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ENHANCING LEGAL AND ELECTORAL CAPACITY FOR TOMORROW Phase II

FIRST QUARTER PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT 2013

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* Continued support from ELECT I budget

** Japan signed an agreement with UNDP to support the electoral process and the IEC from Q3 2012 until Q2 2014, contributing to ELECT II capacity development objectives outside the basket fund.

Acronyms

AGCHO	Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CD	Capacity Development
CEO	Chief Electoral Officer
CoC	Code of Conduct
CSC	Civil Service Commission
CSO	Community Service Organisation
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
DSRSG	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General
ECC	Electoral Complaints Commission
ELECT / II	Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow / II
ERD	External Relations Department
GIROA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
GIS	Geographic Information System
GU	Gender Unit
IEC	Independent Election Commission
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
MoCIT	Ministry of Communications and IT
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Haj
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAM	Needs Assessment Mission
NID	National ID
NIM	National Implementation Modality
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PEO	Provincial Electoral Officer
PO	Public Outreach
POD	Public Outreach Department
PPSU	Policy and Program Support Unit
QA	Quality Assurance
SC	Security Council
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRSRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
T&CB	Training and Capacity Building
T&CBD	Training and Capacity Building Department
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VR	Voter Registration

Project Information

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project ID: 00063078

Duration: January 2012 – December 2013

ANDS Component: Governance, Rule of Law, and Human Rights

Contributing to NPP:

National Governance cluster:

“National Transparency and Accountability Program” (component 3.7. oversight mechanism for elections);

“National Law and Justice for All Program” (legal reform of the electoral framework);

“National Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities Program” (component 3.2 increased effectiveness of IEC and ECC).

Human Resources cluster:

“National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan” (NAPWA) (component 5: Public Education and Awareness Raising).

CPAP Component: Outcome 4: The state and non-state institutions are better able to promote democratic participation and be accountable to the public

UNDP Strategic Plan Component: Democratic Governance

Total Budget: US \$ 89,784,946

Implementing Partner: Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan (IEC)

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Cover Photo: Construction workers labor on the IEC HQ Training Center
Photo by UNDP

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I. Executive Summary

The first quarter of 2013 was characterized by two dominant themes, the operational planning for the **voter registration** (VR) top-up exercise, and the discussions of a **project document extension** that include electoral support for the 2014 and 2015 elections.

Project extension

The UNDP project Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow, phase II (ELECT II) was originally designed with a specific focus on maximizing capacity development of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) during the inter-election timeframe of 2012 and 2013. The extension of the ELECT II project, including electoral support for the 2014 Presidential and Provincial Council elections as well as the 2015 Wolesi Jirga (Lower House) and possibly District Council elections, is guided by the United Nations (UN) electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) conducted at the end of 2012 and the beginning of 2013. It is also in line with the renewed UNAMA mandate for Afghanistan outlined in the UN Security Council resolution no. 2096. UNDP developed a revised project document and shared on 1 April the draft with donor partners for feedback.

A first phase of the mid-term review took place in the first quarter of 2013 and also provided recommendations in line for an extension of the project including support to electoral bodies in 2014 and 2015. It is expected that the revision of the project document will be completed in the second quarter of 2013 and include outputs beyond the current capacity development scope. To support this proposal, ELECT II assisted the IEC with initiating a draft of the elections budget for 2014 and 2015 as well as a 2014

Electoral Operational Plan. Both drafts will be finalized in the second quarter.

Voter registration

After lengthy discussions and different proposed plans in 2012, the IEC announced on 22 January 2013 an adjusted VR plan following the 2 January 2013 clarification letter of the Office of Administrative Affairs. The new plan focuses on a top-up registration campaign for new eligible voters, enabling new voters to also participate in the upcoming elections. Already registered voters for previous elections can still use their existing cards.

The top-up voter registration campaign will be conducted in different phases. The first phase, commencing on 26 May, comprises a registration exercise at the level of provincial capitals. The second phase, planned for July 2013, will expand the voter registration process into the districts until September. Eligible voters who have a valid voter registration card distributed for previous elections, as well as those who already possess an e-tazkira card - the electronic ID card that is planned to be distributed to all Afghan citizens in the coming years - are not required to apply for a new voter registration card.

In the first quarter, ELECT II intensively supported the IEC with the development of the voter registration plan as well as with preparations for the implementation of the campaign. Almost all advisors, embedded in the different IEC departments, provided input and guidance on **VR planning** to their counterparts, ranging from external relations, public outreach, and gender, to logistics, IT, security, procedures, training, procurement, and assets management. Specific

attention has been given to the formulation of a supplementary IEC gender strategy to promote women's participation during the 2013 voter registration campaign.

In addition, ELECT II advisors also strongly focused in this quarter on the development of **Standard Operating Procedures** (SOPs) within the departments they are embedded. In line with the IEC 5 year Strategic Plan (2012-2016), ELECT II aims to further enhance the institutional capacity by introducing, implement and institutionalize SOPs in a wide range of electoral, administrative and operational aspects of the IEC.

With support of the project, the IEC compiled and analyzed in the first quarter of 2013 the results of the **Capacity Development Assessment**, conducted at the end of 2012. The assessment takes stock of the existing capacity in each department of the IEC, identifies prevailing gaps, and brings forward tailored recommendations that will also be linked to the IEC comprehensive Training and Capacity Building (T&CB) plan.

The IEC **Gender** Unit (GU) elaborated on the development of a Gender Strategy that addresses gender issues both with regards to electoral operations, in particular on VR, as well as institutionally within the IEC. The celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March was attended by Commissioners and the CEO and underscored the importance of women's political participation. The IEC reaffirmed its commitment to increase women's participation as voters, candidates, electoral administrators, observers and IEC staff.

In order to update stakeholders and the electorate

in the most professional manner, the IEC launched its revised **website** in March. (www.iec.org.af)

Existing issues and potential risks beyond control of the IEC and UNDP relate first of all to uncertainty of the **electoral legal framework**. The Parliamentary recess during most of the first quarter of 2013 halted the discussions on the reform of the Electoral Law and the Law on Structure, Duties and Authorities of the IEC and the ECC. The IEC reiterated the importance of an improved legal framework for the conduct of the upcoming electoral operations and urged lawmakers and the President to make it a priority issue.

Related to the legal reform, there is a possibility that with the approval and endorsement of the new Electoral Law, the entire **Commission** may need to be reappointed. It is important that any (re-) appointment is part of an inclusive process. Since the term of Chairman Manawi expires in April, also the appointment of a new Commissioner or the re-appointment of Manawi should be based on an inclusive decision-making process.

Finally, UNDP pays its respect to IEC deputy Chief Electoral Officer - Chief Operations Officer Mr. Mohammed Hashim Samim who tragically passed away on 12 January 2013. His death is a deep personal and professional loss to both the IEC and ELECT II.

II. Introduction

On 19 March 2013, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan until 19 March 2014, which includes a specific focus on elections UNSC 2096 emphasizes *“support, at the request of the Afghan authorities, the organization of future Afghan elections, including the 2014 presidential and provincial council elections, as well as to strengthen, in support of the Government of Afghanistan’s efforts, the sustainability, integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process [...] and provide capacity building and technical assistance to the Afghan institutions involved in this process”*.¹

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon emphasized that *“these elections are Afghan-led and Afghan-managed”* and *“the government (of Afghanistan) is committed to making this an inclusive, consultative and transparent process with the active and responsible participation by all stakeholders in building a widely accepted electoral framework”*.² Afghanistan’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Zahir Tanin stated that *“the Government of Afghanistan is committed to fair, democratic, transparent and inclusive elections, in which the men and women of Afghanistan will again shape their political future”*.³

The UNDP ELECT II project is the technical instrument of the UN to provide support to the electoral process in Afghanistan. In this respect, the UN fielded in January 2013 the second phase of a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) that assessed the parameters of possible election support for the upcoming Presidential and Provincial Council elections in 2014 and Wolesi Jirga elections (Lower House of Parlia-

ment) in 2015.⁴

In this framework and linked to the outcome of the NAM, UNDP explored a project document revision that extends the ELECT II project beyond its current scope of capacity development of the IEC in 2012 and 2013, and to include electoral support for the 2014 and 2015 elections. The project extension assessment is linked to the mid-term review of the current project. This review, consisting of two components, commenced in February 2013 with a forward-looking recommendations paper that paved the way for a draft project document extension, which was provided by UNDP to donor partners for further discussion in the following month(s). The second part of the mid-term review will take place in the second quarter and comprises a retrospective component, looking back at progress of project implementation since the inception of ELECT II in 2012.

The recommendations of the mid-term review will be incorporated in the extended project document, expected to be finalized in the second quarter of 2013. The new project document will likely also comprise a revised results resources framework with new output and activity statements.

¹ <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/sc10943.doc.htm>

² <http://unama.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=12254&ctl=Details&mid=15756&ItemID=36604&language=en-US>

³ *ibid*

⁴ The first phase of the NAM took place at the end of 2012 and mainly looked into the voter registration debate.

III. Results

OUTPUT 1: Institutional, Operational and Technical Capacity of the IEC is developed to ensure well-organized, future Afghan-led electoral process

A major objective of ELECT II is to further develop the institutional, operational and technical capacity of the IEC to ensure that the organization takes the lead and ownership in organizing and conducting properly the upcoming Presidential and Provincial Council elections in 2014 and Parliamentary and possibly District Council elections in 2015. It is the role of the project to enhance the capacity of the IEC to plan and conduct credible future elections with minimal external support. In the first quarter of 2013, the project in particular continued to focus on human resource capacity development (capacity assessment) as well as the organization's institutional knowledge capacity (electoral plans, SOPs, and other).

Indicator 1.1: Strategic and departmental planning IEC

ELECT II assisted the IEC on the drafting and approval on 22 January of a revised voter registration (VR) plan that includes a top-up campaign for new voters. This plan guides the IEC across all departments with their VR preparation. More information on the VR plan is included in Output 2. In addition, the project helped the IEC with initiating the development of the electoral operations plan for the 2014 elections and the 2014 and 2014 elections budget. These plans will be further elaborated in the second quarter.

To further enhance the institutional capacity development of the IEC, the project supports the development of Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) that

address different operational areas at the IEC across departments. All ELECT II Advisors are contributing to identifying standard procedures gaps in their department as well as assist the IEC in the further development and revision of electoral and management procedures, regulations and guidelines.

