
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Annex 1: Financial Statement
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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2016, ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT

Acronyms

AWP  Annual Work Plan
BRIDGE  Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
CA  Constituent Assembly
CPAP  Country Programme Action Plan
DPA  Department of Political Affairs
ECN  Election Commission of Nepal
EDR  Election Dispute Resolution
EEIC  Electoral Education and Information Centre
EEVs  Electoral Education Volunteers
ESP  Electoral Support Project
FPTP  First-Past-the-Post
GE/SI  Gender Equality, Women’s Empowerment and Social Inclusion
GIS  Geographic Information System
GPS  Global Positioning System
HLPC  High Level Political Committee
IEC  Interim Election Committee
IFES  International Foundation for Electoral Systems
IDEA  Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
JEOC  Joint Election Operation Centre
MRToT  Master’s Regional Training of Trainers
NPI  Nepal Press Institute
PEB  Project Executive Board
PR  Proportional Representation
PSA  Public Service Announcement
RC  Resident Coordinator
SAARC  South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
UNDAF  United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UCPN (M)  United Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
VR  Voter Registration
Executive Summary

The prime focus of the Electoral Support Project (ESP) in 2016 was to assist the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) in its preparations to conduct credible, inclusive and participatory local, provincial and federal elections. The Constitution of Nepal envisions organizing all three tiers of elections by January 2018.

With technical assistance (TA) of ESP, ECN delivered the following key results this year:

- An additional 531,546 citizens of 16 years and above were registered on the biometric voters’ roll in 2016, accumulating a total of 13.8 million citizens. An additional 2.9 million citizens have been registered since the beginning of the project starting 2013.

- The mobile Electoral Education and Information Center (EEIC) was launched, through which the ECN was able to reach out to citizens residing in remote parts of Nepal. An additional 4,288 citizens, particularly youth and first time voters, were sensitized on democracy and elections through EEIC, accumulating a total citizen sensitized to 26,288. The EEIC was established in 2012.

- A three-year Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Action Plan was endorsed by the ECN that outlines its institutional priorities to empower women and vulnerable group throughout the electoral cycle.

- In order to enhance voters’ meaningful participation in future elections, the ECN reached out to almost 6 million citizens through print and electronic media sensitizing citizens about elections, electoral provisions in the new constitution and democracy.

- In order to make the electoral process more inclusive and in line with the principle of leaving no one behind, targeted programmes were organized for visually impaired citizens, people with hearing disability and senior citizens.

- A total of 607 Social Studies teachers benefited from trainings on “elections and democracy.” These trained teachers shared that they were able to impart clearer message to higher secondary school students, as the theme of elections and democracy is part of high school curriculum. The ECN, with TA from ESP, has so far trained more than 1000 Social Studies teachers since 2015.

- Key knowledge products produced are as follows:
  - Training Manuals for people with hearing disability
  - Training Manual for the visually impaired
  - Training Manual on Administrative Leadership
  - Resource book on Electoral Education for Social Studies Teachers
  - “Electoral Provision in the Constitution of Nepal” Handbook in Nepali and English

The knowledge products were used as guiding documents by the ECN to conduct trainings. The "Electoral Provision in the Constitution of Nepal” handbook were published in Nepali and English and were widely distributed at national and sub-national levels to generate greater awareness among electoral stakeholders about the electoral provisions in the Constitution. These knowledge products will also be made available by ECN on its website.

- A total of 1,282 ECN officials and electoral stakeholders directly benefitted from several thematic trainings on elections, such as procurement and financial management, voter registration, and GESI. These ECN officials are engaged in strengthening systems and processes within the ECN.
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2016, ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT

For sustainability, ESP was able to increasingly institutionalize some of the key components of its assistance within the ECN programmatic areas:

- Over 95% of operational cost of EEICs was covered from the ECN budget in 2016.
- ECN started independently using GIS technology in electoral processes, capturing, storing and analysing spatial and geographical data, restating its strengthened in-house capacity on GIS and electoral mapping.
- Voter registration was undertaken by the ECN nationwide in coordination with other ministries, but with reduced technical support from ESP.
- The number of accredited and semi-accredited national BRIDGE facilitators increased to 70, reducing the need to bring in international experts to facilitate the trainings.
- ECN policy documents, particularly the Strategic Plan and its Action Plan, the GESI Policy, Strategy and Action Plan, were implemented by the ECN from the State budget and by mobilising its technical team, with partial support from ESP and other partners.

In order to review its achievements and lessons learned, UNDP conducted an independent evaluation of the Country Programme Document (2013-2017), Outcome 5 and 6, on Governance. The findings of the evaluation confirms the high relevance of ESP in enhancing the capacity of the ECN, particularly on voter registration, voter education, the conduct of elections, policy development, strategic management and institutionalization of the Electoral Education and Information Center (EEIC). The evaluation also acknowledges ESP assistance to the ECN in collaboration with other agencies that has contributed to high voters' turnout (particularly of women) in the 2013 Constituent Assembly elections. However, the evaluation report recommends institutionalizing project activities that are less technologically demanding and suggests focusing on an out of country voter registration, systematic and planned trainings and electoral financing in the future.¹

The Electoral Assistance Division of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, in collaboration with UNDP, also conducted an advisory mission to Nepal from 28 November to 2 December 2016. The prime objective of the Mission was to assess the political and electoral environment ahead of the local, provincial and federal elections, and to identify key political and technical actions that the UN system could consider taking to promote a more conducive electoral environment. Within the existing parameters of UN assistance it is recommended renewing focus on:

- Promoting the inclusion of minorities, disadvantaged groups and women in the electoral process; primarily through technical advice to the drafting of the legal and regulatory framework for the elections, including constituencies’ boundaries delimitation as well as to civic and voter education.
- Mitigating the potential for electoral violence, through electoral assistance activities and confidence building measures aimed at promoting a conducive environment for inclusive and credible elections.
- Supporting the ECN in delegating administrative functions and establishing local offices.

