UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP)

2019 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

DONORS

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:	$ 134,488,151
Annual Budget 2019:	$ 89,176,697
Unfunded Amount:	$ 0
Implementing Partner:	UNDP
Responsible Parties:	IEC, ECC
Project Manager a.i.:	Ali Al-Bayati
Responsible Head of Programme Unit:	Douglas Armour

COVER PAGE PHOTOS: Polling day proceedings in summary [facial photo, thumbprints captured, inking, ballot paper issues, QR code generated, affixed and stamped, ballot cast]

ACRONYMS

ACCRA	Afghan Central Civil Registration Authority
ANDSF	Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BoC	Board of Commissioners
BVV	Biometric Voter Verification
BVR	Biometric Voter Registration
CE	Civic Educator
CECG	Civil Society Election Coordination Group
CEO	Chief Electoral Officer
CN	Candidate Nomination
CoC	Code of Conduct
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAVE	Digital Audit Verification Support System
DC	District Council
DDEO	Deputy District Electoral Officers
DEO	District Electoral Officers
ECC	Electoral Complaints Commission
EDR	Electoral Dispute Resolution
EDSS	Election Day Support System
EMB	Electoral Management Body
ERD	External Relations Department
ESG	Electoral Support Group
EU	European Union
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
GoIRA	Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HQ	Headquarters
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IEC	Independent Election Commission
IPOD	Information and Public Outreach Department
IT	Information Technology
MDR	Multi-dimensional representation
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
NEF	National Election Forums
NMP	National Movement Plan
NTC	National Tally Centre
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
PPOOs	Provincial Public Outreach Officers
Prodoc	Project Document
PS	Polling Station
PSA	Public Service Announcement
SOPs	Standard Operations Procedures
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TV	Television
UK	United Kingdom
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESP	United Nations Electoral Support Project
USA	United States of America
VL	Voters List
VR	Voter Registration
VRC	Voter Registration Centre
VRT	Voter Registration Top-Up
WJ	Wolesi Jirga

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2019 annual progress report for the United Nations Development Programme United Nations Electoral Support Project (UNDP-UNESP) covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2019. The report is structured around the outputs outlined in the UNESP Project Document (Prodoc) revisions of July 2018 and August 2019 and the corresponding Annual Work Plans (AWPs) for 2019. In 2019, the project was funded by Australia, Denmark, Sweden, the European Union (EU), Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States of America (USA). Consequently, UNDP-UNESP provided financial, operational, advisory and technical support to the two Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) of Afghanistan to achieve the following:

Finalization of Wolesi Jirga 2018 elections: The IEC, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP on results processing, concluded announcement of preliminary Wolesi Jirga (WJ) results for 33 provinces (excluding Ghazni) within the first quarter of 2019. Thereafter, the ECC with technical support from UNDP-UNESP on analysis and investigation of 4,946 complaints registered against the preliminary results completed adjudication and review of 781 appeals. From mid-January to mid-May 2019, the IEC with technical support from UNDP-UNESP on results processing published final WJ results for the 33 provinces and awarded certificates to the 239 parliamentarians (66 women).

Consultations on use of biometrics: The IEC engaged in discussions on the use of biometrics in the electoral process and timelines for successful implementation. After further discussions, in mid-May, the IEC announced the decision to use biometric voter verification (BVV) on election day. Consequently, IEC with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP, and coordination with the service provider used the biometric devices as electronic pollbooks and for transmission of result information.

Presidential election candidate nomination: The candidate nomination (CN) process resulted in 18 potential candidates submitting documentation. Once the ECC, in coordination with the Vetting Committee, completed the verification process; the IEC, with technical and advisory support from the project conducted the ballot lottery to establish the order of the 18 candidates on the ballot paper. In late May, the IEC announced 28 September 2019 as polling day for the presidential elections.

Voter registration top-up and voter registration in Ghazni: A total of 202 provincial trainers, with technical support on training materials from UNDP-UNESP trained 3,186 voter registration (VR) staff who then conducted the VR top-up in 33 provinces and

VR in Ghazni. Cumulatively, 533,749 citizens (199,342 women; 36.3%) registered at 89.6 percent of the voter registration centres (VRCs) (637 of 711 planned VRCs) across the 34 provinces. Following completion of VR process and updates to the VR data, the IEC, with technical support from UNDP-UNESP, finalized the voter list (VL) containing 9,665,745 eligible voters (3,334,230 women; 34.5%); that was used on polling day.

Civic and voter education: Throughout the electoral cycle, UNDP-UNESP provided technical inputs, advisory and financial support for the conduct of various civic and voter education campaigns on electoral processes, electoral violations and crimes, and complaint registration. Consequently, in 2019 the ECC registered 1,964 additional complaints against the remaining WJ preliminary results which were announced in January 2019; totalling 4,946 complaints against the WJ preliminary results. The IEC, through 1,797 Civic Educators (CEs) (449 women) and using materials developed with input from the project, conducted 82,577 public outreach grassroots meetings and reached 2,454,489 citizens (684,274 women). The IEC complemented the campaigns with public service announcements (PSAs) on 80 radio stations, 39 television (TV) stations, 1,156 billboards and print materials. Similarly, the ECC conducted media campaigns to raise awareness on electoral violations and the complaint registration process using PSAs on 20 radio and 30 TV stations, 580 billboards and print materials. The ECC efforts contributed to 142 complaints which were registered and adjudicated for the VR and campaign period with no appeals made against the decisions.

Strategic communication: ECC and IEC Information and Public Outreach Departments (IPOD) with support from UNDP-UNESP increased communication via their websites and social media (Twitter and Facebook) as well as information dissemination through their respective call centres which received 214,761 calls (33,773 women).

Presidential Candidate Withdrawal: Of the 18 presidential candidates, five candidates ([1] Dr. Shida Mohammad Abdali, [2] Noor ul-Haq Ulumi, [3] Dr. Zalmai Rassol, [4] Haji Ibrahim Mohammad Alokozay, and [5] Mohammad Hanif Atmar) formally withdrew from running, submitting their notification to the IEC.

Presidential election polling day: On 28 September, voters visited polling centres opened across the country to vote for one of 13 nominees in the presidential elections.

Post-election material retrieval: Provincial level retrieval of materials improved to six days from 10 to 15 days in previous electoral operations with the efficiency attributed to the coordination and implementation of the approved movement plan and security strategy. This is expanded under 2019 Presidential elections: Retrieval of sensitive election materials.

Electoral adjudication: Following election day, the ECC and provincial ECC (PECC) offices registered and adjudicated 4,528 complaints including 184 appeals against the initial decisions. The data verification processes revealed discrepancies that included

voting outside of the polling times, duplication of voters with face matches, fingerprint matches and duplicate voter identification. Vital to this process was the collaborative work of the IEC and ECC to consolidated and harmonize polling stations (PSs) for audit and recount using findings from the data verification and complaint adjudication processes. Both IEC and ECC identified PSs that required audit and recount. IEC, responsible for conducting the audit and recount process, consolidated all PSs into a single list. The final list therefore contained PSs for audit and recount as a result of data verification (IEC) and complaint adjudication processes (ECC).

Audit and recount process: In early November, IEC launched the audit and recount process across 8,329 PSs. The process was affected by demonstrations as well as forced closures of some PIEC offices and warehouses. The IEC completed the process in 27 provinces amidst some protests and demonstrations; halted the process to allow consultations with presidential candidates and political parties; then from 15 December, audit and recount resumed in seven remaining provinces (Baghlan, Badakhshan, Faryab, Jawzjan, Panjshir, Sar-e-Pul and Takhar) resulting in subsequent announcement of preliminary results on 22 December.

National Tally Centre (NTC) and Digital Audit Verification (DAVE) Support System Centre: The audit and recount process could not have been taken place without the NTC which manually captured results forms that were transmitted from 24,842 PSs (90.3% of the 29,586 PSs) that had already been electronically captured by the DAVE Support System Centre, an audit support software solution jointly developed by IEC and UNDP-UNESP. The comparison of NTC and DAVE data sets, and the correspondence between both were key to the success of the introduction and implementation of data transmission through the BVV devices, and to the overall fraud deterrent factor.

Announcement of preliminary results: On 22 December, the IEC announced preliminary results from 1,824,401 valid votes (31% women) cast across 26,586 PSs. From the preliminary results, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani accounted for 923,868 votes (50.64%); Dr. Abdullah Abdullah 720,990 votes (39.52%) Gulbuddin Hekmatyar 70,242 votes (3.85%) and Rahmatullah Nabil 33,921 (1.86 %).

Preliminary results complaints registration: The announcement of the Preliminary Results initiated a new ECC complaints registration period. The ECC informed citizens on the complaint registration process against the results and proceeded to register 16,545[1] complaints from 23 to 25 December at the ECC and PECC offices. All registered complaints were submitted to respective PECCs for adjudication. By end of the year,

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[1] Updated data of 22 January 2020 shows 16,545 complaints against preliminary results.

the ECC and PECCs, with legal inputs from the project were categorizing and adjudicating the registered complaints.

Electoral observation and monitoring: The IEC, using an updated accreditation database, guidelines for troubleshooting and conduct and management of accredited observers in electoral premises developed with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP accredited 140,008 people (50,503 women) for various roles in electoral monitoring and observation. Observer spaces were set up in the NTC and the DAVE Support System Centre, and an Election Information Centre established for access and transparency of the processes. Initial statements from some electoral stakeholders such as the Free and Fair Elections Forum of Afghanistan (FEFA), Transparent Election Forum of Afghanistan (TEFA) and Election and Transparency Watch Afghanistan (ETWA) highlighted that turnout was low; technological challenges were experienced with some biometric devices and inadequate female staff in some polling stations.

Challenges: In early February, His Excellency, President Ashraf Ghani signed a legislative decree amending the 2016 Election Law following approval of a draft by the Cabinet. This was followed by dismissal of the ECC and IEC Commissions, bringing the [1] announcement of final WJ results, [2] approval of regulatory frameworks, [3] complaints adjudication, [4] preparations for VR, and [5] CN for district council (DC) and provincial council (PC) elections to a halt. The President appointed new Commissioners for the electoral management bodies (EMBs) in early March. The political changes prolonged completion of 2018 WJ electoral processes until mid-May.

At the start of the year, IEC had indicated the intention to conduct four elections, Presidential, Ghazni WJ, DC and PC elections in July 2019. Then, following consultations with electoral stakeholders, in late May, the IEC announced the decision to conduct the presidential elections in 2019 and the other elections at a later date. Ongoing preparations for CN processes for Ghazni WJ and PC elections and associated staff trainings had to be halted while procurement processes for CN materials were advanced and consequently materials were delivered, they are in storage. The project refocused technical, advisory and logistical support to the revised operational timeline and shelved CN and public outreach efforts to motivate potential candidates to participate for the Ghazni WJ, DC and PC elections. The project revised the Prodoc to add an output for presidential elections. The leadership of IEC, ECC, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed the revised Prodoc on 1 August.

Implementation of the operational timeline was also affected by prolonged decision making in the IEC. The IEC took a while to make a decision on the extent to which biometrics could be used in the election. While at the onset, there was intention to incorporate biometrics in VR; voting and results transmission; following a number of

consultations with political parties, civil society, donors and the Electoral Support Group (ESG), the IEC decided to use biometrics only on election day. UNDP-UNESP provided technical inputs on use of biometrics including scenario planning on the use of biometrics in elections; regulations, procedures and operational plans. Lastly, security issues affected electoral processes, with protests, demonstrations, closure of PIEC and PECC offices, some abduction and assassination of electoral workers.

Looking Ahead: The project will support the ECC and PECCs in adjudication of the complaints registered against the preliminary results. In addition, UNDP-UNESP will provide technical inputs to the Commissions for processing of final results through:

- providing legal inputs to adjudication of appeals against decisions on preliminary results;
- providing support to IEC for implementation of ECC decisions on the appeals against preliminary results;
- providing technical support for results processing and data centre operations following implementation of special audit and recount;
- direct support to the Commissioners on election management; and
- advisory and operational support on communications and public outreach.

Discussions are ongoing in the IEC regarding Provincial Council (PC) and Ghazni Wolesi Jirga (WJ) elections. While future electoral assistance support needs are yet to be finalized, and subject to recommendations of the Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), a substantive revision of the UNDP-UNESP Prodoc is anticipated to incorporate Output 7 for PC elections, updates to Output 4 for VR and Output 5 for WJ and DC elections will become necessary in 2020 and possibly 2021. In line with the UN's Security Council Resolution 2489 (2019), the UN will also seek to support efforts to strengthen the capacity of the electoral institutions. The project has prepositioned a draft Prodoc to prepare for updating once support needs are finalized and lessons learned from 2019 are captured and analysed for incorporation.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During the year, a total of US$ 48,312,618 was spent for this project. For more details, please see Annex 2.

II.   RESULTS

A.   OUTPUT 1: Administration of credible elections is facilitated by the meeting of key IEC structural and planning milestones.

UNDP-UNESP provided advisory and operational support to the IEC targeting communications, strategic and operational planning, IEC structures, procedures and systems, including the electoral environment in which the commission operates.

IEC Recruitment

Permanent staff: The IEC organizational structure has 465 *Tashkeel* staff (280 headquarter level and 185 provincial level). The vacancy rate reduced from 23 percent in the first quarter to 10.3 percent by end of the year; the IEC closed the year with 89.7 percent of the positions in the organigram filled, compared to 77 percent at the end of 2018. Of these 417 staff recruited staff, at least 7.2 percent were women and 92.8 percent were men. The project supported the IEC Human Resources Department in strengthening efforts to recruit and retain women through development and subsequent partial implementation of gender inclusive recruitment and human resources policies. While, the overall recruitment rate of women still falls below the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA) target of 30 percent women, there is progress in recruitment of women from 5.4 percent (19 women) in the first quarter to 7.2 percent (30 women) by end of the year. At the senior level, the number of women increased from 3.4 percent (2 women) to 6.6 percent (5 women) and the number of women in the other lower grades improved from 5.8 percent (17 women) to 7.3 percent (25 women) by end of the year. There remains a scope for improvements in the recruitment and retention of women at the headquarter and provincial levels.

| # | Category | Quarters | | | | Quarter 4, 2019 | |
		1	2	3		No.	%
1	Filled Tashkeel positions	352	360	404		417	89.7
2	Vacant Tashkeel positions	105	105	61		48	10.3
3	Tashkeel positions in approved organogram	457	465	465		465	
4	Gender breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions	% Female			Male	Female	% Female
		5.4	5.6	6.9	387	30	7.2
5	Seniority breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions	% Senior			Senior	Other	% Senior
		16.5	19.2	18.8	76	341	18.2
6	Gender breakdown of Senior positions (Grades 1-3)	% Female			Male	Female	% Female
		3.4	5.8	6.6	71	5	6.6
7	Gender breakdown of other positions (Grades 4$^+$)	% Female			Male	Female	% Female
		5.8	5.5	7.3	316	25	7.3

Table 1: IEC HR Breakdown Quarter 4, 2019 compared to that of Quarters 1 to 3, 2019

Commissioners: On 3 March, His Excellency President Ashraf Ghani, through separate decrees, appointed seven new Commissioners to the IEC (2 women). Through an internal voting process, the newly appointed IEC Commissioners elected Ms. Hawa Alam Nuristani as Chairperson of the Commission; Mr. Sayed Esmatullah Mal as Deputy Chairperson and Mr. Musafir Qoqandi as Secretary. In mid-May 2019, two Non-Voting International Commissioners (1 woman) were appointed in compliance with art. 13, para. 10 (IEC) and art. 28, para. 5 (ECC) of the amended Election Law and a Presidential decree confirming the appointments. The Non-Voting Commissioners act in an advisory role, supporting their respective Commissioners in daily activities; mentoring the chairperson and commissioners on areas including the separation of roles and responsibilities between the commissioners and the secretariat; decision making in the commission; and the management of commission meetings. The non-voting Commissioners provided technical support on drafting written papers on institutional governance within the commissions and generally on how to manage the affairs of the commission.

Temporary staff: The IEC conducted wide scale recruitment of temporary staff for various activities of the electoral cycle. In the first quarter, the IEC recruited 425 temporary staff (55 women). In the second quarter, the IEC recruited at least 4,855 temporary staff (1,427 women) for various roles including VR, public outreach, logistics, field operations, training, external relations and CC operations. The project supported the IEC in the recruitment and subsequent training of these temporary staff. Leading towards election day, the IEC recruited at least 192,124 temporary staff (60,489 or 31.48% women) for polling, field operations, logistics and public outreach. The project supported the IEC in the training of trainers (ToT) and monitored the cascade trainings at provincial level.

Gender inclusive recruitment and human resources policies: The Gender Unit, with support from the project, engaged the Human Resources Department on leave policy of temporary staff, co-option of the Gender Unit in recruitment processes and intentional inclusion of statements to encourage women to apply during the advertisement process. The intentional inclusion of staff from the IEC Gender Unit to ensure there is some consideration of gender inclusive considerations in shortlisting processes has been adopted in the IEC, with the project continuing to monitor the effectiveness of this initiative.

IEC Capacity Building

The project provided day to day on the job coaching and mentoring to IEC staff to which the project advisors are assigned. Fundamentally, the project shared experiences and best practices gained from historical experiences to provide technical guidance on a day to day basis. While not an exhaustive list, the project supported capacity

development and implementation of operational plans, regulatory frameworks, strategic communication, stakeholder engagement, civic and voter education, results and data management. As, and when necessary, UNDP-UNESP provided technical inputs into briefing packages and press releases. The project also provided technical inputs during development of training materials for specific aspects of the electoral cycle. While seemingly related to short term training; the skill development of IEC staff obtained through the coaching and observing of the project's development of many of these resources builds internal capacity for future self-sustainability. Following the decision by IEC to prioritise recruitment and training of temporary staff for the conduct of the 2019 presidential elections, capacity building initiatives on management and administrative support were put on hold. The support of the project was enhanced by the addition of the two Non-Voting International Commissioners (1 woman) in May 2019, who provided strategic advisory to IEC Commissioners in administration of their roles. Cumulatively, against a target of providing technical and induction training to 80 percent of *Tashkeel* staff, the achievement was 53 percent (40% women; 54% men).

IEC and ECC Joint Retreats: In 2019, two joint retreats were held, one in the first half of the year and the second in the latter half, bringing together the two EMBs to meet and discuss the amended Election Law, develop understanding of their respective mandates and determine how to collaborate in the implementation of their respective mandates. The joint retreats were supported by the International Non-Voting Commissioners who provided development training on media engagement, public and stakeholder messaging and briefings for pre, during and post-election phases, bringing to light best practices on how to communicate and manage media relations and stakeholder engagement during critical times of electoral phases.

Induction of newly hired staff: The Training Department, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP, developed an induction package for two-day orientation sessions targeting newly recruited IEC staff; 13 staff (8 women) attended the induction training as part of on-boarding.

Training on social media: In March, the project trained 15 IPOD staff (all men) on social media and effective use of social media in information dissemination. Following completion of the workshop, the trained staff, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP developed and implemented a social media plan to increase the IEC footprint on social media and made updates to existing articles on the website and social media pages (Output 3 provides details). UNDP-UNESP also provided input into the IEC IPOD social media policy which highlighted the commission's policy and outlined social media do's and don'ts to guide IEC personnel.

Training of Trainers for civic and voter education: In July, the IEC IPOD, with technical inputs to training materials from UNDP-UNESP trained 34 Provincial Public Outreach

Officers (PPOOs) and Trainers (1 woman). The training familiarised the PPOOs and Trainers on the newly approved procedures, regulations, civic and voter education. Once trained, these Officers and Trainers, in collaboration with 77 temporary PPOOs and Trainers rolled out provincial level cascade training for 897 CEs (240 women) for the conducting of grassroots public awareness campaign for the 2019 Presidential election.