Indicator 1.2: Staff training and capacity development

ELECT II supported the IEC Training and Capacity Building Department (T&CBD) with conducting a capacity development assessment of IEC departments and key staff. ELECT II advisors were asked to assess the existing capacity in their respective departments, as well as to identify prevailing gaps and needs. Survey questionnaires were also prepared for the very specific purpose of acquiring essential data.

In this context, it was crucial to ascertain existing capacity gaps or discrepancies pertaining to the above areas and clearly specify the non-training and training-driven needs and priorities.

Together with the IEC T&CBD, the project has compiled and analyzed all data in the first quarter of 2013. Gaps and final recommendations will be incorporated in a final report, shared within the different IEC departments in the second quarter. This report will also be the basis for review and adjustment of the existing IEC 2012-2013 training and capacity building plan, possibly including tailored trainings on individual needs and a modified capacity development monitoring system.

The capacity development findings are expected to be finalized by the end April 2013. On the whole, the findings of the assessment are expected to provide relevant information that identifies the needs and

priorities for the IEC. These needs and priorities will be aligned according to the short, medium and long-term capacity development plans and strategies. The review and validation process enables the IEC to consider refining, improving and further strengthening its capacity development response and its intervention to the organization's strategic plan, structure and capacity building programs.

Indicator 1.3: Legal framework

Given that Parliament was in recess during most of the first quarter, the discussions on the reform of the Electoral Law and the Law on Structure, Duties and Authorities of the IEC and ECC were halted. The IEC reiterated the importance of an improved legal framework for the conduct of the upcoming electoral operations and urged lawmakers to make these discussions a priority issue for the new session of Parliament.

ELECT II further assisted the IEC with reviewing and developing Codes of Conduct (CoC) for external partners, such as observers, media, political parties, and candidates. In this respect, the IEC conducted on 27 March a consultation session with national stakeholders regarding the CoC for Observers and Media, and on 1 April for Political Parties and Candidates. The consultation session on 27 March was well attended by a large group of media organizations, CSOs and observers who all provided their input and feedback on a draft presented by the IEC. The consultation session for political parties and candidates on 1 April was attended by around 30 different political parties, who likewise gave their feedback on the Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates. The input of these stakeholders will be considered and incorporated in the new Codes of Conducts, to be finalized in the upcoming weeks.

The CoC for electoral officers, which was discussed with relevant staff in group in 2012, is currently under final review including recommendations of the IFES Afghanistan Electoral Integrity Assessment Report released in March.



IEC's Training Center construction

Photo by UNDP

Indicator 1.4: Construction

In the first quarter of 2013, construction works only resumed after the winter ended. The IEC continued with the construction of a Training Centre at its HQ premises, which is expected to be completed in the third quarter. ELECT II further recruited national engineers to assist the IEC with the planning of the construction of provincial offices and warehouses, as well as the launch of the "invitations to bid" and the subsequent evaluation. It is expected that construction companies will be selected by the end of the second quarter and that construction for the first batch of provincial offices and warehouses can commence in the third quarter. It is intended that at least

10 offices and warehouses will be built and operational before electoral operations in 2014.

ELECT II further supports the IEC with the improvement of the security at its premises. In this respect, guided by the ELECT II Security Advisor, as mentioned above, a number of security SOPs have been formally approved and implemented, including regulated access to the IEC premises. It is also expected that the IEC will deploy in the second quarter a guard force that controls the inner areas of the compound while the police will protect the external area of the compound.

Indicator 1.5: Gender strategy

ELECT II advised the IEC Gender Unit (GU) in order to provide significant gender related input to the development of the voter registration and public outreach planning.

The ELECT II Gender Advisor is also enhancing efforts in the IEC GU and Public Outreach Gender Focal Point to develop a general Gender Strategy that addresses both gender needs within the institution as well as for electoral operations. (more details on gender indicators and progress are provided in Output 3).

Indicator 1.6: Number of women working in the IEC

At the end of the first quarter 2013, 41 women are employed in the IEC, the same number as the end of 2012. For the upcoming voter registration exercise, the IEC plans to recruit a large number of women, from trainers and educators (50%) to temporary voter registration (support) officers and female security searchers.

Indicator 1.7: Electoral operation plans

ELECT II assisted the IEC on the drafting and approval

on 22 January of a revised voter registration (VR) plan that includes a top-up campaign for new voters. This plan guides the IEC across all departments with their VR preparation. More information on the VR plan is included in Output 2. In addition, the project helped the IEC with initiating the development of the electoral operations plan for the 2014 elections and the 2014 and 2014 elections budget. These plans will be further elaborated in the second quarter.

Indicator 1.8: Standard Operating Procedures

To further enhance the institutional capacity development of the IEC, ELECT II supports the development of Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) that address different operational areas at the IEC. All ELECT II Advisors are contributing to identifying standard procedures gaps in their department. SOPs developed and approved by the IEC in Q1, and which will be further implemented in Q2, include:

- With regards to the IEC Security Unit:
 - IEC premises Access Control, Media Centre Access, Security Policy, Emergency Response, Fire Risk Assessment, Smoking Policy
- With regards to the IEC Assets Unit:
 - IEC Assets Tracking System guidelines and manual, IEC Waybill management

Different SOPs as well as other procedures, codes and other guiding documents, that have been drafted in Q1 and that might already be implemented in reality, but need official approval by the IEC, include:

- General management and electoral issues:
 - ToRs for coordination meeting between IEC heads of departments and ELECT II Advisors
 - Code of Conducts for electoral officers (final review based on IFES fraud mitigation report)
 - IEC internal communication and coordination
- Administration and Finance:
 - Financial Management during transition period,

Operational Advance, Fuel Management, payroll management USD 135,915 and USD 77,330. For more details, please see Annex 2 Expenses by Output.

- Procurement:

- Anti-fraud policy
- Contracts and Long Term Agreements

- Logistics and Assets management:

- Import Customs Clearance; Warehouse, facility and premises management; IEC assets management guidelines, IEC disposal of Assets

ELECT II will continue to assist the IEC with implementation of the above mentioned SOPs as well as with the further development of new procedures, regulations and guidelines related to General management, External Relations, Public Outreach, Gender, Legal, Field Operations, Planning, Training and Capacity Development and HR.

During Q1, a total of USD 1,866,055 was spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2 Expenses by Output

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q1, a total of USD 1,866,055 was spent for Output 1.

The funding from the Government of Japan to the IEC is not part of the ELECT II basket fund and therefore booked in the separate Output 7 (USD 68,507 in Q1). Since this funding enhances the capacity of infrastructural and HR capacity in the IEC, its targets are directly incorporated in the targets of Output 1 of ELECT II.

Other related expenses in Q1 2013, financed with remaining funding carried-over from the ELECT I project but also contributing to Output 1 and Output 2 of ELECT II, are according to accounting procedures booked in the separate Outputs 5 and 6, respectively

Below is a snapshot of where Output 1 is in relation to its annual targets after Q1

Output 1: Institutional, operational and technical capacity of the IEC to ensure well organized, future Af-ghan-led electoral processes strengthened.				
Baseline	2013 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Com-ments
Baseline: 1.1. No strategic plan, departmental plans and concept of operations for 2012-2015 electoral cycle exist.	1.1: All Key results areas from Strategic Plan, Departmental Plans and Concept of Operations implemented.	1.1 VR Operational Plan developed 2014 Electoral Operational Plan drafted Continued development of SOPs for all different departments	a. The IEC approved on 22 January 2013 the VR top-up plan b. The IEC drafted an Electoral Operational Plan for the 2014 elections as well as a proposed budget for the 2014-15 elections c. Continued development of SOPs for each department SoP for Security finalized. SoPs for Financial Management during the transition period; Operational Advance; Fuel Management and Payroll Management drafted and submitted. SoPs for Logistics and Assets management drafted.	On target
Baseline: individual staff development plans does not exist in 2011	1.2: 80 % staff (field and HQ) trained in 2012 and 2013 feel that they are more effective in their jobs as result of the training.	Conduct of a Capacity Development Assessment	Conduct of a Capacity Development Assessment in latest stage of finalization	Delayed - The final report of the Capacity Assessment was planned to be released at the end of Q1. Additional input was however needed for proper analysis

Output 1: Institutional, operational and technical capacity of the IEC to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes strengthened.

Baseline	2013 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Comments
<p>Baseline: Electoral Laws, regulations and procedures weak, Code of Conducts have to be revised.</p>	<p>1.3: a. Timely inputs to the support the ongoing reform of the electoral law; b. In participation of relevant stakeholders, the IEC develops electoral Code of Conducts for Security Forces, Political Parties, Observers, Media, and state employees. IEC regulations, policies and procedures reviewed and improved in compliance with the reformed (electoral and structural) laws.</p>	<p>b. Finalization of the ethical Code of Conduct for electoral officers Drafting Codes of Conduct for observers and media, as well as for political parties and candidates</p>	<p>b. The CoC for electoral officers is finalized but a last review is to include recommendations of the IFES fraud mitigation report. The IEC prepared a draft Code of Conduct for Observers as well as Media, and presented these at a consultation session with stakeholders on 27 March for further input The IEC prepared a draft Code of Conduct for Political Parties as well as Candidates, and presented these at a consultation session with stakeholders on 1 April for further input.</p>	<p>On target</p>
<p>Baseline: 0 provinces have functional IEC owned offices.</p>	<p>1.4: Construction of 10 planned provincial infrastructure completed with proper quality certification. b. No. and quality of temporary electoral operations field staff for VR recruited and trained through cascade system.</p>	<p>a. Planning of construction provincial offices and warehouses</p>	<p>a. Finalization of security upgrades in 10 provinces (5+1 100%, 2 90%, 1 80%, 1 65%); recruitment of national engineers; drafting of design of provincial offices and warehouses.</p>	<p>On target</p>

Output 1: Institutional, operational and technical capacity of the IEC to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes strengthened.