The ESP will follow up on the status of recommendations made by the UN advisory mission and the outcome evaluation. The Project Executive Board members will be updated on progress in implementation of recommendations.

¹ UNDP Country Programme Document, Outcome Evaluation for Outcome 5, 2016
1. Context
The Constitution of Nepal clearly states that elections of federal, provincial and local bodies are to be held by January 2018. However, a lack of consensus among political parties on key constitutional issues prolonged the political stalemate and the conduct of the local elections that was anticipated in 2016.

The Local Level Restructuring Committee (LLRC) that was formed in early 2016 to determine a new structure of local bodies recommended 719 local bodies (village and municipal councils) to the Government. However, Madhes-based political parties expressed strong dissatisfaction over the report, demanding its revision. Six bills related to elections are tabled in the Parliament for review and endorsement.

The acting Chief Election Commissioner, Dr. Ayodhee Yadav, was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner by the President of Nepal as per the recommendation of the Constitutional Council. However, the other three vacant positions of the Election Commissioners were not filled in 2016.

Despite uncertainties on elections, the issues of policy reform, voter registration, capacity building of electoral stakeholders and its staff, and public outreach remained key priorities of the ECN in 2016.

In order to establish legitimate local governments as these have not had elected representatives for 15 years, it is most likely that the Government will announce dates for the local elections in early 2017.

![Continuous Voter Registration](image)

2. Project Summary and Objectives
UNDP assistance to ECN through ESP is provided in line with the UNDP mandate to work in developing countries in the areas of democratic governance. The Project contributes to the Strategic Development Plan of the ECN (2015-2019) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Outcome on Governance, with focus on sustainable capacity building of the ECN for conducting inclusive, credible and transparent elections. The electoral cycle approach is closely reflected and applied to the overall strategy of the ESP. The core objectives of the ESP are the following:
a. Long-term capacity building: The ESP continues to be centred on the provision of sustained institutional strengthening and professional development assistance initiatives to assist the ECN in its efforts to strengthen and enhance its own capacity to function as a permanent, professional and independent electoral management body;

b. Operational support for the upcoming series of elections: The ESP also provides immediate operational support, particularly in view of the national as well as provincial and local elections to be conducted during the project period;

c. Democratic participation: Increasing awareness of electorates on governance and electoral processes, especially of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups (women and ethnic minorities) so they can meaningfully participate prior to as well as during elections.

ESP Phase II is implemented by UNDP in collaboration with Denmark, the European Union, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UK Aids.

### Theory of Change

UNDP’s electoral assistance is geared towards establishing systems, processes and policies within the ECN for sustainable capacity building. It is based on the assumption that short-term assistance to the ECN is not adequate to bring about the systematic and sustainable institutional and professional changes that are essential for conducting credible, inclusive and transparent elections in Nepal. If long-term on-site technical and advisory assistance is provided, it is possible to build in-house capacity within ECN that is required for conducting credible elections with full national ownership and reduced international assistance.

Similarly, meaningful participation of citizens (male, female and particularly those from vulnerable communities) in electoral processes as voters and candidates is key to making the processes of democratic governance inclusive and accountable. Therefore, it is essential to enhance their level of understanding of elections, democracy and electoral processes, so they could actively participate on elections leading to higher voter turnout and reduced invalid votes.

In order to fulfill these objectives, UNDP in collaboration with other agencies will work towards sustainable institutional strengthening and professional capacity development of ECN and its officials. Assistance will be provided to the ECN in creating an enabling environment that will enhance the participation of women and vulnerable groups on electoral processes as candidates and voters.

3. Programmatic Revision

Based on the request received from the ECN on 21 September 2016 for continuation of ESP assistance for “managing electoral activities in different phases of elections,” the Project Executive Board extended the ESP until 31 January 2018. The outcome, outputs and the total budget of the project remained unchanged.

4. Key Results Achieved in 2016

4.1 Progress towards the UNDAF/CPD Outcome

**UNDAF Outcome: Institutions, systems and processes of democratic governance are more accountable, effective, efficient and inclusive**

In 2016, ESP in collaboration with other agencies continued strengthening democratic and electoral processes and systems in Nepal contributing to Sustainable Development Goals 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), 5 (Gender Equality) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

To make the future electoral processes more inclusive, the Local Self Governance Act was reviewed by the ECN from the GESI perspective, recommending 50 percent women candidacies by political parties in local bodies’ elections. Similarly, to make elected representatives and political parties more accountable, the ECN proposed the following revisions in electoral bills submitted to the Parliament for endorsement: de-registration of political parties if no annual audit was conducted, securing constitutional right by the ECN to
decide on dates for elections, so that periodic elections could be held in Nepal, either chief or deputy chief position of village council to be secured for women. Similarly, to establish an institutional mechanism to enhance participation of women and vulnerable groups in the electoral process, ECN developed the GESI Action Plan to implement its GESI Policy and Strategy. ECN also continued its efforts to sensitize voters about their electoral rights at national as well as sub-national levels giving momentum to people’s aspiration of participating in the series of upcoming elections to choose their representatives. ESP in collaboration with other stakeholders supported the ECN in its efforts to strengthen its institution and reform agenda to enhance credibility of the electoral process.