Training of Trainers for polling and counting: In late August, using training materials and methodology developed with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP, the IEC conducted a ToT for 188 Trainers (54 women). The training covered Polling and Counting Procedures including roles and responsibilities of polling staff, election materials, use of biometric devices on polling day, and packing of
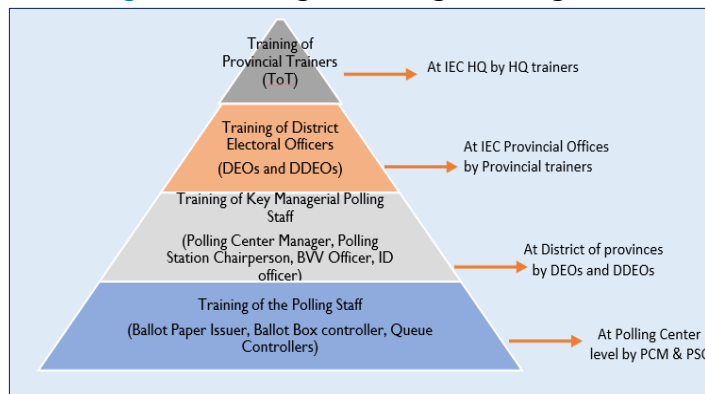

Figure 1: Cascade Training Plan and Methodology

sensitive and non-sensitive election materials. The Trainers then took the training to the provinces to train DEOs and DDEOs, who consequently trained the Polling Staff. The Trainers were assessed on their capacity as part of the ToT as a means to identify their role in the following cascade training, i.e. lead facilitator, support facilitator, etc. The rating of trainers showed that 60 percent were excellent or very good; 14 percent good and 26 percent weak. The qualified trainers were selected for roll out of cascade training to 2,669 District Electoral Officers (DEOs) and Deputy DEOs (DDEOs) (309 women) in the provinces. Then, the trained DEOs and DDEOs cascaded the training to183,058 polling staff (59,823 women) who then used the knowledge on polling day during the voting and counting process.

Training on Packing Procedures: In late August, the Training and Logistics Departments, with training materials developed in collaboration with the project, trained four staff (all men) and 24 temporary staff (all men) from the Logistics Department on roles and responsibilities of a packing team, material to be packed and the approved Packing Procedures. Consequently, the trained staff used the knowledge in packing electoral and training materials, including BVV devices and training materials; these materials were successfully dispatched to the provinces in time for planned trainings and polling day.

Briefing for Provincial Electoral Officers (PEOs): The IEC, with technical and financial support from the project, conducted a three-day briefing for 33 of the 34 PEOs[2] (all

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[2] PEO of Farah province could not attend the briefing due to unavailability of flights.

men) on election operations, their roles and responsibilities as PEOs and planned electoral activities. The PEOs, who received all briefing materials and had a hands on exercise provided by Dermalog on the use of biometric devices, committed to execute their duties and facilitate the conduct of credible and transparent elections. For future electoral cycles, and should the IEC decide to continue to implement biometrics, the importance of engagement between, and training opportunities for, the PEOs and IEC HQ will become increasingly important to facilitate operational effectiveness and contribute to fraud mitigation.

Training on the election day support system and use of information technology equipment: In mid-September, at the request of the PEOs, IEC with technical support to training materials development from UNDP-UNESP trained 33 Provincial IT Officers (all men) on the Election Day Support System (EDSS) system and use of the biometric devices. This training enabled the IT Officers to support entry of polling staff details; material dispatch and retrieval; pre-election and election day reporting and data transmission at the conclusion of polling. The ICT Officers who also received practical training and information on network devices, configuration of CISCO devices, installation and configuration of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phones are applying the knowledge in their daily work.

Briefing on the supervision of observation and monitoring: In September, the IEC Training Department, with technical support from UNDP-UNESP conducted a briefing for six staff[3] (2 women) on monitoring and observation. The staff who were sensitized on monitoring and observation roles on election day and the Polling and Counting Procedures monitored the election process at various PSs on 28 September.

Audit and recount training for IEC headquarters staff: In late October, the IEC trained 51 staff (all men) on the audit and recount procedures, recount form, as well as, audit and recount checklist. Based on advice from the project, in early November, the IEC conducted simulations on the audit and recount process and the use of the bar code readers. These trained staff, in collaboration with 50 other trained temporary staff (all men) trained provincial level staff on the audit and recount process and consequently conducted the audits and recounts across the 34 provinces. The process, which was affected by disruptions in seven provinces[4] was finally concluded, paving way for the announcement of preliminary results on 22 December 2019.

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

In the period under review, the IEC Legal department, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP developed the following regulatory documents:

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[3] including 37 temporary staff (all men)

[4] Jawzjan, Faryab, Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Sar-e-Pul and Panjshir provinces.

- Regulations: The Commission approved regulations on (1) Issuance of accreditation to political parties, independent candidates, monitoring and observer organizations as well as the media; (2) VR top-up; (3) Presence of special guests at PCs; (4) Internal IEC activities; (5) VR top-up, with biometric voter registration (BVR) [amended]; (6) VR top-up, Ghazni VR and VL[5] [amended]; (7) CN for PC elections; (8) Recruitment of temporary staff; (9) Media Committee; (10) Organizing media activities; (11) Electoral campaign for 2019 presidential elections; (12) Accreditation [on issuance of accreditation letter to political parties, candidates, monitoring and observer organizations and media] [amended]; (13) Financial affairs of electoral campaigns; (14) Polling for the 2019 presidential elections; (15) Vote counting in 2019 presidential elections; (16) Audit, recount and invalidation of votes of 2019 presidential elections; (17) Tallying of results of presidential elections; (18) Implementing Decisions of ECC/Joint Committee/Special Court; (19) Announcement of Final Results of Elections; and (20) Nominating Vice-President in case of death, suffering from an incurable disease and/or ineligibility of Vice President candidates.

- Procedures: The Commission approved procedures for (1) VR top-up; (2) VR for Ghazni WJ elections; (3) Conducting of internal elections for Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary of IEC; (4) Presence of observers, monitors and media in open sessions; (5) VR top-up [amended]; (6) VR for Ghazni [amended]; (7) VR intake; (8) Recruitment of temporary staff; (9) CN for PC elections; (10) CN for Ghazni WJ election; (11) Registration of presidential candidates; (12) Verification of presidential candidate documents; (13) Packing of CN documents for presidential elections; (14) Verification of presidential candidate's supporters list; (15) Ballot lottery for presidential election candidates; (16) VR intake; (17) Political campaign [Election] finance internal Procedure; (18) Polling and Counting; (19) Packing; (20) Hiring of polling staff; (21) Provincial intake of materials; (22) NTC operations; (23) Audit and Recount; (24) Digital Tallying and Verification System; and (25) Issuance of accreditation letter and identification card for monitoring, observation and preparation of report.

- Guidelines for: (1) Sorting and checking of documents submitted by the Presidential candidates; (2) Packing of CN documents; (3) CN for PC, DC and Ghazni WJ elections; (4) Transfer and Correction Form; (5) DEOs; (6) Using QR code readers for audit and recount; (7) Audit and recount; (8) EDSS application during audit and recount; (9) Audit and recount checklist; (10) Intake of Tamper Evident Bags (TEBs)

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5 Amended Regulation on Top-up VR, Ghazni VR & VL approved on 16 May 2019 is valid and supersedes Regulation on Top-up VR and Preparation of VL, approved on Jan. 02, 2019 and Amended Regulation VR Top-up with BVR was approved on 30 April 2019.

containing recount forms; (11) Determining the order of candidates on the ballot paper for 2019 PC, DC and Ghazni WJ elections; (12) Objections and corrections against voters information on preliminary VL; (13) Storage of sensitive materials not delivered to PCs; (14) Packing of training materials; and (15) Filling in the headquarter (HQ) checklist.

- Plans: (1) Presidential, PC and DC elections; (2) Ghazni WJ election; (3) Presidential election [amended]; (4) Operational Plan for VR Top Up [amended]; (5) Operational Plan for VR in Ghazni [amended]; (6) FOP Operational Timeline and FOP Action Plan; and (7) Ballot Allocation Plan.
- Codes of Conduct for: (1) Commissioners and Head of Secretariat; and (2) Electoral Workers[6]; and (3) IEC Members.
- Affidavits[7] for: (1) Media; (2) Observers; and (3) Political Parties.
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with (1) ECC.

Gender considerations in development and implementation of plans and procedures: The project provided gender inputs into the development of all operational plans and procedures for the 2019 electoral cycle, as and when applicable. In particular, gender considerations were significantly considered when pertaining to the numbers of required female PSs, polling staff for female PSs, and female searchers for PCs. The IPOD Public Outreach Strategy also had targeted campaigns and messages to increase female participation in all phases of the electoral cycle. In addition, the project led the drafting of a Gender Strategy for the 2019 presidential election, however internal IEC delays inhibited its timely endorsement and implementation. This draft strategy incorporated the gender considerations for the participation of women, youth, marginalized groups and people with disabilities provided a holistic approach for the implementation of approved regulations, procedures, plans and guidelines.

Campaign finance: Presidential candidates were required to submit two[8] financial reports to the Commission. As part of implementing the Regulation on Campaign Finance, developed with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP, the Legal Department finalized the report on campaign finance of all the presidential candidates. Following review, the Commission approved the report which is accessible on the IEC website. Four candidates submitted completed first financial reports on time (Mohammad Hakim Tursan, Ghulam Faruq Najrabi, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, and Mohammad Shahab Hakimi) and three candidates submitted completed second/final reports on time (Mohammad Hakim Tursan, Ghulam Farooq Nejrabi, and Noorulhaq Olomi).

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[6] The previous CoC will remain in force unless the new CoC is approved by the Commission.

[7] On 21 April 2019, the Legal Department submitted draft Codes of Conduct for Media, Political Parties and Observers. The Commission approved them as Affidavits on April 30, 2019, as per Article 105 of Election Law.

[8] Report 1: within 30 – 35 days of campaign [26 – 20 August]; Second/Final report: during silence period [26 – 27 September].

IEC Asset and Public Financial Management: The project provided advisory support to the IEC to reach the standards of the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) in financial and administrative processes. The project reactivated HR and Asset Tracking System (ATS) databases and control mechanisms implemented during the Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT II) project and emphasised the continued use of the GoIRA Financial Management Information System (FMIS). During the development and subsequent revision of the operational plans, UNDP-UNESP provided technical inputs to ensure that the budgeting processes followed tenets of the Budget Circular. The project continued to work with IEC management and the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer (DCEO) to build ownership and use of the existing asset management, procurement and financial systems for increased levels of internal adherence.

IEC Strategic Plan and Operational Plans: The IEC, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP developed operational plans for voter registration; field operations; ballot allocation; DC, PC, Ghazni WJ and Presidential elections. Following the decision to conduct Presidential elections only, the IEC, with advisory support from the project implemented the operational plans for VR and Presidential elections. Development of the five-year strategic plan for the IEC was shifted to 2020 and will be informed by recommendations of the Needs Assessment Mission.

Security coordination

Security Concept of Operations: The IEC, in collaboration with the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA), North Atlantic Treaty Organization Resolute Support Mission (NATO RS) and UNDP-UNESP, developed the Security Concept of Operations laying down the support of security forces during electoral processes. The Security Concept of Operations, revised in the second quarter with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP, was approved by the Commission and guided provision of security support for VR, training and polling day material movements and subsequent retrievals.

Security assessments of voter registration centres: Security assessments conducted by the MoIA cleared 459 VRCs for VR top-up (VRT) and 252 VRCs for VR in Ghazni. Using the security assessments, the IEC with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP reviewed and harmonized the final VRC list to match security assessments. A total 428 VRCs opened for VRT and 209 VRCs opened for VR in Ghazni.

Description	Provinces	Total VRCs	Open	Closed	% Open VRCs
VR top-up	33	459	428	31	93.2
VR	1	252	209	43	82.9
Total	**34**	**711**	**637**	**74**	**89.6**

Table 2: Status of VRC during the VRT in 33 provinces and VR in Ghazni, June to July 2019

Security assessments of polling centres and polling stations: The MoIA, with support from NATO RS, completed security assessments of 5,373 PCs and 29,586 PSs. The project provided coordination support between the MoIA and IEC which enabled the IEC to harmonize the final PC list to match the security assessments. Then, the IEC with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP mapped movement of materials including, security coordination for delivery and retrieval of materials. On 28 September, 4,678 PCs and 26,580PSs were opened for polling.

Description	Provinces	Open	Closed	Total	% Open
Polling Centres	34	4,678	695	5,373	87.1
Polling Stations	34	26,580	3,006	29,586	89.8

Table 3: Status of polling centres and polling stations on polling day, 28 September 2019

Security coordination meetings: The IEC hosted a Joint Coordination Meeting of the Electoral Commissions' leadership with Security and Defence Organizations on 28 March. Thereafter, the project participated in MoIA led security coordination meetings to discuss evolving security requirements in line with the electoral calendar, including VR material retrievals, security assessments of PCs and PSs, security drills for national security involved in electoral security coordination, recruitment of female searchers, national movement plans (NMPs) and provincial movement plans (PMPs). The project also participated in the regional level security coordination meetings. Overall, elections security coordination mechanisms have been in place and functional. For the presidential election, the two-stage retrieval from the PCs to the PIECs and from the PIECs to the IEC HQ was completed in eight days compared to 10 to 15 days in previous electoral operations. This efficiency is attributed to the improved implementation of the security strategy by the ANDSF, in coordination with the members of the Security Coordination Taskforce.

Figure 2: Regional security coordination meeting with PEO, UNAMA Mazar Field Office

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During the year, a total of US$ 9,197,751 was spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

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

Output 1 performance indicator table

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status	Comments
1.1 A comprehensive Strategic Plan is designed and adopted by the IEC, including an M&E plan.	No	Yes	No	Off target.	Not conducted. Shifted to 2020 to incorporate recommendations of Needs Assessment Mission.
1.2 Number of reviews/assessments of the comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan in line with the IEC's Strategic Plan.	0	1	0	Off target.	Not conducted, linked to the Strategic Plan which is yet to be developed.
1.3.1 Percentage of recruited Tashkeel staff in relation to the approved IEC organigram (disaggregated F/M).	T: 77% F: 6% M: 94%	T: 100% F: 20% M: 80%	T: 89.7% F: 7% M: 93%	On target.	
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).	T: 40% F: 18% M: 42%	T: 80% F: 80% M: 80%	T: 53% F: 40% M: 54%	Off target.	IEC put on hold capacity building programmes and focused on recruitment of staff.
1.4 Availability of an Institutional Cooperation Framework.	Yes	Yes	Yes	On target.	
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	Fully compliant	On target.	
1.6 Comprehensive asset management, logistics and transport procedures are updated, approved and implemented by the IEC.	No	Yes	Yes	On target.	

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status	Comments
1.7 Number (or %) of IEC operational plans and procedures that incorporate specific needs of women.	100%	100%	100%	On target.	Completed.
1.8 Availability of a comprehensive and credible list of polling locations for elections approved and published by the IEC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	On target.	Completed.
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.	4	4	4	On target.	
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	On target.	
1.12 A functional elections security coordination mechanism in place.	Yes	Yes	Yes	On target.	

B.   OUTPUT 2: Credible electoral dispute resolution (EDR) is provided by the ECC.

UNDP-UNESP provided support to the ECC to fulfil its role in electoral dispute resolution in accordance with the Afghan electoral legal framework. The project provided legal inputs during investigation and analysis of electoral complaints and to define and enforce the legal and regulatory requirements for participation in and contestation of the elections.

ECC Recruitment

Following amendment of the Election Law, the ECC updated the Recruitment Procedure and subsequently halted recruitment of permanent staff. In the second quarter, the ECC proposed an expanded staffing structure with 610 *Tashkeel* positions at the central and provincial level to enable the commission to be better able to adjudicate on election related complaints which was reportedly rejected by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) as untimely at that point in the fiscal year. The ECC continued discussions on the expanded structure, obtaining approval from the President's Office for the increase of 210 staff at headquarter and provincial levels. By end of the year, the ECC has reworked an organigram with 499 Tashkeel staff, the Board of Commissioners (BoC) is yet to review and provide feedback on this proposal. Consequently, the vacancy rate reduced from 11 percent in the first quarter to 8 percent by end of the year; with the ECC closing the year with 92 percent of the positions in the organigram filled, compared to 89 percent at the end of 2018. The percentage of women in senior positions was consistently 7 percent since 2018. The overall percentage of women recruited by the ECC was consistently 9 percent, this is a marginal decrease from 16 percent at the end of 2018. Overall, the ECC falls short of achieving the NAPWA target of 30 percent women, therefore there is need to support recruitment policies that encourage recruitment and retention of women.

#	Category	Quarters			Quarter 4, 2019		
		1	2	3		No.	%
1	Filled Tashkeel positions	379	379	376		377	92
2	Vacant Tashkeel positions	31	31	34		33	8
3	Tashkeel positions in approved organogram	410	410	410		410	
4	Gender breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions	% Female			Male	Female	% Female
		9	9	9	387	30	9
5	Seniority breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions	% Senior			Senior	Other	% Senior
		5	20	19	76	341	19
6	Gender breakdown of Senior positions (Grades 1-3)	% Female			Male	Female	% Female
		10	7	7	71	5	7
7	Gender breakdown of other positions (Grades 4+)	% Female			Male	Female	% Female
		9	11	9	316	25	9

Table 4: ECC HR Breakdown Quarter 4, 2019 compared to that of Quarters 1 to 3, 2019

Commissioners: On 3 March, His Excellency President Ashraf Ghani, through separate decrees, appointed five new Commissioners (1 woman) and a CEO to the ECC. Through an internal voting process, the newly appointed ECC Commissioners elected Ms. Zuhra Bayan Shinwari Chairperson of the Commission; Mr. Mowlawi Dinmohammad Azimi Deputy Chairperson and Dr. Mohammad Qasem Elyasi Secretary. Further, in mid-May 2019, two Non-Voting International Commissioners (1 woman) were nominated by the SRSG and appointed by President Ghani in accordance with the requirements of the amended Election Law. Similarly, the two non-voting Commissioners provided regular technical support to the Commissioners; mentored the chairperson and commissioners on areas including the separation of roles and responsibilities between the commissioners and the secretariat, decision making in the commission, and management of commission meetings. The non-voting Committee provided technical support in drafting written papers on institutional governance within the commissions and generally on how to manage the affairs of the commission.

Temporary staff: In the first quarter, the ECC recruited at least 150 temporary staff (guards, cleaners and support staff) for central and provincial levels. In the second quarter, the ECC recruited 112 Provincial ECC (PECC) Commissioners (23 women) and in the third quarter, the ECC had completed recruitment of 480 of the 582 required temporary staff (168 women). UNDP-UNESP supported development of induction packages for the newly recruited staff and provided technical inputs to development of training packages for the PECC Commissioners.

Gender inclusive recruitment and human resources policies: The project provided technical inputs to the ECC Deputy Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and Finance and Administration on gender inclusive HR and recruitment. The project recommended extensive dissemination of vacancy announcements to wider stakeholders including the Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA), extending vacancy deadlines where there are few applications from qualified female applicants and intentional inclusion of the equal opportunity statement to encourage women to apply on all advertisements. Other strategies to retain female staff include mentoring of staff on a career track for promotion and inclusion of staff from the Gender Unit on recruitment panels. The ECC used these strategies in the recruitment of temporary staff in the course of the year, however, number of female staff recruited by ECC in 2019 remained nominal.

ECC Capacity Building

The project, through embedded advisors provided day to day on the job coaching and technical support to ECC staff in development and implementation of the operational plan. UNDP-UNESP provided technical inputs into the development of content for regulatory framework, press releases and materials for civic and voter education, as well as analysis and investigation of electoral complaints. Against a target of providing

technical and induction training to 80 percent of the *Tashkeel* staff, the project completed 20 percent of planned capacity building training programmes[9] (15% women and 20% men). Most planned capacity building initiatives related to management and administrative operations could not be undertaken due to prolonged adjudication of 2018 WJ electoral complaints. In addition, the Civil Service Institute (CSI) had a high demand for training from other government departments and could only accommodate ECC in joint training programmes with other institutions.

Implementation of ECC Training Plan: Following completion of the Training Needs Assessment to ascertain annual training needs and priorities, ECC, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP developed the ECC Training Plan. The project supported the ECC in the implementation of trainings related to operations management and the human resources management information system; 17 staff (3 women) who participated in these trainings applied the newly acquired skills in their day to day work. Similarly, ECC also provided training to its staff on sexual and gender-based violence.

Lessons learned workshops: The ECC, with technical and operational support from the project conducted two rounds of lessons learned workshops in April 2019; 136 PECC Commissioners and ECC staff (31 women) participated. The participants discussed experiences, achievements and challenges related to the WJ election. On adjudication of complaints, participants suggested the need to strengthen categorization of complaints, subsequent analysis at the provincial level and timely transmission of decisions to the headquarters (HQs); this was considered for the 2019 presidential election. The reflections also identified gaps in stakeholder coordination, this gap was also partially addressed in the 2019 presidential election through implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Another area for strengthening was related to public awareness raising, this was also strengthened in the 2019 presidential election through expanded public outreach campaigns and increased use of social media to raise awareness of citizens.