Baseline	2013 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Comments
Baseline: The existing gender plan is not institutionalized and does not have a corresponding Gender Action plan	1.5: a. IEC Gender Strategy review report; b. Mapping of IEC's gender practices/policies and gaps. c. Roll out of Gender Action Plan with focus on both IEC's internal and electoral operations; d. All IEC middle management and electoral officers (HQ and provinces) trained in Gender and electoral operations (BRIDGE). e. 3 initiatives recommended by Gender Unit implemented by IEC Senior Management in the areas of 1) Public Outreach, 2) Operational Planning including VR, and 3) overall IEC training and capacity development.	Gender strategy developed.	a/e. Gender strategy developed with specific focus on VR. and inputs on b. International Women day celebration at the IEC, restating emphasis on women issues in elections as well as related to the IEC institutionally	On target
Baseline: At the start of 2012, 36 women are employed in the IEC	1.6: 15% increase in women working in the IEC compared to baseline	At start of 2013, 41 women working in the IEC (23 permanent – 18 contractual)	NA	NA
Baseline: 168 International experts (including ECC and medics) supported IEC in 2009/10 Elections.	1.7: a. IEC develops and delivers on all key electoral planning and operations documents (including the Elections Operation Plan). b. Less than 50 international advisors within the ELECT II Team.	VR operational plan for top-up finalized Preparation Electoral Operational Plan	VR operational plan for top-up finalized Drafting Electoral Operational Plan Drafting 2014-2015 elections budget	On target
Baseline: SoPs for finance, Procurement, HR, IT and Assets and Logistics in IEC outdated, incomplete or non-existent. Baseline: The IEC's current annual budget through the GIROA is approximately 2 million USD	1.8 a. SoPs for IEC finance, Procurement, HR, IT, Assets and Logistics developed and used by IEC. b. IEC capacity to bid for additional core budget resources from national budget strengthened.	Drafting of all SoPs initiated	a. SoP for Security finalized. SoPs for Financial Management during the transition period; Operational Advance; Fuel Management and Payroll Management drafted and submitted. SoPs for Logistics and Assets management drafted.	On target

OUTPUT 2: The quality of the voter registry to support future electoral processes is improved

The right to vote is the most basic element of a democratic election system. From the individual's right to vote follows a duty of the election administration to facilitate effective exercise of that right through the registration of voters.

Output 2 has a particular focus on technological sustainability in terms of improvements to the quality of the voter registry, and therefore to support future electoral operations in this regard. The outcome of the protracted and lengthy discussions on VR approach and planning in 2012 moved away from the establishment of a qualitative and long-term voter registry through a new nation-wide voter registration campaign or a revalidation exercise of the existing voter registration cards in circulation.



Packing of VR materials at the IEC HQ

Photo by UNDP

Instead, as guided by political realities, the IEC decided in January 2013 to plan a limited top-up voter registration campaign in preparation anticipation of the

2014 Presidential and Provincial elections; this in anticipation of the establishment of an electronic national ID card (e-tazkira) by the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Communications and Technology, which aims to establish in the mid-term a civil registry from which a voter registry subsequently could be extracted from. This evolution in the VR debate however withdrew the possibility of the IEC to be in charge of establishing a comprehensive, qualitative meaningful, and sustainable voter registry already for the 2014 and 2015 elections. In this respect, it is necessary that the objective and related indicators for output 2 have to be reconsidered.

ELECT II supports the IEC in the endeavor of planning the concept, approach and operations of the voter registration exercise.

Indicator 2.1: Polling centre verification

After the physical verification of 6,918 polling centres in 2011 and the geographic coding of 69% of them in 2012, the IEC shared all this data already with security forces to allow them well in advance proper security planning for the 2014 elections. The project recruited in the first quarter of 2013 a new GIS advisor who, once on board in April, will assist the IEC with the continued geo-coding of polling centres. A crucial element in this process is the availability of data from the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO).

Indicator 2.2: Updated voter registration

Where 2012 was characterized by lengthy discussions on VR approach and planning, the first quarter of 2013 saw the approval of a VR plan and subsequent preparations, closely supported by the ELECT II Advisors.

The new VR plan is built on the outcome of the discussions in 2012, guided by the principles of integrity and inclusiveness, as well as the Council of Ministers decision on 17 September and the Clarification Letter of the Office of Administrative Affairs on 2 January 2013. This letter did not endorse the IEC's second VR plan proposed in December 2012, which already moved away from a nation-wide registration campaign and included a registration and revalidation exercise of previously distributed VR cards.

The IEC developed in January a voter registration "top-up" plan for new voters, allowing all previously distributed cards as legitimate election documents together with e-tazkira cards that will have been distributed prior to the 2014 elections. The new voter registration plan takes into account three major premises identified by the NAM: a) acceptability to stakeholders; b) inclusiveness; and c) technical feasibility.

This new plan was approved by the Commission on 22 January and presented the day after. The IEC conducted a series of consultation sessions to inform stakeholders on the upcoming VR planning (see output 3).

The voter registration top-up exercise targets new eligible voters (those who will be 18 years of age at the next elections) and those voters who have never been registered previously. These voters, estimated to be around 4 million, will be issued a new voter registration card. The remaining voters, registered for elections in 2004-2005 and 2009-2010, can use their old voter cards. Also, those e-tazkira cards already distributed prior to the elections are considered as eligible documents. This VR regulation has been approved pursuant to the articles 15 and 66 of the Election Law by the Independent Election Com-

mission, on 22 January 2013. According to Art.1 of this regulation, voters shall prove their identity by presenting any of the documents listed below in order to be able to cast their vote on the election day:

- e-tazkira;
- Valid VR cards, issued by the Commission in the past;
- Valid VR cards to be issued through the VR process in 2013 and 2014

The following Afghan citizens will be requested to register:

- those who have recently become eligible for voting;
- have recently returned to the country;
- have moved from one electoral constituency to another;
- have lost their old VR cards;
- whose VR cards are damaged in such a way that specifications of the voters may not be visible;
- eligible voters who have not obtained VR cards in the past, for any other reason.

Persons possessing an e-tazkira card are not required to apply for new VR card.

The VR top-up campaign will take place in different phases. The first phase targets provincial capitals where VR centres will be established. The starting date is 26 May 2013. Depending on the progress of the e-tazkira implementation, which was officially initiated on 24 March in district 11 of Kabul city, the IEC will conduct a district level VR top-up exercise prior to the candidate nomination exercise. It will then revert to a provincial level exercise until approximately one month before election day. Pre-election day VR measures might also be necessary to ensure inclusiveness and integrity in areas that faced registration problems. In this case, the IEC will provide registration opportunities during the week prior to

polling day.

The following table presents key features of the three phases:

	Duration	VR centers	Expected registrants
Phase One	26 May 2013 – 25 March 2014	Each per province (34) plus 7 for big provinces	1,200,000
Phase Two	26 July 2013 – 25 September 2013	440	2,500,000
Phase Three	One week before election (5 days)	TBD in election plan	TBD in election plan

The VR procedures are based on the existing legal framework and include updates of the 2008-2009 VR procedures. Where possible, VR materials from previous exercises will be used. The IEC also plans to introduce enhanced security features for the newly designed VR card in line with requisite operational and procurement procedures. Some of the new security features included a registered hologram, a “guilloche” pattern which is difficult to reproduce, and other different anti-fraud features. A cascade training program will be implemented to train all field staff at the respective levels. Provincial Electoral Officers will also attend centralized trainings in Kabul prior to the start of the VR. Observation of all aspects of the VR exercise will be open to accredited candidate/party agents, observers and media representatives.

To assist in the conduct of the VR campaign, the IEC will also recruit around 800 provincial voter educators and 31 Kuchi liaison officers.

VR Public Outreach activities are planned to start 10

days prior to phase one, including Radio and TV public service announcements, SMS messaging, call centre services, bill boards, mobile theatres, provincial workshops with mullahs, local elders, maliks and influential women groups, coordination groups with CSOs, and face-to-face civic education activities. (See output 3.)

Indicator 2.3: Gender and VR

With support of the ELECT II Gender Advisor, the IEC gender unit has been closely involved in the VR planning and gender specific perspectives were incorporated in the VR Operations Plan. An overall IEC strategy for promoting increased women’s participation in the electoral process has been conceived by the IEC Gender Unit, with an immediate focus on voter registration (VR), and is in line with the stated objectives of the IEC five-year plan (2012-2016).

The strategy highlights how gender will be specifically incorporated in the VR exercise that will begin from the 26th of May 2013. This VR gender strategy supports the IEC voter registration operational plan that has been developed based on voter registration regulations approved by IEC on 22nd of January 2013. In implementing the gender VR activities, the Unit will work together internally with different relevant IEC Departments, and externally with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA), and with the Ministry of Haj (MoH), in coordination with the IEC External Relations Department. A gender and elections coordination group will also be established in the 2nd quarter 2013, in order to bring together partners with similar objectives and to develop mutually reinforcing cooperation and initiatives.

In preparation for the elections, the IEC has undertaken strategies to encourage female voters to regis-

ter, as well as to increase the female staff at IEC headquarters and provinces to actually conduct voter registration. The IEC will continue to involve influential leaders, including Mullahs and women's networks, to create awareness on the importance of women's electoral participation. The public outreach work of IEC will not only develop targeted messages for female voters, but will also ensure that gender is taken into account in all of the messaging in order to promote a gender responsive voter education approach. This is intended to promote inclusiveness and transparency in the electoral processes, and to safeguard the fundamental right to vote for all eligible women voters. Similarly, with regards to IEC staffing, efforts are being put into place to ensure women's active role in the election administration structures, including: female trainers; female voter educators; and voter registration and polling staff. The electoral process will be open to observers, and the IEC will underscore the importance of including female observers in gender balanced observation teams.

One important example of the need for a specific focus on gender in the electoral process is the fact that the IEC has provided female voters with culture sensitive options in regard to the issue of photos on voter registration cards. While the IEC is not insisting on female photo IDs, it does stress that as a measure to minimize fraud, IEC encourages female voters to have a picture in their cards when possible.

Some of the gender related activities planned by the IEC with a specific VR focus include:

I. Coordination meeting with Ministry of Haj, and Ministry of Women's Affairs

As religious leaders, Mullahs have an especially influential role in the lives of Afghan men and women,

and therefore are an important stakeholder in promoting democratic elections. In this context, the IEC has planned to involve Mullahs to speak to women voters in seminars, and men in Mosques in support of female voters in the electoral process. This will require consultations with Mullahs to inform them on the topic of 'women's electoral participation.' Therefore, a coordination meeting will be organized with the Ministry of Haj (MOH) and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, in order to mobilize trained individuals for the Mullah consultations.