4.2 Progress on Project Outputs

**Output 1: Strengthening the capacity of the ECN to function as a permanent, independent, credible and professional institution of governance.**

Support with Strategic Planning (2015-2019)

ESP provided technical assistance to the ECN in implementation of its Strategic Plan (2015-2019), which provides clear guidance in prioritizing areas of importance based on context, lessons learned and institutional requirements. In 2016, the ECN reviewed its Five Year Strategic Plan (2015-2019) and the Two-Year Action Plan (2015-2016). The review showed that out of the 91 activities, 21 activities were fully completed, 38 activities were partially implemented and 32 activities were not started. Based on the lessons learned and recommendations from the review, a Three-Year Action Plan (2017-2019), along with the M&E Framework and estimated budget, was developed. The plan identified a total of 126 activities spread over 18 strategic goals in four pillars.

Similarly, with advisory assistance from ESP, the ECN organized a central level Annual Review Meeting where officials from the ECN headquarter and 75 District Election Offices (DEOs) participated. Based on the 18 goals set by the Five Year Strategic Plan (2015-19) and review of the progress, the ECN committed to nine-point declaration at the end of review. Through the declaration, several commitments for the upcoming year were made in line with the Constitution. The project provided technical as well as operational assistance in organizing the annual review.

During the fifth meeting of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) in 2014, it was decided to establish a regional level institute called South Asian Institute for Democracy and Electoral Studies (SAIDES) in Nepal to conduct research, exchange, documentation and consolidation of activities related to electoral learning and innovations taking place among FEMBoSA member countries. In this regard, the ESP provided TA to the ECN in developing a proposal for the establishment of the SAIDES. Once established, the institute will be an independent, autonomous and commonly owned by all EMBs of South Asia.

Support with Professional Development and Cooperation

As recommended in the mid-term review of ESP, the following interventions were carried out this year:

- Capacity building trainings on procurement and financial management were provided to the ECN officials. Seventy-six officials from the ECN headquarter and District Election Offices (DEOs) benefitted. Participants in the post-training survey shared their enhanced knowledge on current acts, policies and procedures on procurement and financial management. The main objective of this programme is to better equip the ECN officials to maintain the books of account and systematically follow the procurement act for transparency, as well as, efficiency. It is anticipated that through enhanced knowledge the ECN will be able to proceed with procurements following national mechanisms throughout the electoral cycle.

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1 List of activities fully, partially and not implemented
2 ARM declaration
ECN has started using a customized BRIDGE module on "Introduction to Electoral Administration and Management" as an induction to its new staff. Twenty-six newly appointed ECN officials and District Election Officials participated in the delivery of this module, where they were briefed about elections in general, electoral system and processes, electoral administration and management.

Support with Geographic Information and Electoral Mapping Systems

As part of handing over ESP support with GIS to the ECN, TA was provided in developing a manual for District Election Offices (DEOs) that elaborates processes for independently capturing, storing and analyzing all types of spatial and geographical data. In order to develop a manual by engaging the ECN officials, a three-day residential workshop was organized where 11 ECN senior officials, including two Joint Secretaries, participated. With limited TA, the ECN is now fully capacitated to run its GIS Unit independently. A formal handover of the GIS equipment is under process.

Support with Creation and Display of New Voter Register

ESP completed the development of Biometric Based Voter Registration System (BBVRS) software and formally handed over two out of the three modules of the software to the ECN for review. A total of 59 computer operators from the DEOs were trained on BBVRS software. The participants received full operational knowledge regarding DCA (District Computer Application) and DVLA (District Voter List Application). Upon completion of the training, the participants were able to operate voter registration kits, collect voter data and integrate collected voter data into the DVLA server. This new software will be handed over to the ECN in 2017. ESP will provide TA for smooth operationalization of the software.

ECN successfully registered 531,546 additional citizens of 16 years and above on biometric voters' roll, through continuous and special mobile voter registration. With the objective of expediting the voter registration process throughout the country, 140 DEO staff were provided refresher trainings on voter registration.

To ensure that the whole eligible population is included in the voter registration, special measures were introduced when conducting the registration process. A total of 178,244 voters were registered through the special programme conducted in 3,024 locations targeting minority communities. Mobile voter registration was conducted in 21 districts of the Himalayan Region (998 locations) to register eligible voters for the upcoming elections.

The project also handed over 600 units of new rugged laptops to the ECN for strengthening its operational capacity in voter registration as well as in outreach effort, especially targeting youth and first time voters. These new and more durable laptops (with extra batteries and external power banks) will enhance the efficiency of the voter registration process in different remote parts of the country.

Output 2: Election cycle conducted in an effective, sustainable, and credible manner

Support with Procedures and Training

After the promulgation of the Constitution on 20 September 2015, there was a need for the District Election Offices (DEOs) to be acquainted with the new electoral provisions for the different tiers of elections. For this purpose, the ECN with TA from ESP organised a three-day orientation programme on the Constitution and Election Management for the 147 District Elections Officers (DEOs) in Bhairawaha, Nepalgunj, Dhankuta, Dhangadi and Kavrepalanchowk districts. The orientation covered the ECN institutional structure, electoral provisions in the Constitution, existing legal provisions on elections, GESI and elections, election code of conduct with election monitoring and observation, electoral operations and roles and responsibilities of the DEOs and its staff during non-election phases and also when elections are announced. The knowledge imparted will help district staff in their preparation for upcoming elections.
The ESP supported the ECN to develop and publish the "Elections in Nepal’s Constitution and Related Information", handbook that provides information pertaining to democracy, elections and electoral provisions in the new constitution. The publication will help voters, stakeholders and general public to understand electoral provisions, electoral systems, and delimitation of boundaries and the distribution of seats of the elected assemblies (Federal Parliament, States Assemblies and local bodies’ councils). The handbook has already been used as reference material by participants in different trainings and workshops.