Advisory support on effective use of social media: The project trained 18 staff (2 women) from the ECC IPOD and External Relations Department (ERD) on social media. The participants, trained on the social media landscape of Afghanistan, social media tools, and practical ways to enhance social media activities are using the practical guidance and acquired skills in advancing use of social media by the ECC. The project continued to provide on the job coaching and technical inputs to ECC IPOD staff on the development of articles resulting in a consequential spike in followers and engagement on Facebook and Twitter. On the job training by the project also covered media monitoring, with daily media monitoring reports being prepared by IPOD and

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[9] Training programmes related to Management and Administrative operations not conducted.

shared with ECC leadership, reporting on the news and public opinions related to electoral activities.

IT Department Networking Training: The project conducted training on networking for five staff (all men) of the IT Department. The trained staff supported the project in the roll out of the electoral dispute resolution (EDR) case management system.

EDR training for Legal Officers: The ECC with technical and operational support from - UNDP-UNESP trained 34 provincial ECC Legal Officers (all men) on the EDR guidelines on complaint registration, statistics, analysis of electoral complaints, and how to use the electronic EDR case management system. These Legal Officers have used the training to support EDR Data Entry Clerks at the provincial offices with the operations of the EDR case management system; where 3,626 of 4,528 complaints were entered in the system across 33 provinces (excluding Paktika[10] province) following the Presidential elections.

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

In the period under review, the ECC, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP developed and implemented three regulations; seven procedures (1 joint IEC-ECC); one guideline; one budgeted operational plan; one code of conduct (CoC) and two memorandums of understanding:

- Regulations: (1) Duties and Authorities of the Provincial ECC (PECC); (2) Duties and Authorities of the ECC; (3) Regulation on addressing affairs related to Audit, Quarantine, Recount and Invalidation of votes.

- Procedures: (1) Procedure on adjudication of Electoral Objections and Complaints; (2) Procedure on adjudication of complaints related to VR; (3) Procedure on Adjudication of electoral cases; (4) Utilization of the electronic EDR system; (5) Procedure on Recruitment of ECC permanent staff; (6) Procedure on Recruitment of Temporary technical staff; (7) Procedure on composition, duties and authorities of the Joint Committee.

- Guidelines for: (1) Recruitment of PECC Commissioners.
- Plans: (1) Operational Plan for 2019 elections; (2) Operational Plan for 2019 presidential election (amended).
- Codes of Conduct for: (1) ECC Commissioners.

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[10] Issues faced in Paktika province: poor to non-existent internet connection and a lack of training of EDR database staff on the use of the system. UNESP was unable to train staff as names of database staff which were submitted by PECC Paktika for training approval, were rejected at ECC HQ level.

- **Memorandums of Understanding:** (1) signed with 25 institutions and national networks for strengthening synergies and coordination; (2) joint IEC-ECC.

Gender considerations in development and implementation of plans and procedures: The project provided gender inputs into the development of all operational plans and procedures for the 2019 electoral cycle. The operational plan for 2019 presidential elections had a specific section to promote gender and social inclusion in different phases of the electoral calendar. It contributed to mainstreaming gender and inclusion in ECC public outreach campaigns and communication products. With advisory support of UNDP-UNESP, ECC maintained sex-disaggregated data of all trainings, and a targeted training conducted on sexual and gender-based violence where 152 staff (30 women) were trained. Similarly, with UNDP-UNESP support, the Provincial and Central ECC have successfully compiled sex-disaggregated data of complains and appeals registered through the EDR case management system.

ECC Strategic Plan and Operational Plans: The ECC, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP developed a budgeted operational plans the Presidential elections. In addition, the project also led the development and subsequent implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. This plan guided ECC in organizing focused consultation meetings with women, religious leaders and people with disability to enhance their understanding and role on democratic process like elections, with particular emphasis on complaints and appeals registration process. Similarly, development of the five-year strategic plan for the ECC was shifted to 2020 and will be informed by recommendations of the Needs Assessment Mission.

EDR case management system and adjudication of electoral complaints

Review of appeals for Wolesi Jirga election complaints: The ECC, with legal inputs from the project made decisions on 373 appeals lodged against the decisions on the 11,845 complaints registered on WJ election day.

Electoral complaints for Wolesi Jirga preliminary results: In 2019, citizens registered 1,964 complaints against the preliminary results announced in January 2019. Cumulatively, the ECC and PECC offices registered 4,946 complaints. By end of the second quarter, the ECC with technical support from UNDP-UNESP had completed adjudication of the 4,946 complaints[11], including 781 appeals lodged against decisions on the 4,946 complaints.

Electoral complaints for 2019 voter registration processes: The ECC and PECC offices received 18 complaints from Kabul (13), Parwan (1) and Samangan (1) during the VR

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[11] By end of 2018, the ECC had adjudicated 1,352 of 2,982 complaints registered following announcement of preliminary results.

top-up and from Ghazni (3) during the VR process. The ECC and PECCs, with legal inputs from the project, adjudicated all complaints; there were no appeals made.

Electoral complaints for early campaigning: The PECCs registered five complaints regarding early campaigning for presidential elections in Kabul (4) and Balkh (1) provinces. The ECC, completed adjudication of the five complaints with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP to analysis and investigation process; the PECC offices were notified about the decisions, with no appeals registered against the decisions.

Electoral complaints during campaign period: The PECCs registered 124 complaints during the campaign period from 11 provinces[12]. The ECC, with legal inputs from the project analysed and investigated the complaints, completed adjudication; notified the complaints and adjudicated five appeals lodged against the initial decisions.

Presidential election polling day complaints: The PECC offices, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP, adjudicated 4,344 registered complaints[13]; including 184 appeals registered against the decisions of the PECCs. Some of the decisions made during adjudication process were audits and recounts. Therefore, to ensure that the recounts were coordinated between IEC and ECC, the project supported the drafting and completion of an audit and recount checklist for flagged PSs. Further, UNDP-UNESP provided technical inputs for developing and implementing a conceptual framework and approach to ensure that the two EMBs worked closely to coordinate the audits and recounts. Following harmonization of the audit and recount lists for both EMBs, at a press conference on 9 November IEC launched the recount process.
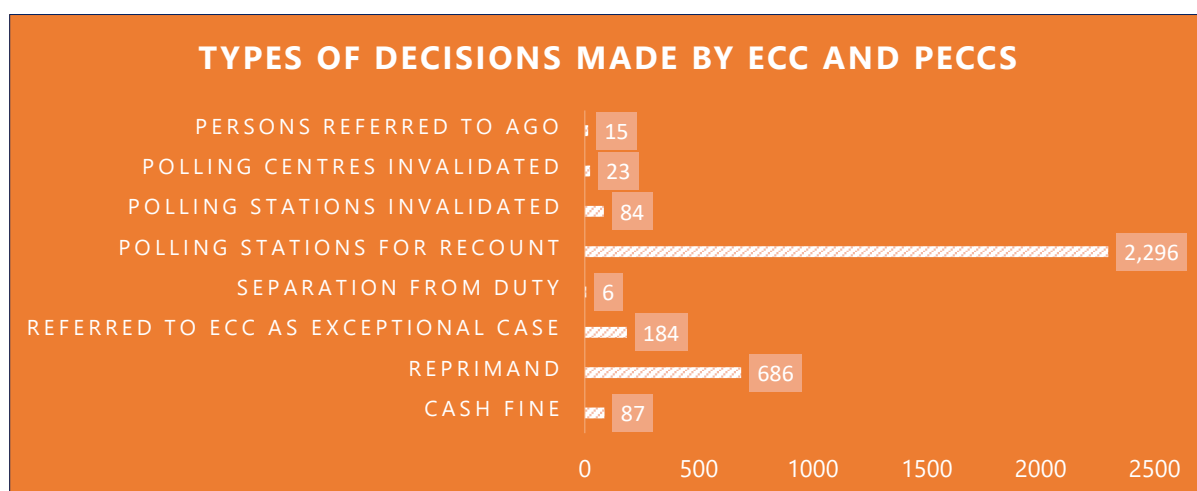
TYPES OF DECISIONS MADE BY ECC AND PECCS

Category	Value
PERSONS REFERRED TO AGO	15
POLLING CENTRES INVALIDATED	23
POLLING STATIONS INVALIDATED	84
POLLING STATIONS FOR RECOUNT	2,296
SEPARATION FROM DUTY	6
REFERRED TO ECC AS EXCEPTIONAL CASE	184
REPRIMAND	686
CASH FINE	87

Figure 3: Types of decisions made by the ECCs and PECCs in adjudication of election day related complaints

Adjudication of exceptional cases: The Central Complaints Commission received 184 exceptional cases[14] from the PECCs for adjudication. The project provided legal

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[12] Khost, Kunar, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Paktya, Panjshir, Parwan, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, Takhar and Zabul.

[13] In addition, the Central ECC, with legal opinions from the project adjudicated 184 exceptional cases. Cumulatively, the central and provincial ECC offices adjudicated 4,528 complaints related to the election day.

[14] Special conditions give the ECC the primary authority to adjudicate the complaint (Article 95 Electoral Law).

opinions to the investigation and analysis process and preparation of advisories for the ECC Commissioners. The BoC completed adjudication of the 184 exceptional cases and issued outcome notifications to all appellants. Then, in addition to the 184 exceptional cases, the ECC received 32 written complaints from political campaign teams and other complainants. The project provided legal inputs during the analysis and investigation of 31 cases, while the ECC referred back one complaint to the Ghazni PECC; the PECC resolved this complaint. By end of 2019, investigations were completed for 71.9 percent of the cases (23 out of 32 cases) and awaiting decisions of the BoC.

Electoral complaints for presidential election preliminary results: On 22 December, IEC announced preliminary results of the presidential election, prompting the ECC to announce the three-day period to register complaints against the preliminary results. A total 16,551[15] cases have been registered at the ECC and PECCs, with categorization and adjudication in progress.

Summary of electoral complaints received in 2019	Complaints	Appeals
Wolesi Jirga elections	0[16]	373
Wolesi Jirga preliminary results	1,964[17]	781
2019 Voter Registration	18	0
Early Campaigning	5	0
Campaign Period	124	5
Presidential election	4,528	184
Presidential election – paper based exceptional cases	32	-
Presidential election preliminary results	16,551	-
Total	**21,258**	**1,343**

Table 5: Summary of 2019 electoral complaints registered + adjudicated and appeals lodged against initial decisions

Implementation of the electoral dispute resolution electronic case management system: Following approval of the EDR case management system and EDR guidance manual by the BoC; UNDP-UNESP provided technical support for development of training materials. Consequently, 43 data entry staff (3 women) were trained on the electronic database and have been entering the caseload. The project continued to provide technical support for data capturing, quality checks, maintenance of the system and addressing related operational challenges at the ECC and PECCs. A total of 3,626 of possible 4,528 cases are captured in the EDR database with 3,132

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[15] Updated data of 20 January 2020 shows 16,545 complaints against preliminary results. By end of 2019, the ECC had made public indication of possible delays in finalizing the adjudication of the registered complaints.

[16] 11,845 complaints were registered in 2018 during Wolesi Jirga elections.

[17] In 2018 2,982 complaints were registered, in 2019 another 1,964 complaints were registered. Cumulatively 4,946 complaints registered against Wolesi Jirga preliminary results.

categorized[18] (A: 1,266 cases; B: 792 cases: C: 827 cases; D: 247 cases). The relatively weak internet connectivity reportedly affected the data entry process in some provinces including Daikundi, Faryab and Jawzjan. In early November, there were several attempted cyber-attacks to the ECC server, subsequently, data transfer from provinces to the central server was put on hold for more than three weeks, no data was compromised, and the system was successfully restored.

> **EDR Case Management System:** In 2018, ECC with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP developed an online system aimed at demonstrating transparency, accessibility and efficiency of complaints and appeals registration and adjudication process. However, due to some technical and operational aspects, ECC decided not to use the system for the WJ elections. In 2019, the project continued to provide advisory support to ECC to simplify and improve the system including building in strong security measures. The Commissioners approved the modified case management system on 17 August leading to development of a manual to guide operations of the EDR case management system and materials for training of staff to be engaged in data entry. As a precautionary measure, before the full implementation of the system in 34 provinces, the ECC, with technical guidance from the project conducted a pilot in five provinces (Kabul, Kapisa, Kandahar, Badghis and Kunduz) prior to the Election Day; then made further modifications incorporating lessons from the pilot.
>
> Consequently, the EDR case management system with two key features for data entry and reporting was finalized and has been rolled out across the 34 provinces for the 2019 Presidential elections. The ECC is working with 43 trained data entry operators (3 women) [10 for Kabul province and one per province]. Data entry is done at provincial level and the reporting component is fully online. So far 80.1% percent of registered complaints related to e-day (3,626 out of 4,528) are entered in the system. The system also disaggregates data by sex, types of complaints and prioritizes all cases under four categories (A to D). So far, 86.4 percent of the entered complaints (3,132 of the 3,626) have been categorized in the system.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During the year, a total of US$ 1,674,372 was spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

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[18] Category A: All complaints, if the electoral violation and fraud is proved, will affect and change votes of candidates; Category B: All complaints, if the electoral violation and crime is proved, will be subject to disciplinary measures without changing the results; Category C: All invalid complaints, which do not meet the requirements; Category D: All complaints out of the scope of ECC.

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

Output 2 performance indicator table

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status	Comments
2.1 A comprehensive Strategic Plan is designed and adopted by the ECC, including organigram and TORs.	No	Yes	No	Off target.	Not conducted. Shifted to 2020 to incorporate recommendations of Needs Assessment Mission.
2.2 Availability of an Institutional Cooperation Framework for the ECC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	On target.	MoUs signed with IEC and other national institutions.
2.3.1 Percentage of recruited Tashkeel staff in relation to the approved ECC organigram (disaggregated F/M).	T: 89% F: 19% M: 81%	T: 100% F: 20% M: 80%	T: 92% F: 9% M: 91%	On target.	ECC put recruitment on hold as they worked on the expanded staffing structure.
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).	T: 50% F: 16% M: 77%	T: 80% F: 80% M: 80%	T: 20% F: 15% M: 20%	Off target.	Prolonged adjudication of 2018 Wolesi Jirga electoral complaints.
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 drafted, adopted and published on time.	14	10	10	On target.	Completed.
2.6 Number (or %) of ECC operational plans and procedures that integrate programme specific needs of women.	30%	100%	70%	On target.	Technical advice provided on the operational, public outreach, stakeholder engagement and EDR case management procedure.

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status	Comments
2.7 EDR Case Management System in place.	Yes	Yes	Yes	On target.	EDR case management system in use.
2.8 Availability of budgeted operational plan for the adjudication of electoral complaints for the upcoming elections, approved by the ECC.	Yes	Yes	Yes	On target.	Completed.
2.9 Percentage of electoral complaints, which are timely adjudicated by the ECC as per the national electoral legal framework.	85%	100%	e-day:100% preliminary results: 0%	On target.	Completed for e-day complaints. ECC is adjudicating complaints related to preliminary results.

C. OUTPUT 3: 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.

UNDP-UNESP provided technical and operational guidance to the ECC and IEC IPOD on communication, public outreach and stakeholder engagement. The project supported development and implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plans, Communication and Public Outreach Plans, and expanded use of social media.

IEC Communication and Public Outreach

IPOD Operational Plan, Concept for public outreach campaign and Election reporting and communication plan: Following approval of the IEC Operational Plan, IPOD with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP finalized the departmental operational plan, developed the concept and action plan for the VR campaign. Then in July 2019, IPOD, with technical support from UNDP-UNESP developed the concept and action plan for the presidential election information campaign. In addition, IPOD and the ERD, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP developed a stakeholder engagement plan to inform engagement with political stakeholders, media, civil society and observer groups. In preparation for election and post-election work of the IEC, the project developed and presented a reporting and communication plan with key messages for strategic communication, talking points for press conferences and dissemination of electoral messages. The IEC adopted the plan for pre-election, election day and post-election media events and guided tours of observers.

Press conferences and open sessions: the IEC, with technical inputs on content for talking points and briefs conducted 38 press conferences and open sessions to inform the media and citizens on electoral processes related to the 2018 WJ elections, 2019 Presidential election CN, VR, movement of materials, polling, voter turnout and preliminary election results.

Figure 4: Press conference on the Presidential election, 2 October

Media campaigns: The IEC, with technical and operational support from UNDP-UNESP conducted media campaigns covering the CN; VR and election campaign period. The campaigns were conducted using PSAs on radio and television; billboards; wall paintings (graffiti) and printed media.

- PSAs: Two PSAs covering CN and participation of women were aired until 20 January. Then, the IEC with operational support from the project aired PSAs on the

VR process across 12 TV and 80 radio stations. The PSAs covering VR top-up were broadcasted in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek, while PSAs for Ghazni VR were broadcasted in Dari and Pashto. Further, the IEC with technical and operational support from the project produced and aired two[19] motivational radio and TV PSAs in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek across eight TV and 55 radio stations. Following extension of the VR process in Ghazni, the IEC with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP developed a new PSA for TV and radio which was aired from 1 July until end of the process. For the presidential election campaign period, the project supported the development of key messages, procurement, production and airing of nine[20] TV and radio PSAs, each in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek. From mid-September, the PSAs were aired on 39 TV and 64 radio stations. Cumulatively, the IEC with technical and operational support from the project aired 43 PSAs.

The 2019 public opinion survey conducted by the Asia Foundation[21] showed that respondents cited TV (55.5%) and radio (22.9%) as main sources of election information. TV was cited more by urban respondents while radio was the main source for rural respondents; the findings will shape direction of future media campaigns.

- Billboards: The IPOD, with technical inputs from UNESP-UNDP developed billboard content and three billboard designs for VR top-up, display of the VL and VR in Ghazni province. The 411 billboards with motivational messages and instructions on registering as a voter and verification of the VL were installed across the 34 provinces. Following the decision by IEC to extend VR process in Ghazni province, IPOD with technical support from UNDP-UNESP updated the messaging and closing dates on 18 billboards. Then, IPOD with technical inputs from the project developed three motivational messages[22] to encourage citizens to vote in the Presidential election. Consequently, 727 billboards with motivational messages targeting citizens, women and youth were installed across the 34 provinces. Cumulatively, the IPOD, with technical and operational support from the project installed 1,156 billboards.
- Wall paintings: The IEC, with technical support developed electoral messages for publishing on Kabul T-walls[23].

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[19] PSA 1: women and youth turning 18 by election day; PSA 2: VR countdown for those who had not participated to register

[20] PSA 1: Announcing the start of the Presidential elections campaign, date of election and importance of public participation; PSA 2: Providing information on the political campaign, conditions and duration for campaigning, and campaign financing; PSA 3: Motivational message for youth; PSA 4: Motivational message for women; PSA 5: Promotional for IEC CC accessed on 190 toll free number; PSA 6: Anti-fraud measures; PSA 7: National Day; PSA 8: Polling procedures; PSA 9: Countdown to election.

[21] Asia Foundation, 2019: A survey of the Afghan people [page 159 of 333] Unsurprisingly, urban respondents (85.9%) were almost twice as likely as rural respondents (44.4%) to cite TV as their main source of election information. Radio is the source of election information most cited by rural respondents (29.4%).

[22] Motivational message 1: General: "Your vote, your right, your destiny; a step for a better tomorrow"; Message 2: Encouraging youth participation: "Youth vote, youth will; changing your future is in your hands." ; Message 3: Encouraging women participation: "Women vote, women power: Your participation makes the difference."

[23] In mid-September, IEC abandoned the procurement process for the 145 planned wall paintings citing time constraints.

- <u>Printed media:</u> In September, the IEC with technical and operational support from the project published public outreach messages across 11 newspapers; this ensured continued dissemination of election messages leading to election day.
- <u>Videos:</u> The project provided technical inputs to content and script to provide guidance to the staff involved in the audit and recount process and raise awareness of the general public on the process. The video, uploaded on the IEC website was shared through Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek.

