UN ELECTORAL SUPPORT PROJECT (UNESP)

2019 FIRST QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

DONORS

USA	Denmark	Germany
EU	Sweden	Japan
Norway	Australia	UK

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project ID:	00105005
Duration:	01 October 2017 – 31 December 2019
ANDS Component:	Governance, Rule of Law, Human Rights
Contributing to NPP & ANPDF:	NPP 1: National Transparency and Accountability
	NPP 6: National Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities
	ANPDF: 5.3.A: Reforming the Public Sector
CPD Outcome:	Outcome 1: Improved legitimate, transparent and inclusive governance at all levels that enables progressive realization of human rights
UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome:	Outcome 2: Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development. Output 2.2.2: Constitution-making, electoral and parliamentary processes and institutions strengthened to promote inclusion, transparency and accountability.
Total Budget 2017-2019:	$ 141,262,344
Annual Budget 2019:	$ 43,404,163
Unfunded Amount:	$ 0
Implementing Partner:	UNDP
Responsible Parties:	IEC, ECC
Project Manager:	Alim Rama
Responsible Head of Programme Unit:	Douglas Armour

COVER PAGE PHOTO: Social media communication workshop for IEC IPOD staff, 13 March 2019.

ACRONYMS

ACCRA	Afghan Central Civil Registration Authority
ANDSF	Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces
BVV	Biometric Voter Verification
CC	Call Centre
CEO	Chief Electoral Officer
CN	Candidate Nomination
CSO	Central Statistics Organization
DC	District Council
DDEO	Deputy District Electoral Officers
DEO	District Electoral Officers
ECC	Electoral Complaints Commission
EDR	Electoral Dispute Resolution
EMB	Election Management Body
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
GoIRA	Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HQ	Headquarters
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IEC	Independent Election Commission
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MC	Media Committee
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoIA	Ministry of Interior Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
NATO RS	North Atlantic Treaty Organization Resolute Support Mission
NMP	National Movement Plan
NUG	National Unity Government
PC	Polling Centre
PECC	Provincial Electoral Complaints Commission
PEO	Provincial Election Officer
PIEC	Provincial Independent Election Commission
PMP	Provincial Movement Plan
ProDoc	Project Document
PS	Polling Station
PSA	Public Service Announcement
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESP	United Nations Electoral Support Project
UNEST	United Nations Electoral Support Team
VR	Voter Registration
WJ	Wolesi Jirga

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I.   EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Document Overview. This report covers the United Nations Electoral Support Project's (UNESP) operations for the first quarter of the 2019 financial year, 1 January to 31 March 2019. This document is structured around the outputs outlined in the revised UNESP Project Document (ProDoc) as of July 2018 and the corresponding Annual Work Plan (AWP). Readers of this report should be acquainted with both documents.

Project Objectives. UNESP has two overall objectives:

- To build the capacity of the Afghan electoral institutions to implement elections in line with the national electoral legal framework and Afghanistan's international commitments; and,
- To allow a programming mechanism for the international community to partially finance the elections.

Donors and Budget. Nine donors supported UNESP during this reporting period: Denmark, Sweden, Germany, the European Union (EU), Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, and the United States of America (USA).

Achievements. In this quarter, UNESP provided financial, operational, advisory and technical support to the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) of Afghanistan to achieve the following results:

> Preliminary Wolesi Jirga results announced for 33 provinces.
> Final Wolesi Jirga election results announced for 23 provinces.
> 3,660,124 valid votes counted, of which 37.4 percent were cast by women (1,369,808).
> 18 preliminary Presidential candidates were announced.
> New Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons, Secretaries and Commissioners, as well as Heads of Secretariats, were appointed to the IEC and ECC.

- **Wolesi Jirga 2018 election results.** The preliminary Wolesi Jirga (WJ) results were announced for 33 provinces (excluding Ghazni) alongside Sikh and Kuchi seats. As of the end of March 2019, the IEC had published the final WJ election results for 23 provinces, including Kuchi and Sikh seats. Of the 3,660,124 valid votes cast, 37.4 percent (1,369,808) were cast by women.
- **Presidential Election Candidate Nomination.** The Presidential election Candidate Nomination (CN) period took place from 22 December 2018 until 20 January 2019. At least 73 potential candidates received the CN kit during the Presidential CN period. On 5 February, the IEC published a preliminary list of 18 Presidential candidates, all men. The project provided technical inputs for the development of regulations, procedures, codes of conduct, guidelines and information packages for the CN process.
- **Appointment of Chairpersons and Commissioners.** In early March, His Excellency, President Ashraf Ghani, through separate decrees, appointed 12 Commissioners (three women) and Heads of Secretariats of the two electoral bodies. Seven Commissioners were appointed to the IEC and five Commissioners to the ECC. On 4 March 2019, the new IEC and ECC Commissioners and Heads of Secretariats took their oath of office at the Presidential Palace and were later introduced to the IEC and ECC offices.
- **Candidate Nomination Materials for Provincial Council (PC), District Council (DC) election and delayed Ghazni Wolesi Jirga Election.** With support from the project, the IEC External

Relations Department completed procurement of PC, DC, and Ghazni CN kits; the banners and stationery items of which are delivered. The CN packs (relevant documents and information sheets) and forms to be filled out by the candidates are finalized. All materials await deployment upon resumption of CN activities [the appointment of the new IEC Commissioners may lead to amendments of the CN Guidelines; electoral system to be used for upcoming PC and DC elections is yet to be clarified and could affect CN]. The laptops for CN are prepositioned with the IEC Logistics Department and are ready for the next CN process when announced by IEC.

Challenges. Throughout the reporting period, the project faced challenges pertaining to amendments to the 2016 Election Law, the Presidential dismissal of Commissioners from both IEC and ECC, and the IEC's 20 March announcement of a new electoral timeline for the Presidential, PC, and Ghazni WJ election.

- **Amendments to the 2016 Election Law.** In the period under review, His Excellency, President Ashraf Ghani signed a legislative decree amending the 2016 Election Law following unanimous approval of a draft by the Cabinet. On 13 February 2019, the President signed a decree regarding non-interference of government administrative officials and employees in the presidential elections. On the same day, the President issued a Presidential Order on the Code of Conduct of security forces in the electoral process. In response to the amendment to the Election Law, the Acting Chairs of the IEC and the ECC issued a joint press statement on 14 February 2019, highlighting their commitment to continue preparations for the upcoming elections. The Legal Department, with project support, have prepared draft text on the effects of the amendments to the Election Law and will submit this to the Commission for review in April.

- **Dismissal of IEC and ECC Commissioners.** Following the dismissal of members of both Commissions, the nomination process for the IEC and ECC Commissioners and Head of Secretariat positions commenced on 16 February 2019 for a period of seven days; during which time 81 individuals (16 women) were nominated. The new Commissioners and Chairpersons, elected by the Commissioners, were appointed in early March and have commenced activities.

- **Suspended Activities.** Following the Electoral Law amendment and dismissal of Commissioners, the IEC stopped VR update and CN for DC, PC and WJ Ghazni elections as the Secretariats awaited instructions and clarifications from the Presidential Palace on next steps. On 17 February 2019, the IEC sent a letter to the Presidential Palace requiring clarification on the way forward on VR and the need to suspend movements until further instructions were received. In the absence of an official response, on 23 February 2019, the IEC CEO issued a letter to MoIA suspending all movements of sensitive and non-sensitive materials as they were still awaiting clarification from the Presidential Palace.

- **Election Timeline.** On 20 March, the IEC announced a new date for the Presidential, PC and Ghazni WJ election. At this time, the IEC excluded the DC elections from the calendar without further explanation. The new date of 28 September 2019 has seen the project work with counterparts at both institutions to update operational plans, training timelines and voter registration plans to support the new proposed date.

- **Response to WJ Results.** Analysis of field updates indicated that the announcement of parliamentary election results incited a number of actions from disgruntled unsuccessful candidates, candidate's agents and supporters. These updates suggest that in several provinces there were allegations of electoral fraud. The protesters demanded recounts, invalidation of votes

not supported by biometric voter verification (BVV), re-elections and prosecution of electoral staff involved in the alleged electoral fraud.

Looking Ahead. The coming quarter will see continued operational activities in preparation for the 2019 elections. In order to support an evolving electoral environment, UNESP will progress advisory support to the IEC and ECC regarding VR, including polling centre (PC) assessments, recruitment and training of VR staff, implementation of public outreach plans for VR, the national VR Update and Ghazni VR, and the public display of Voters List for review and corrections. Support will also be provided for national PC and Ghazni WJ CN, the accreditation of observers and candidate agents and coherent IEC engagement with electoral stakeholders.

Internally, UNESP will finalize Output 6 of the UNESP Project Document (ProDoc), in accordance with updated IEC and ECC Operational Plans and revised timeline when they are finalized by the electoral bodies.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q1, a total of US$ 2,842,330 was spent on UNESP activities. For more details, please see Annexes 1 and 2.

II.   RESULTS

A.   OUTPUT 1: INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Output Definition: Administration of credible elections is facilitated by the meeting of key IEC structural and planning milestones.

UNESP priorities under this output are organized around key IEC managerial and communications systems, providing support to strategic and operational planning, IEC structures, procedures and systems, including the electoral environment in which the Commission operates. UNESP emphasizes sustainability, with a focus on support to recruitment, capacity building and training.

IEC Recruitment

The period under review saw upheaval in staffing at the IEC following the Presidential dismissal of IEC Commissioners and a lack of government budget to support the extension of temporary staff contracts.