Support with Elections Operations and Logistics

In order to start preparations for the future elections, ESP provided TA to the ECN in developing a draft operational plan. The ESP regional team stationed in each of the five regional offices provided TA to the ECN district offices in planning and implementing its annual plan operationalizing the ECN Strategic Plan. With TA of the ESP, the ECN organized interaction programmes with stakeholders in six districts to develop and finalize the Election Code of Conduct (CoC) Monitoring Mechanism Directives 2016. A total of 657 stakeholders, including political parties, journalist federations, judicial, NGOs, chief district office, security wings and observer groups, participated and provided their feedback on the directives. The feedback and suggestions will be incorporated in the ECN Code of Conduct monitoring mechanism directives.

Support with Electoral Dispute Resolution and Electoral Security

With ESP’s support, the ECN organized a two-day SAARC regional level workshop on Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) and Electoral Justice (EJ) with the Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The Republic of Korea was also invited as guest member. The ECN officials, the heads of constitutional bodies, parliamentarians, legal practitioners, representatives of political parties, representing government agencies and development partners participated in the workshop. The participants shared their best practices, discussed different EDR mechanisms and produced a 9-Point-Outcome to further strengthen EDR and EJ.

Output 3. Increased democratic participation in the next cycle of elections, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society

Support with Public Outreach, Civic and Voter Education

The ESP continued its support to the ECN in the production and broadcast of the TV and radio programmes 'Nirwachan Sarokar'. The main objective of the programme was to inform voters and the public in general of different electoral themes and issues such as voter registration, electoral systems, voter education, gender and social inclusions in elections, electoral laws and their features. Altogether, 38 episodes of the TV programme and 14 episodes of the radio programme were broadcast through two national television channels and 74 local FM radio stations. As per data provided by the TV and FM radio stations, the programmes reached out to an audience of nearly six million across the country. A review of the TV and Radio programmes was organized by the ECN, through which several areas for improvements were identified. In a consultative manner, the ECN also identified the way forward and new themes for future TV and radio programmes.

The ESP continued promoting the ECN engagement with the teachers who impart electoral education to school children. The Social Studies Teachers Training was started by the ECN in 2015 with the objective of informing the social studies teachers about the electoral process in Nepal, and of reaching the potential, youth and first-time voters through the teachers. In 2016, 16 Social Studies Teachers trainings were conducted with 607 teachers from community and private schools in 10 districts including Kathmandu. The Master Training of Trainers (ToT) and the Regional ToT were organized with 38 ECN officials and resource persons. These trained people will train the social studies teachers of community and private schools in their respective districts.

4 9-point- outcome of Regional EDR workshop
An interaction programme was held with the writers of the social studies curriculum of the secondary level to review the content of the curriculum, standardize election-related terminology and definitions, and acquaint the writers with the constitutional provisions concerning the ECN. A total of 33 social studies publishers including representatives from the Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) and Higher Secondary Education Board (HSEB) participated. The ECN officials and Deputy Director of CDC suggested to include contents like voting, continuous voter registration, the electoral system and the theory of proportional representation in the school curriculum of 6-8 grades.

Support with Electoral Education and Information Center (EEIC)

With the TA of the ESP, the ECN introduced mobile EEICs to reach out to students, teachers, first-time voters, people with disabilities and vulnerable communities, residing in remote parts of Nepal to sensitize them about elections, democracy and electoral rights. The mobile EEIC uses a kit consisting of battery-operated television and standalone touch-screen tablets with software. It is easy to assemble and requires less technical knowledge to run, showing videos, documentaries and presentations. The system provides information on democracy, election, the electoral process and citizens’ rights. Through the mobile EEICs, the ECN reached out to community schools in rural areas with limited access to information in nine districts. Three sets of complete Mobile EEIC equipment were handed over to the ECN after successful piloting in rural districts.

Taking into consideration positive response received from the visitors who participated in EEIC established in Kathmandu, the ECN with support from ESP established EEICs in Pokhara and Dhangadi districts. The feasibility study for the expansion of the regional EEIC in the Eastern Region was conducted by the ECN and the technical team of the ESP.

An additional 4,288 first time voters and physically challenged citizens were sensitized on democracy and elections through EEIC this year. In total, 26,288 people have been reached out to through EEIC.

Gender, Social Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups

With the objective of enhancing knowledge of the electoral stakeholders on gender, social inclusion and elections, the ESP supported the ECN in conducting three BRIDGE training on gender, social inclusion and elections. A total of 74 stakeholders (42 female) from civil society organizations (women organizations, federation of indigenous nationalities, the NGO Federation, as well as organizations related to Dalit rights and people living with disabilities) benefited from these trainings. The training promotes understanding on the issues of gender, minorities, and elections, and equips participants with examples and solutions to address the issues.

A comprehensive training manual on administrative leadership was developed by ECN in 2016 with TA from ESP. Based on the manual and in view of preparing ECN women officials for better administration and management of the upcoming elections, a three-day administrative leadership training for 25 officials was conducted.

