



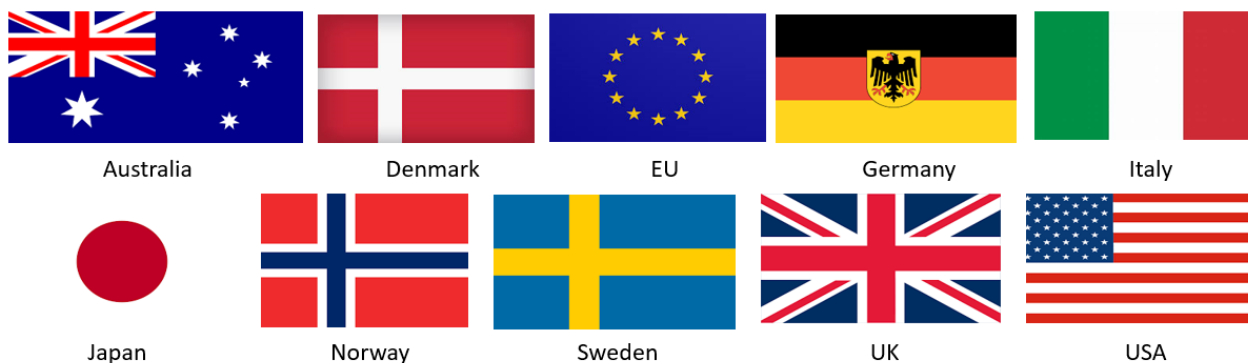
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UN Electoral Support Project (UNESP)

2019 THIRD QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT



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: | \$ 82,020,238 |
| Unfunded Amount: | \$ 0 |
| Implementing Partner: | UNDP |
| Responsible Parties: | IEC, ECC |
| Project Manager a.i.: | Ali Al-Bayati |
| Responsible Head of Programme Unit: | Douglas Armour |

ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|---|
| ACCRA | Afghan Central Civil Registration Authority |
| ANDSF | Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces |
| BoC | Board of Commissioners |
| BVV | Biometric Voter Verification |
| CC | Call Centre |
| CECG | Civil Society Election Coordination Group |
| CEO | Chief Electoral Officer |
| CN | Candidate Nomination |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DC | District Council |
| DDEO | Deputy District Electoral Officers |
| DEO | District Electoral Officers |
| ECC | Electoral Complaints Commission |
| EDR | Electoral Dispute Resolution |
| EMB | Election Management Body |
| ERD | External Relations Department |
| FAQs | Frequently Asked Questions |
| FBS | Female Body Searcher |
| GoIRA | Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan |
| HQ | Headquarters |
| IDLG | Independent Directorate of Local Governance |
| IEC | Independent Election Commission |
| IPOD | Information and Public Outreach Department |
| M&E | Monitoring & Evaluation |
| MoF | Ministry of Finance |
| MoIA | Ministry of Interior Affairs |
| MoU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MoWA | Ministry of Women's Affairs |
| NATO RS | North Atlantic Treaty Organization Resolute Support Mission |
| NMP | National Movement Plan |
| NUG | National Unity Government |
| PC | Polling Centre |
| PECC | Provincial Electoral Complaints Commission |
| PEO | Provincial Election Officer |
| PIEC | Provincial Independent Election Commission |
| PMP | Provincial Movement Plan |
| PPOOs | Provincial Public Outreach Officers |
| ProDoc | Project Document |
| PS | Polling Station |
| PSA | Public Service Announcement |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |
| ToT | Training of Trainers |

| | |
|-------|--|
| UNAMA | United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESP | United Nations Electoral Support Project |
| UNEST | United Nations Electoral Support Team |
| VL | Voter List |
| VR | Voter Registration |
| VRC | Voter Registration Centre |
| VRT | Voter Registration Top-Up |
| WJ | Wolesi Jirga |

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This third quarterly progress report for the United Nations Electoral Support Project (UNESP) covers the period 1 July to 30 September 2019. The report is structured around the outputs outlined in the revised UNESP Project Document (ProDoc) as of July 2019 and the corresponding Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2019. The project has two overall objectives: [1] To build the capacity of the Afghan electoral institutions to implement elections in line with the national electoral legal framework and Afghanistan's international commitments; and, [2] To allow a programming mechanism for the international community to partially finance the elections. During the period under review, 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, 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:

Voter Registration and Voter Registration Top-Up:

The Voter Registration Top-Up (VRT) and Ghazni Voter Registration (VR) process was launched on 8 June 2019, with the VRT closing on 29 June; however following demonstrations in Ghazni, the VR process was extended for one week in the province, closing on 6 July. Of the 459 VR Centres (VRCs) for VRT, 428 were open and 31 remained closed due to security issues. In Ghazni, VR was held at 209 of the 252 VRCs, with 43 closed for security concerns. The project provided logistical support for retrieval of all VR materials from the provinces and subsequent data processing of the VR books at the IEC Headquarters (HQ).

