

## ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

### The National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) Begins Voter Registration

On 15 April 2025, the National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) officially launched voter registration (VR) in 16 districts of the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA). This marked a key milestone in the electoral calendar ahead of the September 2025 district council elections in Mogadishu. By the end of June, the Commission had registered 380,328 voters, with a final target of 700,000 by the close of registration on 15 July. Voter registration in the Federal Member States (FMSs), initially scheduled to begin on 14 June, was postponed due to technical issues. IESG provided

technical support to NIEBC in developing the voter registration process, the election timeline and budget as well as briefing materials for donor engagement.



Voters queuing at a voter registration center in Mogadishu

## HIGHLIGHTS

- National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) started voter registration.
- NIEBC Concludes the Registration of Political Associations.



IESG and NIEBC discuss the timelines for VR and district elections and the election budget.

### NIEBC Launches Voter Awareness Campaign to Boost Registration Participation

To encourage voter turnout, NIEBC launched a comprehensive public awareness campaign with support from IESG. The campaign, which included the release of a public service announcement (PSA) video, the widespread distribution of posters and billboards across Banadir and selected FMSs, and the deployment of a vehicle equipped with

a loudspeaker to disseminate registration messages in local communities is aimed at increasing the public's understanding of the voter registration process and encouraging eligible citizens to register. A dedicated call center was also established to answer citizens' questions and offer guidance on the voter registration process.

#### TALLAABOYINKA IS DIIWAANGALINTA COD-BIXIYAHA



NIEBC social media poster explaining the Voter Registration steps.

### NIEBC Concludes the Registration of Political Associations

Between April and mid-May, NIEBC conducted and finalized the registration of political associations in accordance with the Political Associations and Political Parties Law (2024). The process was carried out in phases: four associations were certified on 8 April, twelve on 19 April, and fourteen more on 6 and 14 May. A final batch of thirteen was certified on 20 May, bringing the total to 43 registered associations. NIEBC announced the official list of certified associations on 22 June. Alongside registration, NIEBC held a consultative meeting on 27 May to brief as-

sociations on upcoming VR plans and hosted a technical workshop on 1 June – supported by IESG – to provide guidance on candidate list submissions.



NIEBC workshop with political associations held on 27 May



NIEBC is awarding the registration certificate to a political association

## IESG ACTIVITIES

Over the past quarter, the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) provided targeted technical, legal, and logistical support to NIEBC. These efforts aimed to strengthen the Commission's capacity ahead of the 2025 district elections. Key activities focused on regulatory development, capacity building, and operational readiness.

### Support to Electoral Legal Frameworks

During the reporting period, IESG worked closely with NIEBC to develop essential regulatory frameworks in preparation for Somalia's September 2025 district elections. This included technical assistance in drafting procedures on media ethics, candidate nomination, and the accreditation of election observers. These frameworks are designed to enhance transparency, inclusivity, and the overall credibility of the electoral process.

### Capacity-Building Support for NIEBC

In line with its mandate to strengthen Somalia's electoral institutions, IESG delivered a series of capacity-building workshops for NIEBC. On 15 May, a training for NIEBC's Training Unit provided a comprehensive overview of the electoral cycle, covering the

logic and phases of electoral processes and the role of key stakeholders. Participants also engaged in brainstorming sessions to assess risks and inclusivity challenges.

Further support was provided to the NIEBC Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Unit. On 29 May, IESG in collaboration with UN WOMEN, facilitated a session focused on gender roles, equality, and equity. This was followed by a session on 4 June led by IESG staff, which addressed legal provisions under Somalia's 2024 electoral legal



framework – particularly Temporary Special Measures (TSMs) for promoting women's participation. These sessions aimed to build both the conceptual and legal literacy of NIEBC GESI unit staff to contribute to gender-responsive electoral processes.

### Logistics Collaboration to Strengthen NIEBC Operations

IESG Logistics shared with NIEBC key planning tools for the voter registration process, such as finalized material receipt and handling guidelines, movement and deployment plans for Banadir and national levels, and both Word and PowerPoint versions of the voter registration logistics plan. Additionally, IESG produced a detailed summary of key logistics activities for the 2025 voter registration operation.

IESG Logistics also continued to support the operational environment at NIEBC's main compound by facilitating equipment maintenance and infrastructure repairs. This hands-on logistical assistance ensured NIEBC could operate effectively and sustain a secure and functional base for electoral preparations.

## FMS ACTIVITIES

### South West State

On 12 June 2025, IESG Field Office facilitated the transfer of office equipment and materials to the NIEBC Field Office in Baidoa. The South West State authorities provided space for the office, which is now fully operational. NIEBC has since launched voter registration awareness efforts across the state, including in Baidoa.



NIEBC-IESG FO staff during the equipment handover at UNSOS/UNTMISS Camp, Baidoa.

### Galmudug State

From 28 to 30 May 2025, NIEBC Commissioners conducted a mission to Dhusamareb, to meet with the Galmudug Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation (MOIFAR). Discussions focused on preparation for voter registration and the importance of inclusive participation. The Commissioners emphasized coordination with local leaders and communities to ensure smooth and credible voter registration in Galmudug.



NIEBC Commissioners in a coordination meeting with the MOIFAR of Galmudug

### Hirshabelle

On 21 May, during a reconciliation event in Jowhar sponsored by UNTIMIS' Political Affairs and Mediation Group, IESG delivered a presentation on the role of local communities in building inclusive democracy. The session focused on the need for participatory governance, citizen engagement, and accountability, particularly for marginalized groups, in promoting peaceful and legitimate electoral processes.



PAMG Reconciliation workshop in Jowhar