In order to enhance participation of people with disability in the upcoming elections, the ECN introduced trainings for visually impaired people and trained 27 of them (including seven women). Continuation was also given to targeted interventions for people with hearing disability, where 72 people with hearing disability (18 women) benefitted from customized sessions on elections. The participants in these sessions conducted mock elections, discussed the rights and responsibilities of citizens including people with hearing disability, electoral provisions as per the new constitution and roles and responsibilities of the ECN. The post-test analysis shows that these sessions significantly increased the knowledge of the participants on electoral issues.

Similarly, in an effort to include the population of nearly 3 million elder citizens of the country in the electoral processes, the ESP, in coordination with National Senior Citizens Federation, Nepal (NASCIF), supported organizing the South Asia Senior Citizens’ Workshop with the theme “Uniting the Senior Citizens of South
Asia: Securing their Political Rights*. International delegates from SAARC Countries, representatives from government agencies, and CSOs participated in the workshop.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

The dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation officer of the Project conducted regular monitoring and documentation of ESP's interventions. In addition, the Senior Management of ESP also conducted regular monitoring through field visits, review of progress and analysis of the effectiveness of interventions in contributing to attainment of outcomes. Regular oversight, quality assurance and backstopping were extended by UNDP Country Office in ensuring ESP's compliance with UNDP's corporate policies, donor requirements and its effectiveness and efficiency towards attainment of results as stated in the UNDAF, UNDP CPD and the project document.

5. **Financial Progress**

The following table shows the output wise indicative budget and expenditure for 2016, the sources of funds budgeted and their utilization.

**Table 4:** Output wise annual budget and corresponding expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
<th>Annual Expenditure through UNDP</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
<th>Budget Utilization%</th>
<th>Justification for Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output 1</td>
<td>811,760</td>
<td>780,955</td>
<td>780,955</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 2</td>
<td>2,681,980</td>
<td>2,536,623</td>
<td>2,536,623</td>
<td>95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 3</td>
<td>440,840</td>
<td>392,329</td>
<td>392,329</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>The main priority of the project this year was to support the ECN in its preparations for the elections. Therefore, some of the planned activities particularly related to the external relations and BRIDGE trainings could not take place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 4</td>
<td>195,420</td>
<td>197,240</td>
<td>197,240</td>
<td>101</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,139,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,907,247</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,907,247</strong></td>
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**Table 5:** Sources of funds, Budget and Utilization of the project period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Fund</th>
<th>Funding period (Start – End Date)</th>
<th>Total Project Budget</th>
<th>Expenditure up to 2015</th>
<th>Expenditure in 2016</th>
<th>Total expenditure till 2016</th>
<th>Total Budget utilization %</th>
<th>Total Balance US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>2012-2018</td>
<td>1,103,422</td>
<td>892,439</td>
<td>110,983</td>
<td>1,003,422</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>2012-2018</td>
<td>2,682,728</td>
<td>1,513,437</td>
<td>350,809</td>
<td>1,864,246</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>818,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
<td>8,749,165</td>
<td>8,743,689</td>
<td>5,476</td>
<td>8,749,165</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
<td>738,926</td>
<td>735,633</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>735,633</td>
<td>99-55</td>
<td>3,293</td>
</tr>
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</table>
6. Cross Cutting Issues

6.1 National Capacity Development

The ESP continued providing on-site TA to the ECN to implement its Strategic Plan (2015-2019), particularly on voter registration, EEIC, electoral mapping, GESI and electoral dispute resolution. The ECN with limited TA from ESP, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) conducted Election-BRIDGE, cascade and other capacity building trainings that directly benefited 1,282 ECN officials and stakeholders. These people will be engaged by the ECN in planning and preparations of the upcoming elections.

School teachers who have been trained by the ECN with ESP assistance have acknowledged that it has enhanced their confidence to impart electoral knowledge to school students who are potential future voters.

6.2 Sustainability

Dependency of the ECN on international technical assistance has decreased, particularly in the areas of voter registration, GIS, EEIC, Trainings and GESI. Some of the specific examples are:

- Over 95% of operational cost of EEICs was covered from the ECN budget in 2016.
• ECN started using GIS technology in electoral processes independently, capturing, storing and analysing spatial and geographical data, restating its strengthened in-house capacity on GIS and electoral mapping.

• Voter registration was undertaken by the ECN nationwide in coordination with other ministries, but with reduced technical support from ESP.

• The number of accredited and semi-accredited national BRIDGE facilitators increased to 70, reducing the need to bring in international experts to facilitate the trainings.

• ECN policy documents, particularly the Strategic Plan and its Action Plan, the GESI Policy, Strategy and Action Plan, were implemented by the ECN from State budget and by mobilizing its technical team, with only partial support from ESP and other partners.

• In terms of operations, ECN has strengthen its capacity to conduct future elections by itself with minimum technical support from international partners.

The ESP plans to further reduce its assistance in the future encouraging the ECN to take a lead on key priority areas for sustainability. More focus from the ESP will be placed on the technical assistance for knowledge transfer and capacity building in key areas where the ECN requires additional assistance.

6.3 Partnerships

The ESP is working in partnership with the ECN, IFES and IDEA in conducting trainings, particularly the BRIDGE workshops. Each agency brought in its expertise and collectively assisted the ECN in planning and conducting these trainings. By 2016, through joint effort, ECN has certified 70 semi and fully accredited BRIDGE facilitators.

6.4 Promotion of Civic Engagement

The ESP supported the ECN in conducting voter education programme through electronic media. A total of 38 episodes of weekly TV programme and 14 episodes of radio programme on electoral and voting rights and processes were broadcast through two national television channels and 74 FM radio stations reaching out to citizens residing in different parts of the country that will ultimately contribute in enhancing informed participation of citizens in the future elections. In an effort to include the population of nearly 3 million elder citizens of the country in the electoral processes, the ESP, in coordination with National Senior Citizens Federation, Nepal (NASCIF), supported in organizing the South Asia Senior Citizens’ Workshop with the theme “Uniting the Senior Citizens of South Asia: Securing their Political Rights”, with representatives from government agencies and CSOs.