Awareness raising campaigns: Lessons from the 2018 outreach campaign highlighted the need to strengthen grassroots outreach for electoral processes. Consequently, IPOD, with technical support from UNDP-UNESP developed and rolled out two voter education programmes for VR and presidential election campaign through 1,797 trained CEs, reaching 2,454,489 citizens comprising youths, activists, minorities, women, men,

Figure 5: Training of Civic Educators, Jawzjan province

citizens with special needs and residents of remote areas. The project facilitated logistical arrangements for CEs conducting public outreach meetings. During these meetings, the CEs distributed print materials, including posters, leaflets and brochures developed with technical inputs on content and artwork from UNDP-UNESP. Cumulatively, IPOD, with support from the project developed, published and disseminated 2,070,000 leaflets; 414,000 factsheets; 2,000,000 sample ballots, 1,014,000 posters and 400,000 brochures which were in part distributed through the activities of the CEs.

Description	Trained Civic Educators			Participation in awareness raising campaigns			
	Women	Men	Total	Meetings	Women	Men	Total
Voter Registration	209	691	900	34,451	288,708	921,065	1,209,773
Campaign Period	240	657	897	48,216	395,566	849,150	1,244,716
Total	**449**	**1,348**	**1,797**	**82,667**	**684,274**	**1,770,215**	**2,454,489**

Table 6: Summary of participation at the grassroots meetings for VR and Presidential campaign

The photo gallery animation of women CEs conducting awareness raising is uploaded on the IEC website and Facebook pages in Dari and English, the animation served as an alternative method for awareness raising to citizens through social media. Overall, the proportion of women who participated in these awareness campaigns increased from 23.9 percent during VR to 31.8 percent during the presidential campaign. This is partly attributed to the gender coordination meetings conducted with other

stakeholders who work with women; and encouraged women to participate in the electoral process.

The 2019 public opinion survey conducted by the Asia Foundation showed that 80.9 percent (76.1% women and 85.7% men) of Afghans were aware of the presidential elections. Additionally, the main sources of election information cited were TV (55.5%), radio (22.9%) as well as friends, family, and neighbours (8.0%). It is worth noting that the percentage of respondents citing friends, family, and neighbours decreased significantly from 14.7 percent in 2018

Figure 6: Public awareness campaign, Uruzgan

suggesting the need for future campaigns to be geared towards direct engagement with eligible voters. Considering the extensive use of TV and radio PSAs, social media and face to face grassroots meetings, public outreach efforts are not deviant to preferences of the populace.

IEC website and social media pages: Following an in-house training of 15 IPOD staff (all men) on social media; and regular technical support from UNDP-UNESP on social media analytics, the IPOD has increased their footprint on social media and has an expanded staffing structure from two to six Social Media Officers. There are now 19,944 followers on Twitter and at least 1,089 tweets and 39,754 profile visits have been recorded. There is a steady growth of followers on Facebook with a total 145,726 followers; post reach was 298,205; with 6 percent of the followers being women. It is noted that the majority of the followers are between 18 and 34 years, most of the followers are also viewing the page from Afghanistan. These statistics demonstrate a steady increase in the engagement of fans and followers on the IEC social media pages. In December, based on feedback from social media analyses and advice from the project, IEC commenced livestream

Social Media Monitoring: On election day, UNESP monitored social media, identifying the main hashtags followed: #Afghanistan #Kabul #Kandahar #AfghanElections2019 #Election2019 #AfghanistanElections #AfghanistanIEC #ANDSF. The project produced five internal social media reports with highlights and trends on tweets concerning elections. Main issues reported throughout the day, besides security incidents were [1] issues with the VL, [2] later during the day IEC staff were not able to use BVV devices, and [3] low turnout. At the end of voting operations, some users tweeted congratulations to IEC for the work undertaken. The project selected some Tweets on IEC work and submitted to IPOD for consideration and retweet.

broadcasts of public events. More than 130,000 people reportedly watched the announcement of the 2019 preliminary results through the IEC Facebook page and the video was shared 900 times. The project provided content to support development of news articles, web and social media products to inform electoral stakeholders and citizens.

Bulletins: The IEC developed, published and disseminated 23 bulletins with support on content development and design of the bulletins from the project; electronic versions are uploaded on the IEC website in Dari and English. The bulletins contained updates on various activities conducted by IEC such as stakeholder engagement; announcement of WJ results; ballot lottery for presidential elections; awarding of certificates to newly elected Members of Parliament; and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Printed materials: The project collaborated in the development of various factsheets, infographics, flowcharts and frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the VR process; BVV; intake process; results transmission, intake and date entry as well data on the 2019 Presidential election. The FAQs covering the legal mandate of IEC, stakeholder engagement and gender were co-opted into the ToTs for PPOOs and Provincial Trainers; then the subsequent training of CEs.

Call Centre: The call centre, with technical and operational support from UNDP-UNESP received 213,192 calls (33,633 women; 179,559 men) through toll-free number, 190. Relatively more calls were made during the VR process (June; 10.6%), presidential election campaign period until election day (August to September; 35.4%) and post-election to enquire about the preliminary results (October; 11.1%). The graph provides an overview of the calls received and the proportion of women who made calls. The textbox highlights some of the questions directed to the call centre during various phases of the electoral cycle.

Types of issues raised in questions directed to the IEC CC

o Voter registration: (1) location of the nearest VRC; (2) duration of the VR process; (3) opening time of the VRC; (4) length of extended VR process in Ghazni.
o Campaign period: (1) start date of the campaign process; (2) corrective measures for candidates campaigning before the beginning of the campaign; (3) terms and conditions of election campaigns; (4) how much candidates can spend during their campaigns.
o Voting process: (1) why only 2.5 million out of 10 million registered voters voted in the 2019 election; (2) number of women voters in the presidential election; (3) number of votes cast using biometric devices; (4) which vote will be counted if someone voted twice.
o Observation and monitoring: (1) if observers can monitor the vote counting process; (2) why foreign ambassadors; (3) role of candidates and political party monitors in the election.
o Results processing: (1) how many results forms have been processed; (2) why election results have taken a long time to be announced; (3) which electoral team is impeding audit and recount

of votes; (4) why IEC does not specify dates for announcing preliminary and final results; (5) how long to wait for announcement of election results.

o IEC related: (1) why IEC does not pay attention to objections of Stability and Convergence team; (2) if IEC is independent in its decision making; (3) how many provincial offices IEC has; (4) decision of IEC regarding the breaking of seals.

o ECC related: (1) responsibilities of ECC; (2) how long the ECC will take to register complaints; (3) if there is any harm to the person who files a complaint.
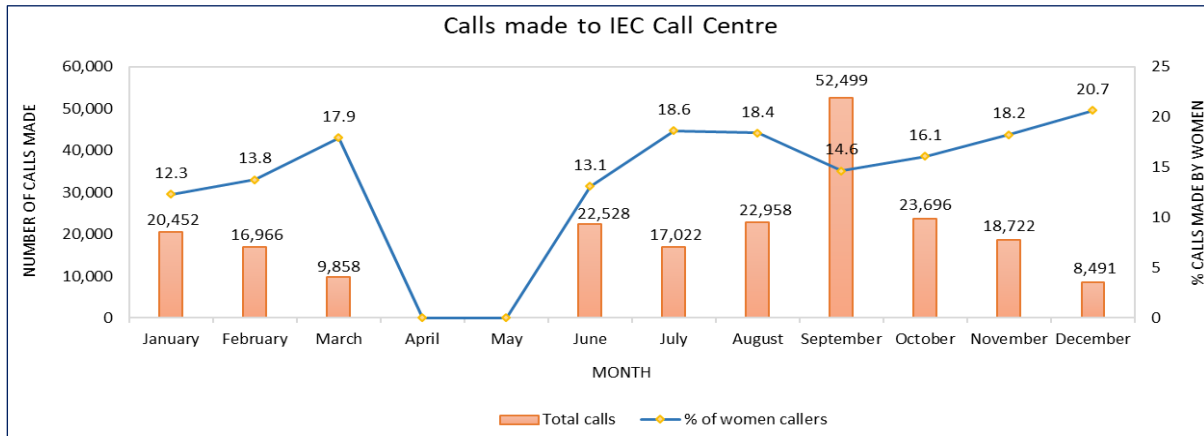

Figure 7: Overview of calls made to the IEC CC and proportion of women callers

Ceremonies for winning Wolesi Jirga candidates: In February, April and June 2019, the IEC, with technical inputs from the project conducted certification ceremonies for 239 WJ election winning candidates (66 women) from 33 provinces, Sikh and Kuchi constituencies.

IEC Electoral Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement Plans, Policies, Regulations and Standard Operating Procedures: The ERD, in consultation with relevant departments and technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP drafted the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs) to guide strategic engagement with electoral stakeholders. Following approval by the BoC, ERD, with technical guidance from the project developed an action plan; events calendar for planned stakeholder engagement events and consultations; as well as information packages on accreditation; observation and monitoring and results processing. The IEC, with technical inputs from the project drafted the Open-Door Policy with accompanying SOPs, CoC, information sharing matrix and Election Information Centre (EIC) Guidelines. The IEC started implementation of the Open Door Policy immediately after election day with the establishment of the election information centre for post-election observers and monitors with daily guided tours and information dissemination.

Engagement with civil society: The IEC, with technical and advisory support from UNDP-UNESP increased engagement with civil society organizations, including the

Civil Society Election Coordination Group (CECG) using the coordination framework[24]. Consequently, the IEC, with technical support from UNDP-UNESP conducted four consultative meetings where they engaged with at least 36 civil society representatives (7 women)[25] on various electoral issues, including use of technology, public outreach and observer accreditation. The CECG members shared concerns regarding the VL and observer accreditation; and committed to support public outreach efforts.

Engagement with political parties, candidates and candidate's representatives: The IEC, with operational and technical advisory support from UNDP-UNESP conducted at least eight consultations with various electoral stakeholders regarding the electoral timeline and processes[26]. The majority of political parties were in favour of multi-dimensional representation (MDR) and use of technology in elections and expressed concerns about the quality and accuracy of the VL; alleged abuse of state resources for election campaigning; functioning of the BVV devices for results transmission; interference of government officials in the electoral process and independence of the IEC. In addition, throughout August 2019, the IEC facilitated meetings between Dermalog[27] representatives and electoral stakeholders on the biometric devices and their use in the election process. Dermalog representatives addressed questions from participants related to secrecy of their votes, security of the devices and how the devices function.

Then, in November, prior to launching the countrywide audits and recounts, IEC using materials developed with inputs from the project trained 22 candidate's agents and political party representatives (2 women) on the process. The participants became aware of the procedure and process as they observed the audit and recount process. On 18 November, the IEC with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP conducted two meetings, one with media and one with observers, to explain Decision 108 on 137,630 cases with discrepancies[28] and Decision 109 on 102,013 cases allegedly outside of the polling time. On 8 December, the IEC, at an information session streamed live on Facebook with technical support from UNDP-UNESP[29] updated presidential candidates, their teams and other electoral stakeholders on the presidential election; and subsequently published a statement on the IEC website and Facebook page.

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[24] The coordination framework identifies opportunities for CSO support in dissemination of outreach messages.

[25] National CSOs, FEFA, TEFA, ETWA, ACSFO, AABRAR; international community EU, NDI, ECES, Counterpart International and USIP.

[26] In January and March: three discussions with 61 representatives of political parties and CSOs on the use of technology in elections; change of the electoral system from single non-transferable vote (SNTV) to MDR. In April and June: consultation meetings with presidential candidates and political parties on the use of technology. In July, meetings with candidate's representatives to discuss electoral preparations.

[27] Dermalog is a German company that supplied biometric devices used in the 2018 and 2019 elections in Afghanistan.

[28] Decision 108 on votes with discrepancies between the processed voters and transmitted biometric data, and Decision 109 on 102,013 cases which were reported by Dermalog to be out of the polling time.

[29] The project provided technical inputs to preparations [looping presentation; presentation for the Commissioner; and drafting of IEC statement for the event] and social media livestream of the event via Facebook;.

National Election Forums: The IEC, with technical and advisory support from UNDP-UNESP convened three National Election Forums (NEFs) with 240 representatives (10 women) from political parties, civil society, media, government, international community and other political stakeholders. The IEC shared updates on electoral preparations and disseminated information packages with summaries on the campaign regulation, accreditation process, observer guidelines and a material intake flow chart. The participants raised concerns about alleged interference in the electoral process; credibility of the VL; absence of biometric technology in VR; limited attention to electoral observation and monitoring; delays with sharing list of PSs; alleged abuse of state resources by some candidates; the transparency of the electoral process; fraud mitigation and public outreach targeting women.

ECC Communication and Public Outreach

Communication Policies, Plans and Strategies: The ECC IPOD, with technical inputs from UNESP-UNESP revised the drafted Communication Policy, as well as the Communication and Public Outreach Strategy in line with the amended Election Law. Further, IPOD with technical and advisory support from the project developed a communication and outreach plan for the period covering the VR, Presidential elections campaign, election day and announcement of preliminary election results. It provided guidance on activities, approaches, communication tools and key messages to be delivered. The ECC IPOD conducted its campaigns following these plans.

Press conferences: With technical inputs from the project, the ECC held 20 press conferences and issued press releases to update citizens and stakeholders on:

- preparations and readiness for the presidential elections;
- status of complaint and appeal registration and adjudication;
- need to respect electoral procedures, CoC and legal framework; and
- their rights and responsibilities as citizens and consequences of committing electoral violations, electoral crime and irregularities.

Figure 8: ECC Press Conference, 22 December 2019

Media campaigns: The ECC, with technical and operational support from UNDP-UNESP developed and implemented media campaigns for CN, VR, presidential campaign period, polling day and release of preliminary results. The campaigns to raise awareness on electoral crimes, electoral violations and registration of complaints were conducted through PSAs; billboards and newspaper advertisements.

- <u>PSAs:</u> Cumulatively, ECC with technical and operational support[30] from UNDP-UNESP produced 24 TV and 21 radio PSAs in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek for broadcasting across 20 TV and 30 radio stations. The ECC with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP finalized key messages for complaints registrations on the preliminary list of candidates for the presidential election, produced PSAs in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek for airing on 12 TV and 21 radio

Figure 9: E-day message encouraging reporting of complaints

stations[31]. Thereafter, the ECC, with technical support from UNDP-UNESP produced and broadcasted PSAs aimed at appealing to the public to exercise their electoral rights and register irregularities and violations during the VR process and display of the VL. The PSAs, broadcasted in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek on 20 radio and 12 TV stations across the country were also uploaded on the ECC website and YouTube pages. In addition, the audio PSA was also broadcasted by the MoIA from their radio station. Then, the ECC with technical inputs to content development and finalization of the scripts from UNDP-UNESP, launched five PSAs[32] to build public awareness and understanding of the ECC and complaints registration, investigation and adjudication processes covering the campaign period to election day. Further, the ECC, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP, developed six PSAs informing citizens on the complaints registration process and timeline for registration of complaints related to the preliminary election results; these were aired in <u>Dari</u>, <u>Pashto</u> and <u>Uzbek</u> across 20 TV and 30 radio stations.

- <u>Billboards:</u> In 2019, ECC, with technical and operational support from the project installed 580 billboards throughout the electoral cycle. The ECC, with technical inputs to content development and operational support from UNDP-UNESP developed two billboards to sensitize citizens on complaint registration during the VR process and display of the VL; and to outline the types of electoral violations that could take place during the VR process. Consequently, the project, through

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[30] Support from the project on PSAs included technical support in developing and finalizing key messages, developing the production scripts, production and broadcast of PSA through LTAs sourced by UNESP.

[31] The PSAs were not aired due to funding restrictions.

[32] PSA 1: Messaging included [1] Together we make elections credible and transparent; [2] Types of violations and crimes related to campaign period, [3] Timely registration of complaints. PSA 2: Messaging included [1] Come, join hands together to make elections credible and transparent; [2] Types of violations and crimes related to campaign period and [3] Timely registration of complaints. PSA 3: Messaging targeted women and included 1] the role of women in EDR and electoral justice; [2] For more info call ECC CC 132, and [3] Timely registration of complaints. PSA 4: A 2D video which covered electoral phases and timely registration of complaints at PECCs. PSA 5: A 2D video with a message from the ECC Chairperson on election day and beyond.

contracted companies installed 190 billboards, in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek across the 34 provinces. During the campaign period, ECC, with technical and operational support from the project installed 390 billboards in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek on types of violations and crimes; when, how and where to register complaints and objections; importance of participating in the electoral process across the 34 provinces.

Figure 10: Billboard installed for voter registration in Ghazni, June 2019

Prior to election day, ECC updated the messaging of billboards to sensitize citizens on the call centre and the complaint mechanism for election day.

- Newspaper advertisements: The ECC, with technical inputs to content from UNDP-UNESP finalized motivational messages on participation of women and youth in the electoral justice process; using the call centre; reporting electoral crimes and violations. A total 390,000 print copies were flighted in 10 newspapers over 10 days. On 24 and 25 December, the ECC using key messages developed with technical support from the UNDP-UNESP published advertisements in Dari and Pashto across 10 national newspapers informing those with complaints to file objections within three working days.

Figure 11: Newspaper advertisements following announcement of preliminary results

Public awareness using communication products: The IPOD, with technical and operational support from UNDP-UNESP translated the technical aspects of EDR and electoral justice, particularly complaints registration and adjudication, electoral irregularities, violations and crimes, into simple communication products with graphical presentations that were easily understood by the general public. These

awareness raising efforts through print and digital materials complimented the media campaigns on awareness raising on complaints registration and adjudication as well as electoral crimes. Consequently, for the 2019 Presidential election, the ECC and PECCs registered 21,258 complaints (no complaints during CN and after publication of preliminary list of candidates).

ECC website and social media pages: UNDP-UNESP developed a website improvement plan and social media plan to guide improvements to the newly developed ECC website and social media activities and provided technical inputs to the regular updating of content for the ECC website. Based on the feedback provided by the project and the template received from the government, ECC developed a new mobile friendly and a dynamic website. Then, the IPOD with technical inputs from the project developed a media monitoring plan to guide the use of digital and social media.

> **Materials produced, printed and distributed**
> o 9 posters; 12 leaflets; 9 brochures; 4 magazines
> o 280,000 copies printed and distributed
> o Developed in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek
>
> **Digital materials produced and shared using social media and ECC website**
> o 17 bulletins and flash updates; 70 infographics and digital posters; 3 FAQs; 1 factsheet
> o Developed in Dari, Pashto, Uzbek and English
> o Available on ECC website [Public Outreach]

Thereafter, UNDP-UNESP trained Media Monitors on media monitoring methodologies and reporting and media monitoring reporting template. The Media Monitors, using knowledge and skills from the training and routine technical support from the project developed and disseminated 182 media monitoring reports on how the media and public perceive the work of the ECC. The Commissioners, CEO and Head of Departments have subsequently used the media monitoring reports in stakeholder engagement and contributed to their preparedness in responding to media enquiries. As detailed under ECC Capacity Building, the project also trained 18 staff (2 women) on use of social media in awareness raising and information dissemination. Consequently, IPOD staff, using newly acquired skills and knowledge from the training and routine technical support from UNDP-UNESP increased their use of their social media platforms, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The social media campaigns on VR; campaign period; election day and preliminary results complaints registration and adjudication are accessible on the social media pages. There has been a consequent increase in followers, profile visits, retweets, and user engagement. On the Twitter page, there number of followers increased by 2,856.7 percent (67 to 1,981). The social media growth analysis report showed 1,251.2 percent increase in tweet impressions (16,800 to 227,000); 717.5 percent increase in profile visits (160 to 1,308) and 6,257.1 percent increase in mentions (7 to 445). Cumulatively, ECC has posted 256 photos and videos on its page. There is a steady growth of followers on Facebook with a 42.9 percent increase in number of followers (16,874 to 24,112); 79.6 percent increase in

views (1,857 to 3,336); 30 percent increase in post reach (43,038 to 55,937) and 25.7 percent increase in post engagement (16,047 to 20,171). There are 267 views to 22 videos posted on YouTube. Twitter and Facebook have consistently proven to be more popular for targeted social media campaigns.

Call Centre: The call centre established with technical and operational support from the project started operating on 9 September with 18 trained Call Centre Operators (5 women). The operators who are guided by an SOP developed with technical inputs from the project and regular on-the-job briefings received 1,569 calls (140 women) of which 784 calls were made on election day. Women account for 9 percent of all calls made since the call centre started operating.