- **IEC Commissioners.** On 3 March 2019, His Excellency, President Ashraf Ghani, through separate decrees, appointed seven new Commissioners to the IEC (2 women) and one Head of Secretariat, selected from 81 nominees, following the vote of 17 presidential candidates at the Presidential Place on 1 March 2019. The new Commissioners took their oath of office at the Presidential Palace on 4 March and were introduced to the IEC.

- **Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and Secretary.** Following internal voting by the elected Commissioners on 5 March 2019, the IEC appointed the following staff:

    o   Chairperson: Ms. Hawa Alam Nuristani.
    o   Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Sayed Esmatullah Mal.
    o   Secretary: Mr. Musafir Qoqandi.

- **Temporary Staff.** Temporary IEC staff whose contracts ended on 20 March 2019 were not extended as the IEC awaits approval of the budget by the Government. This has impacted on IPOD where six temporary staff and all IEC Call Centre Operators and Supervisors have since left, resulting in the closure of the IEC Call Centre at the end of March. Moreover, the recruitment of Civic Educators, essential to conduct grassroots outreach campaign, does not appear to be possible at this time. Similarly, the contracts of 33 External Relations (ER) Officers in Provincial IECs (PIECs) and four Headquarter (HQ) ER staff have been terminated, which will have a strong impact on PC and Ghazni WJ CN once the decision is taken to move forward. Within the IEC Training Department, the contract of 10 Trainers and two Assistants at HQ, and 152 Provincial Trainers, were also ended due to unavailability of budget. Finally, the contracts of Logistics staff who were hired for VR have also expired, including [1] one Logistics Officer/Supervisor for packing team, [2] two Logistics officers in the warehouse section, [3] two National movement Assistants, [4] one Vehicle Maintenance Unit Manager, [5] two Assets Assistants, and [6] 29 Daily wages. A new 1-month contract has been approved for 60 Daily wages. The loss of experienced people, whose capacity has been improved over the months, due to support of the project, impacts negatively on the upcoming elections. The contract expiry of a software developer also delays the preparation of the observer accreditation database. As of 31 March 2019, 425 temporary staff, of which 55 are women, are employed at IEC according to IEC Human Resource data.

- **Quarterly Progress.** The IEC has seen a one percent reduction of the total number of Tashkeel positions compared to the last quarter, dropping from 78 percent to 77 percent. The female percentage decreased by one percent, down to five percent. In total, there are 105 vacant positions within the IEC.

#	Category		Q4FY2018			Q1FY2019		
			No.	%		No.	%	
1	Total number of Tashkeel positions filled		360	78%		352	77%	
2	Total number of Tashkeel positions vacant		97	21%		105	23%	
3	Total number of Tashkeel positions per organogram		457			457		
4	Gender breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions		Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %
			338	22	6%	333	19	5%
5	Seniority breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions		Senior	Other	Sr %	Senior	Other	Sr %
			65	295	18%	58	294	16%
6	Gender breakdown of Senior positions		Senior Male	Senior Female	Sr Fem %	Senior Male	Senior Female	Sr Fem %
			61	4	6%	56	2	3.40%
7	Gender breakdown of other positions		Other Male	Other Female	Jr Fem %	Other Male	Other Female	Jr Fem %
			277	18	82%	277	17	6.00%

Table 1. IEC HR Breakdown Q42018 v Q12019

* In this quarter report the seven new Commissioners and CEO are not included because they are out of Civil Servants Organizational Structure.

IEC Capacity Building & Training

- **Induction package for Commissioners.** The project supported the compilation of an induction package for new Commissioners. The package includes presentations of duties of each department, overview of 2018 electoral activities (achievements, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations), 2019 electoral activities and key documents, coordination with UNESP, and basics of electoral administration. Following the Commissioners commencement, the IEC Legal Department provided a comprehensive presentation on the electoral system, especially Multi-Dimensional Representation (MDR[1]), in the second week of March.
- **Induction package for newly hired staff.** The IEC Training Department, with support from the project, prepared an induction package for new IEC staff. The Training Department allocated two days in each week for these trainings intended to run from 20 February to 31 March 2019. In total, two sessions were held, reaching 10 participants, of which five were women.
- **Trainer evaluation.** The project provided technical support to the IEC Training Department in the evaluation of 14 trainers (7 women) into three broad categories (strong, average or developmental). Four of them (2 women) were rated as strong trainers and will be used for conducting of Training of Trainers (ToTs) in provincial training exercises. Another four were rated average (1 woman) and six (4 women) were rated as developmental; these trainers will support group activities and administration of the trainings. In addition, the project supported orientation

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[1] The use of MDR is based on the Special Electoral Reform Commission's (SERC) 2015 proposal for electoral reform, moving from single non-transferable vote (SNTV) system to the MDR system (open-list Proportional Representation (PR) adapted to Afghan realities and considerations of electoral stakeholders).

of 74 National Advisors (3 women) on IEC operations, activities, their roles and responsibilities including the reporting requirements.

- **VR Update training plan.** The project provided technical inputs for the VR Update training. It is worth noting that an initial ToT for VR top-up exercise was conducted in December 2018. Thereafter, the IEC changed the election dates twice and introduced changes to the VR process [correction and transfer form, removing VR Manager and Deputy District Electoral Officers (DDEOs), change in roles and responsibilities of VR Chairpersons]. Therefore, to equip the Trainers and VR staff, the IEC planned VR trainings notably (1) ToT at HQ level and (2) provincial level training of District Electoral Officers (DEOs) and VR staff. These are now on hold as the IEC management awaits the decision on VR Update and display of the voters list for the upcoming elections. It is observed that in the electoral calendar 30 days are mentioned both for the recruitment of staff and their trainings. To start the VR update on 20 April, recruitment and trainings were due to commence on 21 March (already passed). To date, no staff have been recruited due to unavailability of government funding. the recruitment of the VR staff starts, 25 days will be required to complete the training. As IEC is already behind schedule, there is high possibility to revise the VR update dates.

- **Candidate Nomination.** The CN packages for PC, DC and WJ Ghazni elections were finalized with project support, including approved procedures, guidelines and forms. Additional support was implemented by the project in March regarding advice on the technical aspects of nationwide PC and Ghazni WJ CN process, notably in light of implementing the MDR system (if approved by IEC). Preparations for printing of the CN packages; configuration of laptops; packing and delivery of material; training and public outreach continue while awaiting a decision from the new IEC management. Once a decision is taken, the project anticipates that IEC will need 15 to 18 days to launch the CN process in the provinces.

- **Candidate Nomination training.** The project provided technical inputs for the CN training of External Relations Officers. Training intended to guide the CN process for PC and DC elections has now been put on hold as IEC management awaits decisions on changes to the electoral system.

- **Social Media Training.** On 13 March 2019, the UNESP Communication and Outreach team conducted a workshop on social media communication for 15 IEC IPOD staff, all men. The workshop was organized to strengthen IEC communication in view of upcoming elections and provided opportunities for a good discussion. The workshop resulted in the development of a weekly social media working plan which details priority actions that should be undertaken to improve overall IEC social media as well as some corrections of previous 'posts'.

IEC Regulations, Guidelines, Procedures, Codes of Conduct, and Plans

- The following regulations, guidelines, procedures, codes of conduct and plans have been developed with technical inputs from the project during the reporting period. It is important to note that the delays in approval of the drafted pending documents were due to the dismissal of IEC Commissioners.

    - **Approved Regulations:** [1] Regulation on issuance of accreditation to political parties, independent candidates, monitoring and observer organizations as well as the media, [2] Regulation on voter registration top-up, [3] Regulation on presence of special guests at polling centres, [4] Regulation on political campaign – note this regulation that was approved

in principle with comments was not signed following the dismissal of Commissioners, [5] Regulation on Internal IEC activities.

- **Pending Regulations:** [1] Regulation on Media Committee, [2] Regulation on media coverage, [3] Regulation on recruitment of temporary staff, [4] Regulation on financing of political campaign.
- **Approved Guidelines:** [1] Guideline for sorting and checking of documents submitted by the Presidential candidates, [2] Guideline for packing of candidate nomination documents, [3] Candidate Nomination Guidelines for PC, DC and Ghazni WJ elections.
- **Pending Guidelines:** [1] Guidelines for intake of voter registration books.
- **Approved Procedures:** [1] Voter Registration top-up, [2] Voter Registration for Ghazni Wolesi Jirga election, [3] Conducting of internal elections for Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary of IEC.
- **Pending Procedures:** [1] Ballot Lottery Procedure for Presidential Election candidates, [2] Ballot Lottery Procedure for Presidential Election candidates, [3] Procedure for recruitment of permanent staff.
- **Approved Code of Conducts:** [1] Code of Conduct for New Commissioners and Head of Secretariat.
- **Pending Code of Conducts:** [1] Code of Conduct for observers, political parties and media, [2] Code of Conduct for security forces and agencies - enactment by a Presidential decree, [3] Code of Conduct for government officials and employees - enactment by a Presidential decree[2].
- **Approved Operational Plans[3]:** [1] Presidential, PC and DC elections, [2] Ghazni Wolesi Jirga election.