II. Consultation with Representatives of MOWA, MOH and IEC Gender Officers from Provinces

Implementation of the gender-related activities in provinces will be carried out by the Provincial Electoral Officers and the Gender Officers hired at the provincial level in coordination with MOH and MOWA. In order to facilitate coordination between the organizations and the gender officers at the provinces, a consultation meeting will be organized at the IEC headquarters. A major issue of discussion will include coordination and support needed by the Unit for the implementation of consultations and seminars in provinces.

III. Consultations with Mullahs

Consultations with Mullahs in all districts (17) of Kabul and Provinces (33) have been planned by the IEC Gender Unit (GU). The consultations will permit gender trainers from MOWA and MOH to offer presentations for Mullahs in order to sensitize them as to the importance of women's participation in electoral processes, and to provide them with an issue brief / talking points to underscore the fundamental necessity to ensure the voting rights of women. This will also emphasize the importance of men's overall support to, and constructive approach, in support of women's right to participate. The Mullahs who

attend the consultations will be invited to speak to women in a separate consultation organized for women only. Mullahs will also be encouraged to speak to men in mosques on these issues. The IEC Gender Unit will travel to provinces to monitor the implementation of the activities in the provinces.

IV. Seminars for women

Following the consultations with Mullahs, consultations will be organized in each district of Kabul, and all Provinces with women. Mullahs who attended the consultations will be invited to speak in the meetings on the importance of women's participation in electoral processes focusing on voter registration and polling.

V. Gender and Election Group

A 'Gender and Election group' comprising of relevant stakeholders working on women's political and electoral participation will be established by the IEC with an objective to raise and discuss gender-related electoral issues with the group. Through this platform, the IEC envisages to seek and receive support from the organizations in addressing the issues that concerns the IEC and the stakeholders. The meeting will be led by the IEC, and will meet regularly, at least once a month.

VI. Information leaflet

An information leaflet on VR and gender will be developed to provide information on i) importance of women's participation in electoral processes with focus on VR ii) Special arrangements made for women voters to register. The leaflet will be developed both in Dari and Pashto, and shared with public outreach department for inputs. The leaflet will be targeted at literate female voters and distributed in

consultations and seminars and through NGO networks.

VII. Consultation with media and civil society organizations

Consultations with media and civil society organizations would be organized in support of women's participation in electoral processes. The IEC Gender Unit will make presentations for media and relevant civil society organizations calling for support in highlighting the importance of women's participation.

VIII. Gender training for electoral Staff

Training for electoral officials will be organized by the IEC Training and Capacity Building Department at headquarters and provincial level. The training is scheduled to commence from early May for voter registration, and will be conducted from 4-5 days starting with the training of trainers (ToT) at the headquarters. As gender responsive services are critical to promoting greater access for women to services, a gender session will be included in the trainings for electoral staff. This session will basically inform the staff on adopting gender responsive service delivery approach in their specific areas of work. The Gender Unit will prepare training content, and will make presentations at the training of trainers (ToT) at headquarters level.

The training content will be shared with trainers for conducting gender sessions in provincial and district level trainings. The training strategy incorporated in the voter registration operational plan has emphasized that gender balance will be taken into account while hiring trainers, and if required, separate trainings could be organized for female field staff. 5

IX. Gender and public outreach

As distinct from the IEC Gender Unit, the Gender Focal Point in the Public Outreach Department (POD) is responsible for ensuring that outreach activities planned by POD take a gender perspective into account. This is crucial as women in Afghanistan face not only cultural barriers to electoral/political participation, but also suffer from a real information deficit with regards to elections. It is therefore essential for IEC to develop targeted messages and channels of delivery focused specifically on women voters. Gender considerations will also be incorporated in the overall messaging for public outreach, promoting gender awareness relating to electoral processes.

The public outreach strategy ⁶ incorporated in the Voter Registration-specific Operational Plan to be implemented starting 15 May, 2013 in preparation for the commencement of the “top-up” VR exercise commencing on 26 May at provincial level (phase 1) and at district level around 25 June (phase 2) highlights the following:

- A number of TV and radio PSAs developed by POD will be focused on women and voting;
- Seminars with influential leaders will be conducted, including with women’s networks (phase 1 and 2);
- Brochures and additional leaflets will also be developed to specifically target women’s voters, and to advise that separate facilitates and female VR team members are provided to them;
- A call center will be established to answer voter questions, with training on women’s issues;
- SMS messaging and interactive voice recognition (IVR) strategies will target women voters;
- Mobile theaters will have special focus on wom-

en, and youth (phase 2);

- One 10-episode Radio Drama will be produced, each episode 5 minutes in length (phase 2)

X. External Relations and Gender

The Gender Unit will work with External Relations in ensuring that gender relevant information/presentations are shared with various stakeholders in structured stakeholder consultations/meetings organized by the department, where relevant. With regard to the department’s work with observers, efforts will be made to emphasize and promote gender balance among observers, and observation of all stages of the electoral process (including VR) from a gender perspective shall be encouraged by IEC through effective and inclusive accreditation procedures.

XI. Registration and Polling Stations for Women

Registration and polling centers will have a separate female station staffed with female officers. Such arrangements are critical to improving access to electoral participation for female voters. The centers would be established in locations that would increase women’s physical access to centers.

XII. Hiring of Gender Officers

Gender officers will be hired in IEC Provincial offices. The officers will provide support to the Gender Unit in implementing the Unit’s plan at Provincial level, and thereafter all gender-related electoral work to be developed for implementation at provincial level. Female body searchers .

In a conflict environment, it is vital that voters submit to a security check while exercising their fundamental right to vote. This is not meant as an intru-

⁶ Voter Registration Top up Exercise, Operational Plan, 2013, Annex 4.

sion of rights, but as a measure to secure that all voters can vote in a safe environment, and should not be intimidating to voters. However, it is not culturally acceptable for men to check women, except in extreme cases. There is a lack of female police to take this role. The IEC gender unit will have to meet with Ministry of Interior in relation to planning and placement of female body searchers on polling day.

XIII. Sex disaggregated data:

Sex disaggregated data will be collected wherever possible and relevant by IEC departments. The Gender Unit will collect this data to provide an analytical report on elections and Gender. Some data to be collected are highlighted below:

Data from IEC External Relations Department

- No. of male and female attending each meeting and consultations
- No. of male and female in observers group both national and international
- No. of consultations with gender presentations/information sharing
- No. of male and female candidates

Data from IEC Public Outreach Department

- No. of male and female in face to face consultations
- No. of calls received at the call centre from female and male callers
- No. of male and female voter/civic educators

Data from Capacity Building and Training Department

- No. of male and female staff trained for VR
- No. of male and female trainers (both temporary and permanent) for VR training

Data from Human Resource Department

- No. of male and female staff hired for VR
- No. of male and female staff hired in the electoral process

Data from Field Operations

- No. of male and female registered
- No. of male and female voters

-No. of male and female DFCs

-No of male and female registration centre/station staff

XIV. Lessons learned exercises

Post-election consultations with women voters and electoral administrators will be organized, in order to document lessons learned from a gender perspective. The lessons learned from the electoral processes will be documented and shared with IEC and stakeholders as relevant, and fed into electoral planning for the 2015 parliamentary elections.

XV. Timeline for Gender Activities

	Activities	Dates (tentative)
1	Information Leaflet on Gender and VR	April 25, 2013
2	Coordination meeting with MOH and MOWA	
3	Coordination meeting with representatives of MOH and MOWA and gender officers from provinces	This needs to be organized after hiring of Gender Officers
4	Consultation with Mullahs in Provinces	May 2013
5	Seminar with women in Provinces	May 2013
6	Completion of training materials/Gender presentations for VR Training	April 25, 2013
7	Hiring of Gender Officers	June 2013
8	Gender presentation for political parties, CSOs and media	April 23 and 24 13
9	Formation of Gender and Election Group	April 17, 2013
10	Consultation with media and civil society organizations in promoting women's participation to electoral processes	May-December 2013

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q1, a total of USD 224,686 was spent for Output 2.

Other related expenses in Q1 2013, financed with remaining funding carried-over from the ELECT I project but also contributing to Output 1 and Output 2 of ELECT II, are booked according to accounting procedures in the separate Output 5 and 6, respectively USD 135,915 and USD 77,330. For more details, please see Annex 2 Expenses by Output.

Below is a snapshot of where Output 2 is in relation to its annual targets after Q1. The output statement and related indicators are subject for revision given the changed context on VR planning.

OUTPUT 2: The quality of the voter registry to support future electoral processes is improved				
Baseline	2013 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Comments
Baseline: Polling centres have no clear electoral boundaries	2.1: 80% of all polling centres have villages clearly linked to them	Polling centre data list	All polling centres have been mapped and shared with ANSF. 69% of them have geo-codes. The process of geo-coding is ongoing but depending on information from ACGHO.	On target
Baseline: The current voter registration lists are incomplete, and contains duplicates	2.2: VR operational plan is implemented with attention to fraud mitigation, and enhanced national coverage, including that of Kuchi's. (Concrete indicators to be developed after completion of VR plan).	Development VR top-up plan	VR top-up plan developed, approved and shared; including enhanced security features	Off target The output statement and related indicators are subject for revision given the changed context on VR planning.
Baseline: In previous VR exercises, 40% of the registrants were women. The VR update for next round of elections has not been initiated Indicator 2.3: b. % of women that participate as IEC staff in the voter registration process Baseline: not recorded in previous VR exercises.	2.3: a. At least 25% of the new registrants are women b. clear % to be developed as part of the completion if the VR plan)	Gender perspectives in the VR top-up plan	The gender unit was closely involved in the VR planning and gender specific perspectives were incorporated in the VR Operations Plan. (see narratives for details)	Off target The output statement and related indicators are subject for revision given the changed context on VR planning.

OUTPUT 3: The capacity of the IEC to encourage democratic participation is strengthened

Sufficient voter information and civic education is necessary to ensure voters are fully informed of their rights and responsibilities as voters, as well as having at least a basic understanding of the overall political process. Significantly in the first quarter of 2013, ELECT II supported the IEC with the development of public outreach, external relations and gender plans that specifically focus on the upcoming voter registration campaign.

