



United Nations Support

to the 13th National Parliamentary Electoral Cycle of Bangladesh

Overview & Mandate



Election Date
12 February 2026



National Authority
Bangladesh Election Commission



At the formal request of the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC), the United Nations has been providing coordinated electoral assistance since December 2024 to support the 13th National Parliamentary Electoral Cycle, in alignment with the national priorities set by the Government of Bangladesh. This technical support aims to enhance the institutional and operational capacities of the BEC, foster an enabling environment for credible and inclusive elections, and contribute to a sustainable political transition, in full respect of national sovereignty and leadership.

UN Support

to Foster a Credible, Inclusive, and Peaceful Electoral Process



Election Administration
and Preparedness



Inclusive Participation (women, youth,
minorities, persons with disabilities)



Civic and Voter
Education



Media Integrity and Countering
Disinformation



Election Security and
Human Rights

In December 2024, the UN Surge Mission was deployed to provide technical support to the Electoral Reform Commission. Seven thematic technical papers were developed in response to formal requests from the Commission. These papers were prepared by UN/UNDP electoral governance advisors with relevant global experience, underwent internal technical vetting.



Integrated UN Electoral Support

UN electoral assistance is delivered through **two complementary projects**:

BALLOT
Bangladesh Assistance to
the Electoral Process

DRIP
Democratic Reforms through
Inclusive Participation



Donor Support

Funded by the generous contributions of



From
the People of Japan



Coordinated UN Approach

Efficient use of resources through clear thematic leadership among UN partners:



Electoral administration,
civic and voter education,
information integrity



Media development,
journalist safety



Women's political
participation & gender
equality



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

Police training on
elections, security &
human rights



Operational Support

UNDP provides **direct operational support** to the Bangladesh Election Commission, including:



Procurement of Voter Registration Materials

Impact:



Total New Voters:
5,845,023



Women:
3,174,401



Men:
2,670,320



Hijra:
302



IT and digital support to the Electoral Training Institute



Indelible ink and essential election-day materials



Technical and logistical support to election

Impact: Double voting prevention and operational continuity ensured for **127.7 million voters**.



Capacity Development

600+ BEC officials trained through 10 Regional Integrated Training across the country.

Key Training Areas: Gender and elections, Disability inclusion, Crisis management, Electoral operations and integrity, cybersecurity and AI. National and international experts were engaged to ensure global best practices.

Impact: The BEC demonstrates higher operational readiness, better crisis response capability, and more harmonized field-to-HQ coordination.



Out of Country Voting (OCV)

Supported BEC on drafting policy briefs, public consultation meetings with experts, academicians and Election Commission to support the Out-of-Country Voting operation

Impact: In total 1.5 million eligible voters, which includes Bangladeshi citizens living abroad, government officials and employees, election duty officials, and voters in lawful custody will be able to cast their vote for the first time through postal voting.



Legal & Preparatory Support

- Translation of electoral laws and the Code of Conduct (RPO) into English
- Nationwide election preparedness assessments, conducted through BEC-led regional visits



Improve Outreach and Strategic Communication

- Deployed two communication experts to strengthen BEC press, social media, and voter education outputs.
- Promoted inclusive electoral communication by providing sign language interpretation for persons with hearing disabilities.

Inclusive Participation & Civic Education



Women, Youth, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities



Women's Political Participation

Partnership with Dhaka University to develop a **Feminist Manifesto** - Captures women's priorities and policy expectations - Under discussion with political parties and civil society



Youth & Minority Inclusion

Partnership with Youth Policy Forum - **Policy Brief** on empowering vulnerable youth - Consultations with Bihari, Dalit, ethnic and religious minority communities - Recommendations shared with BEC and political parties



Disability Inclusion

National consultations with SightSavers - Publication: **Advancing Disability Inclusion** in Bangladesh Elections - Formal recommendations submitted to the BEC. Full-time Bangla sign language interpretation, integrated into BEC events and public information materials



Civic and Voter Education



The Future Bangladesh You Want Campaign

Youth-focused civic education - university dialogues - sports-based outreach - TV, radio and social media content



Online reach: **3.97 M**

Offline reach: **9,600+**



Grassroots Outreach

Focus on **remote areas in 47 districts**, creative awareness campaigns and democracy olympiad, public accountability forums, meet the candidates (partnership with SHUJAN).



Public Service Announcement (PSA)

- **30+ TV spots** and election-related dramas produced with sign language and broadcast on national TV and social media.
- PSAs broadcast in **10 community radios in 13 minority languages** across the country according to community geography.



DRIVE Campaign

Democracy Rights and Involvement through Voter Education (DRIVE) Campaign, promoted civic and voter education, along with essential citizen services, across **20 remote and hard-to-reach regions** through the deployment of **30 dedicated service vehicles**.

The campaign started on 11 December 2025 and will continue until 28 February 2026.



161,796+

people from remote areas benefited through **984+ activities** under this campaign within 51 days.



Key Interventions in Media Development and Journalist Safety



Technical support to training of election officials on Cybersecurity & AI, Media Engagement, Crisis Management, and Human Rights (launched on 28 November 2025)



Support to national training for 2,500 journalists through PIB, including international expertise to align with global standards of election reporting



Support to provision of an Election Reporting Manual for Journalists



Consultation roundtables held with media development organizations and editors and newsroom representatives on information integrity and journalist safety



Strengthened coordination among organizations working in the media space to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication



Focused on journalists' safety through gender-sensitive training and editorial leadership support, through providing protective gear such as safety vests, kits to journalists covering high-risk/election-related assignments



Technical support provided to the BEC to strengthen its operational capacity for gender-responsive and inclusive institutional practices.



Support to the Code of Conduct to promote women's political participation and prevent violence against women in elections.



Development of a gender equality checklist to monitor women's participation throughout the parliamentary electoral process.



Delivery of high-quality Training of Trainers on gender equality, inclusion, and cybersecurity in 8 Divisions from a gender perspective.



Formulation of a Gender Equality Strategy to integrate gender equality across all BEC structures, systems, and operations.



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Key initiatives to strengthen human rights-based, accountable, inclusive policing to support a peaceful and democratic electoral process.



Inclusion and Dialogue: share international best practices and gather insights on public perceptions of the police's role in fostering a peaceful and inclusive electoral environment.

- 07 Public consultations with civil society in various districts.
- 01 Workshop for sharing knowledge and best practices with international experts hosted by the UNODC.



Training at 2 Levels: a total of 610 officers training efforts to support officers who play a vital leadership role.

- Training of Trainers (ToT): 03x (DIG; Addl DIG; SP; DC) 90 officers trained.
- Operational Trainings: 13x (ASP) 520 officers trained.

Strategic Engagement Partners