Electoral Security

- Elections in any country can elevate tensions. In Afghanistan, based on historical trends, overarching political dynamics and the prevailing threat environment, there is no information to suggest an improvement in the security climate for the 2019 elections.
- **Wolesi Jirga preliminary results.** The announcement of the WJ preliminary election results led to a number of protests and demonstrations by disgruntled parliamentary candidates and their respective agents and supporters. Reports from the field cited temporary closure of Provincial Independent Election Commission (PIEC) and Provincial Electoral Complaints Commission (PECC) offices in Balkh, Kunduz, Khost, Takhar and Kandahar, Logar, Wardak and Helmand provinces.
- **Electoral Security Concept of Operation.** The Security Concept of Operations lays down the plan for security forces' support to the IEC for the 2019 elections and involves ANDSF, MoIA, IEC, UN and NATO RS. The document was developed with inputs from the project and is now finalized. Movement plans were halted in accordance with the directions provided by the IEC CEO on 23 February 2019 when it was requested to suspend all planned movements of materials. The working group meetings for planning security support to the field are ongoing.

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[2] The President enacted a decree on the (1) conduct of government officials and employees and (2) a Presidential order on the conduct for security forces and agencies before the Commission had made submissions to the Office of the President.
[3] Both approved Operational Plans are being revised by the IEC Plan and Policy Department on the advice of the project to align with the new proposed election timeline of 28 September 2019.

- **Presidential election security.** The project is supporting security planning for the 2019 elections, operating in an advisory capacity to the work being led by the MoIA, who has established a committee to address the security of the upcoming Presidential election, and the IEC, who hosted a Joint Coordination Meeting of the Electoral Commissions' Leadership with Security and Defence Organizations about the 2019 Presidential, Ghazni WJ, Provincial Council and District Council Elections on 28 March 2019.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q1, a total of US$ 1,356,714 was spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its 2019 annual targets.

Table 2: Output 1 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Status/ Comments
1.1 A comprehensive Strategic Plan is designed and adopted by the IEC, including an M&E plan.	No	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
1.2. Number of reviews/assessments of the comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan in line with the IEC's Strategic Plan.	0	1	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
1.3.1. Percentage of recruited Tashkeel staff in relation to the approved IEC organigram (disaggregated F/M).	T: 77% M: 94% F: 6%	T: 100% M: 80% F: 20%	T: 80% M: 90% F: 10%	T: 77% M: 95% F: 5%	On Track.
1.3.2. Percentage of IEC Tashkeel staff who have received induction and technical training and are therefore able to effectively fulfil their functions (disaggregated F/M)	M: 42% F: 18%	M: 80% F: 80%	M: 20% F: 20%	M: 3% F: 0%	Off Track. Training for IPOD staff on Social Media. Training for Commissioner Induction is not included in Tashkeel staff.
1.4. Availability of an Institutional Cooperation Framework.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Completed
1.5 Extent to which the IEC is compliant with the Afghan public financial management system (Scale: not compliant, somewhat compliant, fully compliant).	Somewhat compliant	Fully compliant	Somewhat compliant	Somewhat compliant	On Track.
1.6. Comprehensive asset management, logistics and transport procedures are updated, approved and implemented by the IEC.	No	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
1.7. Number (or %) of IEC operational plans and procedures that incorporate specific needs of women.	100%	100%	100%	100%	On Track.

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Status/ Comments
1.8. Availability of a comprehensive and credible list of polling locations for elections approved and published by the IEC.	Yes	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
1.9. Availability of finalized boundaries for the Wolesi Jirga, district council and provincial council constituencies published by the IDLG and IEC.	Dropped in May 2018.	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned
1.10. Availability of revised and approved regulations, procedures and plans for (1) voter registration, (2) candidate nominations, (3) polling procedures and (4) results management are adopted and implemented by the IEC. (Score: 1-4)	4	4	2	2	On Track. Note: Review of approved VR and CN regulations and plans currently undergoing.
1.11. Availability of approved budgeted operational plan for the next elections incorporating (1) voter registration, (2) candidate nomination, (3) polling operations, (4) counting operations, results management & announcement, (5) comprehensive electoral budget. (Score: 1-5)	5	5	5	5	On Track. Note: While on track, a comprehensive operational plan for the elections yet to be finalized by IEC and may result in amendments documents.
1.12. A functional elections security coordination mechanism in place (including IEC, ANDSF and RS Mission and other stakeholders) including availability of Security assessment of polling centre locations.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track.

B. OUTPUT 2: ELECTORAL COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Output Definition: Credible electoral dispute resolution (EDR) is provided by the ECC.

UNESP provides support to the ECC to fulfil its essential role in electoral dispute resolution in accordance with the Afghan electoral legal framework. UNESP works with the ECC to strengthen its capacity to resolve electoral disputes and to define and enforce the legal and regulatory requirements for participation in and contestation of the elections.

ECC Recruitment

The period under review saw upheaval in staffing at the ECC following the Presidential dismissal of ECC Commissioners.

- **ECC Commissioners.** On 3 March 2019, His Excellency, President Ashraf Ghani, through separate decrees, appointed five new Commissioners to the ECC (one woman) and one Head of Secretariat, selected from 81 nominees, following the vote of 17 presidential candidates at the Presidential Place on 1 March 2019. The new Commissioners took their oath of office at the Presidential Palace on 4 March 2019 and were introduced to the ECC.
- **Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and Secretary.** Following internal voting by the elected Commissioners on 5 March 2019, the ECC appointed the following staff:
  - Chairperson: Ms. Zuhra Bayan Shinwari.
  - Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Mowlawi Dinmohammad Azimi.
  - Spokesperson/Secretary: Mr. Moh. Qasem Elyasi.
- **International Non-Voting Members.** In March, His Excellency, President Ghani issued a decree confirming the appointment of two international non-voting members to the ECC.
- **Quarterly Progress.** The ECC have increased their Tashkeel positions by 13 staff, or three percent, now having 379 out of the 410 Tashkeel positions filled. The number of female employees has reduced by four, three of which were women in senior positions, bringing the overall female breakdown to nine percent (down from 16 percent in December 2018). See Table 3, below, for a breakdown and comparison from December 2018.

#	Category	Q4FY2018			Q12019		
			No.	%		No.	%
1	Total number of Tashkeel positions filled		366	89%		379	92%
2	Total number of Tashkeel positions vacant		44	11%		31	8%
3	Total number of Tashkeel positions per organogram		410			410	
4	Gender breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions	Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %
		229	37	16%	346	33	9%
5	Seniority breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions	Senior	Other	Sr %	Senior	Other	Sr %
		73	293	25%	20	359	5%
6	Gender breakdown of Senior positions	Senior Male	Senior Female	Sr Fem %	Senior Male	Senior Female	Sr Fem %
		68	5	7%	18	2	10%
7	Gender breakdown of other positions	Other Male	Other Female	Jr Fem %	Other Male	Other Female	Jr Fem %
		261	32	12%	328	31	9%

Table 3: ECC HR Breakdown Q42018 v Q12019

Note: Senior: Grade 1-3; Other: Grade 4-5, plus employees

ECC Capacity Building & Training

- **Induction package for new Commissioners.** The project supported the consolidation of inputs for the induction package of incoming Commissioners by the relevant departments. The induction package included presentations on responsibilities of each department, overview of 2018 electoral activities (achievements, challenges, recommendations, 2019 electoral activities, basic information on electoral administration, and recommendations on strategic communication.

- **Advisory support to ECC Media Monitors.** The project provided advisory support to two Media Monitors recruited to generate reports that analyse how the work and mandate of ECC are perceived by the citizens and the media. Additional on the job training is being provided to the media monitors.

- **IPOD package.** The project has supported the development of an IPOD package which includes objectives of IPOD, structure, and a plan for the upcoming elections with project-based recommendations on strategic communication.

- **Training Needs Analysis.** To identify training needs of IPOD, ECC with support from UNESP, developed questionnaires that were shared with the staff for their inputs. UNESP will support ECC in analysing the needs and developing a training plan for 2019 in quarter two.

ECC Regulations, Guidelines, Procedures, Codes of Conduct, and Plans

- **Operational Plan.** The ECC, with technical support from the project, finalized the narrative of the Operational Plan for 2019 elections. While the Board of Commissioners reviewed the draft and were ready to adopt the plan, following the new timeline of 28 September 2019, the project is working with the ECC to revise the Operational Plan accordingly, with the ECC prioritizing the completion of WJ election appeals at the end of the quarter.

Electoral Complaints

- **Electoral Complaints: WJ Election Day.** In the period following the WJ election, 20 – 27 October 2018, 11,845 complaints were registered and adjudicated (100 percent), of which 373 appeals were lodged and decided (100 percent) as detailed in table 4 below.

Total Complaints Registered	Complaints Adjudicated	% Complaints Adjudicated	Total Appeals Lodged	Appeals Decided	% Appeals Decided
11,845	11,845	100%	373	373	100%

Table 4. ECC WJ election day complaints and appeals adjudication breakdown

- **Electoral Complaints: WJ Preliminary Results.** The ECC and Provincial ECC offices adjudicated 100 percent of the complaints registered following announcement of preliminary results (4,946 of the 4,946). Prior to their dismissal, the previous ECC Commissioners had reviewed 42 percent of the appeal cases received against the PECC decisions (301 out of 711). Upon appointment of new Commissioners, the ECC have, as of 30 March 2019, decided 53.5 percent of the appeals lodged (418 of the 781 appeals). The ECC have completed adjudication of complaints and appeals

for 25 provinces[4] as well as Sikh seats. Takhar province was finalized on 1 April, with the ECC sending an official letter to the IEC for implementation of decision and announcement of final results. See Table 5 below for overview.