6.5 Expanding Opportunities for Youth

ECN’s engagement with social studies teachers has been an effective area of assistance provided by ESP to sensitize youth and first time voters on democracy and elections. As elections is a part of the social studies curriculum in secondary and high school, the ESP continued promoting ECN’s engagement with the teachers who impart electoral education to school children. A total of 607 Social Studies teachers from secondary schools were trained this year benefiting more than 30,000 students/future voters. To educate citizens about civic and electoral rights, the ESP continued providing technical assistance to ECN to operationalize the Electoral Education and Information Centres (EEIC). An additional 3500 youth and first time voters were educated on democracy and elections through the EEICs in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Dhangadi and mobile EEICs within and outside Kathmandu. To increase democratic participation of voters residing in rural parts of the country, ECN carried out mobile outreach programmes in 9 districts targeting marginalized communities. The ESP supported in organizing an orientation programme for 38 youth political leaders with the objective of enhancing knowledge and increasing their engagement in the electoral process.
6.6 Knowledge Management and Products

The ESP provided technical support to the ECN in developing the following knowledge products:
- Training Manual for people with hearing disability on electoral education.
- Training Manual for visually impaired on electoral education.
- Training Manual on Administrative Leadership.
- Resource book on Electoral Education for Social Studies Teachers

6.7 Lessons Learned

The project implemented activities that will help the ECN while preparing for the elections. Activities like trainings to the social studies teachers has been a flagship programme for the project and has been effective in creating awareness among the youth and first time voters for upcoming elections. Similar to the Electoral Education Information Centre (EEIC), a mobile version has been deployed to the districts reaching out to the remote areas as part of electoral education to the young people and in marginalised communities. There will be an impact assessment of the programme in the future, nevertheless, the programme has been perceived as very effective by the schools and communities. The establishment of the Regional EEIC in two regions has been instrumental in collaborating and having close interactions with electoral stakeholders by the regional offices. There are certain activities that the project envisioned could not be completed and has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances like the development of the operational plan for elections.

6.8 Implementation Issues and Challenges

The ongoing political impasse has created hurdles in passing the election related bills through the Parliament. Pre-requisites for elections are still missing, such as legal framework promulgation, appointment of the remaining three commissioners, preparation of procedures and directives by the ECN. More work needs to be done to ensure sustainability of certain areas like planning, training and capacity building. The frequent turnover of high officials and delayed in approval of activities and coordination between the project and the Commission.

6.9 Priorities for 2017

The Government of Nepal has a constitutional obligation to hold elections of all three tiers (local, provincial and national levels) by January 2018. In this context, the project is continuing to strengthen the institutional capacity and develop professionalism among staff of ECN both at HQ and field offices. Also, conducting three elections within 15 months period demands a lot of preparatory work at national and sub-national levels. The project’s assistance will be vital to the ECN in strengthening professional and institutional capacity at different levels to address operational and technical challenges of conducting series of elections as per the mandate of the new constitution. Elections may have to be conducted in phases, due to security and logistics reasons. The provincial election is a new provision in Nepal and will be conducted for the first time in the country. Likewise, local level elections will be something new for many youth and first time voters which will be conducted after 19 years. Thus, technical assistance from the ESP in planning for local and provincial elections is vital. After the election dates are announced, the project will provide special support in planning and organisation for the electoral operations focusing more on the electoral activities which will not be covered by the national budget.

The project strategies to conduct activities focusing on the electoral scenario in the remaining period of the extension are within the framework of existing project’s activities, outputs and outcome. As elections look imminent in 2017, most of the support in the extended period will be in the areas of operations and logistics, voter registration, training of polling staffs, electoral dispute resolution, massive voter education, and gender and social inclusion in the election processes. Additionally, the project will support in review of ECN's Five-
Year Strategic Plan thereby conducting a mid-term evaluation and developing an action plan for the remaining three years.
## 7. Risk Log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Category (financial, political, operational, organizational, environmental, regulatory, security, strategic, other)</th>
<th>Likelihood of Risk (scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most likely) A</th>
<th>Impact (scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest impact) B</th>
<th>Risk factor (A + B)</th>
<th>Mitigation measures if risk occurs</th>
<th>Date risk is identified</th>
<th>Last Updated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Uncertainty of local bodies elections</td>
<td>Political</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>ESP will continue its assistance to the ECN in its preparations for series of elections anticipated by January 2018</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Trigger of violence, particularly in Terai, due to dissatisfaction expressed by Madhes-based political parties on new constitution</td>
<td>Political</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Project will coordinate with the Department of Political Affairs, Resident Coordinator's Office, to get a regular political updates and will also monitor the situation closely. If the possibility of violence arises, then in coordination with the ECN, ESP will reprogramme some of its core activities based in turmoil areas. Staff movement will also be restricted based on UNDSS travel advisory.</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ANNEX 1: Financial Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>Approved Budget</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 1. Strengthened capacity of the ECN to function as a permanent, independent, credible and professional institution of governance.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with Strategic Planning (2015-19)</td>
<td>104,861</td>
<td>128,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with Professional Development and Cooperation</td>
<td>113,955</td>
<td>76,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with Geographic Information and Electoral Mapping</td>
<td>59,385</td>
<td>34,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with Creation and Display of New Voter Register</td>
<td>533,560</td>
<td>541,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 2. Election cycle conducted in an effective, sustainable, and credible manner.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with Procedures and Training</td>
<td>88,275</td>
<td>58,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with Elections Operations and Logistics</td>
<td>2,446,580</td>
<td>2,365,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with Electoral Dispute Resolution</td>
<td>115,025</td>
<td>111,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with Electoral Security</td>
<td>32,100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 3. Increased democratic participation in the next cycle of elections, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged segments of the Nepali society</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with Public Outreach, Civic and Voter Education</td>
<td>202,230</td>
<td>169,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with Electoral Education and Information Center(s)</td>
<td>76,506</td>
<td>89,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support with External Relations</td>
<td>42,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender, Social Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups</td>
<td>119,305</td>
<td>133,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>46,011</td>
<td>29,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Support Cost</td>
<td>149,408</td>
<td>167,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>4,130,000</td>
<td>3,997,147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ANNEX 2: Progress against Indicators