Indicator 3.1: External relations

In Q1, the project provided continued support to the IEC External Relations Department (ERD) in the following main areas:

- input to the development of an updated plan for external stakeholder meetings related to the VR process (see annex 6)
- advice in finalizing and launching the revised IEC website (www.iec.org.af)
- Initiation of planning with regards to the 2013 Candidate Nomination process

Significant External Relations activities the IEC organized in Q1 include:

Date	Activity	Topic(s)	Participants
Jan-Feb-Mar	Media Interviews	VR plan; legal reform; electoral process	NA
14 Jan	Donor Technical Working Group meeting	VR planning	Donor partners
23 Jan	Press Conference	Announcement of the VR top-up plan	media
11 Feb	Donor Technical Working Group meeting	VR operational plan	Donor partners
26 Feb	Stakeholder consultation	VR process	CSO
8 Mar	International Women Day	Gender perspectives in elections	IEC staff, stakeholders
24 Mar	Press Conference	Announcement of 26 May as start date for the VR top-up campaign	media
25 Mar	Donor Technical Working Group meeting	VR; electoral operational planning, elections budget	Donor partners
27 Mar	Stakeholder consultation	Codes of Conduct for Media and Observers	CSOs, observers, media, political parties
March	Website launch	Launch of revised IEC website	NA
1 Apr	Stakeholder consultation	Codes of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates	Political parties (30)

Indicator 3.2: Public outreach

In the first quarter, ELECT II supported the IEC Public Outreach Department (POD) with the preparation of public outreach (PO) activities for the upcoming VR campaign that commences on 26 May. Different activities, ways of messaging as well as content were discussed for final approval. The project also supported the preparation and implementation of the PO activities via procurement of voter education materials, including media airtime, the production of radio and TV spots, as well as the production of printed materials, including banners, posters and fliers.

Six different TV public service announcements (PSA), 3 in Dari and Pashto respectively, are expected to be developed in the initial stage prior to the VR to inform the public at large. These PSAs as well as other PO messages will focus on informational, motivational and gender specific content. The informational message will share facts about the mandate of the IEC, as an institution, and facts regarding civic responsibility. The motivational messaging focuses on participation, elections, and the future. The gender message focuses on how women contribute positively to a democratic system of government. POD attempts to use famous personalities, graphics, and some animation in the PSAs to reach the youth, women, and urban voters as the main target audience.

Graphic and content development for flipcharts, manuals, billboards, poll signs, and other printed materials has begun. Content and message development for media products is expected to begin in April. A POD training and field operational plan, including work plan and M&E plans, is expected to be developed by the end of April. Procurement process have also begun for the Call Centre establishment,

Mobile Theatre, Radio PSAs, Radio Dramas, printed materials, SMS, Billboards, and Poll Signs for the POD campaign for VR to begin at least 10 days (May 15, 2013) before the commencement of VR (May 26, 2013).

In order to properly prepare and deliver public outreach VR messages, the IEC is in the process of increasing staffing, in particular with regards to trainers, call center operators, quality control officers and graphics specialists. ELECT II is further assisting the IEC with the development and implementation of a comprehensive civic and voter education public outreach campaign for the 2014/15 elections. In this respect, firstly, ELECT II will provide expert technical assistance advice to the IEC in designing its voter and civic education strategy. This will involve IEC convened coordination meetings including civil society groups and other key stakeholders such as religious leaders. Secondly, the project will support implementation of the plan.

The IEC plans to channel its public outreach activities through different modalities: such as engaging civil society groups, multi-media messaging, direct messaging (i.e. face-to-face sessions, seminars, mobile theatre, etc.) and printed materials. Primary data will be gathered to inform the public outreach campaign and assist it in developing targeted messaging, calibrated to reach different segments of the electorate. ELECT II supports the IEC with the preparations and procurement of a stakeholder survey and assessment that looks into general understanding of the electoral democratic process and behavior behind voter turnout. The survey is meant to generate data that will be used to provide baseline information to advise the IEC on message types and modes of communication, and against which the impact of IEC's external communication (i.e., public relations strate-

gy) and civic/voter education campaign could be measured.



International Women's Day celebration at the IEC

Photo by UNDP

The IEC also commenced communication meetings to explore possible outreach synergies with other government agencies, and governmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the Ministry of Hadj, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, as well other UN agencies and national/international non-organizations.

Indicator 3.3: Gender outreach

The IEC celebrated the International Women's Day on 8 March, coordinated by the Gender Unit. The Commissioners and the CEO emphasized the professional contribution of women to the work of the IEC. The importance of women's political participation was underscored, and the IEC reaffirmed its commitment to increase women's participation as: voters, candidates, electoral administrators, observers and

as IEC staff. Both the IEC Chairman and the CEO addressed the meeting, which was well attended by both women and men from the IEC.

ELECT II advised the IEC Gender Unit (GU) during the development of the voter registration and public outreach planning to provide significant input from a gender perspective. A specific gender strategy for VR was developed. The ELECT II Gender Advisor also worked closely with the IEC GU on gender specific inputs on the electoral legislation for further discussions in the Wolesi Jirga.

The ELECT II Gender Advisor is enhancing efforts in the IEC GU and Public Outreach Gender Focal Point to develop a general Gender Strategy that addresses both gender needs within the institution as well as for electoral operations. Part of this gender strategy will be based on a mapping exercise the IEC is planning to document all the past gender related institutional and electoral initiatives, including the lessons learnt, gaps and recommendations. Furthermore, gender mapping in the field for electoral operations will be conducted. As a first step to mainstream a better gender equity approach within the IEC, the project supported the IEC with sharpening gender monitoring and reporting, developing gender specific standard operating procedures, and reviewing the IEC training and capacity building plan.

Furthermore, the Gender Advisor provided gender specific input to the IEC's Capacity Development Assessment and is assisting the IEC with developing gender related SOPs.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q1, a total of USD 187,985 was spent for Output 3.

Below is a snapshot of where Output 3 is in relation to its annual targets after Q1.

OUTPUT 3: The capacity of the IEC to encourage democratic participation is strengthened				
Baseline	2013 Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Comments
Baseline: no VE/CE plans in place for 2013 VR and 2014/2015 elections	3.1: Key Result Areas from Public outreach plan for voter and civic education (reflecting public inputs e.g. from IEC public opinion survey) implemented.	VR PO planning	Public Outreach initiated procurement planning for VR messaging	On target
Baseline: N/A	3.2: Key Result Areas from External Relation Plan implemented and focused on institutionalizing engagement between IEC and all different stakeholders at national and subnational levels.	External Relation plan developed Revised IEC website launched	External Relations plan for VR and non-VR activities finalized for Q1-2 2013; Organization of 2 Press Conferences (23 Jan and 24 March) and series of stakeholder consultations (Feb-Mar), as well as press releases and media interviews; Revised IEC Website launched in March 2013	On target
Baseline: N/A	3.3: The gender perspectives in public outreach and external relations further promoted to reach out to at least 50,000 women through leaflets and PSAs.	Gender perspectives integrated in preparation public outreach campaign	Gender perspectives integrated in preparation VR public outreach campaign	On target

IV. Gender Specific Results

UNDP ELECT II supports the IEC with strengthening its gender equity focus, both internally and externally. Women are among the major target groups that the IEC's intends to include in its objective of broadening the democratic space. The project advised the IEC Gender Unit (GU) during the development of the voter registration and public outreach planning in order to provide significant input from a gender perspective. A specific gender strategy for VR was developed, besides the design of a general gender strategy on women and elections that addresses both gender needs within the institution as well as electoral operations. The ELECT II Gender Advisor also worked closely with the IEC GU on gender specific inputs on the electoral legislation for further discussions in the Wolesi Jirga.

The IEC celebrated the International Women's Day (8 March) on 11 March, an event coordinated by the Gender Unit. The Commissioners and the CEO emphasized the professional contribution of women to the work of the IEC. The importance of women's political participation was underscored, and the IEC reaffirmed its commitment to increase women's participation as: voters, candidates, electoral administrators, observers and as IEC staff. Both the IEC Chairman and the CEO addressed the meeting, which was well attended by both women and men from the IEC.

On 12 March, the IEC participated in a conference entitled "Coordination of Advocacy Efforts to Increase Women Political Participation". The conference was organized by the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) in coordination with USAID and Democracy International. The objective of the conference was to coordinate and increase efforts towards promoting women's participa-

tion in the upcoming elections. The conference concluded by adopting resolutions that highlighted the importance of women's participation in the upcoming election. The IEC plans to conduct regular stakeholder sessions starting from Q2 on the topic of gender and elections.

V. Partnerships

The IEC is the implementing partner of the ELECT II project. Together with the IEC, ELECT II closely works together with other national (and international) partners to optimize the electoral process.



Political Parties Code of conduct consultation meeting
Photo by UNDP

A) Civil society organizations and I/NGOs, government agencies, political parties, observers and media

During Q1 of 2013, the IEC and ELECT II were in close consultation with (electoral) civil society organizations and I/NGOs (including IFES, DI, NDI, FEFA, TEFA, TAF, and others), government agencies, political parties, observers and media to discuss the proposed voter registration top-up exercise. In this respect, the IEC conducted a series of consultation meetings with these national stakeholders to discuss the voter registration top-up plan.

ELECT II further supports the IEC in developing Code of Conducts for partners. In this respect, the IEC organized consultation sessions with observers and media (27 March) and with 30 political parties on (1 April) to discuss respective Code of Conducts.

B) Afghan National Security Forces and ISAF/NATO

ELECT II, together with UNAMA, assists the IEC in bringing together the ANA, MOD, NDS, MoI and ISAF/NATO to discuss the security aspects of electoral operations, with the immediate focus being on voter registration security and the possibility of air transport of materials to remote areas. Furthermore, the IEC provided the geographic details of 6,918 verified polling centres to the MoI to allow proper security planning for polling day.

C) Other Afghan government partners (MoI, MoCIT, MoF)

The IEC met with MoI and MoCIT with regards to the e-Tazkira project to discuss and maximize possible linkages. The IEC is also in consultation with the MoF regarding the budget discussion that relates to electoral assistance being 'on' and 'off budget' (i.e being channeled through the national treasury or otherwise) for the electoral assistance.

D) International donor partners

ELECT II is currently funded by 14 international donor partners and intends to maintain very close donor relations. Through the various fora such as the technical working group and the ELECTII donor group, partners are kept abreast of matters related to the project.

ELECT II is in the process of being extended to include support to upcoming elections in 2014 and 2015. At the end of the first quarter, the first draft of a project extension document has been submitted to the international donor partners for their feedback.