Total Complaints Registered	Complaints Adjudicated	% Complaints Adjudicated	Total Appeals Lodged	Appeals Decided	% Appeals Decided
4,946	4,946	100%	781	418	53.5%

Table 5. ECC WJ election day complaints and appeals adjudication breakdown

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q1, a total of US$ 191,765 was spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

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[4] Outstanding provinces: [1] Nangarhar, [2] Kunduz, [3] Helmand, [4] Baghlan, [5] Kandahar, [6] Maidan Wardak, [7] Paktia, [8] Kabul, and [9] Kuchi seats.

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its 2019 annual targets.

Table 6: Output 2 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Comments
2.1 A comprehensive Strategic Plan is designed and adopted by the EEC, including organigram and TORs.	No	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
2.2. Availability of an Institutional Cooperation Framework for the ECC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track.
2.3.1. Percentage of recruited Tashkeel staff in relation to the approved ECC organigram (disaggregated F/M).	T: 89% M: 81% F: 19%	T: 100% M: 80% F: 20%	T: 95%	T: 92% M: 91% F: 9%	On Track.
2.3.2. Percentage of ECC Tashkeel staff who have received induction and technical training and are therefore able to effectively fulfil their functions (disaggregated F/M).	M: 50% F: 50%	M: 80% F: 80%	20%	0%	Off Track. During Q12019, the ECC held no formal training due to the focus on appeals.
2.4. Percentage of women employed at ECC.	Dropped in May 2018.	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned
2.5. Number of new regulations on the conduct of the complaints process (including complaints categorisation and registration, rules of evidence, application and delivery deadlines, quarantine, interagency cooperation, hearings, audits, recounts, independent investigations,	14	10	3	0	Off Track. Focus on appeals and finalizing new Operational Plan based on revised election date.

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Comments
decisions and publication, etc.) drafted, adopted and published on time.					
2.6. Number (or %) of ECC operational plans and procedures that integrate programme specific needs of women.	30%	100%	50%	30%	Off Track. Due to appeals adjudication of 2018 Wolesi Jirga elections, this activity has been postponed for the second quarter.
2.7. EDR Case Management System in place.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Completed
2.8. Availability of budgeted operational plan for the adjudication of electoral complaints for the upcoming elections, approved by the ECC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Off track Comprehensive operational plan for the adjudication of complaints yet to be finalized.
2.9. Percentage of electoral complaints, which are timely adjudicated by the ECC as per the national electoral legal framework	85%	100%	100%	53.5%	Off Track Delays caused by dismissal of former Commissioners.

C. OUTPUT 3: ELECTORAL OUTREACH

Output Definition: Public outreach, along with support to civil society, encourages citizen engagement in the electoral process.

- Implementing visible electoral reforms backed by effective communication, public outreach and stakeholder engagement is vital to creating public confidence and participation in democratic institutions. To support this objective, UNESP provides advisory, financial and operational support to both EMBs in their strategic approach to communications and outreach. This support includes planning and implementing electoral awareness campaigns, as well as proactive electoral stakeholder engagement, specifically with political stakeholders, media, civil society and observer groups.

IEC Media Committee

- The Media Committee developed and released their December 2018 monthly report in January 2019. The project translated the report to facilitate wider coverage to other stakeholders. In addition, the project provided technical guidance on the concept note for the proposal of a Media Monitoring Unit (MMU), including methodology, training plan, equipment and legal framework. The MMU will aim to define the IEC strategic communication and enable the Media Committee to fulfil its mandate. The concept note is currently with the Media Committee for further review.

IEC Strategic Communications and Outreach

- **Press conferences and open sessions.** The IEC conducted 10 press conferences and open sessions during the reporting period:

- **14 January:** preliminary results for Kabul province announced.
- **22 January:** updates from IEC on activities and end of CN period for the presidential election.
- **23 January:** final results for three provinces announced, update provided on the presidential CN process, proposed budget for elections; modification of the IEC structure and the use of BVV devices in the upcoming elections.
- **26 January:** rejected allegations levelled against IEC commissioners by unsuccessful candidates and invited the candidates in question to submit evidence through the judicial system.
- **3 February:** presented the CN process, criteria for verifying documents, steps towards establishing preliminary, and final list of Presidential candidates was held.
- **14 February:** a joint press release from IEC and ECC following the amendments to the Electoral Law and subsequent dismissal of the two commissions.
- **4 March:** the seven newly appointed IEC Commissioners were presented to media and the public at the Media Centre at IEC HQ.
- **17 March:** since appointment, the new Commission has given priority to [1] Use of biometrics in all phases of the process, [2] adoption of the MDR system, [3] the revision of the electoral calendar and [4] the finalization of WJ results.
- **19 March:** preliminary results announced for Hindu/Sikh constituency and five provinces.
- **20 March:** new date for Presidential, Ghazni WJ, and PC elections: 28 September 2019.

- **Media Campaign Messaging.** Two public service announcements (PSAs) covering the CN process and focusing on the participation of women in the CN process were aired until 20 January 2019. The project provided technical support for the development of [1] a comprehensive

campaign for VR top-up, Voter List display and VR in Ghazni, [2] PSAs to be aired on 80 radio stations and 22 television channels in Dari, Pashto, and Uzbek, [3] billboard designs and dissemination plan (locations for installation) of the 820 billboards; and [4] artwork and design of 6,500 posters and 620,000 leaflets. Once printed, posters will be displayed near registration centres and public buildings to sensitize citizens on who needs to go and register for the upcoming elections. Following the amendments to the Electoral Law, the campaign was put on hold as the IEC awaits a decision on VR.

- **Infographics.** UNESP provided a short analysis of the most relevant amendments to the Electoral Law for publishing on the IEC website and social media.

- **Bulletins and website.** Bulletins 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been developed, published and disseminated to key stakeholders with project support. Electronic versions are also uploaded on the IEC website in Dari and English. The project has continued supporting IPOD in updating the IEC website including translating key documents and forms for the CN kits for potential candidates.

- **Voter registration update and voters list display:** Two billboard designs for [1] VR Update and [2] voters list display, complete with the electoral timelines were finalized prior to new election timeline, and are currently being revised, with project support, to ensure correct and updated information is included. Two additional billboards for Ghazni are undergoing the same process. Posters for VR have been designed, and once IEC move ahead, 2,500 posters will be displayed near registration centres and public buildings frequented by citizens for sensitization on who needs to go and register for the upcoming elections. A second and third poster for displaying of the voters list and for Ghazni VR outreach respectively (1,500 copies), have both been designed with technical support from the project, and are awaiting IEC confirmation for printing.

- **IPOD Operational Plan:** With technical inputs from the project, the IPOD Operational Plan for upcoming elections was approved, however is now being revised under new timeline. The project also supported the drafting and finalization of a proposal for reforms which, if approved, will affect the structure and functioning of the department. Further, the project provided technical inputs in the ongoing drafting of an operational plan for the Ghazni election.

- **IPOD Stakeholder Engagement Plan:** In late March, the project supported the IPOD in presenting the stakeholder engagement plan including the roles of IPOD and other departments in the plan to the Board of Commissioners.

- **Call Centre:** The Call Centre received 47,276 calls from 6,624 women and 40,652 men through the 190 toll-free number in the reporting period; however, with the non-extension of temporary staff contracts within IEC, Call Centre Operators and Supervisors have left and the Call Centre has been closed since 20 March 2019.

Callers	January	February	March	Total
Women	2,518	2,338	1,768	6,624
Men	17,934	14,628	8,090	40,652
Total	**20,452**	**16,966**	**9,858**	**47,276**

Table 7: Statistics of Callers in Q1, 2019

IEC Electoral Stakeholder Engagement

- **BVV Devices.** In January, with UNESP support, the IEC led a discussion on the use of technology particularly BVV devices in the upcoming election. In total, 23 representatives from political parties attended alongside four Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and UNESP participated. The IEC shared the below shortcomings identified during the lessons learned workshop and proposed reforms:

> **Shortcomings identified - lessons learnt workshop**
> - Polling station staff not well trained on the use of BVV devices
> - Delayed delivery of material
> - Lack of time to fully properly implement BVV
> - Lack of access to information uploaded to the server
>
> **Proposed reforms for upcoming elections**
> - Reduce voters per polling station from 600 to 400
> - BVV: connect the devices to the internet; upload the voter lists; conduct advanced training on use of BVV
> - IEC technical staff granted full access to data and server
> - Direct contract between IEC and suppliers

- **Stakeholder Engagement Plan.** In February, the IEC ER Department in consultation with relevant department heads, with technical support from the project, drafted and finalized a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan and SOP for coordinated strategic engagement with external stakeholders; which was submitted to the new IEC Management and shared with D/CEOs for onward submission to Commissioners in March.

- **UNAMA meeting with unsuccessful candidates.** On 12 March 2019, unsuccessful candidates of Kabul province met with UNAMA and called for invalidation of Kabul results and re-election, threatening demonstrations if their demands are not met.

- **War Affected Afghan Institution.** On 16 January, the IEC undertook a consultation meeting with five representatives from the War Affected Afghan Institution.

- **Electoral Timeline and Process Consultations.** The IEC, with project support, undertook the following meetings in Kabul with political parties, candidates and CSOs regarding the new electoral timeline:

  - **18 March:** meeting held with TEFA. After the meeting, TEFA held a Press Conference strongly criticizing the expertise of the new IEC and timeline.
  - **20 March:** The IEC met with seven political parties in follow up to the meeting on 18 March.
  - **25 March:** The IEC met with eight representatives of the Political Parties Political Committee to discuss change of electoral system from SNTV to MDR. Political Parties generally agreed on implementation of MDR for the WJ, PC and DC elections.
  - **31 March:** IEC met with approximately 30 participants from Political Parties and CSOs to further discuss MDR, with the majority of parties supporting MDR.