Number of calls received at ECC CC			
Month	Women	Men	Total
September	40	910	950
October	71	350	421
November	10	97	107
December	19	72	91
Total	140	1,429	1,569

Table 7: Overview of calls made to ECC hotline, 132

Types of issues raised in questions directed to the ECC CC

o Complaint registration process: (1) when and where to register complaints; (2) status of registered complaints; (3) when registered complaints will be adjudicated.
o Voting process: (1) if a person whose name does not appear on the voters list (VL) can vote; (2) if it's possible to vote if the national ID does not have a sticker; (3) if a person who registered in one province can vote from another province; (4) why BVV devices are not accepting fingerprints; (5) PSs not opened on time.
o IEC related: (1) employees deployed do not have capacity to perform their tasks; (2) staff favouring a candidate on election day; (3) fraud in favour of one candidate.
o Results: (1) who got the majority vote; (2) how many votes are invalidated; (3) is there will be a presidential run-off.

ECC Call Centre: The call centre which is open to the public between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., aims to address queries related to EDR. The ECC, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP raised awareness on the call centre using print, electronic and social media. According to the Director of IPOD, Mr. Mohammad Nazari, "The call centre has provided a great opportunity for ECC to inform, educate and engage with Afghan population from rural, semi-urban and urban areas. They have been able to get in touch on queries related to the ECC. This has increased access of electoral justice and EDR process information by the electoral stakeholders and general public". Through the call centre, ECC has been able to respond to public queries related to EDR in a timely manner. In addition, the trained call centre operators have been able to provide accurate information regarding the different phases of the electoral calendar.

ECC Electoral Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement Plan: The IPOD, in collaboration with ERD and UNDP-UNESP developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan aimed at informing engagement with

electoral stakeholders during different phases of the electoral calendar. The plan, providing guidance to the conducting of consultation events and coordination meetings, was implemented since start of the campaign period. UNDP-UNESP provided technical support to ECC in developing key messaging for different phases of the electoral calendar targeting different electoral stakeholders. The draft messages provided a guidance and encouraged ECC in delivering consistent and credible information with media and other external stakeholders on a timely manner.

Consultation meetings and open sessions: The ECC through technical inputs and coordination support from UNDP-UNESP facilitated 17 consultative meetings and open sessions with 619 national electoral stakeholders (69 women). The stakeholders, comprising civil society; political parties; presidential candidates and their representatives; people with disabilities; women and youth; media and relevant government entities provided a platform to engage participants on issues related to the mandate of ECC; raising awareness on complaint registration and adjudication; respecting the legal provisions related to electoral campaigning and timely registration of irregularities, violations and crimes, with evidence at the provincial and central ECC. In addition, ECC with technical and coordination support from the project conducted 11 meetings with 36 representatives (6 women) of the international community from a range of diplomatic missions[33].

Figure 12: ECC consultation meeting with electoral stakeholders, 13 December 2019

Coordination with institutions: The ECC, with technical inputs from the project signed MoUs with 25 institutions and networks[34] for cooperation and coordination of planning, conducting of the elections and electoral process. The ECC has consistently worked with these organizations throughout the electoral period.

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[33] Meetings with Ambassadors, funders and funding NGOs: Indonesia, UK, Holland, Australia, Finland, Germany, EU, USA.

[34] 25 MoUs signed with IEC; MoIA; Ministry of Higher Education; MoWA; SCWO; ALSO; AYSEO; FEFA; TEFA; ETWA; AWOSD; OSMEC; FWAO; ACSEN; New Line Organization (NLO); WEDA; FETWO; IWA; THRA; AABRAR; AYNSO; PDO; ADDO; WADAN; ACSF.

Electoral Observation

Accreditation for electoral monitoring and observation: The IEC IT, with technical support and feedback on the initial database, updated the database and accreditation procedure based on lessons regarding ease of using the database; information; dissemination[35]; and observer management at the PSs. Then, ERD, with support from the project trained Provincial External Relations Officers on observer accreditation. In mid-June, the IEC at a briefing for 80 prospective observers[36], monitors, media representatives and candidate's agents highlighted the accreditation process; roles and responsibilities of observers; and launched the online accreditation process. The IEC, with technical support from the project accredited 140,008 people (50,503 women) [37] for observation and monitoring roles on election day.
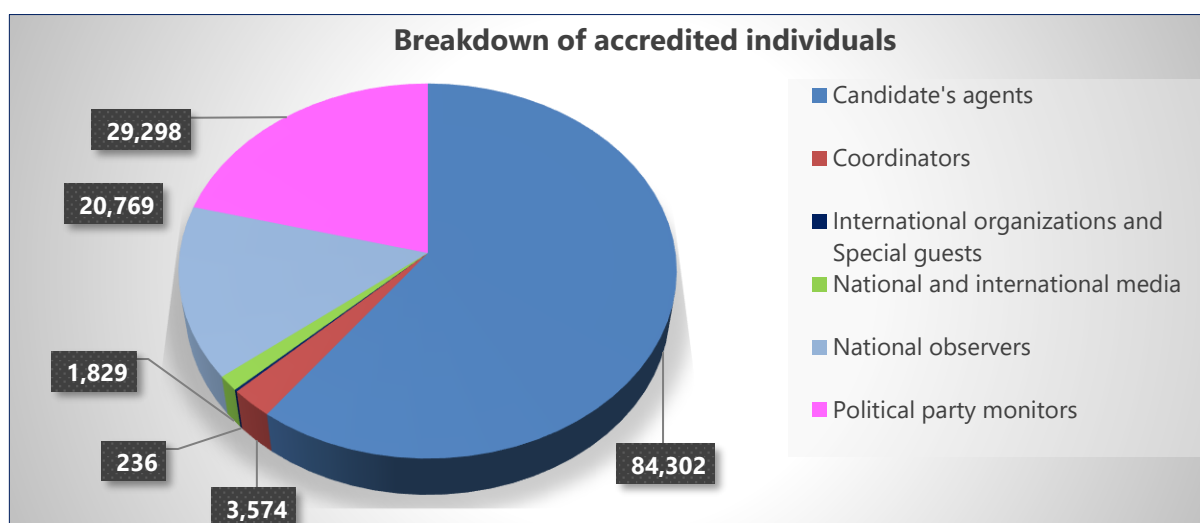

Figure 13: Number of individuals accredited by the type of roles in electoral monitoring and observation

In addition, IEC conducted briefings and guided tours for 166 monitors and observers[38] engaged in the post-electoral observation at the NTC and DAVE, and during sensitive electoral material intake. Observer spaces were set up in the NTC and DAVE Support System Centre, and an Election Information Centre established to facilitate more access and enhance transparency. At the request of ERD, 27 observers (1 woman) representing political parties, presidential candidates, civil society, international organizations, ECC and media monitored packing of equipment and materials for the audit and recount process. Thereafter, nine observers representing presidential candidates, political parties and civil society participated in a consultative

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[35] by providing information packages, regular briefings and establishment of the Observation Focal Point.

[36] Representatives of international NGOs (ECES, NDI, Counterpart International and USIP).

[37] IEC accredited the following entities 18 presidential candidates; 33 political parties; 38 civil society organization and other national organizations; 106 national and international media organizations; 23 international observer and other organizations and Special Guests. Of the accredited entities, 11 candidates; 15 political parties; 31 civil society and other organizations; 91 national and international media organizations; and 23 international organizations and foreign embassies, accredited representatives.

[38] 52 monitors (13 each) for 4 candidates; 41 observers of 12 candidates; 34 agents of 18 political parties; 30 observers from civil society and other national institutions and 9 observers from five international organizations.

meeting to seek cooperation during observation and monitoring of audit and recount data transmission in the Data Centre. Field reports indicated that observers representing ECC, presidential candidates, civil society and media observed and monitored the audit and recount process across the 34 provinces.

Figure 14: Observers in the IEC National Tally Centre, 6 October 2019

Figure 15: Observer in brown jacket completes checklist during audit and recount, Helmand province

Coordination in election observation and monitoring: To strengthen cooperation and coordination of election observation and monitoring, the ERD, with support from the project, convened a consultative meeting with four international non-governmental organizations (INGOs)[39]. Consequently, the ERD, through a WhatsApp group with these NGOs shared informed and led coordination of the activities of the IEC, INGOs and international observers.

Figure 16: IEC official explains audit and recount procedures to observers, Khost province

Electoral observation mission findings: On 28 September, some election watchdogs including FEFA, TEFA and ETWA issued initial statements on the voting process highlighting that the overall turnout, particularly for women, was reportedly low in all provinces. They noted challenges such as malfunctioning BVV devices resulting in disruption/delays in the process; telecommunications outages creating coordination and monitoring difficulties; insufficient female staff in some PSs and security challenges. They warned against relying on figures about the process from other

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[39] ECES, NDI, Counterpart International and Afghan Analyst Network.

sources including those being quoted by candidates. Then, LPLD[40] released a joint statement on observation findings made at various PCs. Findings covered issues related to security (some voters were threatened, violence against women); presence of campaign materials near PCs; observer management (names not recorded in journal, not given copies of results sheets); conduct of electoral workers (late arrival, some result sheets not stamped); and management of PCs (no considerations for people with disabilities, proxy voting). They noted shortcomings in counting processes with some results sheets that were neither stamped, signed nor posted on the walls. Some locations of PCs were changed without notification. Overall, they acknowledged improvements in efforts of security forces in securing PCs (98.8%) noting that the voting process went well. These observation findings will be considered in the future.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During the year, US$ 750,016 was spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

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[40] LPLD comprises three national civil society organizations AABRAR, THRA and ACSFo.

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

Output 3 performance indicator table

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status	Comments
3.1.1 Percentage of people/eligible voters reached through IEC's public TV and Radio information campaigns (disaggregated F/M).	79.7%	80%	80.9%[41] F: 76.1% M: 85.7%	On target.	According to a third party opinion survey, 55.5% reached through the TV and 22.9% through the radio.
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).	IEC: 43.3%	(a) 50% (b) 50%	(a) 80.9% (b) IEC: 42.3%[42]	On target.	According to a third party opinion survey, 80.9% were aware of upcoming presidential elections.
3.2 Percentage of people who declare their intention to register for the next election cycle.	67.87%	68%	75.1%[43] F: 66.7% M: 83.2%	On target.	According to third party opinion survey, 75.1% of Afghans registered to vote.
3.3 Percentage of people/eligible voters reached through IEC public information campaigns (about the functions of the	Dropped in May 2018.	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned.

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[41] According to The Asia Foundation: A Survey of the Afghan People (2019) page 24: (80.9%) were aware of the upcoming presidential elections. Awareness is higher among males (85.7%) than females (76.1%). Figures for awareness among rural/urban respondents are similar to 2018. TV is by far the biggest source of election information (55.5%), with radio a distant second (22.9%).

[42] According to The Asia Foundation: A Survey of the Afghan People (2019) page 136: Overall, confidence in governmental and nongovernmental organizations has increased, except for the Independent Election Commission, which has dropped marginally, from 43.3% in 2018 to 42.3% in 2019.

[43] According to The Asia Foundation: A Survey of the Afghan People (2019) page 24: The Survey asks respondents whether they have registered to vote in the elections. The number of Afghans who say they have registered to vote this year (75.1%) is up by 7 percentage points from 2018 (67.6%).

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status	Comments
entities they are voting for, the importance of making an informed choice, and their rights and responsibilities according to the law as voters.					
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. 34.5% b. 0% c. 31%	On target.	According to preliminary results of 22 December, at least 31% of the 1,824,401 valid votes were cast by women.
3.5.1 Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Regulations, SOPs and TOR are in place to facilitate IEC stakeholder engagements with political parties, observers, monitors, media and international actors (new indicator).	0 Plans 0 Guidelines 0 Regulations	2 Plans 2 Guidelines 2 Regulations	2 Plans 2 Guidelines 2 Regulations	On target	Completed.
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 planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned.

D. OUTPUT 4: A polling centre-specific voter list for the next elections is produced by the IEC.

The IEC, with technical, operational and advisory support from UNDP-UNESP conducted VR, data entry of newly registered individuals and database cleaning to produce an updated PC specific voter list for the 2019 Presidential election.

Verification of voter records: UNDP-UNESP continued to provide technical and operational support to the Information Technology (IT) Department for verification of voter records. Overall, all 9,532,553 voter records in the database were verified resulting in removal of 428,901 invalid records. A list of 9,103,652 voter records were printed for review and corrections during the VR top-up process.

Voter Registration

The Training Department, with technical support from the project revised the VR Procedure and conducted ToTs for 202 Provincial Trainers and Training Officers (53 women) who using the knowledge trained 3,186 VR staff[44] (1,108 women). Then, IEC, with technical and logistical support from the project, including security assessments of the VRCs; launched VR top-up across 33 provinces and VR in Ghazni province[45]; 553,749[46]

Figure 17: A man leaves the VRC after finishing voter registration processes

people (199,342 women) were registered as summarized in the table. More photos on the VR process can be accessed from this link.

Description	Voter Registration Centres				Participation of women			
	Open	Closed	Total	% Open	% Closed	Total	% women
33 provinces	428	31	459	93.2	6.8	318,534	36.6
Ghazni	209	43	252	82.9	17.1	235,215	35.2
Total	**637**	**74**	**711**	**89.6**	**10.4**	**553,749**	**36.3**

Table 8: Overview of the voter registration process, June to July 2019

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[44] VR staff: 417 DEOs [28 women]; 2,409 Technical staff [1,061 women] and Queue Controllers [19 women].

[45] VR top-up ended on 29 June, while the VR processes in Ghazni were extended to 6 July.

[46] 314,474 people and 4,978 Kuchis – cumulatively 318,534 people were registered.

Following completion of VR, the IEC IT team, with technical support from the project deployed a VR statistics database for tabulation of new registrations, corrections and transfers. The IEC processed 20,329 corrections comprising 3,603 adjustments of names of the voters and 16,726 changes of the PC. Subsequently, IEC with technical support from the project

Figure 18: Citizens going through VR process, Uruzgan province

finalized a VL with 9,665,745 eligible voters (3,334,230 women) for polling day.

Gender sensitization: The IEC and ECC, with technical inputs to content from UNDP-UNESP conducted national and provincial level gender coordination meetings, gender sensitization trainings and awareness raising sessions; 696 staff (189 women) participated [detail under Presidential elections].

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During the year, a total of US$ 3,994,090 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.

Output 4 performance indicator table

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status	Comments
4.1. Percentage of materials (items) for voter registration, as per the IEC operational plan, procured on time.	100%	100%	100%	On target.	Completed.
4.2. A credible polling centre specific voter list for the upcoming elections is finalised by the IEC.	66%	100%	89.6% VRT: 93.2% Ghazni: 82.9%	On target.	10.4% (74 out of 711) VRCs were closed for security reasons.
4.3.1. Number of gender sensitization training sessions.	1	4	8	On target.	Completed.
4.3.2. Number of gender sensitization training beneficiaries (security personnel, IEC personnel, etc.)	6	124	696 F: 189 M: 507	On target.	Completed.

E. OUTPUT 5: The IEC and ECC provide credible administration of an electoral dispute resolution for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections, respectively.

From the start of 2019, UNDP-UNESP provided technical and operational support to the IEC to finalize the WJ elections. Similarly, the project provided technical inputs in the adjudication and review of appeals for election day and complaints registered against preliminary results. In late May 2019, following the decision by IEC not to conduct WJ elections for Ghazni province and DC election during the year, the project discontinued election day related activities under this output.

IEC Data Centre: IEC completed the tally process using the Tally Procedure, software and reporting tools developed with technical support from the project. Then, IEC announced final results for the Kuchi constituency and 10 remaining provinces[47] (details below on Announcement of Wolesi Jirga results).

Training on candidate nomination: In May 2019, the IEC with technical support from the project trained 34 External Relations Officers (1 woman) on CN for Provincial Council and Ghazni WJ elections and observer accreditation. The IEC decision not to hold these elections in 2019 was communicated too late to cancel the training. The trained External Relations Officers used the knowledge to support observer accreditation for the presidential elections.

Announcement of Wolesi Jirga results

Preliminary results: In late April 2019, the ECC issued a decision invalidating all assessments, audits and recounts conducted by IEC and ECC for Kabul province, then proceeded to validate the Kabul results which met required standards of electoral procedures in early May 2019. Then, in mid-May 2019, once the ECC finalized validation, including adjudication of appeals against the Kabul WJ results, the IEC announced the preliminary results for 33 winning candidates (9 women).

Final results: From April to mid-May, the IEC with technical support from the project published the final WJ election results for the Kuchi constituency and 10 provinces of Baghlan, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktia, and Takhar. Consequently, 116 parliamentary candidates were announced as winners, with women candidates constituting 26.7 percent (31 women) of these winning candidates. With the announcement of these results, IEC completed announcement of final results for 239 parliamentarians (66 women).

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[47] Baghlan, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktia, Takhar provinces as well as the Kuchi constituency.

Certification of winning candidates: The IEC, with technical and operational support to organize the ceremonies from the project conducted three certification ceremonies in February, April and June for all 239 winning WJ candidates (66 women) from 33 provinces; as well as the Kuchi and Sikh two constituencies.

Figure 19: Certification ceremony at IEC, February 2019

Month		Distribution of certified parliamentarians	Women	Men	Total	% women
February	18	Badakhshan, Bamyan, Daikundi, Farah, Faryab, Jawzjan, Kapisa, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Nimruz, Nuristan, Panjshir, Parwan, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, Uruzgan, Zabul	23	57	80	28.8
April	10	Nangarhar, Badghis, Paktika, Ghor, Logar, Takhar, Helmand, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar	24	64	88	25.8
	1	Sikh constituency	0	1	1	0
June	5	Kabul, Kunduz, Baghlan, Maidan Wardak, Paktia	16	44	60	27.1
	1	Kuchi constituency	3	7	10	30
Total	**33 provinces and 2 constituencies**		**66**	**173**	**239**	**27.2**

Table 9: Breakdown of the three certification ceremonies for winning parliamentarians

Payment of 2018 polling staff: As of 27 January 2020, payment status is as follows[48]:

Payment method	Planned payments	Completed payments	Percent completed
Bank transfer	13,514	13,249	98%
M-Paisa	38,882	29,166	75%
Pay on ID	38,425	11,832	31%
Total	**90,821**	**54,247**	**60%**

Table 10: Breakdown of payment of 2018 polling staff

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During the year, US$ 14,888,914 spent for this output. For more details, please see Annex 2.

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[48] The process was affected by prolonged processing of documentation; payment delays in provinces where the AIB bank has no branches and loss or change of phone numbers by polling staff who had opted for payment through M-Paisa. As such, these staff have to resubmit their contact details. The process was also affected by initial challenges with processing M-Paisa payments for non-Roshan subscribers. The project extended vendor contracts to 2020 to enable completion of outstanding payments.

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

Output 5 performance indicator table

In late May 2019, the IEC made a decision to conduct Presidential elections only. Therefore, the project discontinued work on this output and as such in Project Revision III of July 2019, these performance indicators were changed to Not planned for 2019.

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Actual	Status	Comments
5.1. Percentage of Polling Centres/Polling Stations receiving electoral materials for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections.	91.78%	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Ghazni WJ and District Council elections no longer planned for 2019.
5.1.1. Percentage of procured equipment (US$ 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%	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Ghazni WJ and District Council elections no longer planned for 2019.
5.2 Percentage of media complaints adjudicated by the Media Committee in a timely manner.	100%	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Ghazni WJ and District Council elections no longer planned for 2019.
5.2.1 The IEC Media Committee is in place, according to the Electoral Law.	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Ghazni WJ and District Council elections no longer planned for 2019.
5.3 Percentage of candidate nominations for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections vetted by the IEC (breakdown WJ/DC, F/M).	100%	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Ghazni WJ and District Council elections no longer planned for 2019.
5.3.1. Candidate vetting (verification) procedures are in place for the WJ and DC elections as approved by the IEC.	Yes	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Ghazni WJ and District Council elections no longer planned for 2019.