### ESP Annual M&E plan 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Results (Outcomes &amp; Outputs from your AWP)</th>
<th>Indicators (with annual Baselines &amp; Targets)</th>
<th>M&amp;E Event with Data Collection Methods</th>
<th>Time or Schedule and Frequency</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
<th>Means of Verification: Data Source and Type</th>
<th>2016 Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDAF Outcome and the CP Output</td>
<td>Indicator: % of women and minority candidates in national and local elections</td>
<td>Documents/Reports Review</td>
<td>During national and local elections</td>
<td>ECN and ESP</td>
<td>ECN Reports</td>
<td>The progress is not applicable in 2016 as it was a non-election year. However, ECN reviewed the Local Self Governance Act and recommended 50% women candidacy in local elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDAF Outcome (2013-2017) Institutions, systems and processes of democratic governance are more accountable, effective, efficient and inclusive</td>
<td>Baseline: 33% of women candidates in CA Elections 2008</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target: 40% women candidates in the CA Elections 2013</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Indicator: % of eligible voters (men &amp; women) who turn out in national and local elections</td>
<td>Documents/Reports Review</td>
<td>During national and local elections</td>
<td>ECN and ESP</td>
<td>ECN Reports</td>
<td>The progress is not applicable in 2016 as it was a non-election year. However, ESP supported ECN in electoral trainings and voter education to increase people's participation in electoral process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Country Programme (CP) Output (2013-2017) Election Commission has the capacity to conduct credible, inclusive and transparent elections</td>
<td>Baseline: 62.5% of total registered voters voted in CA Elections 2008</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target: 67% in both national and local elections</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indicator: % of men and women eligible to vote who are registered by ECN with photographs and biometric profiling</td>
<td>Project MIS</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>ECN and ESP</td>
<td>ECN Reports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baseline: Approximately 66% of in-country citizens of 16 years and above registered in 2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ESP Reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approximately, 78.78% of men and women of 16 years and above registered. Similarly,
| **Target:** 70% of men and women registered |  | 83.81% of men and women of 18 yrs. and above registered |  
|  | **Indicator:** % of invalid ballots on national elections and local elections | **Documents/Reports Review** | **During national and local elections** | **ECN and ESP** | **ECN Reports** | **The progress is not applicable in 2016 as it was a non-election year. However, ESP supported ECN in electoral trainings and voter education to enhance people's knowledge on electoral process and reduce invalid votes.** |
|  | **Baseline:** In 2008 CA Elections, the invalid vote was 5.15% and 3.66% under the FPTP and PR respectively |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Target:** Less than 3% |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Indicator:** Number of citizens sensitized on electoral system and processes through EEIC | **Project MIS** | **Annual** | **ECN and ESP** | **ECN Reports ESP Reports** | A total of 4,288 youth and first time voters sensitized on electoral systems through the EEICs in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Dhangadi and mobile EEIC. |
|  | **Baseline:** More than 6,000 as of December 2012 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Target:** 30,000 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 2 | National and local elections are organized and held in a) timely (postponements), b) effective (observer reports) and c) credible manner (number of complaints)

**Baseline:** a) 2008 elections were held after two postponements, b) Many national and international observer reports (EU EOM, Carter Center, International Crisis Group, DEAN, ANFREL, NEOC et al) stated that 2008 elections were by and large effective c) 64 cases of electoral related violence were filed at ECN in 2008. ECN's decision- 'voting annulled' for 12 cases and 'no action required' for 52 cases.

**Target:** a) Elections are held in a timely manner without postponement b) National and international observers report stating that the elections are effective c) Reduced number of cases of electoral violence reported at the ECN |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Documents/Reports Review</th>
<th>During national and local elections</th>
<th>ECN and ESP</th>
<th>ECN Reports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</table>