IEC Electoral Stakeholder Engagement

IEC Electoral Observation

In February, the project supported the IEC in updating the observer accreditation database and procedure based on lessons learned from the previous electoral process, including:

> o   Ensure efficient and easy functioning of the accreditation database, including in a peak period.
> o   Ensure timely information, support and facilitation of the observation activities (by providing information packages, regular briefings and establishment of the observation Focal Point).
> o   Improving integrity of the election observation (through effective management of the overcrowding at the PSs).
> o   Ensure IEC's accurate reporting on the numbers of observers and their geographic distribution, support to observer coordination.

- While the launch of the process of accreditation of observers, monitors and candidate agents remains on hold, on 17 March, the project recommended to the IEC the following:

  o   **Printing of the cards for observers:** The project advised IEC ownership for the printing rather than having cards being printed by the observers themselves, which created confusion and lack of control in the last elections. Different options have been shared with the IEC Secretariat for consideration.
  o   **Accreditation database:** The project noted that the IEC now had more time to develop a comprehensive database to accredit all entities, including international observers and monitors. Outsourcing of the development of the database, as suggested by some IEC staff, was not recommended by the project, mainly to ensure sustainability and IEC ownership. Software and hardware problems with previous accreditation can be addressed with existing tools / servers.
  o   **Accreditation procedure:** UNESP will provide advice on the accreditation procedure in line with existing regulation, database and decisions of the IEC.

ECC Public Outreach and Communication

- **Press conferences and open sessions:** With UNESP logistical and technical advice, the ECC conducted the following press conferences and open sessions during the reporting period:

  > o   **6 February**: after announcement of preliminary Presidential election candidates list by the IEC, the ECC announced readiness to register and adjudicate complaints against the preliminary list of presidential candidates.
  > o   **14 February**: the IEC and ECC issued a joint press release following the amendments to the Electoral Law and subsequent dismissal of the two commissions. The Acting Chairs committed to continue operational activities and preparations for the upcoming processes.

- **Press Releases:** In the period under review, the ECC released five press releases to (1) communicate the end of the registration period of appeals across 25 provinces; (2) refute social media allegations of bias towards certain candidates; (3) encourage candidates and stakeholders to register appeals only at the ECC headquarters; (4) provide update on complaint adjudication and (5) reiterate the commission's commitment to adjudicate complaints and appeals in accordance with the law.

- **Open Sessions:** The ECC conducted 12 open sessions this quarter to investigate and adjudicate appeals related to WJ elections. Complainants, defenders and CSO representatives participated in the sessions. ECC Commissioners participated in all open sessions.

- **Media Campaign Messaging:** The ECC, with technical inputs from the project developed and finalized key messages for complaints registrations on the preliminary list of candidates for the presidential election. The production of the PSA was finalized in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek languages and were scheduled to be aired on 12 TV channels and 21 radio stations, however PSAs were not aired due to funding restrictions which aim to be resolved following the ECCs completion of their Operational Plan.

- **Frequently Asked Questions.** The project provided technical support to ECC in revising its FAQs related to the Election Law and Procedures incorporating amendments reflected in the Election Law.

- **Communication Plan and Strategy.** The draft Communication Plan and Strategy, as well as the Public Outreach Strategy, are being revised in line with the amended Election Law.

- **Bulletins, factsheets, magazine, leaflets, and posters.** The ECC, with technical support from the project finalized and shared Bulletins 5, 6 and 7 with electoral stakeholders. The project is supporting the development of provincial bulletins for those provinces where adjudication of complaints related to WJ electoral processes has been completed. Further, the project supported development of a leaflet on complaint registration; this provides information on key dates, where and how to register complaints. The project, in collaboration with ECC developed posters highlighting the election timelines, electoral violations and crimes as well as complaints registration and adjudication process. In addition, a Factsheet with data on completed complaints adjudication and review process on preliminary election results was developed and submitted to IEC while drafting of provincial factsheets was in progress. Similarly, UNESP advisors provided advisory support in design and content for the quarterly magazine being published by ECC.

- **Web, Social Media and Media monitoring.** The project continued providing technical assistance for updating the English version of the ECC website and drafting the ECC media monitoring plan to guide the use of digital and social media was submitted to ECC. The project also developed and shared a website and social media improvement plan document to guide improvements to the current ECC website and social media activities. With the support from UNESP advisors ECC created twitter account, made the social media accounts uniform Fifteen articles were updated on the ECC website [English version] and shared on the social media pages [Facebook and Twitter]. Lastly, with technical support from the project, the ECC began using following social media platforms:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ECCAfghanistan/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/ECCAfghanistan
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/ECCAfghanistan

ECC Electoral Stakeholder Engagement

- **Stakeholder Engagement Plan.** The project continued to support ECC in the development of a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan. The project, in collaboration with the External Relations and Information and Public Outreach Departments, drafted a plan aimed at strengthening engagement with electoral stakeholders during different phases of the electoral calendar.

- **Lessons Learned Consultations.** The ECC organized, with expert assistance by the UNESP Capacity Development Advisor who advised on consultative methodological mechanisms, two lessons learned consultations with Political Parties, CSOs and government entities to reflect on the WJ elections and receive feedback on perceived performance of ECC based on its mandate and in compliance with the Election Law. Participants of the first meeting raised concerns about irregularities witnessed and the reversal of the decision regarding re-election in Kabul electoral constituency, while the second consultation saw feedback regarding the performance of ECC and the need to strengthen future coordination between ECC, IEC and government entities, especially security organizations.

- **CSO Consultation.** On 17 March 2019, the ECC Commissioners conducted a consultation meeting with nine CSO representatives to brief participants about recent activities and achievements of the ECC and decision-making process for the remaining provinces.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q1, a total of US$ 224,812 was spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its 2019 annual targets.

Table 8: Output 3 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Comments
3.1.1. Percentage of people/eligible voters reached through IEC's public TV and Radio information campaigns (about the functions of the entities they are voting for, the importance of making an informed choice, and their rights and responsibilities according to the law as voters) (disaggregated F/M, region, vulnerable, etc.	79.7%[5]	80%	0%	0%	On Track
3.1.2. Percentage of people who declare themselves (a) informed and (b) satisfied with IEC's and ECC's role in the electoral process (disaggregated F/M, vulnerable/at-risk etc.).	IEC: 43.3%[6]	(a) TBD (b) TBD	(a) 0% (b) 0%	(a) 0% (b) 0%	On Track
3.2. Percentage of people who declare their intention to register for the next election cycle	67.87%[7]	TBD	0%	0%	On Track
3.4. Number of Afghan civil society organizations delivering common civic and voter education (disaggregated by geography vulnerable groups).	Dropped in May 2018.	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned
3.5. Percentage of women (a) registered, (b) nominated (c) voted	a. 34.7% b. 16.2% c. 37.4%	a. 40% b. TBD c. 40%	a. 40% b. TBD c. 0%	a. 37.4% b. 0% c. 0%	On Track
3.6. Number of political parties, electoral contestants and civil society groups that participate in public consultation/stakeholder engagement events with IEC.	1,641	Not targeted	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned

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[5] According to The Asia Foundation: A Survey of the Afghan People: In 2018, when respondents were asked whether they were aware of the upcoming election, a majority (79.7%) said yes. This is consistent with 2009 (81.9%), when the same question was asked regarding the presidential election. Television (43.9%); radio (25.1%); and friends, family, and neighbours (14.7%) are the main sources of information about the elections.

[6] According to The Asia Foundation: A Survey of the Afghan People: In 2018, for the second consecutive year, Afghans expressed increased confidence in the Independent Election Commission (43.3%, up from 38.1% in 2017 and a record low of 33.7% in 2016).

[7] According to the Islamic republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Organization report, Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2018-2019; the total population of the country in 1397 (2018 -19) is estimated to be about 31.6 million persons, with approximately 13,113,300 people 20 years or over. The percentage has been estimated based on the 8,899,941 valid voters registered in 2018.

D.   OUTPUT 4: POLLING CENTRE-SPECIFIC VOTER LIST

Output Definition: A polling centre-specific voter list for the next elections is produced by the IEC.

- To produce a PC-specific voter list, the IEC needs to successfully implement a wide-ranging VR campaign, including a significant segment of the vote-eligible population and the territories of Afghanistan. The VR campaign is accompanied by a data entry process of individual records of the millions of registered voters country-wide. According to the Islamic republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Organization report: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2018-2019; the total population of the country in 1397 (2018-2019) is estimated to be roughly 31,600,000 million persons, with approximately 13,113,300 people 20 years or over[8]. A voter registry and PC-based voter lists will be generated from the VR database, developed with UNESP support.

Voter Registration

- As of 31 March 2019, PC security assessments were completed in all 34 provinces, including Ghazni, for the two different registration process, VR Top-up and Ghazni VR, however MoIA have yet to sign the relevant documentation to finalize the process. It is anticipated this will be completed by 29 April in line with draft IEC electoral timeline[9].

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q1, a total of US$ (14090.48)[10] was spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

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[8] While the voting age of Afghanistan is 18 years +, the referenced report included 18 years in the age group 15-19 years, therefore the number is only approximate and based on the data available to the CSO at the time of writing.
[9] Date is subject to change given timeline is draft form only.
[10] The negative expense is due to 2018 VR training cost payments rejected from the bank.