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Actual	Status	Comments
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	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Ghazni WJ and District Council elections no longer planned for 2019.
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 planned	Not planned	Not planned	Ghazni WJ and District Council elections no longer planned for 2019.
5.4.1 Number of trainings delivered to the IEC and ECC temporary polling staff, on counting, polling and results processing procedures for the WJ and DC elections.	2,961 excluding Farah	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Ghazni WJ and District Council elections no longer planned for 2019.
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	T: 102,313 F: 30,464 M: 71,849	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Ghazni WJ and District Council elections no longer planned for 2019.
5.5.1 Provisional polling results publicized on time (according to the electoral calendar) by the IEC.	Yes	Yes	Yes (with changes to calendar)	On target.	Covers 2018 Wolesi Jirga elections.
5.5.1.1 Procedures for Results Management System and processes are in place, as approved by the IEC.	Yes	Yes	Yes (2018 elections for 33 provinces)	On target.	Covers 2018 Wolesi Jirga elections.
5.5.2 Final polling results publicized on time (according to the electoral calendar) by the IEC.	No	Yes	Yes (with changes to calendar)	On target.	Covers 2018 Wolesi Jirga elections.
5.5.2.1. Data centre (infrastructure, software and training plan for data centre operators) is in place.	Yes	Yes	Yes (2018 elections for 33 provinces)	On target.	Covers 2018 Wolesi Jirga elections.

F.   OUTPUT 6: The IEC and ECC are able to provide credible administration of, and electoral dispute resolution for the 2019 Presidential elections.

UNDP-UNESP provided technical, logistical, and operational support for procurement of electoral materials; NMPs and PMPs of electoral materials and subsequent retrieval of these materials; civic and voter education; training of electoral workers and stakeholder engagement. Following the announcement by IEC to conduct the presidential election on 28 September, the Prodoc was revised to incorporate an output for elections; this revised Prodoc which incorporated review comments from the donors was signed on 1 August. Simultaneously, the project worked with the EMBs to review and update related legal frameworks, policies and procedures to align with the new electoral calendar. The project provided technical and logistical support for mass production of designing and procuring electoral materials and preparation of the IEC HQ for storage and movement of materials. The project also facilitated logistical arrangements for public outreach, call centre and data centre operations.

2019 Presidential elections

Candidate nomination: In line with changes to the electoral timeline, vetting of candidates was extended to 20 April. On 24 April, ECC announced completion of the vetting of the candidate list and submitted to the IEC for ballot lottery.

Figure 20 (a) and (b): Order of presidential candidates on the ballot paper

Thereafter, on 25 April, the IEC, with technical and advisory support from the project conducted the ballot lottery to establish the order of presidential candidates on the ballot paper; 100 representatives of the 18 candidates, civil society, political parties and international community attended. No complaints were registered against the ballot lottery. The order of presidential candidates is highlighted in the figure above.

Training of temporary staff: Overall, the project provided technical and logistical support to the ECC and IEC for the conducting of various electoral trainings to equip the staff. The IEC, with technical and logistical support from the project trained 191,395 staff (61,893 women) using the cascade training approach, starting off with ToTs, followed by provincial and district level trainings as applicable. The ECC, with technical and logistical support from the project trained 527 staff (90 women). Cumulatively, in 2019, 191,922 temporary staff (61,983 women) in IEC and ECC received trainings related to public outreach, VR, polling, counting, EDR and results processing.

Figure 21: ToT for DEOs and DDEOs, Jawzjan province

Training on Polling and Counting: The IEC Training Department, with technical and logistical support from the project using the cascade training approach conducted ToTs for 2,857 staff (364 women)[49]; who using the skills and knowledge cascaded the training to 183,058 polling staff (59,823 women). The trained polling staff used the knowledge on polling day in the various roles and responsibilities at the PCs and PSs and were provided with various high-quality printed sample forms and station kits funded and procured by the project. The electoral observation findings suggest that in PSs, the voting process went well. In addition, 37 staff (7 women) trained on monitoring and observation used the acquired knowledge to observe the voting process in some PCs.

Training on electoral dispute resolution: The ECC with technical inputs to training material development trained 112 PECC Commissioners (23 women) on EDR as part of their orientation and followed up with another training on the EDR case management system and complaints adjudication process. Consequently, the trained PECC Commissioners have supported the Legal Department during investigation and

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[49] ToTs for 37 Tashkeel Trainers [1 woman] 151 Provincial Training Officers [54 women] and 2,669 DEOs and DDEOs [309 women].

analysis of registered complaints. Further, ECC, with technical inputs to development of training materials from UNDP-UNESP trained 43 data entry staff (3 women) on the EDR system. These staff have completed data entry of 80.1 percent (3,626) of the 4,528 complaints registered on election day.

Procurement and dispatch of electoral materials: The Logistics, Training and Planning departments, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP conducted a simulation for packing of blue boxes resulting in recommendation to pack materials for two PSs in one box with labels. The IEC adopted and implemented recommendations from the project on incorporation of PSs details and serial numbers of the packed ballots in the labelling.

Figure 22: Electoral materials ready for dispatch from Jawzjan PIEC to districts

The IEC, with logistical support from the project procured PC/PS kits; indelible ink and invisible ink for operations; blue boxes; voting screens; envelopes; ballot papers (printed in Dubai); training and public outreach materials. The project provided operational support for the field visit by staff from the Copenhagen Procurement Services Unit (PSU) to discuss their support for election-related materials. From observations and assessments conducted, IEC and PSU expressed satisfaction with the quality of materials delivered for the elections.

Further, at the advice of the project, IEC retrieved and cleaned existing non-sensitive materials comprising 5,988 ballot boxes and 19,269 blue storage boxes. Then, the IEC and PIECs with operational support from the project prepared designated warehouses for storage of electoral materials. Thereafter, IEC with advisory and logistical support completed packing and subsequent movement of materials to the provinces, districts and PCs in accordance with the NMP and PMPs. Consequently, all PCs received electoral materials for election day. In addition, the project supported the procurement and dispatch of visibility materials for use by ECC staff during the elections. The project also facilitated logistical arrangements for movement of Data Centre and CC staff at IEC HQ, in line with the extended working shifts.

Presidential election polling day: On 28 September 2019, at 7 a.m., PCs opened across the country and extended to 5p.m where eligible voters took to the polls to vote in the 2019 presidential elections. Following formal withdrawal of five candidates (Dr. Shida Mohammad Abdali; Noor ul-Haq Ulumi; Dr. Zalmai Rassol; Haji Ibrahim

Mohammad Alokozay; and Hanif Atmar), polling proceeded at 26,580 PSs across 4,678 PCs with 13 presidential candidates in the running. The IEC, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP, implemented the pre-election, polling day and post-election communications and reporting strategy and structure accompanying all developments and operations. On 3 October, the

Figure 23: Polling day at a women's only polling centre, Khost

IEC announced an estimated voter turnout of 2,695,890 based on field offices estimation and reports as electoral materials were retrieved and data verification processes were continuing in the NTC and DAVE Support System Centre. More photos can be viewed and downloaded from this link.

Retrieval of sensitive election materials: The IEC, with logistical and coordination support from the project, completed two-stage retrieval from the PCs to the PIECs and from the PIECs to the IEC HQ in a shorter time-frame. There was an improvement in the provincial level retrieval from between 10 to 15 days in previous electoral operations to six days in the current electoral process. Therefore, the national retrieval was completed within eight days (from 28 September to 6 October). This efficiency has been attributed to the improved implementation of the security strategy by the ANDSF, in coordination with the members of the Security Coordination Taskforce.

Use of biometric devices: Drawing from 2018 lessons, the project assisted IEC in conceptualising a BVV solution for election day with the VL to support capturing of biometrics and photos; as well as transmission of results from PSs for use in the audit process. IEC was unable to officially engage Dermalog until agreement had been reached between IEC and Afghanistan National Statistics and Information Authority

Figure 24: Voter goes through e-day biometric processes, Balkh

(ANSIA) on the use and modification of the existing BVV Device software. By the time

Dermalog was officially engaged, Dermalog indicated that they had insufficient time and could only implement a subset of the requested functionality. The omission of some of these BVV device software features gave rise to deployment and implementation challenges for the IEC. The voter biometrics before and after deduplication process are summarized below.

Registered voters	Biometric identities (pre-deduplication)	% registered voters with biometrics	Biometric identities (whitelisted voters)	% Turnout (whitelisted)
9,665,777	1,929,333	20.0	1,843,107	19.1%

Table 10: Outcome of the biometric upload and deduplication process

The whitelisted voters changed from 1,843,107 to 1,824,401 following the audit and recount process described later in the report.

Polling stations	PS in DAVE, NTC, biometrics, recount		PS reported open		Pre-deduplication		After deduplication	
29,586	26,714	90.3%	26,628	90.0%	24,177	81.7%	24,168	81.7%

Table 12: Outcome of the 86,225 removals due to face match, fingerprint match and duplicate voter ID

Measures taken to safeguard secrecy of vote: At the time of processing a voter, QR Code stickers are produced by the BVV devices and attached to the back of the ballot paper. The secrecy of the vote is preserved by a one-way hashing algorithm. It is not possible to pick up a ballot and answer the question "Who voted with this ballot?". However, in the case where the biometric deduplication process flags any individual as having voted multiple times, under such an instance, it is possible to answer the question "Knowing that this person voted more than once, then what QR Code matches this specific voter?" Such a QR Code is automatically placed by the server software on a blacklist. Ballot papers with these blacklisted QR Codes will later on be removed from the tally during the ballot box recount process.

> **Use of biometric devices:** UNDP-UNESP provided technical inputs to IEC on the most optimal use of biometric devices. Consequently, provincial level voter lists were loaded so voters turning up at the wrong PS could be informed on where they were registered to vote. Unlike during the WJ elections, biometrics captured could now be referenced back to a specific voter on the central voters database. Then, for results transmission, using data and image as part of the result information was incorporated to ensure results forms entered on the tally system matched those sent from the provinces. Micro-SD cards were adopted for recovery of data in case of device failure. While there were instances of wrong configurations in 2018, this time around detailed specifications were passed on to Dermalog to ensure that Dermalog built software would work with the VR database. The layout of the BVV application was developed, simplified using feedback from electoral stakeholders and algorithms added to ensure secrecy of vote. The project supported testing of the software, generation of QR codes, development of procedures, retrieval and extraction of data.

Retrieval from closed polling centres: The IEC, with logistical and operational support from the project also retrieved and verified election materials from closed PCs and respective PSs. The final verification record shows 1,624 blue boxes containing election materials from 682 closed PCs and 2,954 closed PSs has been shared with Field Operations Department for harmonization. Materials from 10 PCs in Ghazni (2) and Faryab (8) were reportedly destroyed during security incidents in the provinces.

Figure 25: One of the blue boxes burnt during attack on convoy delivering electoral materials to Ghazni

Election Day Support System: The IEC, with technical support from the project used the EDSS, a software application for various reporting needs for the election process. At the provincial level, the PIEC used EDSS to capture details of polling staff to be deployed on polling day; report on material distribution from provincial offices, districts, right down to PCs and subsequent material retrieval and intake process. In addition, the EDSS was used for capturing pre-election day and subsequent election day processes. Using the EDSS, PIEC offices captured staffing details which contributed to expedited processing of 2019 polling staff payments. Field reports show that the EDSS was utilized across most provinces with poor usage of the pre-election and e-day reporting database in Ghazni, Farah, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces.

> **Election Day Support System:** Experiences from using the 2018 EDSS suggested that the database was generally heavy and difficult to use. Consequently, UNESP led rebuilding of the EDSS in a consultative process to ensure provincial level buy in. Then, UNESP incorporated the use of the EDSS in Data Transmission and Results Processing Procedures. The upgraded EDSS had reporting features on polling staff deployment, material distribution and retrieval; polling day processes and audit and recount process.

Support to the National Tally Centre: The project provided technical and operational support to set up, run and manage the National Tally Centre (NTC) to ensure that the results forms were processed to enable proper results tabulation and detection of irregular data records and/or fraud. The IEC, with technical and advisory inputs from the project developed and implemented the procedures for results management.

During the entire process, observers were present and provisions were made for them to zoom into a specific area space or computer screen as desired.

National Tally Centre: The project provided technical, operational and data management support from the project around the conducting of the following functions [1]timing of preparations and defining priorities during the actual set up of the NTC; [2] staff recruitment and training; [3] revision and improvement of the software programme including the introduction of important data reconciliation and audit functions; [4] increase of process space during the all-important intake phase of the process; [5] progress reporting and publication, as well as the interpretation of obtained data to guide further management of the process; [6]observer management and briefings on the process; [7] troubleshooting and internal NTC data reconciliation to detect misplaced results forms and ensure all results forms were processed indeed; [8] assisting the NTC management team with the overall process management and in particular with the audit of those PSs displaying irregular or fraudulent data records. The National Tally Centre followed nine stages:

1. Intake of blue boxes from the provinces containing the TEBs from PCs (at the Warehouse #3 of the IEC HQs)
2. Intake of Tamper Evident Bags (TEBs);
3. Extraction of Results Forms from the TEBs;
4. Scanning of results forms;
5. Validity check of the results forms;
6. Data entry from the results forms;
7. Quality control of the data entry stages;
8. Archiving of results forms;
9. Audit of results forms with reconciliation problems and/or containing irregular data.

Stages 2, 3 and 4 are [1] time consuming "manual stages" and [2] important for the entire process as their successful implementation vouch for qualitative data entry and data integrity in terms of quality control. The project sensitized the NTC management team to understand that drastic increase of process space was necessary to avoid delays with results data processing. The IEC, with support from the project showed flexibility in maximizing use of the NTC space for these stages, and gradually substituting the space again with data entry stations for intake process. During the intake stages (stages 2, 3 and 4), staffing was reduced as data entry was not taking place. Data entry encompassed [1] triple blind data entry to deter any data entry agreements individual data entry clerks could want to make, and [2] quality control of the triple data entries. The NTC had processed all results forms retrieved from all provinces in three weeks, then the focus of the project support shifted to [1] data quality control; [2] categorization of those PSs necessitating audit and/or potential recounts based on the problem type identified; and; [3] submission of categorized problem cases to the BoC for decision making.

Digital Audit Verification (DAVE) Support System: DAVE is an audit support system software solution developed in-house by IEC and the project to store and review the raw results-related photos and data received directly from the BVV devices. The IEC, with technical support from the project trained 100 staff (35 women) on the software

solution, these staff used the software solution. The comparison of both NTC and DAVE data sets, and more so the correspondence between both were key to the [1] success of the introduction and implementation of data transmission through the BVV devices, and to [2] overall fraud deterrent factor that this tool has proven to embody during the 28 September presidential elections. Overall, the DAVE system served as a deterrent against physical tampering of the hardcopy result forms from the PS to the NTC at IEC HQ.

Digital Audit Verification Support System: Towards the end of the process at the NTC, attention shifted to compare the NTC ballot paper and results data with – and to incorporate, the corresponding data obtained at the DAVE Support System Centre. The following took place:

- Raw and unverified data received into the system – with a possibility of user data-entry errors. Unverified electronic data and images are not officially recognised results data. In the event where such tampering is attempted, then DAVE makes the detection thereof possible.
- Processed data from DAVE submitted to the NTC for comparison with the physical hardcopy PS result forms.
- Where hardcopy PS Result Forms did not match the information previously transmitted via DAVE, then these PS Result Forms were flagged for more detailed examination as part of the Audit Process – and if deemed necessary, then they were flagged for recount.

The IEC decided to be in a position to announce partial results roughly three weeks following the election day, based on the results tabulation obtained from processing the physical results forms. Partial results would have to be announced along with the important disclaimer that initial results were yet unverified, not audited and not compared with the corresponding digitally transmitted data. Following the period reserved for audit and recounts of PSs identified through both NTC and DAVE operations, and the comparison of their respective datasets, the NTC restarted its operations to process the Recount Forms and tabulate the resulting data that would make up the preliminary results. Given past experience with results announcements, the IEC BoC opted for prudence and decided to compare the NTC data with the DAVE verified data first, before announcing preliminary results. In this context, it is important to underline the role played by the DAVE to support and corroborate the NTC processed results forms' data.

Once polling was concluded, data was transmitted from the biometric devices to Dermalog webservers with duplicates to the audit verification server. The processed data was sent to the NTC on 18 October and 24 October for comparison; a final tally showed the following:

Polling Stations:
- 24,842 PSs transmitted a Result Form to the NTC.
- 24,177 PSs have one or more voter biometrics extracted during the process.
- 759 PSs sent results but had no voter records captured for them.
- 92 PSs had voter records but no result transmitted (lost in transfer during an outage).

Biometric Devices
- 24,750 unique devices transmitted results data.
- 24,881 unique devices were used to capture one or more voter records.
- 25,789 total unique devices were used to send results and/or capture voter details.

Audit and recount process: IEC, with technical support from the project formulated the technical specifications for a recount software solution and subsequent testing of the software solution developed by Dermalog and final corrections to the software functionality. On 27 October, the IEC announced that audit and recount process would proceed for votes cast at 8,329 PSs[50]. Consequently, the IEC trained 101 staff (all men) on the procedures, recount form, audit and recount checklist and followed up with simulations on the audit and recount process and use of the QR code readers in early November.

Figure 27: Audit and recount process, Paktia PIEC

The audit and recount process launched on 9 November was affected by demonstrations, including forced closures of PIEC offices and warehouses subsequently preventing IEC staff from continuing the process. On 12 November, IEC halted the process due to growing tensions and convened consultations with candidates to discuss their concerns. Thereafter, on 17 November, IEC resumed the audit and recount process amidst protests and continued closures across Faryab, Jawzjan, Panjshir, Sar-e-Pul and Takhar. Finally, on 15 December the audit and recount process commenced in seven remaining provinces (Baghlan, Badakhshan, Faryab, Jawzjan, Panjshir, Sar-e-Pul and Takhar). The IEC, with technical support from the project used the EDSS for data entry and reporting on the process.

> **Audit and recount:** A total 8,329 PSs were referred to audit and recount. The EDSS was updated to make provision for reporting on the audit and recount process [provincial audit checklists; HQ checklists and recount details]. UNDP-UNESP provided technical inputs to development of the nullification criteria. The project provided technical inputs to development of analyses which were presented to the BoC and shaped decisions around the preliminary results. In coordination with the NTC and Data Centre, the tabulation of votes was presented to the IEC Secretariat and BoC for announcement of preliminary results on 22 December 2019. The following analyses informed tallying results tabulation and announcement of preliminary results:
> * 137,680 discrepancies between processed votes and biometric.
> * 102,012 voters affected by reported voting before or after polling window.
> * reconciliation of polling station categories and submitted to the BoC with recommendations for inclusion/exclusion from results tabulation.

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[50] Article 86 [Election Law], Article 9 [Tallying Regulation]; and Article 9.11 [Audit, Recount and Invalidation Regulation].

Announcement of preliminary results: At the completion of the audit and recount process, on 22 December, the IEC announced 1,824,401 valid votes from 26,580 open PSs; with 31.8 percent of the voters being women; more than 106,000 people watched the live stream on [Facebook](). Following this announcement, the ECC announced at a press statement their readiness to register complaints and objections against the preliminary results within three working days. As of end December, 16,551[51] cases have been registered with categorization and classification already completed; 31 exceptional cases will be adjudicated at ECC central office.

Figure 28: Preliminary results of Presidential election

Media Committee

The Media Committee established for the WJ election continued to be responsible for media monitoring in the presidential election. The project supported the Media Committee in performing its mandate of monitoring the reporting and fair and impartial broadcasting of electoral campaigns; addressing media violations in contradiction to the objectives, policies and procedures under Paragraph (1) of Article 27 of the Election Law. First, the Media Committee, with technical guidance from the project developed a concept note proposing the Media Monitoring Unit (MMU), including methodology, and legal framework.

Press conferences: At the launch of the electoral campaign, the IEC Media Committee, with content for talking points from the project, called upon all media outlets to comply with the law, regulations and procedures, and follow the principles of (1) accuracy and time balance, (2) balance in content, (3) impartiality, (4) respect of human dignity, and (5) not to disseminate figures and surveys in favour or against specific candidate(s). Then, on 28 August, the Chairperson at a press conference requested that the media cover candidate campaigns in an impartial manner, while candidates were also advised to use social media in their campaigns responsibly. Further, on 25 September, the Media Commission announced the electoral silence period,

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[51] Updated data of 12 January 2020 shows 16,621 complaints against preliminary results.

communicated the findings of its observation of the electoral campaign and encouraged the media houses to sensitize eligible voters to participate in the election.

Media Committee presents its monitoring report: On 25 September, the Media Committee presented that the campaign teams lacked a programme oriented strategy during the electoral campaign and instead focused on criticizing other electoral campaigns and mutual accusations. Further, some mass media houses violated the law by conducting public perception surveys that confused the public; women's participation in electoral debates was insufficient and unbalanced and continued to broadcast campaign messages of candidates during the silence period.