E) UNAMA

On 19 March 2013, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMA with another year through resolution 2096. The mandate foresees a specific section on electoral support. The deputy SRSG is the co-chair of the ELECTII project board. UNAMA also organizes coordination meeting on elections with the international community where ELECT II also participates. (See annex 7 for a schedule of different meetings on elections organized by the UN.)

VI. Issues

On/off budget modalities

The ELECT II project is designed as a National Implementation Modality. This affects the way of funding to the IEC through ELECT II basket fund. Channeling the IEC budget through the MoF as 'on budget' modality imposes certain risks (see below). It is however necessary that the IEC and MoF have a clear understanding of the pros and cons and the processes required to go on budget. Discussions are ongoing between the two institutions and more clarity on the way forward is expected in the next quarter.

Legal reform of the electoral framework

The still ongoing discussions of the revision of the Electoral Law and the on the Structure, Duties and Authorities of the IEC and the ECC increase the current uncertainty -specially with elections planning ongoing in full swing. Therefore a late finalization of the laws will affect significantly on the planning and execution of electoral operations. In addition, the uncertainty of status of an electoral complaint body impedes proper establishment of this body.

Voter registration

The VR campaign that the IEC intends to commence on 26 May only addresses new voters (or voters who need to reapply for a new VR card). The intended objective of output 2 to improve the quality of the complete voter registry therefore has to be reconsidered. The formulation of new output statement (including new indicators and activities) is part of the current project extension discussions.

VII. Risks

Independence of the IEC

The lengthy discussions in 2012 and the decision of the GIROA that did not endorse the IEC's initial approach to improve the voter registry, lead to certain concerns that the constitutional independence of the IEC had been tarnished to a certain extent. The IEC new VR plan announced on 22 January also raised some doubts with various political actors about the credibility of the voter registry, and in particular about the reliability of existing VR cards in circulation. Furthermore, the uncertainty around the legal reform of the electoral framework, including varying and even opposing draft laws that are in circulation, can affect the perception of the IEC by the general public at large. In this view, it is important to take note that the current ongoing discussions with the MoF on the different 'on budget' modalities do not only relate to the existing capacity to handle the elections budget, but also ensure that the perception of independence of the IEC as constitutionally mandated is not affected.

The risk for UNDP/ELECT II exists in this manner that an affected credibility (perceived or actual) of the IEC would also lead to an ineffective organization, and subsequently question the sustainable capacity development objectives the project aims to realize. UNDP offered to provide a facilitating role between the MoF and the IEC to have more clarity on the way forward in the next quarter.

IEC leadership

The issue of perception of independence of the IEC is also related to the position of the IEC Chairman. The current term of Chairman Manawi ends in April 2013. It is important that any (re-)appointment is

part of an inclusive process including all relevant national political stakeholders, in order to preserve the image of the IEC as a neutral and independent institution.

Any uncertainty regarding the leadership of the IEC or a perception of non-neutrality undermines the project's efforts in assisting the organization with effective organizing and conducting electoral operations with wide participation. UNAMA has underscored in different ways the importance of an inclusive decision-making process to (re-) appoint the IEC Chairman.

IEC staff retention

Civil Service Commission review

At the end of February, a proposal regarding IEC organizational re-structuring was re-submitted for the President's approval. The implications of the proposed re-structuring include: enhancing the role of the IEC Chairman in electoral operations and administration; establishing a direct line of communication between the Chairman's office and provincial offices; changes to the salary and ranking system; promotion of Provincial Electoral Officers (PEOs) to the level of IEC Department Head according to new educational criteria; and introduction of new educational criteria for IEC Department Heads. This would imply that IEC department heads and PEOs would need to re-apply to their posts, and many PEOs would likely not meet the new criteria. The approval by the President of the current proposal could therefore have implications for both headquarters and provincial staff capacity upon implementation. In anticipation of the upcoming elections, the IEC had previously been of

the opinion that CSC recommendations not be implemented until after the 2014/15 election cycle in order not to jeopardize electoral planning and organization, and subsequently the project's efforts to assist the IEC in taking the lead of organizing electoral operations. UNAMA and ELECT II support the opinion of the IEC.

Additional emoluments IEC staff

In order to maintain qualified electoral staff at the IEC during the inter-election period, it was decided in 2011 to better regulate existing practices of extra emoluments for IEC staff through the ELECT project. The GIROA informed UNDP in February 2013 that these additional emoluments are not in line with national law. UNDP requested the IEC to discuss the issue with the MoF in order to find a way to gradually phase out the top-up of salaries. Since the additional emoluments served as a measure to retain qualified staff, the risk exists that in case of an abrupt termination, it would seriously affect the capacity development efforts of the project and the preparations of the electoral operations.

Incomplete and loosely regulated voter registry

The GIROA did not support the verification and validation process for existing cards that the IEC had suggested at the end of 2012. A risk connected to the new VR approach implies an incomplete and loosely regulated voter registry due to the impossibility for the IEC to verify existing cards in circulation. While conducting the top-up VR exercise as successfully as possible, the IEC also closely follows the e-Tazkira registration process conducted by the MoI and MoCIT. In case of a successful e-Tazkira registration process the IEC can make use of the civil registry for electoral objectives. The UN encourages the IEC to continue to reach out to the MoI and take initia-

tives in order to establish effective cooperation between the IEC and the MoI towards adopting the e-tazkira database as a long-term solution to generate VR data.

VIII. Future Planning

It is expected that the extension of the ELECT II project, to include electoral operations in 2014 and 2015, will be approved and result in a revised project document, with new output statements and envisaged activities. This will extend the focus of project immediately towards the preparations of upcoming Presidential and Provincial Council elections of 2014, with first of all the assistance to the IEC of developing the Electoral Operations plan, related budget, funding, and financial implementation modality.

In the meantime, the second quarter of 2013 will comprise the first major electoral operation event in the timespan of the ELECT II project, with the launch of the voter registration public outreach campaign on 15 May followed by the actual voter registration campaign initialized on 26 May. These activities will centralize in the following months much of the capacity development support ELECT II provides to the IEC. All advisors embedded in the IEC departments will continue providing input and guidance on VR planning and implementation to their counterparts, ranging from external relations, to public outreach, gender, logistics, IT, security, procedures, training, procurement, and assets management.

It is noteworthy to mention that the discussions in the Parliament on the legal reform of the electoral framework, both the Electoral Law as well as the Structure Law, might lead to a revised legal context in the upcoming months. The project welcomes any improvement of the framework. Avoidable delays to finalize approve and endorse any of the new laws risk affecting the electoral operations. The IEC currently uses the existing electoral laws and decrees as its base for procedures and regulations. Any change of the electoral framework in late 2013 needs read-

justment of the IEC regulations and procedures and might hamper the preparations of the conduct of the 2014 elections.

The table below provides an overview of the most significant upcoming activities:

ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
Mid-term review (Phase 2)	Q2 2013
Project document extension	Q2 2013
Development of Electoral Operations plan	Q2 2013
Development / breakdown 2014-2015 elections budget	Q2 2013
Specification on/off budget modalities	Q2 2013
Public Outreach campaign for VR	Q2 2013 – Q1 2014 (Commencement 15 May 2013)
Conduct of Voter registration campaign	Q2 2013 – Q1 2014 (commencement 26 May 2013)
Elaboration of Gender Strategy on electoral operations	Q1-3 2013
IEC stakeholders survey	Q2-3 2013
Release Capacity Development Assessment report	Q2 2013
Codes of Conduct for electoral staff, observers, media, political parties, candidates, and security forces, including stakeholder consultations	Q1-4 2013
Commencement of construction of IEC provincial offices and warehouses	Q3 2013
Completion of construction IEC training centre	Q1-Q3 2013
Continued development and/or updates of different departmental SOPS	Q1-Q3 2013
Establishment IEC internal security guard force	Q2 2013

Annex 1: Financial Table

The Interim Donor Report for the Period Jan- Mar 2013 for (Atlas Award ID: 00063078 - Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow - Phase II (ELECT-II))

Annex 1. Financial Table

Donor Name	COMMITMENT/ PREVIOUS YEARS RECORD				CURRENT YEAR (2013)				TOTAL RECEIVABLE		FUTURE EXPENSES			
	Commitment (a)	Revenue Collected 31/12/2012 (b)	Expenses 31/12/2012 (c)	IPSAS Adjustment (d)	Opening Balance E=(b-c+d) (e)	Contribution Revenue (f)	Other Revenue (g)	Expenses (h)	Closing Balance I=(e+f+g-h) (i)	(Future Due) L=(a-b-f) (m)	(Past Due) (n)	Available Resources N=(l-j-k-m)	Commitments (Unliquidated Obligations) (j)	Undepreciated of fixed Assets and Inventory (k)
AusAid (ELECT I)	4,210,257	4,210,257	4,210,254	13,599	13,602				13,602	-	-	13,602		
AusAid (ELECT II)	10,472,610	5,370,569	1,282,013		4,068,556	5,102,041	1,338,284	7,652,312		-	-	7,651,829	160,483.00	
CIDA	22,687,541	22,687,541	22,687,477	885,455	691,519		59,478	632,041		-	-	622,878	9,163.00	
Denmark (ELECT I)	5,140,441	5,140,441	5,140,441	47,975	47,975			47,975		-	-	47,975		
Denmark (ELECT II)	3,161,708	3,161,708	1,326,292		1,855,416		378,078	1,477,338		-	-	1,315,711	161,627.00	
DFID (ELECT I)	19,207,852	19,207,852	19,189,641	14,551	32,763			32,763		-	-	32,763		
DFID (ELECT II)	19,101,124	3,231,018			3,231,018	20,745		3,117,171		-	-	3,117,171		
EC	13,404,826	8,442,421	254,651		8,187,770		375,140	7,812,630		15,849,361	-	6,700,578	1,112,052.00	
Germany (ELECT I)	26,999,950	26,999,950	26,999,072		878			878		-	-	878		
Germany (ELECT II)	5,120,012	5,120,012	523,087		4,596,924		515,961	4,080,944		-	-	3,887,807	193,137.00	
Italy	12,679,057	12,679,057	11,361,718	149,756	1,467,094		64,641	1,402,453		-	-	1,402,453		
Japan (ELECT I)	56,161,540	56,161,540	56,134,508	25,245	52,277			52,277		-	-	52,277		
Japan (ELECT II)	8,326,995	8,326,995	321,640		8,005,355		68,508	8,536,847		-	-	8,536,847		
Korea	1,000,000	1,000,000	965,698		634,302		49,619	584,683		-	-	584,683		
Norway (ELECT I)	13,272,145	13,272,145	13,220,913		51,233			51,233		-	-	51,233		
Norway (ELECT II)	2,118,644	1,059,322			1,059,322		14,431	1,044,891		1,059,322	-	1,044,891		
SIDA	4,588,067	1,468,429			1,468,429	3,119,638	264,124	4,323,943		-	3,119,638	1,204,305		
Switzerland	1,305,483	1,305,483	1,300,521		4,962			4,962		-	-	4,962		
Turkey	5,000,000	5,000,000	3,582,138		1,417,862		89,625	1,328,237		-	-	1,328,237		
USAID	58,500,000	56,564,623	57,544,520		(1,389,897)		52,234	(1,442,132)		2,345,377.01	-	(1,444,742)		
Grand Total	293,078,252	260,619,363	225,638,586	1,136,582	36,117,359	8,242,424	-	3,404,736	40,955,047	24,216,465	3,119,638	36,196,337	1,639,072	-

Note:

- i) The UNDP certified financial statements for the 2012 are under the review, and verification of UN board of auditors, and all figures in the above statement are provisional.
ii) Income received in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN- Operational Rate of Exchange applied.