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its 2019 annual targets.

Table 9: Output 4 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Comments
4.1. Percentage of materials (items) for voter registration, as per the IEC operational plan, procured on time.	100%	100%	100%	0%	Off Track. The planned activities were put on hold following amendment of the Election Law.
4.2. A credible polling centre specific voter list for the upcoming elections is finalised by the IEC.	66%	100%	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
4.3.1. Number of gender sensitization training sessions.	1	4	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
4.3.2. Number of gender sensitization training beneficiaries (security personnel, IEC personnel, etc.)	6	124	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.

E.   OUTPUT 5: ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Output Definition: The IEC and ECC provide credible administration of an electoral dispute resolution for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections, respectively.

- UNESP provides full technical, financial, and advisory support to IEC to administer the Wolesi Jirga and District Council Elections, including complex operational planning, development of regulations, and procedures, as well as procurement, logistics, ICT, and training of temporary staff. Simultaneously, the Project supports the ECC in the commission's ability to address electoral irregularities in all phases of the electoral process, to resolve electoral disputes, and to enforce the legal and regulatory requirements for participation in and contestation of the elections.

Logistics

- **Inventory and warehouse assessment.** The IEC Logistics Department, with technical and advisory support from the project developed and rolled out inventory template, warehouse assessment forms and guidelines for inventory and warehouse assessments by the Field Operations Department (FOD) across the provincial offices. The 33 warehouse reports, except Ghazni developed with technical support from the project identified upgrade needs on 13 warehouses[11] and shortage of storage space in 16 provinces[12], these require IEC management decisions. Retrieval of VR sensitive materials and non-sensitive materials to the IEC headquarters (HQ) was completed. The lists of materials that are neither usable nor wanted for upcoming electoral processes (e.g. unusable plastic materials, old pallets) are under compilation in the respective provinces. By the end of the reporting period, cumulatively 21,688 BVV machines, 21,695[13] printers and 18,539 power banks have been moved.

ICT

- **IEC Data Centre.** The tally process was completed for the WJ preliminary results of 33 provinces. The tally process is ongoing for final results, with final results announced for 23 provinces.
- **ECC Call Centre.** The service provider completed the survey for the call centre being established at the ECC headquarters. The project provided technical and operational support in identification and selection of call centre equipment to be used by the agents. Procurement of the equipment is ongoing.
- **Verification of Voter Records.** The project provided technical and operational support for the verification of voter records. Since resumption of the exercise on 2 February 2019, cumulatively, 6,539,915 of 9,532,553 records in the IEC database voter records are now verified since Quarter 2, 2018 (68.6 percent). Thirteen (13) provinces been completed and the voter lists for these provinces can be generated in readiness for printing.
- **Voter Register lookup tools.** The website was updated with project technical support to ensure voters who have their records removed are notified of their removal. The online lookup is online, accessible via computer or tablet, and is available at http://voter.iec.org.af.

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[11] 13 warehouses: Ghor, Panjshir, Logar, Helmand, Kandahar, Daykundi, Takhar, Nangahar, Sar-e-Pul, Paktiya, Kapisa, Wardak, Laghman
[12] 16 provinces: Faryab, Balkh, Khost, Ghor, Herat, Samangan, Panjshir, Logar, Nimroz, Zabul, Helmand, Kandahar, Daykundi, Takhar, Baghlan and Nangahar
[13] Some 3,720 printers were returned to the CSO without USB cables since they are reported lost.

- **Software and equipment:** The software for CN for the PC and DC elections, developed with support from the project, was readied for installation in preparation for the resumption of CN activities. In addition, ICT equipment for both IEC and ECC continued to be delivered throughout the reporting period. To date, all printers and cartridges are received allowing the Data Centre to print the voter register when required.

Finance

- **Payment of training cost of voter registration staff.** The project continued payment of training cost of staff engaged in Phase 2 and 3 of voter registration. The VR payroll for the 776 remaining temporary staff was submitted to the IEC for approval.

- **Payment of training cost of polling centre staff.** Translated documents of 22,078 temporary polling staff from 11 provinces of Badakhshan, Badghis, Farah, Herat, Jawzjan, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Sar-e-Pul, Zabul and Samangan are verified for processing of training costs. The verification of documents was completed for 4,489 polling centre staff. Cumulatively verification is completed for 6,412 polling centre staff. In addition, payment is cleared for 2,452 polling staff [4% of the 62,520 staff to be paid training allowance].The first batch of payrolls for polling staff have been completed. Three provinces of Badghis, Jawzjan, and Sar-e-Pul are completed and a total of 7,215 payees have been cleared for payment.

Procurement

- Procurement was ongoing for ICT equipment for the ECC Call Centre. Due to operational changes following amendments to the Electoral Law, procurement processes were on hold for VR outreach campaign billboards, PSAs, leaflets, and posters. There was partial delivery of ICT equipment for ECC and IEC (servers, firewalls, switches, printers, cartridges, laptops) and items for candidate nomination kits.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q1, a total of US$ 1,083,130 was spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its 2019 annual targets.

Table 10: Output 5 performance indicator table

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Comments
5.1. Percentage of Polling Centres/Polling Stations receiving electoral materials for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections. (Note: As required and requested by the IEC, delivered by the Project as per the IEC operational plan.)	91.78%	100%	100%	0%	Off Track. Due to new electoral timeline.
5.1.1. Percentage of procured equipment (USD Value), as per the IEC operational plan. (Note: As required and requested by the IEC, delivered by the Project as per the IEC operational plan.)	100%	100%	100%	25%	Off Track. Due to new electoral timeline.
5.2 Percentage of media complaints adjudicated by the Media Committee in a timely manner.	100%	100%	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
5.2.1 The IEC Media Committee is in place, according to the Electoral Law.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Completed.
5.3 Percentage of candidate nominations for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections vetted by the IEC (breakdown WJ/DC, F/M).	100%	100%	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for this Quarter.
5.3.1. Candidate vetting (verification) procedures are in place for the WJ and DC elections as approved by the IEC. (YES/NO)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Completed.
5.3.2 Procedures on the candidate nomination complaints process are in place for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections, as approved by the ECC (YES/NO)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track. Note: revision underway due to new electoral timeline.

ProDoc Indicators	Baseline	Annual Targets	Q1 Planned	Q1 Actual	Comments
5.4 Percentage of Polling Centres and Polling Stations that open for polling on 20 October, as per the IEC operational plan.	94.84%	Not targeted (specific to 20 Oct)	N/A	N/A	N/A
5.4.1 Number of trainings delivered to the IEC and ECC temporary polling staff, on counting, polling and results processing procedures for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections.	2,961 excluding Farah	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
5.4.2 Number of IEC and ECC temporary polling staff trained in counting, polling and results processing procedures for the WJ and DC elections (M/F)	T: 102,313 F: 30,464 M: 71,849	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
5.5.1 Provisional polling results publicized on time (according to the electoral calendar) by the IEC.	Yes	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for Q1.
5.5.1.1 Procedures for Results Management System and processes are in place, as approved by the IEC. (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not applicable for Q1.
5.5.2 Final polling results publicized on time (according to the electoral calendar) by the IEC.	No	Yes	Yes	No	Off Track. Due to new electoral timeline.
5.5.2.1. Data centre (infrastructure, software and training plan for data centre operators) is in place.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Track.

III. GENDER-SPECIFIC RESULTS

The UNESP gender component focuses on promotion of gender equality within the EMBs through increased employment on senior and other Tashkeel positions, on mainstreaming gender throughout the electoral process, outreach activities promoting women's participation as voters, candidates, observers, candidate agents and the media, as well as development of gender disaggregated electoral operation data.

- **IEC Gender Recruitment.** The project has provided human resources related recommendations aimed at encouraging the recruitment and retention of women in IEC. These include relaxing the recruitment criteria to encourage women to apply; on the job mentoring of women and facilitating participation of women in trainings, forums and meetings; considering upgrading qualified temporary staff to permanent positions and intentional inclusion of questions related to awareness of gender in the recruitment of senior management. It has been targeted for the IEC to hire at least 30 percent women as candidate nomination staff.

- **Supporting people with disabilities.** The project and IEC engaged the Afghan Landmine Survivors Organization (ALSO) on electoral observations about people with disabilities. Key recommendations for the upcoming elections include (1) polling centres and polling stations accessible to people with disabilities, (2) provision of ballot papers in braille format for the visually impaired and (3) provision of staff trained on sign language to assist those with impaired hearing.

- **Gender sensitive media engagement.** The project has engaged the IEC Media Committee to consider gender-sensitive coverage of elections, avoid negative stereotypes and present women as active political participants, leaders and voters; include women in debates; conduct targeted voter and civic education programmes; awareness on violence against women in elections (VAWE); cultivate public acceptance of women as a normal feature of political life and present women in a manner that promotes public confidence in their capacity as political leaders.

- **Increasing women participation.** The Gender Unit, with support from the project, held a coordination meeting with the head of IPOD on cooperation with relevant women's networks to increase participation of women in the VR process. The project continued to provide advisory support on gender related considerations for the upcoming elections. This includes ensuring that electoral training materials are gender sensitive and feature women in a positive light, use gender-balanced training teams and ensure that men and women trainers have equal status and responsibility and ensure women participants are able to fully participate and contribute; and the development of outreach materials on registration process and messages encouraging participation of women; locations easily accessible to women and opening times that make it easy for women to access the centres; separate queues for women and female body searchers; giving priority to pregnant women, women with babies, and old and disabled people.