Media Committee releases its monitoring report: The Media Committee, with technical support from the project on mediation of disputes between the candidates and the media released a report on the 55 media complaints summarized below.

Subject of complaints	# of complaints
Baseless/ false/ inaccurate/ defamatory information/partiality.	16
Abuse of government resources, unequal media coverage for candidates especially by the Radio Television Afghanistan.	12
Placement of candidate's pictures near PCs on the election day (not removed during silence period).	17
Limited awareness raising on the electoral process. Lack of familiarity on the use of BVV devices.	10
Total number of media complaints received	**55**

Table 13: Summary of the type of complaints received by the Media Committee

Gender Sensitization

Coordination meetings on participation of women: The IEC with technical inputs from the project conducted national level coordination meetings with 123 representatives (96 women) from ECC, civil society organizations (CSOs) and national institutions to discuss issues related to increasing participation of women in electoral processes. The EMBs requested support and

Figure 29: National gender coordination meeting, September 2019

cooperation in encouraging women's participation as electoral workers, candidates and voters and organizing outreach campaigns specifically for women, to raise their awareness. The participants expressed commitment to encourage participation at the

grassroots level and urged IEC to look at resolving issues such as difficulties for women to reach VRCs (as they need someone [Mahram] to accompany them to VRCs that are far away) and not having national identification document (*Tazkira*). The PIEC offices, with collaborative support from the project facilitated similar coordination meetings at the provincial level.

Figure 30: Gender coordination meeting, Samangan Province

Gender sensitization trainings: The IEC Gender Unit, with technical inputs to training material development trained 76 observers and candidate's agents (17 women) on gender considerations and their effect on participation of women in electoral processes, as well as how an election observation mission can assess participation of women. These trained observers and agents applied the knowledge during observation of the processes on election day. In addition, the Gender Unit, with technical inputs from the project trained 30 Provincial Gender Officers (all women) on gender interventions in the electoral cycle; Polling and Counting Procedures; use of technology; targeted public outreach campaigns and violence against women in elections (VAWE). The trained Gender Officers trained 68 Provincial Gender Coordinators (34 women), who applied the knowledge in conducting public outreach during the campaign period.

Awareness raising in IEC: The IEC Gender Unit, with technical inputs to content development and facilitation of awareness raising sessions from the project conducted three events with 317 provincial staff (80 women). The awareness raising on gender in electoral processes[52] increased knowledge of staff on gender concepts. The staff used the newly acquired knowledge during cascade training to CEs and electoral

Figure 31: IEC Poster for 16 Days of Activism Against GBV

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[52] Awareness raising sessions covered gender terminology; international human rights instruments ratified regarding women participation in political and electoral processes.

workers in readiness for polling day. In addition, to commemorate 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, IEC with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP produced a video for the campaign, titled Women of the country – Heroes of the country; including a poster with messages highlighting the role of Afghan women in electoral process and the need for the stakeholders to work together in ending gender-based violence and ensuring girls have access to education; these were uploaded to the IEC website and Facebook. The IEC streamed the event to mark 16 days against GBV on Facebook and Twitter.

Awareness raising in ECC: The ECC conducted an awareness raising session for 112 newly recruited Provincial Commissioners (30 women); these Commissioners cascaded the awareness raising to respective PECC offices. Then, the ECC with technical support from UNDP-UNESP sensitized 152 ECC staff (30 women) on prevention of violence against women in elections with a focus on raising awareness on what constitutes violence; kinds of violence; consequences of violence against

Figure 32: Chairperson's message for 16 Days of Activism against GBV shared through ECC social media pages

women; including prevention and where to report. To mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, the Gender Unit and IPOD, with technical and advisory support from the project conducted a sensitization workshop for ECC Commissioners, department heads and staff who committed to work towards prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Participation of women in complaints processes: The ECC, with technical inputs from UNDP-UNESP developed the complaint procedure and EDR mechanism to encourage participation of women and subsequent reporting of cases reported by women. The IPOD then developed simplified communication products, which were disseminated during targeted voter education campaigns to increase understanding of the EDR process (details in ECC Public Outreach and Adjudication of electoral complaints). Consequently, women were accorded support to lodge complaints and preliminary records show that 13.7 percent of the disaggregated election day complaints were registered by women.

Preparations for possible run-off

The IEC and ECC IPOD, with technical and operational support from the project commenced drafting communications and public outreach plans for the possible run-off with key messages, themes and activities to be conducted in the event of a run-off. In addition, the IEC with technical and operational support from the project procured sensitive election materials; materials are already delivered and are stored at the IEC HQs.

Figure 33: Electoral materials for possible run-off delivered to IEC from the airport

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During the year, a total of US$ 17,807,475 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.

Output 6 performance indicator table

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Actual	Status	Comments
6.1. Percentage of candidate nominations for the Presidential elections vetted by the IEC (disaggregated F/M).	0%	100%	100%	On target	All 18 submissions from potential candidates were vetted and certified.
6.2 Percentage of Polling Centres/Polling Stations receiving electoral materials for election day.	0%	100%	100%	On target	Completed.
6.2.1 Number of IEC and ECC temporary polling staff trained in counting, polling and results processing procedures for the Presidential election (disaggregated M/F).	0	178,545	T: 191,922 F: 61,983 M: 129,939	On target	IEC: 191,395 (61,893 women) ECC: 527 (90 women)
6.2.2 Percentage of Polling Centres/Polling Stations that open for polling on election day, as per the IEC operational plan.	0	100%	PCs: 87.1% PSs: 89.8%	On target	Some PCs could not open for security reasons, both prior to polling day as per MoIA security assessments, and on polling day due to assessed threat levels.
6.2.3 Percentage of media complaints adjudicated by the Media Committee in a timely manner, according to the adjudication schedule.	0%	100%	100%	On target	55 media complaints received and resolved.
6.2.4 Number of people accredited for electoral observation (disaggregated	0	200,000	140,008 Domestic observers: 20,769 (F: 40%)	On target	This year, 3,574 Coordinators were also accredited.

Prodoc Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Actual	Status	Comments
domestic observer/political party monitor/media/candidate's agents; F/M).			Political party monitors: 29,298 (F: 42%) Media: 1,829 (F: 15%) Candidate's agents: 84,302 (F: 35%) Int observers: 236 (F: 15%) Coordinators: 3,574		
6.3.1 Provisional polling results publicized on time, according to the electoral calendar by the IEC.	No	Yes	Yes	On target	IEC revised timeline for announcing results.
6.3.2 Final polling results publicized on time, according to the electoral calendar by the IEC.	No	Yes	No	Off target	ECC adjudicating complaints against preliminary results.
6.3.3 Data centre with infrastructure, software and training plan for data centre operators is in place.	No	Yes	Yes	On target	Completed.
6.4 Percentage of electoral complaints, which are timely adjudicated by the ECC as per the national electoral legal framework.	0	100%	e-day:100% preliminary results: 0%	On target	Ongoing adjudication of 16,551[53] complaints against preliminary results.

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[53] Updated data of 20 January 2020 shows 16,545 complaints against preliminary results.

III. GENDER-SPECIFIC RESULTS

Gender inclusive recruitment in ECC and IEC: The project continued to provide recommendations on human resources, these are intended to attract women to apply at the EMBs and retention of women already employed in the EMBs. These include relaxing the recruitment criteria and extending deadlines to encourage women to apply; extensive dissemination of advertisements to ensure more potential candidates can apply; on the job mentoring of women and facilitating participation of women in trainings, forums and meetings. In addition, the project proposed revisiting of leave policies for temporary staff, particularly the maternity leave to ensure women have paid time off to nurse new-born babies. The intentional inclusion of staff from Gender Unit to ensure there is some consideration of gender inclusive considerations in shortlisting processes has already been adopted in the IEC, the project will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this initiative.

Overall, in IEC, these efforts have seen marked improvements in the participation of women in recruitment (7% women as Tashkeel staff; 32% women as temporary staff), public outreach (27.9% women), and accreditation as monitors and observers (27.6 percent women). Similarly, In ECC, these efforts have seen marked improvements in the participation of women in recruitment (9% women as Tashkeel staff; 35% women as temporary staff) and stakeholder engagement (12.8% women).

It is important to note, however, that due to a lack of female polling staff to man female PSs, in some instances, for example Nangahar, the IEC has to recruit male polling staff to work at female PSs.

Structure of the Commissions: For the first time, both Commissions are led by women, Ms. Hawa Alam Nuristani (IEC) and Ms. Zuhra Bayan Shinwari (ECC). In addition, two of the four international non-voting Commissioners are women.

Gender proofing of regulatory documents and presentations: The project provided technical inputs from a gender perspective in the drafting of the Polling and Counting Procedures. The project also provided technical support in development of talking points and presentation on "Gender in election observation, monitoring and reporting" targeting prospective observers, monitors, media representatives and candidate's agents.

Capacity building in IEC and ECC: 40 percent of the female *Tashkeel* staff benefitted from capacity building initiatives. In addition, 15 percent of the female *Tashkeel* staff participated in the capacity building initiatives conducted in the EMB.

Participation in trainings: Cumulatively for the two EMBs, 32.3 percent of the 191,922 trained temporary staff who received trainings related to public outreach, VR, polling, counting, EDR and results processing were women. Although the percentage of women remains lower, there is evidence of inclusion and participation of women in electoral processes. In IEC, 32.3 percent of the 191,395 trained staff were women (61,893 women). In ECC, 17.1 percent of the 527 trained staff were women (90 women).

Gender Awareness Training: The Gender Awareness training presentation developed by the UNES Gender Advisors, together with instruction, was distributed to all Provincial Gender Officers to be delivered at each phase of training for all electoral and PS staff. The Gender Awareness Training was delivered to 696 participants of which 189 or 27.15% were women.

Participation in public outreach campaigns: During the VR processes, UNDP-UNESP provided technical inputs into the development of relevant PSAs to encourage citizens including women and youth. The project also provided technical support to the conducting of 34,451 grassroots meetings attended by 1,209,773 citizens comprising youths, activists, minorities, women, citizens with special needs and residents of remote areas. A total 11,247 of the 34,451 meetings were dedicated to women and a total 288,708 attended. During the campaign period, 1,244,716 citizens (395,566 women) participated in 48,216 awareness raising events and meetings. Cumulatively, 27.9 percent of the 2,454,489 people who participated in the public outreach events conducted by IEC were women.

Participation in voter registration and voting processes: 36.3 percent of the 553,749 citizens who participated in the VR processes were women. Overall, 3,334,230 of the 9,665,745 eligible voters for polling day were women; therefore, women constituted 34.5 percent of eligible voters. While announcing the preliminary results, IEC announced that 31 percent of the 1,824,401 valid votes from 26,580 open PSs were cast by women.

Participation of women in electoral complaints process: preliminary records from the EDR case management system show that 13.7 percent of the disaggregated election day complaints were registered by women.

Participation of women in stakeholder engagement: women participated in the various stakeholder events and consultations conducted by the EMBs with technical and operational support from the project. At least 7 percent of the electoral stakeholders who attended IEC led consultations and events representing civil society, international organizations, presidential candidates and political parties were women. In addition, 12.9 percent of the participants to ECC led electoral stakeholder engagement events and consultations were women.

Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence: IEC with technical inputs from the project produced a video including a poster with messages highlighting the role of Afghan women in electoral process and the need for the stakeholders to work together in ending gender-based violence and ensuring girls have access to education. The ECC conducted a sensitization workshop for ECC Commissioners, department heads and staff who committed to work towards prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Figure 34: IEC celebrates the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV

Ceremonies for winning Wolesi Jirga candidates: 27.6 percent of the 239 winning parliamentarians for 33 provinces, Sikh and Kuchi constituencies are women.

IV.   PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019, UNDP-UNESP maintained the following partnerships:

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA): The UNAMA continued to dedicate human resources in support of the 2019 Presidential elections. UNAMA continued to actively convene and participate in consultations on electoral issues of political bearing beyond the scope of UNESP. The UNAMA led the development of key messages and joint statements for the Electoral Support Group (ESG) and also facilitated the conducting of the weekly working level and ambassadorial meetings.

UNAMA coordination and public outreach efforts in regional offices: At the field level, the UNAMA Field Offices, at times in collaboration with UNDP-UNESP project staff, initiated stakeholder engagement meetings, facilitated public outreach activities, civic education and on mobilization of the population for VR. The UNAMA organized public outreach events on enhancing civil society and media engagement in the electoral processes. These events were attended by women and civil society activists, local and national media representatives, the PECC, PIEC, FEFA and TEFA representatives. The civil society and the media representatives, and the PIEC/PECC committed to work closely and maintain good coordination in electoral processes and agreed to continue holding similar engagements on a regular basis. In addition, UNAMA participated in a number of coordination meetings with provincial stakeholders on electoral processes. These coordination meetings were also attended by *Ulamas*, civil society activists, local and international NGOs and in some instances university students.

Electoral Support Group: UNAMA, through the ESG coordinating mechanism at 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. Some areas of discussions centred on use of biometrics in the election; elections in 2019; the financing of the 2019 presidential elections; and the conduct of candidates. The ESG continued to encourage transparency and credibility in conduct of the election, timely and accurate information to parties, voters and for candidate to engage in a constructive manner including by addressing any complaints through the appropriate channels.

Donors: The donors from Australia, Denmark, the EU, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the USA and the UK continued to support the electoral processes.

National Partners: UNDP-UNESP continued to work with the IEC and the ECC as their key national partners. The project also collaborated with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) on budget related discussions for the 2019 Presidential elections.

Civil Society Sector: UNDP-UNESP continued to support the EMBs in engagement of the electoral civil society organizations (CSOs) in the country. The Stakeholder Engagement Plans aimed at creating a space where CSOs and other stakeholders can openly discuss electoral issues with the two EMBs were developed and rolled out. The EMBs engaged national and international CSOs in consultation meetings, while the IEC regularly attends the CECG meetings co-facilitated by the project.

Security Coordination mechanism: UNDP-UNESP continued working level partnerships with the security coordination partners (MoIA, NATO Resolute Support and Ministry of Defense). They collaborated on security assessments and related movement of electoral materials.

Consultative meetings on participation of women in electoral processes: The IEC Gender Unit and UNDP-UNESP continued collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and Department of Women's Affairs at the provincial level in consultative meetings on participation of women in electoral processes including recruitment of female searchers for the VR and e-day processes.

V.   ISSUES

Please refer to Annex III: Issue Log for a detailed breakdown. Issues which have shaped the operating environment in 2019 include the following developments.

Prolonged announcement of Wolesi Jirga results: The announcement of WJ was delayed by a high number of electoral complaints and subsequent adjudication following the number of consultation meetings on Kabul WJ results.

Response: The project continued to provide technical inputs to the review of complaints and decisions about the appeals received.

Political Environment: The amendments to the Electoral Law, the dismissal of IEC and ECC Commissioners, changes to the electoral timeline and resultant suspension of planned activities until the subsequent appointment of new Commissioners affected the timely completion of WJ electoral processes and preparations for the presidential election.

Response: The provision of technical support was suspended to facilitate the completion of the political processes. The project staff remained prepositioned to provide technical advice on regulations, design and messaging of public outreach materials, and security assessments of PCs and resumed all aspects of technical support once the EMBs indicated readiness to move forward.

Postponement of Ghazni Wolesi Jirga, Provincial Council and District Council Elections: In late May, the IEC announced the decision to conduct only one election in 2019. Consequently, the three other elections shall be held at a date yet to be communicated by the EMB. This decision affected CN processes that was under preparation in anticipation of Ghazni WJ and Provincial Council elections.

Response: The project directed their technical and operational support to the VRT across 33 provinces, Ghazni VR and Presidential elections.

Security environment: The security environment affected VR processes in some provinces. In Ghazni, six extra black districts and five black districts downgraded to high security level. In addition, at the start of VR top-up, there were high security threats in six districts (Balkh (1), Kunduz (2), Wardak (1) Nuristan (1), and Nangahar (1)) previously assessed as low-medium threat and movements were reportedly not possible to these districts. For the presidential elections, following an assessment of potential polling centres, the IEC approved 5,373 polling centres for e-day but not all polling centres could be opened for polling. Preliminary reports from the IEC indicated that 4,678 PCs opened, while 695 were closed on polling day. In the course of the electoral processes, there were reports of security incidents affecting electoral workers [abduction, kidnapping, assassination]; demonstrations and protests prompting temporary closures of PIECs and PECCs. The Taliban issued several statements ahead of the elections to discourage citizens from going to the polls. Two days before election day, the Taliban's Military Commission called on Afghans to boycott the presidential elections and stated its intention to target the associated "offices and

centres". Taliban fighters were instructed to make use of "everything at their disposal" for this purpose.

Response: The role of the project continued to be provision of technical inputs to the security coordination mechanism and feedback from project teams in the provinces.

VI. RISKS

Please refer to [Annex IV: Risk Log](#) for a detailed breakdown.

EMB Decision Delays: The IEC took a while to make a decision on the extent to which biometrics would be used in the election. While at the onset, they had intended to incorporate biometrics in VR, voting and results transmission; following a number of consultations with political parties, civil society, donors and the ESG, the IEC decided to use biometrics only on election day.

Response: The project provided technical inputs on the implications of introducing biometrics and supported the relevant departments on scenario planning related to the use of biometrics in elections. The project also provided technical inputs to the review of regulations, procedures and operational plans once the EMB had decided on the use of biometrics.

Security Risk: Volatile security environment continued to affect electoral processes.

Response: The project continued supporting cooperation and coordination with the EMBs, ANDSF, and NATO RS so that access to as many VR sites as possible were secured throughout the electoral exercises.

Political Independence Risk: Excessive political interference affects work of the EMBs.

Response: The international community continued to advocate for the IEC and ECC to be given the space to do their work without 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.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED

Use of technology in the electoral process requires ample time for stakeholder consultations and implementation: The IEC Commission initially wanted to incorporate biometric devices throughout electoral phase. However, through stakeholder consultations, technical inputs from the project and the contracted service provider,

Dermalog; it became evident that the full scale implementation of BVR required not less than 24 months of implementation. The stakeholder consultations spread over at least two months were not conclusive, although the majority were in agreement on the use of biometrics in the electoral process. Consequently, on the realization that using biometrics in the VR top-up and VR in Ghazni would result in significant changes in the already determined operational plan, the IEC Commission reversed the decision opting for biometrics for polling day only.

Coordinated stakeholder engagement provides space for electoral stakeholders to be abreast of developments and aware of the electoral processes: In 2019, both EMBs developed stakeholder engagement plans and information dissemination through the websites and social media pages. The EMBs conducted regular somewhat structured consultations and discussion forums with electoral stakeholders providing them a platform to share concerns and get formal updates on the electoral processes from the EMBs. The feedback provided by electoral stakeholders has been incorporated to some extent in accreditation of observers and monitors, conducting of public outreach and optimal use of biometric devices on polling day. The Information Centre established by the IEC as part of implementing the Open Door Policy has been well received and observers were kept abreast of developments through the post-electoral period.

Determination of timelines in the operational plan needs further reflection to ensure timelines are more realistic and in sync with the operational context: Experiences with the 2018 and 2019 elections have shown that the actual timeline from polling to announcement of preliminary and final results consistently deviate from the approved operational plan. Therefore, in the next electoral cycle, it is necessary for the project to support the EMBs in determining more realistic timelines for the tallying and data verification processes as well as the complaints adjudication process which is affected by the number and degree of complexity of registered complaints. The IEC has been criticized by election watchdogs and election candidates for failing to work within timelines; therefore, a timeline accommodating potential prolonged data verification processes cannot be ignored.

Public outreach requires a multi-faceted approach: The EMBs have increased the range of methods for conducting civic and voter education. The use of TV and radio PSAs, billboards, print materials and social media have increased the footprint of the EMBs in disseminating messages on various electoral processes. The opinion survey conducted by Asia Foundation suggests that TV and radio are the main sources of information and there is a reduction in surveyed respondents who rely on friends,

family, and neighbours[54]. In addition, the survey indicates the use of internet as a source of news and information by 14.4 percent of Afghans with Facebook being the most popular social media page. The survey findings complement the direction taken by the EMBs with use of face-to-face interaction, PSAs and social media. The preferences when disaggregated by geographical location will be useful in shaping types of media considered for future civic and voter education initiatives.