Annex 2: Expenses by Output

The Interim Donor Report for the Period Jan- Mar 2013 for (Atlas Award ID: 00063078 - Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tom

Project Output ID and Description	2013 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan-Dec-2013)	Delivery Rate	Remarks
00080393: Institutional, operational and technical capacity of the IEC to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes developed	27,314,240	1,866,055	7%	
Sub-total Output 1 (00080393)	27,314,240	1,866,055	7%	
00080394: The quality of the voter registry to support future electoral processes is improved	22,019,957	224,686	1%	
Sub-total Output 2 (00080394)	22,019,957	224,686	1%	
00080395: Capacity of the IEC to encourage democratic participation strengthened	5,607,168	187,985	3%	
Sub-total Output 3 (00080395)	5,607,168	187,985	3%	
00080396: Project Management Costs	6,974,947	844,259	12%	
Sub-total Output 4 (00080396)	6,974,947	844,259	12%	
00050324: Support IEC to conduct Voter Registration and Capacity Building through Technical & Operational Assistance - (Use of ELECT I contribution during ELECT II - Indicators and targets are part of Output 2)	-	135,915	0%	
Sub-total Output 5 (Project ID: 00050324)	-	135,915	0%	
00071801: Support IEC Capacity Building through Technical & Operational Assistance (USAID funded) - (Use of ELECT I contribution during ELECT II - Indicators and targets are part of Output 1)	-	77,330	0%	
Sub-total Output 6 (Project ID: 00071801)	-	77,330	0%	
00083558: Human resource and infrastructural capacity of the Independent Election Commission of	6,408,260	68,507	1%	
Sub-total Output 7 (00083558)	6,408,260	68,507	1%	
Grand Total	68,324,572	3,404,736	5%	

Annex 3: Expenses by Donor

Donor Name	Project Output ID and Description	2013 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan-March-2013)	Delivery Rates
AusAID	Output 1(00080393)- Institutional, operational and technical capacity of IEC is developed to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes	5,457,750	1,119,934	21%
	Output 2(00080394)- Support the IEC in the improvement of the voter registry database and system	4,630,292	111,924	2%
	Output 3 (Project ID 00080395)- Capacity of the IEC to encourage democratic participation is strengthened	384,577	3,045	1%
	Output 4 (00080396)- Project management cost	-	103,381	
Sub-Total		10,472,619	1,338,284	13%
CIDA	Output 5 (Project ID 00050324)- IEC Election Materials, Assets & Operations*	-	61,680	
	Output 4 (00080396)- Project management cost	-	(2,202)	
Sub-Total		-	59,478	
DFID	Output 1(00080393)- Institutional, operational and technical capacity of IEC is developed to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes	6,429,203	113,181	2%
	Output 2(00080394)- Support the IEC in the improvement of the voter registry database and system	12,774,608	-	
	Output 4 (00080396)- Project management cost	-	21,411	
Sub-Total		19,203,811	134,592	1%
EC	Output 1(00080393)- Institutional, operational and technical capacity of IEC is developed to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes	4,541,772	216,561	5%
	Output 2(00080394)- Support the IEC in the improvement of the voter registry database and system	4,011,230	111,959	3%
	Output 3 (Project ID 00080395)- Capacity of the IEC to encourage democratic participation is strengthened	4,055,300	44,125	1%
	Output 4 (00080396)- Project management cost	-	2,495	
Sub-Total		12,608,302	375,140	3%

Note:

*Expenditures related to CIDA belong to 2012 open POs which are settled in 2013.

** Expenditures incurred in output 5 and 6 is being adjusted into their relevant COA.

Denmark	Output 1(00080393)- Institutional, operational and technical capacity of IEC is developed to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes	3,614,524	61,327	2%
	Output 4 (00080396)- Project management cost	1,586,333	316,751	20%
Sub-Total		5,200,857	378,078	7%
Germany	Output 1(00080393)- Institutional, operational and technical capacity of IEC is developed to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes	344,406	36,582	11%
	Output 2(00080394)- Support the IEC in the improvement of the voter registry database and system		803	
	Output 4 (00080396)- Project management cost	4,697,929	97,154	2%
	Output 5 (Project ID 00050324)- IEC Election Materials, Assets & Operations**	-	381,442	
Sub-Total		5,042,335	515,981	10%
Italy	Output 1(00080393)- Institutional, operational and technical capacity of IEC is developed to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes	205,106	20,979	10%
	Output 2(00080394)- Support the IEC in the improvement of the voter registry database and system	104,209	-	
	Output 4 (00080396)- Project management cost	690,685	-	
	Output 3 (Project ID 00080395)- Capacity of the IEC to encourage democratic participation is strengthened	-	43,661	
Sub-Total		1,000,000	64,641	6%
Japan	Output 7(00083558)- Human resource and infra-structural capacity of the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan developed	6,408,260	68,508	1%
Sub-Total		6,408,260	68,508	1%
Korea	Output 5 (00050324)- IEC Election Materials, Assets & Operations**	-	49,619	
Sub-Total		-	49,619	
Norway	Output 1(00080393)- Institutional, operational and technical capacity of IEC is developed to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes	715,549	14,431	2%
	Output 2(00080394)- Support the IEC in the improvement of the voter registry database and system	499,619		
	Output 3 (00080395)- Capacity of the IEC to encourage democratic participation is strengthened	1,167,291		
Sub-Total		2,382,459	14,431	1%

Note:

*Expenditures related to CIDA belong to 2012 open POs which are settled in 2013.

** Expenditures incurred in output 5 and 6 is being adjusted into their relevant COA.

SIDA	Output 1(00080393)- Institutional, operational and technical capacity of IEC is developed to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes	4,588,067	264,124	6%
Sub-Total		4,588,067	264,124	6%
Turkey	Output 1(00080393)- Institutional, operational and technical capacity of IEC is developed to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes	1,417,862	49,711	4%
	Output 1(00080393)- Institutional, operational and technical capacity of IEC is developed to ensure well organized, future Afghan-led electoral processes		39,913	
Sub-Total		1,417,862	89,625	6%
USAID	Output 5 (Project ID 00050324)- IEC Election Materials, Assets & Operations**	-	(25,096)	
	Output 6(00071801)- Support IEC on capacity building and electoral reforms**	-	77,330	
Sub-Total		-	52,234	
Grand Total	Grand total	68,324,572	3,404,736	5%

Note:

*Expenditures related to CIDA belong to 2012 open POs which are settled in 2013.

** Expenditures incurred in output 5 and 6 is being adjusted into their relevant COA.

Annex 4: Risk Log

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Last updated	Status
1	Security UNDP				UNDP			
	The security situation becomes so grave that it seriously affects the UNDP advisory role of the IEC	<i>Start of Project</i>	Environmental	I: 4-5 P: 2-3	Recruitment of an ELECT II Security Advisor. Establishment of a UNDP ELECT office at the adjacent UN-OCA compound, from where ELECT II staff can still operate during times of security constraints. Further security upgrades at IEC	<i>STA1 – IEC Security Advisor – ELECT II Security specialist</i>	Q1 2013	ELECT II has established an office in UN-OCA.
2	Security IEC				IEC			
	The security situation becomes so grave that it hampers nationwide operations by the IEC	<i>Start of Project</i>	Environmental	I: 4 P: 2-3	a) IEC and ELECT II has recruited 2 security specialist to establish proper security plans and measure in order to increase the security at the IEC premises and ELECT II staff. b) It is important that the IEC liaises with the ANSF and jointly develop a security plan with regards to electoral operations	<i>STA1-2 – IEC Security Advisor – ELECT II Security specialist</i>	Q1 2013	Security upgrades at the IEC. Internal guard force in place in Q2. Liaise with ANSF for VR and election operations (coordination meetings)
3	Senior Leadership IEC				ELECT			
	The existing senior leadership of the IEC is replaced	<i>Start of Project</i>	Organisational	I: 2 P: 3	Work in collaboration with new Commissioners; enhanced coordination and communication with all management staff and key stakeholders, in order to have buy-in from a wide range of key players.	<i>CTA All advisors</i>	Q1 2013	Uncertainty around reappointment of IEC Chairman. End of current term is April 2013

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Last updated	Status
4	Staff turnover				IEC			
	Turnover in personnel results in loss of skills acquired through IEC staff training and institutional memory.	<i>Start of Project</i>	Organizational	I: 3-4 P:2	Maintain appropriate wage- and non-wage incentives to motivate and retain IEC staff	CTA	Q1 2013	Retention of key IEC staff members and management is at acceptable level. Current debates on emoluments for IEC staff through ELECT II basket fund.
5	International Advisors				UNDP			
	UNDP is having difficulties to recruit and unable to retain key international advisors to the IEC	<i>Start of Project</i>		I: 3 P1	Continue active recruitment process and make use of networking and EAD rosters and vacancy announcements.			ELECT II was able in 2012 to recruit a large number of essential advisors as foreseen in the project document.
6	NIM – on budget / off budget				UNDP			
	ELECT (I) was a DIM project, The donors reinforced their intention to have ELECT II operating under NIM. The outstanding question is how to channel the funding to “on-budget” or “off-budget”. Full NIM procedures imply that the project budget will be channelled from UNDP through the Ministry of Finance (MOF), and from there directed to the IEC. The IEC has expressed concerns about both the capacity of the different government.	<i>Start of use ELECT II funding</i>	Financial	I: 3 P: 2	UNDP has underscored that it stands ready to inform the discussion on this topic with regards to risk analysis, and to facilitate a dialogue between the MoF and the IEC if requested.	CTA	Q1 2013	IEC prepared an on/off budget template for each budget line item, including different options of ‘on budget modalities’. Together with donors, UNDP/UNAMA facilitates between MoF and IEC.