IV. PARTNERSHIPS

UNESP serves as a vehicle through which donor countries provide collective support to Afghan elections. Its main partners include:

- **UNAMA.** UNAMA dedicated significant resources in support to the 2018 elections. The UNEST/UNAMA team comprises seven people, four international and three national staff. In Kabul, UNAMA lead regular high-level CSO coordination meetings throughout the quarter. In

addition, UNAMA field offices-initiated meetings, facilitated public outreach activities, and took part in events focused on electoral civic education and on mobilizing the population for voter registration. Throughout 2018, UNAMA actively participated in negotiations to resolve election-related disputes and electoral issues of political bearing beyond the scope of UNESP.

- **Electoral Support Group.** UNAMA, through the Electoral Support Group (ESG) coordinating mechanism – both Ambassadorial and working group level – facilitated international coordination on electoral issues at a strategic political level. Throughout the reporting period the UNAMA, working with ESG Ambassadors held numerous meetings to bring the EMBs and senior political party leaders together with a focus on greater communications, broader consultations, and informed decision making.
- **Donors.** Nine donors have made commitments of approximate US$ 150 million to support UNESP. The donors are Denmark, Sweden, Germany, the EU, Japan, Norway, Australia, the UK, and the USA.

National Partners. The IEC and the ECC are UNESP's permanent national partners.
- **IEC:** The IEC of Afghanistan is a constitutional body responsible for conducting credible elections and referendums efficiently and impartially.
- **ECC:** The ECC is a permanent body tasked with adjudicating all challenges and complaints related to the electoral process.
- **MoF:** During 2018, UNESP worked extensively with the MoF, the national body responsible for the management and execution of the budget, collection of taxes, organization and control of public expenditure and payments to the government.

Civil Society Sector. UNESP supports the IEC and ECC to work closely with the electoral CSOs in the country. The aim of the new Stakeholder Engagement plan is, among others, to create a space in the IEC where CSOs and other stakeholders can openly discuss electoral issues. National and international CSOs are regularly invited to consultation meetings with the EMBs, while the IEC regularly attends the Civil Society Election Coordination Group (CECG) meetings co-facilitated by UNEST. UNEST started to work with the IEC to enhance the Afghan ownership of the platform.

V.   ISSUES

Please refer to Annex III: Issue Log for a detailed breakdown. Issues which have shaped UNESP's operating environment in 2019 include the following developments.
- **District Council Election Postponement**

Due to insufficient number of candidates nominating themselves for 2018 DC elections in some districts, including women candidates needed to fulfil the legally established quota, the IEC decided to postpone the DC elections. On 20 March, the IEC announced a new election date for the Presidential, PC and Ghazni WJ elections, excluding DC without explanation.
Response: No response required at the time. UNESP will resume support to District Council Elections when scheduled by IEC.
- **Political Environment**

Continued political turmoil impacted UNESP capacity to effectively meet electoral calendar timelines. During this quarter, amendments to the Electoral Law, the dismissal of IEC and ECC Commissioners, changes to the electoral timeline and resultant suspension of activities have caused an evolving political environment.

Response: UNESP role in the 2019 elections is that of technical support, therefore the impact of the current political environment has seen much project support suspended. The project has advanced in all areas, i.e. advice on regulations, design and messaging of public outreach materials, and security assessments of PCs. The project remains ready to progress all aspects once IEC indicates readiness to move forward.

VI.   RISKS

Please refer to <u>Annex IV:</u> Risk Log for a detailed breakdown.
- **EMB Decision Delays:** Important decisions are delayed, in turn postponing electoral preparations, including EMB recruitment delays which impede IEC and ECC performance.

Response: UNESP continued to advise the EMBs to prioritize critical decision making and development of relevant regulations and procedures to support transparent and timely progress within the institutions.
- **Security Risk:** Volatile security environment affects electoral processes throughout the country.

Response: UNESP continued supporting cooperation and coordination between the EMBs, ANDSF, and NATO RS so that access to as many sites as possible were secured throughout the electoral exercises.
- **Political Independence Risk:** Excessive political interference affects the work of the EMBs.

Response: UNESP, in concordance with the international community in Afghanistan, supported the IEC in preserving their autonomy from political interference.
- **Logistical Risks:** Logistical breakdowns affect electoral operations

Response: UNESP and the IEC continued to coordinate with ANDSF and NATO representatives for all items regarding security of people, goods, and operations.
- **Electoral Fraud Risk:** Significant fraud in any electoral stage influences the course or the results of the elections.

Response: UNESP continued its advisory and technical support to the IEC and the ECC to implement anti-fraud measures, while encouraging people and entities to report all alleged fraud to the responsible governmental offices, and to file formal complaints with the ECC where appropriate.

VII.   FUTURE PLANS

In light of the evolving electoral environment and resultant changes to IEC and ECC Operational Plans and Electoral Calendars, it is anticipated that the next quarter (April – June 2019), UNESP will provide operational, financial, technical, and advisory assistance to the EMBs to reach the following milestones. It is important to note however, that UNESP is acting in an advisory capacity in the 2019 elections, and as such the work of the Project is dependent on the decisions and actions of both electoral institutions.

- Continued support to the ECC regarding the finalization of Wolesi Jirga election results;
- Training for the ECC on Electoral Dispute Resolution and Social Media use;
- Logistical and facilitative support for ECC Lessons Learned Workshops in April 2019;
- PC assessments for VR Top-up and VR;
- Recruitment and training of VR staff;
- Implementation of public outreach plans for VR;

- National VR Update, Ghazni VR, Voter List cleaning and public display of Voter Lists for review and correction; and
- Accreditation of observers, monitors and candidate agents.

VIII. ANNEXES

ANNEX I: FINANCIAL TABLE

Donor Name	COMMITMENT/ PAST YEARS RECORD				CURRENT YEAR (2019)					FUTURE EXPENSES		TOTAL RECEIVABLE		
	Commitment (a)	Revenue Collected 31/12/2018 (b)	Expenses 31/12/2018 (c)	Other Revenue (d)	Opening Balance E=(b-c+d)	Contribution Revenue (f)	Other Revenue (g)	Expenses (h)	Closing Balance I=(e+f+g-h)	Commitments (Unliquidated Obligations) (j)	Undepreciated of fixed Assets and Inventory (k)	(Future Due) L=(a-b-f)	(Past Due) (m)	Available Resources N=(i-j-k)
Denmark	1,432,323	1,432,323	1,462,232	39,174	9,265	-	-	-	9,265	8,971	-	-		294
DFID	4,823,814	4,823,814	4,519,704		304,109	-		-	304,109	304,109	-	-	-	0
DFID	21,211,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,211,400	-	-
EU	18,518,519	15,299,341	6,501,567		8,797,774	-		(31,932)	8,829,706	56,380	-	3,219,178		8,773,325
Germany	8,695,652	8,376,836	6,478,203		1,898,633	-		114,904	1,783,729	608,721	-	318,817		1,175,009
SIDA	4,442,963	4,442,963	1,202,796		3,240,167	-		161,464	3,078,703	1,463,145	-	-		1,615,558
DFAT	5,000,000	2,000,000	1,431,124		568,876	3,000,000		-	3,568,876	-	-	-		3,568,876
Norway	2,368,651	2,368,651	-		2,368,651	-		-	2,368,651	-	-	-		2,368,651
Japan	13,739,390	13,739,390	6,488,723		7,250,667	-		84,972	7,165,695	438,866	54,165	-		6,672,664
USAID	39,955,399	29,500,000	17,227,053		12,272,947	-	-	2,512,922	9,760,025	3,064,326	725,031	10,455,399		5,970,668
Grand Total	**120,188,111**	**81,983,317**	**45,311,402**	**39,174**	**36,711,088**	**3,000,000**	**-**	**2,842,330**	**36,868,758**	**5,944,517**	**779,196**	**35,204,794**	**-**	**30,145,045**

Note:

i)   Data contained in this report is an extract of UNDP financial records. The accounting period for the report is an open period and data from some accounting processes may not have been processed.
Financial data provided above may not be complete, and it is provisional

ii)   Income received in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN- Operational Rate of Exch.

ANNEX II: EXPENSES BY OUTPUT

To be updated once financial report released in May 2019.

Project Output ID and Description	2019 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan – Mar 2019)	Delivery Rate
Output 1 (00106325): Administration of credible election is facilitated by the meeting of key IEC structural and planning milestones.	10,112,493	1,356,714	13%
Sub-total Output 1	**10,112,493**	**1,356,714**	**13%**
Output 2 (00106326): Credible electoral dispute resolution (EDR) is provided by the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC).	3,142,598	191,765	6%
Sub-total Output 2	**3,142,598**	**191,765**	**6%**
Output 3 (00106327): Afghan public and political stakeholders are informed of the electoral process and committed to participating in the next electoral cycle in accordance with the law.	1,404,734	224,812	16%
Sub-total Output 3	**1,404,734**	**224,812**	**16%**
Output 4 (00108499): A polling center specific voter list for the Wolesi Jirga, district council and provincial council elections is produced by the IEC.	6,934,030	(14,090)	0%
Sub-total Output 4	**6,934,030**	**(14,090)**	**0%**
Output 5 (00111484): The IEC and ECC provide credible administration of and electoral dispute resolution for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections, respectively	21,810,308	1,083,130	5%
Sub-total Output 5	**21,810,308**	**1,083,130**	**5%**
Grand Total	**43,404,163**	**2,842,330**	**7%**

* The negative expense is due to 2018 VR training cost payments rejected from the bank.