VIII. FUTURE PLANS

In the next year, the project will continue to provide operational, financial, technical, and advisory assistance to the EMBs to complete the 2019 presidential elections and future electoral assistance. The project will support the ECC and PECCs in adjudication of the complaints registered against the preliminary results. In addition, UNDP-UNESP will provide technical inputs to the Commissions for processing of final results through:

- providing legal inputs to adjudication of appeals against decisions on preliminary results;
- providing support to IEC for implementation of ECC decisions on the appeals against preliminary results;
- providing technical support for results processing and data centre operations following implementation of special audit and recount;
- direct support to the Commissioners on election management; and
- advisory and operational support on communications and public outreach.

Discussions are ongoing in the IEC regarding Provincial Council (PC) and Ghazni Wolesi Jirga (WJ) elections. While future electoral assistance support needs are yet to be finalized, and subject to recommendations of the Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), a substantive revision of the UNDP-UNESP Prodoc is anticipated to incorporate Output 7 for PC elections, updates to Output 4 for VR and Output 5 for WJ and DC elections will become necessary in 2020 and possibly 2021. In line with the UN's Security Council Resolution 2489 (2019), the UN will also seek to support efforts to strengthen the capacity of the electoral institutions. The project has prepositioned a draft Prodoc to prepare for updating once support needs are finalized and lessons learned from 2019 are captured and analysed for incorporation.

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[54] Asia Foundation: A Survey of the Afghan People (2019) page 159: Unsurprisingly, urban respondents (85.9%) were almost twice as likely as rural respondents (44.4%) to cite TV as their main source of election information. Radio is the source of election information most cited by rural respondents (29.4%). Respondents who say that their main source of election information is friends, family, and neighbours decreased significantly, from 14.7% in 2018 to just 8.0% this year.

IX. ANNEXES

ANNEX I: FINANCIAL TABLE

Below is the Donor Interim Report for the period January to December 2019 for the UN Electoral Support Project.

Donor Name	COMMITMENT/ PAST YEARS RECORD				CURRENT YEAR (2019)					FUTURE EXPENSES		TOTAL RECEIVABLE		Available Resources N=(i-j-k)
	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)	
Denmark	2,443,475	1,432,323	1,462,232	39,174	9,265	1,011,152	-	51,489	968,928	64,006	-	-		904,922
DFID	14,579,911	4,823,814	4,519,704		304,109	4,878,049		2,573,691	2,608,468	863,073	-	4,878,049		1,745,395
EU	27,309,727	15,299,341	6,501,567		8,797,774	11,041,916		8,489,427	11,350,263	941,248	-	968,471		10,409,015
Germany	8,376,836	8,376,836	6,478,203		1,898,633	7,777,778	(1,783,729)	7,892,681	-	-	-	-		-
Italy	3,296,703	-	-		-	3,296,703		95,508	3,201,196	-	-			3,201,196
SIDA	4,442,963	4,442,963	1,202,796		3,240,167	-		2,237,009	1,003,158	807,192	-	-		195,966
DFAT	5,000,000	2,000,000	1,431,124		568,876	3,000,000		1,741,892	1,826,984	213,777	-	-		1,613,207
Norway	4,737,302	2,368,651	-		2,368,651	-		2,366,106	2,545	-	-	2,368,651		2,545
MFA Norway	2,202,886	-			-	2,202,886		1,146,806	1,056,080	110,539	-			945,542
Japan	13,739,390	13,739,390	6,488,723		7,250,667	-		2,753,915	4,496,752	823,702	48,810	-		3,624,240
USAID	68,539,601	29,500,000	17,227,053		12,272,947	20,363,415	-	18,879,651	13,756,710	1,503,794	273,846	18,676,186		11,979,071
CCF	84,444	-	-		-	84,444	-	84,444	(0)	-	-	-		(0)
Grand Total	154,753,238	81,983,317	45,311,402	39,174	36,711,088	53,656,342	(1,783,729)	48,312,618	40,271,083	5,327,331	322,656	26,891,357	-	34,621,097

Note:

i) Data contained in this report is an extract of UNDP financial records.

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

ANNEX II: EXPENSES BY OUTPUT

Project Output ID and Description	2019 Budget (AWP)	Accumulated Expenses (Jan-Dec-2019)	Delivery Rate
Output 1 (00106325): Administration of credible elections is facilitated by the meeting of key IEC structural and planning milestones.	12,039,816	9,197,751	76%
Sub-total Output 1	**12,039,816**	**9,197,751**	**76%**
Output 2 (00106326): Credible electoral dispute resolution (EDR) is provided by the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC).	2,256,143	1,674,372	74%
Sub-total Output 2	**2,256,143**	**1,674,372**	**74%**
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.	920,840	750,016	81%
Sub-total Output 3	**920,840**	**750,016**	**81%**
Output 4 (00108499): A polling centre specific voter list for the upcoming elections is produced by the IEC.	4,858,661	3,994,090	82%
Sub-total Output 4	**4,858,661**	**3,994,090**	**82%**
Output 5 (00111484): The IEC and ECC provide credible administration of and electoral dispute resolution for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections, respectively.	18,679,811	14,888,914	80%
Sub-total Output 5	**18,679,811**	**14,888,914**	**80%**
Output 6 (00117164): The IEC and ECC are able to provide credible administration of, and electoral dispute resolution, for the 2019 Presidential elections.	46,540,201	17,807,475	38%
Sub-total Output 6	**46,540,201**	**17,807,475**	**38%**
Grand Total	**85,295,472**	**48,312,618**	**57%**

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. The 2018 Wolesi Jirga elections were completed with 2019 Presidential preliminary results announced.	NUG	Reducing
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 has continued to be engaged in high level discussions for the 2019 electoral processes.	UNAMA, Political Parties	No change
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. In the voter registration processes, there were 22 black districts.	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. In 2019, the DD elections were postponed.	IEC	No change
6.	DC election postponement has affected UNESP support to the electoral processes.	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	UNESP provided technical support to the IEC regarding use of technology in elections, training on use of BVV devices and data transmission from BVV devices. The project developed analysis papers on interpretation of results from BVV devices.	IEC	Reducing

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 Tazkira 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 Tazkira issuance and successful elections.	NUG, IEC, ACCRA	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	No change
2	**Political interference in the EMBs.** The controversial situation of President's interference in the case of Tazkira 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	11 Jan 2020	Reducing
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. Increase stakeholder engagement and share information and address concerns raised in consultations.	EMBs, UNESP & Donors	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	Reducing
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	UNAMA and UNDP	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	Reducing

#	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, ANDSF provides air support for movement of electoral materials on IEC request.	ANDSF, IEC, UNESP	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	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	11 Jan 2020	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	11 Jan 2020	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	11 Jan 2020	Reducing
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. IEC in this regard.	Multiple	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	No change

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted by	Last Update	Status
10	**Constituency Delimitation** decision delayed past the deadline. Zero impact on 2018 on 2019 elections. This will be revisited for 2020 elections (once decided).	October 2017	Regulatory	Impact: 0 Probability: 0	No response required at this time.	NUG and IDLG	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	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 were conducted to ensure consensus and inclusivity of the 2018 elections, and the opening of the Ghazni IEC office. In 2019, political parties recommended use of biometrics [considered] and the MDR electoral system [yet to be adopted].	Multiple	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	Reducing
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. Conduct grassroot level meetings and consultative meetings for effective participation of women in electoral processes.	IEC	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	Reducing
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. Have onboarding packages readily available for newly recruited staff and provide on the job training.	EMBs, UNESP	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	No change

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted by	Last Update	Status
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	Coordinate the work of the Gender Units with relevant activities and/or programmes of the MOWA, UN Women, and CSOs, with the support of UN Women as required. Continue to engage Mullahs and Ulamas in advocacy for increased participation of women and other groups in electoral processes.	IEC, UNESP	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	Reducing
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 non-written materials in voter education campaigns. In the 2019 presidential elections, TV and radio PSAs were used in addition to increased use of social media and grassroots public outreach.	IEC	UNESP	11 Jan 2020	Reducing
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	13 July 2019	Reducing

ANNEX V: KEY DEVELOPMENTS AROUND THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

January 2019: The IEC announced the electoral date for the Ghazni WJ, Presidential, Provincial Council and DC as 20 July 2019. The CN process for the 2019 Presidential election ended on 20 January. The announcement of parliamentary election results reportedly incited a number of actions from disgruntled unsuccessful candidates, candidate's agents and supporters. The protesters demanded recounts, invalidation of non-BVV votes, re-elections and prosecution of electoral staff involved.

February 2019: His Excellency, President Ashraf Ghani signed a legislative decree amending the 2016 Election Law following unanimous approval of a draft by cabinet. This political change resulted in the dismissal of members of both commissions, bringing the announcement of final WJ results; approval of regulatory frameworks; complaints adjudication; preparations for VR; and CN for DC and PC elections to a halt.

March 2019: His Excellency, President Ashraf Ghani, through separate decrees, appointed 12 Commissioners[55] (3 women) and Heads of Secretariats of the two EMBs. On 20 March, the IEC announced a new date of 28 September 2019for the Presidential, PC and Ghazni WJ elections. The ECC completed adjudication of complaints and appeals for 25 provinces[56] as well as Sikh seats and IEC announced final results for Badghis, Balkh, Ghor, Herat, Paktika provinces and the Sikh constituency. On 25 March at a consultation meeting with political parties on MDR[57], while political parties continued insisting on the electoral system change, the IEC remained non-committal. On 31 March, at a follow up consultation meeting to finalize the MDR concept with political parties and civil society, IEC indicated that MDR may not be used for 2019 PC elections.

April 2019: IEC announced final results for Baghlan, Helmand, Kandahar, Kunduz, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktya, and Takhar provinces and the Kuchi constituency. Following changes to the electoral timeline, the vetting of the presidential election candidates and submission of a certified list to the IEC was extended to 20 April with the ballot lottery to establish the order of presidential candidates conducted on 25 April. On 20 April, in a statement, the Political Committee of the Contact Group of 35+ political parties expressed concern with the suggestions to abandon MDR for the 2019 elections noting that this move would undermine the transparency and credibility of the elections. Cumulatively, the ECC made decisions about 85 percent (670 out of 781) of the appeal cases for 32 provinces, Sikh and Kuchi constituencies, excluding Kabul. No complaints were registered against the preliminary list of presidential election candidates or the ballot lottery process. On 25 April, the IEC made a decision to go ahead with full BVR during VRT and collection of biometrics of voters registered in 2018and signed and MoU on cooperation with the ANSIA in the collection of biometrics.

May 2019: The ECC finalized adjudication of appeals pertaining to the Kabul WJ; with IEC announcing the final results for Kabul on 14 May. On 16 May, IEC announced their decision to conduct VRT manually. On 19 May, the Attorney General's Office spokesperson stated that all 12 former election Commissioners and Heads of Secretariats of the IEC and ECC were formally accused of committing fraud in the 2018 parliamentary elections, specifically in Kunar and Badakhshan provinces, and had been referred to the Supreme Court. On 20 May, the IEC took the decision to

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[55] Seven Commissioners were appointed to the IEC and five Commissioners to the ECC.

[56] [1] Nangarhar, [2] Kunduz, [3] Helmand, [4] Baghlan, [5] Kandahar, [6] Maidan Wardak, [7] Paktia, [8] Kabul, and [9] Kuchi seats.

[57] 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).

use BVV on election day. On 29 May, the IEC announced the decision to hold only Presidential elections on 28 September. The IT, with technical input from the project completed VL verification and readied 9,103,652 voter records for review and corrections during VL display.

June 2019: The VRT process started on 8 June and ended on 29 June with 318,534 citizens (116,446 women) registered across the 33 provinces while VR for Ghazni province was extended to 6 July. An estimated 1,209,773 citizens (288,708 women) participated in the 34,451 public outreach campaigns at the grassroot level. Security challenges affected the opening of some VRCs with a number of security incidents in various provinces, including and Kandahar. The online accreditation process was launched in mid-June following upgrading of the database and subsequent presentation to prospective observers, monitors, media representatives and candidate's agents.

July 2019: On 2 July, President Ghani discussed procurement of biometric devices with the IEC, ESG, MoF and the National Procurement Authority (NPA); consequently, on 3 July, the National Procurement Committee (NPC) approved the procurement of biometric equipment. On 10 July, MoF confirmed the availability of US$ 90 million to the IEC and ECC for the upcoming election. The VR process for Ghazni ended on 6 July; with 235,215 citizens (82,896 women) registered. The ECC received and adjudicated 18 complaints regarding the VR process and there were no appeals. Following database cleaning and corrections, the 2019 preliminary VL had 9,665,944 (3,334,357 women; 6,331,587 men), an increase of 766,003 voters. The security coordination body completed the PC security assessments in all provinces and finalized the Security Concept of Operations. On 21 July, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) issued two orders related to the election[58]. The IDLG also announced establishment of a Provincial Supervision Committee to monitor the performance and report in accordance to the provisions of the law. The IEC launched the campaign period on 28 July and this continued until 25 September.

August 2019: On 1 August, the ESG met with 2019 presidential candidates to discuss ways to ensure the holding of inclusive, transparent and credible elections. The seven presidential candidates and four representatives of presidential tickets discussed the need for a level-playing field, with some candidates accusing the incumbents of abuse of state resources. The accreditation process continued and the electoral campaign continued with a few candidates[59] conducting campaign gatherings, door-to-door visits in some provinces, video conferences, and having billboards and posters on display. On 22 August, at a working level ESG meeting with campaign managers; the IEC and ECC provided briefings on the accreditation and complaints process for the presidential elections and addressed issues related to intensified awareness on the secrecy of the photo taking using biometric devices; measures to monitor campaign spending limits and timing of possible run-off. The ECC, with technical support from UNDP-UNESP completed adjudication of the five complaints regarding early campaigning registered in Kabul [4] and Balkh [1] provinces as well as adjudication of 16 of the 50 complaints (32 percent) related to the campaign period.

September 2019: Accreditation process continued and the ECC continued to register and adjudicate complaints related to the campaign process. On 3 September, 10 former Commissioners of IEC [7] and ECC [3] were tried and convicted by the Anti-Corruption and Justice Centre for 'altering or changing documents to increase votes' involving a parliamentary seat in Kunar province. The former

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[58] First order: All new recruitments by the government from Grades 1 to 8 (mid and senior level) will be postponed until the end of the 28 September presidential election. Exceptionally, recruitments for positions for which candidates have been shortlisted can move forward. Second order: Provincial Governors, District Chiefs, Mayors and relevant authorities are not allowed to directly or indirectly interfere in electoral affairs.

[59] President Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah, Engineer Rahmatullah Nabil, Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Noorullah Jalili.

commissioners who were handed the maximum sentence of five years imprisonment[60] have reportedly appealed the matter. On 11 September a convoy moving by road from Kabul to Ghazni was attacked on Wardak-Ghazni Road in Sayed Abad District of Wardak province; on 14 September as materials were off loaded at Ghazni warehouse; 39 blue boxes were reported as partially damaged, 26 intact, and 10 destroyed. On 13 September, Taliban attacked the convoy transporting training materials from Mazar in Balkh province to Dara-Sufi Payan and Dara-Sufi Bala districts of Samangan province; there was no damage to materials. During the campaign period, candidate Hanif Atmar suspended his campaign but said he would remain a candidate, however, later withdrew completely.

On 20 September, Shida Mohammad Abdali announced withdrawal of his candidature from the race and joined President Ghani's team; his two vice presidential candidates reportedly joined Chief Executive Abdallah's team. On 23 September, the ESG during the meeting with candidates welcomed all efforts to encourage Afghans to go to the polls and elect their future leadership and urged the candidates to contribute to a transparent electoral process. Three other candidates [Noor ul-Haq Ulumi, Dr. Zalmai Rassol, and Haji Ibrahim Mohammad Alokozay] formally withdrew from running, submitting their notification to the IEC. On 24 September, the Attorney General indicted all IEC and all ECC Commissioners and two IEC staff members for elections crimes and 'some defendants' for bribery-related offences before the Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Centre (ACJC). The indictment reflects charges related to the conduct of parliamentary elections in Badakhshan. On 28 September, at 7a.m. PSs across the 34 provinces opened to allow registered citizens to vote for one of 14 running presidential candidates. At 2:55 p.m. the IEC held a press conference to announce the extension of polling until 5 p.m. The ECC and PECC offices registered 4,528 complaints related to election day, with most complaints registered in Kabul [1,600]; Herat [498]; and Kandahar [212]. The 184 exceptional cases were registered in Nangarhar [62]; Kandahar [61]; Khost [35]; Sar-e-Pul [23] and Bamyan [3]. On 29 September, the IEC held a press conference at which they shared a preliminary voter turnout of 2,196,463.

October 2019: On 3 October, the IEC held a press conference announcing preliminary voter turnout of 2,695,890. Insecurity and threats from Anti-Government Elements (AGEs) including Taliban continues to remain a major concern for citizens. In Bar Kunar district [Kunar province], the Taliban released a polling staff from their captivity. On 10 October, in Alingar district [Laghman province]; four polling staff, who were abducted weeks ahead of election day, were released from Taliban captivity. On the same day, the PIEC informed UNAMA that the dead body of a temporary IEC staff abducted on 2 October was found in Charo area, Sangcharak district [Sar-e-Pul province]. On 19 October, at a press conference, the IEC apologized for being unable to announce the presidential poll preliminary results on 19 October. On the evening of 20 October, reports emerged of an alleged breach at the IEC Digital Data Centre. On 22 October, the Stability and Convergence ticket rejected the explanation provided by the IEC that Crisis Response Unit entered the training building to shield from the cold as 'justification' and claimed that the incident was orchestrated in collusion with the Presidential Palace with the aim of replacing the SD memory cards of the quarantined devices. Agreement was reached and activities resumed on the evening of 22 October. On 25 October, the investigation panel looking into the issue and reportedly decided to refer the IEC Head of Security and others to the Attorney General's Office for questioning. The IEC announced by that 1.8 million votes are valid and over 86,000 votes may be invalidated [based on data duplication by Dermalog].

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[60] Except for former Deputy Chair Wasima Badghisi, who did not appear in person, all were taken into custody to serve their sentence.

The PECC offices completed adjudication and adjudicated 112 of 182 appeals [62%] against initial decisions.

November 2019: On 9 November, the IEC announced commencement of the audit and recount of votes cast at 8,329 PSs; with the election teams of Chief Executive Abdullah, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and Rahmatullah Nabil not supporting the process. On 12 November, IEC halted the audit and recount process following objections from certain candidates [some candidate agents physically intervening, locking IEC offices/warehouses and preventing IEC staff from continuing the process] and engaged the agents in consultation meetings to accommodate their concerns, and provide technical explanations. On 16 November, the IEC stated that audit and recount was to recommence on 17 November and on 18 November, the process was completed in 12 provinces[61], ongoing in 16 provinces[62] and stopped in six provinces[63]. By 25 November, audit and recount process remained blocked in seven provinces[64], completed in 25 provinces and ongoing in Nangahar and Kandahar. By end of month, audit and recount process was completed in 27 provinces and remained blocked across seven provinces. The ECC completed adjudication of the 184 exceptional cases including 184 appeals against initial decisions. The month was marked by numerous protests, as well as closure of PIEC offices by candidate agents and supporters of those Presidential tickets who opposed the audit and recount process.

December 2019: The ECC received and accepted to adjudicate 32 written complaints from political campaign teams and other complainants; one case was referred back to Ghazni PECC and was resolved; with investigations completed for 71.9 percent of the cases (23 out of 32 cases). On 8 December, IEC convened an informational forum with presidential tickets and representatives of political parties and election-related CSOs, including ESG to break the stalemate on the audit and recount process. On 15 December, the audit and recount commenced or recommenced in the remaining seven provinces paving way for announcement of preliminary results on 22 December. Following this announcement, the ECC informed citizens on the complaint registration process against the results and proceeded to register 16,551[65] complaints from 23 to 25 December at the ECC and PECC offices; categorization and adjudication are in progress.

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[61] Logar, Wardak, Bamyan, Daikundi, Kunar, Laghman, Balkh, Kunduz, Nimroz, Uruzgan, Badghis and Herat.

[62] Kabul, Kapisa, Parwan, Ghazni, Paktya, Paktika, Khost, Samangan, Baghlan, Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Farah, Ghor.

[63] Panjshir, Faryab, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Badakhshan, and Takhar.

[64] Panjshir, Faryab, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Badakhshan, Takhar, and Baghlan.

[65] Updated data of 12 January 2020 shows 16,621 complaints against preliminary results.