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Last updated	Status
7	IEC restructuring				IEC			
	The CSC is reviewing the organisational structure of the IEC.	Q3 2012	Organizational	I: 3 P:2	ELECT II not involved in organizational restructuring IEC, though close follow-up by ELECT II on the recommendations of the CSC. Analysis by the IEC if the implementations of the CSC review should better take place after the 2015 elections	CTA	Q1 2013	CSC recommendations not yet final/public. Request for implementation by 2015
8	Voter Registration				IEC			
	Risk of incomplete and loosely regulated voter registration	Q4 2012	Operational	I: 3 P: 3	IEC developed a revised VR top-up plan early 2013	CTA / STA2	Q1 2013	Implementation of the VR top-up will start in Q2 2013
9	Electoral reform				IEC / ELECT II			
	Current revision of the Electoral Law as well as Structures Law, in the Lower and Upper House, respectively, will have impact on the IEC and the procedures and processes to follow to organise the next elections.	Q3 2012	Regulatory	I: 3 P:3	ELECT II assisted the IEC with drafting a revision proposal (Q2) and later (Q3) also the MOJ through the deployment of an external legal advisor. ELECT II supported also the Public Consultation sessions held on this topic.	STA1	Q1 2013	Electoral Law: submitted to WJ in December 2012. Structure Law: approved by the Lower House and but rejected by Upper House. Waiting end of Parliamentary recess in March for further debate. Final draft subject to Presidential endorsement
10	Procurement				IEC / ELECT II			
	Current revision of the Electoral Law as well as Structures Law, in the Lower and Upper House, respectively, will have impact on the IEC and the procedures and processes to follow to organise the next elections.	Q3 2012	Operational	I: 4 P:2	Identification which procurement will be international vs national, and which through UNDP and which under government implementation and rules and regulations	CTA/ STA3	Q1 2013	Slight delay in procurement VR – Public Outreach (TV PSA development)

Annex 5: Issue Log

ID	Type	Date Identified	Description	Status/ Priority	Status Change	Au- thor
1.	Project Document extension	Q1 2013	Current discussions to extend ELECT II beyond 2013 for 2014-2015 electoral support; revised and new outputs expected. Election budget discussions	High		
2.	Legal reform of the electoral framework	Q2 2012	Uncertainty around electoral legal framework affects current procedures.	High		
3.	On/off budget modalities	Q4 2012	IEC prepared an on/off budget template for each budget line item, including different options of 'on budget modalities'. Once approved by donors, the IEC will share the 2014-2015 elections budget, including different suggested modalities, with MoF for consideration.	High		
4.	VR	December 2012	Output 2 Objective of ELECT II (improved Voter Register) has to be revised after changed VR context	Medium		

Annex 6: External Relations plan regarding Voter Registration (phase I)

(tentative dates)

April

Date	IEC Activity	Event/Venue	Participants	Topics to be covered	Contributing departments
15 April 2013	Meeting with Afghan Youth Council	IEC Media Centre (IEC HQ)	Afghan Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accreditation issues - Observation issues - Public Outreach initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) Public Outreach
20 April-20 May 2013	Consultation with Mullahs	Kabul and all Provinces	Mullahs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation and discussion on women's participation in electoral processes - Presentation on Mullah's role in promoting women's participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Gender Unit b) External Relations b) Public Outreach
30 April-20 May 2013	Consultation with women voters	Kabul and all Provinces	Women voters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mullahs speak with women voters on the importance of women's participation in elections focusing on VR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Gender Unit b) External Relations b) Public Outreach
22 April 2013	Coordination meeting with Media and CSO Representatives	Outside of IEC (to be decided)	Media News Editors, Reporters and CSO representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on the Accreditation Process - Update on VR Security and Movement plans - Update on Public Outreach Plans/Preparations - Update on Data Centre Operations/Methodology - Update on VR Training - Gender (promote women participation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) Legal Department c) Public Outreach d) Gender Unit e) IT f) Training
23 April 2013	Coordination meeting with Political Party Representatives	IEC Media Centre (IEC HQ)	Political Party Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on the Accreditation Process - Update on VR Security and Movement plans - Update on Public Outreach Plans/Preparations - Update on Data Centre - Operations/Methodology - Update on VR Training - Gender (promote women participation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) Legal Department c) Public Outreach d) Gender Unit e) IT f) Training
24 April 2013	Issuing Accreditation Public Notice for Observation	Public Notice	To all relevant stakeholders (media, CSO, Parties, Observer groups)	Invitation for interested stakeholders to observe the 2013/2014 VR Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations

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External Relations plan regarding Voter Registration (phase I)

May

Focus: VR Materials Arrival/Packing and Public Outreach

Date	IEC Activity	Event/Venue	Participants	Topics to be covered	Contributing departments
2 May 2013	MEDIA Tour (event)	IEC Warehouses	National and International Media representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Packing of VR Kits and Materials - Update on distribution plans for VR Materials - Photo op 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) Logistics c) Training
1-9 May 2013	Preparation of VR Packages for Observers (CDs+ print materials)	IEC HQ		CDs containing relevant documents related to: Legal Framework VR operations Public Outreach Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations
10 May 2013	Commencement of Accreditation Process	IEC Media Centre (IEC HQ)		Press Release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations
15 May 2013	Press Conference	IEC Media Centre (IEC HQ)	Media Reporters, CSO Representatives, Nat/Intl Stakeholder Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch of Public Outreach Campaign - Update on VR operational preparations - Accreditation Process - VR Security and Movement plans - Update on Data Centre Operations/Methodology - Update on VR staff recruitments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) Legal Department c) Public Outreach d) Logistics e) IEC Chairman's Office

External Relations plan regarding Voter Registration (phase I)

May

Focus: Final Preparations and VR Kick Off

Date	IEC Activity	Event/Venue	Participants	Topics to be covered	Contributing departments
21 May 2013	Consultation meeting with Political Parties	IEC Media Centre (IEC HQ)	Political Party Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on final VR preparations - Update on Training Activities - Update on VR Security and Movement Schedule - Public Outreach Activities - Anti-fraud Measures - Update on VR staff recruitments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) Legal Department c) Public Outreach d) Logistics e) IEC Chairman's Office
22 May 2013	Coordination meeting with Media and CSO Representatives	IEC Media Centre (IEC HQ)	Media and CSO Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on final VR preparations - Update on Training Activities - Update on VR Security and Movement Schedule - Public Outreach Activities - Anti-fraud Measures - Update on VR staff recruitments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) Legal Department c) Public Outreach d) Logistics e) IEC Chairman's Office
26 May 2013	Media Event Official Launch of the VR Process	One of VR Centres in Kabul	Media Reporters	Run through the registration process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) IEC Chairman's Office

External Relations plan regarding Voter Registration (phase I)

June

Focus: VR Process, Statistics and Public Outreach

Date	IEC Activity	Event/Venue	Participants	Topics to be covered	Contributing departments
10 June 2013	Round Table Discussion		IEC, FEFA, TEFA, Media, Gov. Reps	Discussion on VR process and any emerging issues	a) External Relations
23 June 2013	Meeting with Media, CSO Representatives and accredited observers	IEC Media Centre (IEC HQ)	Media, CSO Representatives and accredited Observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on VR Statistics and Phase II preparations - Update on Security - Update on Public Outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) IT c) Legal Department d) Public Outreach
24 June 2013	Briefing and Consultations with Political Parties	IEC Media Centre (IEC HQ)	Political Party Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on VR Statistics and Phase II preparations - Update on Security - Update on Public Outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) IT c) Legal Department d) Public Outreach
26 June 2013	Press Conference	1 month of VR IEC Media Centre (IEC HQ)	Media Reporters, CSO Representatives, Nat/Intl Stakeholders Accredited Observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on VR Statistics and Phase II preparations - Update on Security - Update on Public Outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) External Relations b) IT c) Legal Department d) Public Outreach

External Relations plan regarding Voter Registration (phase I)

ANNEX 7: UN organized international meetings on elections

United Nations Organized International Meetings on Elections

Meeting	Purpose	Chair	Participants	Level	Frequency
General Electoral and Political Developments					
Electoral Core Group (Principals)	Strategic/political body that considers major electoral developments and International Community positions	UNAMA SRSG/DSRSG I	Core Group countries + ELECT II Donors	Ambassadors (plus one or two as requested)	Called as required
Electoral Core Group (Working)	Updates and information sharing on political aspects of elections; services Electoral Core Group	UNAMA PAD Electoral Support	Core Group countries + ELECT II Donors	Political officer/ Development adviser	Fortnightly
TMAF International Electoral Forum	Discussion forum for IC messaging to GoRA on TMAF commitment of developing 'robust electoral architecture'	Level TBD based on participants	TMAF Steering Committee Members (5 + 4)	Development adviser/political officer?	Called as required
Activity Information Sharing					
International Information Sharing Meeting	Broad information sharing on election related issues	UNAMA DSRSG I	Member states, international electoral implementers, UNDP, UNAMA (Afghan NGOs on extraordinary basis and agreement of the Chair)	NGO heads, development adviser/ political officer	Monthly
ELECT II Project-Related Issues					
ELECT II Project Board	Decision-making forum and Steering Committee for ELECT II Project	IEC Chairman/ UNAMA DSRSG I	ELECT II Donors, IEC, UNDP	Head of development agency/ Deputy Amb.	Quarterly
ELECT II Technical Working Group	Technical discussion forum on ELECT II project related issues	IEC CEO/ ELECT CTA	ELECT II Donors, IEC, UNDP, UNAMA	Development adviser/political officer	Monthly, or as required
ELECT II Donor Meeting	Discussion forum for project related issues between ELECT II and its international partners	UNDP Deputy Country Director	ELECT II Donors, UNDP, UNAMA	Development adviser/political officer	Called as required