ANNEX III: ISSUE LOG

#	Description	Date Identified	Impact/ Priority	Countermeasure	Owner	Status
1	Changing GoIRA and EMBs focus and priorities. Uncertain political will and conflicting agendas among major political stakeholders regarding the implementation of the long overdue 2018 Election.	October 2017	Impact 4 Priority 2	UNESP has remained flexible in the changing political environment, while supporting a timely implementation of all electoral phases	NUG	No change
2	Lack of clarification regarding constituency delimitation, continued past deadlines for consequent electoral changes.	October 2017	Impact 3 Priority 2	UNESP will support the IEC to take measures when the new constituency delimitation will be officially announced	IDLG and NUG	No change
3	Political Turmoil. A number of political parties are jointly demanding change of the electoral system threaten with boycotting elections, even at the risk of postponing elections beyond 2018	March 2018	Impact 4 Priority 1	The Election Support Group including UNAMA published a joint statement advising electoral stakeholders to prioritize timely conduct of elections and later consider a potential change of the electoral system. High level discussions are ongoing to find a compromise and ensure inclusive, credible and timely elections in 2018.	UNAMA, Political Parties	Increasing
4	IEC states that elections cannot be held in 11 "black" districts under AGE control. Security incidents, and in particular election-related incidents and casualties, increased in the fighting season and with the start of the VR. Threats demotivate a number of potential voters from registering to vote.	October 2017	Impact 5 Priority 1	UNESP will continue supporting the EMBs in their cooperation with the ANDSF and NATO RS to maximize security during all phases of the electoral process.	ANDSF	Increasing
5	Lack of awareness about roles of DCs, no government budget or salaries for these positions, and insecurity contribute to low DC candidate nominations	June 2018	Impact 5 Priority 1	UNESP will provide advisory support to the IEC to provide alternatives for districts with insufficient number of DC candidates.	IEC	No change
6.	DC election Postponement has postponed UNESPs support.	September 2018	Impact 5 Priority 1	Nil action at this time. UNESP to recommence support at time of DC election announcement	IEC	No change
7.	Introduction of BVV use on Election Day	September 2018	Impact 5 Priority 1	Increased UNEST support to the IEC regarding procurement, training and movement plans	IEC	Increasing

ANNEX IV: RISK LOG

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted by	Last Update	Status
1	**Important decisions are delayed, delaying in turn electoral preparations. (**1) Slow recruitment, especially of senior level positions within the IEC decreases the efficacy of the body. (2) Delays in planning, last minute changes in planning, and over-reliance on UNESP advisors' technical decisions affects procurement and logistical operations. (3) ACCRA's slow pace of Tazkera issuance in remote and inaccessible areas prevents people to register to vote.	*November 2017*	Regulatory, Organisational	Impact: 5 Probability: 5	*Advise and support the IEC to prioritize and accelerate recruitment of senior level positions. Advise the IEC to speed up and complete planning and decision-making exercises. Advise the IEC to work closely with ACCRA emphasizing the causal relationship between Tazkera issuance and successful elections.*	*NUG, IEC, ACCRA*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change
2	**Political interference in the EMBs.** The controversial situation of President's interference in the case of Tazkera copies. Political parties' pressure for major electoral reforms and protests blocking the Ghazni IEC office.	*November 2017*	Political	Impact: 4 Probability: 4	*Work with IEC to strengthen their independence, to increase the transparency of their work and build public support and trust.*	*NUG*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change
3	**Electoral stakeholders refuse to recognize results or respond to allegations of fraud through noninstitutional means, including the threat s and/or use of violence.** Electoral stakeholders in the previous parliamentary and presidential elections threatened to commit violence if results were not reviewed. Allegations of fraud, whether substantiated or not, have in the past undermined the reputation of the EMBs and generated serious political instability.	*October 2017*	Political	Impact: 4 Probability: 5	*Increased focus on building voter confidence and that of electoral stakeholders on the capacity, integrity, and impartiality of the EMBs so that the results of the election are acceptable for everyone.*	*EMB's, UNESP & Donors*	UNESP	31 March 2019	Increasing
4	**The government limits UN support to the electoral process.** The government has indicated on several occasions that it has reservations regarding the UN's involvement in national projects.	*November 2017*	Political	Impact: 5 Probability: 1	*UN will strengthen its engagement with the government institutions through its good offices to ensure the government is aware of UN's added value.*	*UNAMA and UNDP*	UNESP	31 March 2019	Increasing

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted by	Last Update	Status
5	**Geography, climate, and (lack of) infrastructure create delays.** No major issues were encountered in the delivery of electoral materials. Minor issues include AGE attacks on convoys and VR sites, with marginal destruction of electoral materials.	*October 2017*	Operational	Impact: 2 Probability: 2	*UNESP adjusts its logistics plans according to the security, geographic, and infrastructure setup – the ANDSF provides air support for movement of electoral materials on IEC request and with UNESP support*	*ANDSF, IEC, UNESP*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change
6	**Security.** Increasing threats, number of incidents, and casualties affect the VR and CN numbers, and will affect the voter turnout. At least 11 "black" districts won't have elections, according to the IEC.	*November 2017*	Other (Security)	Impact: 5 Probability: 5	*Work with IEC, ANDSF, and NATO RS to ensure security of sites, staff, voters, candidates and observers, and to enable access to as many sites as possible.*	*ANDSF, AGE*	UNESP	31 March 2019	Increasing
7	**Security.** The security environment deteriorates to the point where the EMBs are unable to function in parts of the country. Insecurity in the country has dramatically escalated over the years. According to security analysts, this is expected to remain the same or worsen in the period covered by this project document. AGE's have been explicit in their intention to intensify their attacks. IEC personnel and facilities have been attacked in previous elections.	*November 2017*	Other (Security)	Impact: 4 Probability: 4	*Formulate a comprehensive Security Response Plan for different threat levels. Liaise and coordinate with the government to provide adequate security for EMB facilities.*	*EMBs and UNESP, GoIRA*	UNESP	31 March 2019	Increasing
8	**Logistical breakdowns.** Minor logistical challenges encountered due to terrain, distance and security risks.	*October 2017*	Operational	Impact: 3 Probability: 3	*Air support provided for movement of electoral materials in inaccessible or high-risk areas.*	*Multiple*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change
9	**Electoral fraud.** Allegations of all types of electoral fraud received from all parts of the country. IEC and ACCRA staff implicated.	*October 2017*	Organisational / Legal	Impact: 4 Probability: 3	*Work with the IEC and the ECC to prevent fraud, closely monitor electoral processes and staff, and refer cases to the responsible institutions.*	*Multiple*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change
10	**Constituency Delimitation** decision delayed past the deadline. Zero impact on 2018 elections. Risk to be revisited for 2019 elections.	*October 2017*	Regulatory	Impact: 0 Probability: 0	*No response required at this time.*	*NUG and IDLG*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change
11	**Polling Results.** The 25 political parties threatening to boycott the elections unless the electoral system is changed may lead to their refusal to recognize the polling results.	*March 2018*	Political	Impact: 3 Probability: 3	*High-level meetings are ongoing to ensure consensus and inclusivity of the 2018 elections, and the opening of the Ghazni IEC office.*	*Multiple*	UNESP	31 March 2019	Increasing

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted by	Last Update	Status
12	**IEC is unable to recruit the required number of staff - particularly women – to conduct the voter registration exercise.** Because of inadequate staffing in some areas, IEC could be forced to open fewer registration centres, therefore disenfranchising voters.	*October 2017*	Organisational	Impact: 4 Probability: 3	*Secure the buy in of religious and tribal leaders in encouraging qualified people, including women, to work with the IEC. Emphasise local recruitment of voter registration staff. If necessary, extend the voter registration exercise to allow redeployment from other locations.*	*IEC*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change
13	Turnover in personnel results in loss of skills acquired through EMBs staff training and institutional memory. Loss of technical capacity within the EMBs will have administrative, operational, and financial implications for the scope of work. This will also impact overall coordination and performance within the EMBs.	*October 2017*	Organizational	Impact: 3 Probability: 2	*Appropriate capacity building measures within the EMBs to create internal resilience. Knowledge management systems to be developed.*	*EMBs, UNESP*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change
14	**Gender mainstreaming falls short of targets in the EMBs.** The training and other support activities might be insufficient in and of themselves to address the deep-seated cultural prejudices which disadvantage women, the disabled, Kuchis, and other marginalised social groups.	*October 2017*	Gender	Impact: 2 Probability: 2	*Integrate the specific needs of women in all EMB policies, plans and procedures. Coordinate the work of the IEC Gender Unit with relevant activities and/or programmes of the MOWA, UN Women, and CSOs, with the support of UN Women*	*IEC, UNESP*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change
15	**Public awareness of electoral procedures and guidelines remain poor.** High levels of illiteracy and the difficult security environment are likely to limit voters' exposure to voter education messages. As a result, an uninformed public is more vulnerable to electoral manipulation.	*October 2017*	Strategic	Impact: 3 Probability: 4	*Use a wide range of nonwritten materials in voter education campaigns*	*IEC*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change
16	**EMBs stakeholder engagement is insufficient.** There would be lower confidence in the EMB's ability to function as an institution independent of external assistance, and greater chance of contestation of decisions taken by the EMBs, regardless of the actual quality of those decisions.	*October 2017*	Strategic	Impact: 3 Probability: 3	*Support and encourage the EMBs to establish formalized coordination mechanisms and external reporting systems.*	*UNESP*	UNESP	31 March 2019	No change