The progress is not applicable in 2016 as it was a non-election year. However, ESP supported ECN in capacity strengthening activities for EC staff to be able to conduct the elections in a free, fair and credible manner.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1 Support with Strategic Planning</th>
<th>Indicator: % of activities under the Two Year Action Plan completed</th>
<th>Project MIS</th>
<th>Bi-yearly</th>
<th>ESP and ECN</th>
<th>ECN Reports ESP Reports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline: Strategic Plan 2015-2019 released in May 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The review of the Strategic Plan (2015-2019) and the Two-Year Action Plan (2015-2016) showed that out of the 91 activities, 21 activities were fully completed (23%), 38 activities were partially implemented (42%) and 32 activities were not started (35%).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target: 85% of activities completed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.2 Support with Professional Development and Cooperation</th>
<th>Indicator: Number of ECN staff and other stakeholders trained on electoral processes</th>
<th>Project MIS</th>
<th>Quarterly</th>
<th>ESP</th>
<th>Project MIS Training Reports Training Assessments and evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline: More than 1,000 people trained on BRIDGE and electoral processes (2012)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A total of 1,282 ECN staff and other stakeholders including social studies teachers, hearing and visually impaired people were trained on electoral processes including BRIDGE, Voter Registration, IT, Public Finance and Procurement Management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target: At least 400 ECN officials and other stakeholders trained</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indicator: % of trained officials who report an increase in their knowledge and understanding on electoral processes</td>
<td>Pre-post Training Evaluation</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>ESP</td>
<td>Training Completion Report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline: Pre-post data existed but not reported</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>More than 70% of participants reported an increased knowledge and understanding in the pre and post-test analysis and end of training evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target: 70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3 Support with Geographic Information and Electoral Mapping Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indicator: GIS Unit fully operationalized with minimum ESP assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline: GIS Unit technically supported by ESP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target: GIS Unit fully operated by the ECN officials</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project MIS</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>ECN and ESP</td>
<td>Project MIS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESP supported in developing GIS Manual for ECN to be independently capturing, storing and analyzing all types of spatial and geographical data. GIS unit is now fully operated by the ESP. Formal handover of the GIS equipment is in process.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| 1.4 Support with Creation and Display of New Voter Register |
| Indicator: Number of citizens registered by ECN with photographs and biometric profiling |
| Baseline: 10.9 m citizens registered (2012) |
| Target: 250,000 citizens |
| Project MIS | Quarterly | ECN and ESP | ECN Reports, ESP Reports |
| 534, 546 citizens of 16 years and above registered through mobile voter registration campaigns, and continuous registrations at District Election Offices (DEOs), Area Administrative offices (AAO) and District Administrative Offices (DAO). |

| Indicator: Continuous voter registration institutionalized within ECN at central and district level |
| Baseline: BBVRS Software development is in progress |
| Target: BBVRS software developed and implemented |
| Project MIS | Quarterly | ECN and ESP | ECN Reports, ESP Reports |
| ESP completed the development of Biometric Based Voter Registration System (BBVRS) software and formally handed over two out of the three modules of the software to the ECN, for their review. |
### Output 2 Elections Cycle conducted in an effective, sustainable and credible manner

**Baseline:** 2012 - ESP supported ECN in preparing a draft operational plan.

**Target:** Procedures and plans prepared in advance of elections

**Documents/Reports Review**

- **During national and local elections**
- **ECN and ESP**
- **ECN Reports**

The progress is not applicable in 2016 as it was a non-election year. ESP has been providing continuous technical support.

### 2.1 Support with Procedures and Training

**Indicator:** Number of laws, regulations and procedures for different levels of elections are drafted, amended and enacted

**Baseline:** No comprehensive legal framework

**Target:** Electoral related bills developed

**Documents/Reports Review**

- **During national and local elections**
- **ECN and ESP**
- **ECN Reports**


### 2.2 Support with Election Operations and Logistics

**Indicator:** Operation plan with operation calendar developed prior to elections

**Baseline:** No operational plan

**Target:** Operational plan developed

**Documents/Reports Review**

- **During national and local elections**
- **ECN and ESP**
- **ECN Reports**

The ECN is drafting an operational calendar and logistics plan, which will be shared with implementing partners about 10 days after election day is announced by the government.

### Output 3 Increased democratic participation in the next cycle of elections, particularly

**% of women, youth (18-39), senior (60+) and different under-represented and disadvantaged groups participating in the elections/electoral events**

**Documents/Reports Review**

- **During national and local elections**
- **ESP and ECN**
- **ECN Reports**

The progress is not applicable in 2016 as it was a non-election year. However, a three-year GESI Action Plan was endorsed by ECN that outlines priorities to
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment of the Nepali Society</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Reporting Method</th>
<th>Project Reports</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.1 Support with Public Outreach, Civic and Voter Education</strong></td>
<td>Number of civic and voter education programs produced</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>ESP</td>
<td>ECN Reports, ESP Reports</td>
<td>Altogether, 38 episodes of TV and 14 episodes of radio programme, 'Nirwachan Sarokar' were broadcasted through two national television channels and 74 local FM radio stations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.2 Support with Electoral Education and Information Center</strong></td>
<td>Number of stakeholders who visit the EEIC (disaggregated by gender, type of stakeholders)</td>
<td>Project MIS</td>
<td>ESP and EEIC</td>
<td>EEIC Reports, ESP Reports</td>
<td>4288 youth and first time voters sensitized on democracy and elections through EEICs in Kathmandu, Dhangadi and Pokhara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.4 Gender, Social Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups</strong></td>
<td>Number of ECN staff and other stakeholders trained on gender and inclusion issues</td>
<td>Project MIS</td>
<td>ESP</td>
<td>EEIC Reports, ESP Reports</td>
<td>A total of 74 stakeholders (42 female) from civil society organizations (women organizations, Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, NGO Federation, Dalit Rights and people living with disabilities related organizations) were trained on BRIDGE Gender, Social Inclusion and Elections.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Indicator:** Initiatives undertaken by the ECN in implementing the Gender Policy

**Baseline:** Gender Committee formed; Gender Unit established

**Target:** At least 4 interaction programmes with electoral stakeholders to sensitize gender policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Project MIS</th>
<th>Bi-yearly</th>
<th>ESP</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ECN Reports</td>
<td>ESP Reports</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Six interaction programmes were held with 277 electoral stakeholders in the Terai districts.