Polling Centre Specific Voter Lists: With technical support from the project, the database cleaning and corrections were completed, consequently the IEC finalized the 2019 Voter List with 9,665,745 voters (3,334,230 women; 6,331,534 men). This VL shows an increase of 765,804 voters since 2018 Parliamentary [Wolesi Jirga (WJ)] elections, of which 32 percent are women.

Regulations and Procedures: UNESP provided technical advice to the IEC and ECC on the development of regulations governing polling, counting, tallying, audit and recount, EDR and announcement of results, establishing clear procedures to uphold the legitimacy of the electoral process as outlined in [Output 1](#) and [Output 2](#).

Public Outreach Activities: IEC Information and Public Outreach Department (IPOD), with advisory support of the project, established an outreach plan for the



Image 1: Voter Registration Top-Up 2019



Image 2: Gender Awareness Meeting in Zabul, 10 September 2019



Image 3: Men queue to cast their vote in Nimroz province, 28 September 2019

Presidential election, formalizing information campaigns which incorporate Public Service Announcements (PSAs), billboards, posters, print material and social media plans. Through grassroots activities, 1,244,716 citizens participated in 41,894 grassroots meetings, including 395,566 women and 849,150 men. To support public awareness of the ECC and complaints procedures, the ECC IPOD has engaged the project on the development of public outreach plans for the campaign period, election day and preliminary results, which ran from 15 August and run until 28 September. With the launch of the campaign period commencing on 28 July and running for 60 days and ending 48 hours before the election, the project provided advice to the ECC on the development of a range of public outreach materials as detailed in [Output 3](#).

Accreditation of Observers Monitors and Candidate Agents: Much focus during this reporting period was on the accreditation and access to information of candidate agents and national/international observers and political party monitors to ensure an additional level of fraud mitigation measure in the 2019 election and engagement with electoral stakeholders. Accreditation of agents, observers, and party monitors was also meant to increase transparency of the process. With advisory support of the project, the IEC accredited 227 entities [18 Candidates, 33 Political Parties, 38 Civil Society, 106 Media, and 32 International Observers and Special Guests]; 136,648 accredited individuals [86,058 men (63%) and 50,590 women (37%)]; 84,348 accredited Candidate Agents [54,669 males (65%) and 29,679 women (35%)]; 29,371 Political Party Monitors: [17,128 men (58%) and 12,243 women (42%)]; 20,881 Civil Society Observers: [12,513 men (60%) and 8,368 women (40%)]; 1,818 International and National Media: [1,553 men (85%) and 265 women (15%)]; 73 staff accredited by international observer organizations: [55 men and 18 women]; and 157 Special Guests: [140 men and 17 women]. A full breakdown can be found under [Electoral Observation](#).

Electoral Security Efforts: Mitigation measures against the increased security threat during the campaigning period, election day and throughout the results announcements were reinforced by the NATO Resolute Support (RS) Mission's and UNESP's close work with the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA), national security bodies and the IEC. Weekly security coordination meetings were held to identify solutions to a myriad of security-related risks and develop security drills based on likely election day scenarios. The security coordination body also successfully completed a PC security assessment in all provinces and finalized the Security Concept of Operations.

Election Day: On 28 September, polls opened at 0700 hours, and extended from 1500 hours to 1700 hours to enable more citizens to vote in the 2019 Presidential Elections. Reports from the IEC during this reporting period indicate approximately 2,695,890 people cast their vote at 4,684 PCs across the country.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AROUND THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

2019 Campaign: The 2019 campaigning period was launched on 28 July 2019 and ran until 25 September, when the 48-hour pre-election campaign silence period came into effect. Despite the establishment of campaign offices in provinces by some candidates, campaigning was slow during the initial period, attributed by some candidates to a lack of a level playing field and uncertainty over the impact of the ongoing peace process on the election. As the deadline to the campaign period approached, some presidential candidates intensified their campaign activities, with large rallies held across the country, in particular by incumbent President Ghani, incumbent Chief Executive Abdullah and others. During the campaign period, candidate Hanif Atmar suspended his campaign but said he would remain a candidate.

Election Day Materials: In accordance with the National Movement Plan (NMP) and Provincial Movement Plans (PMPs), on the morning of 28 September, 99.9 percent of sensitive and non-sensitive materials had been delivered to 5,373 Polling Centres (PCs), ready for the opening of polls, with materials lost or damaged in Faryab, Qaramqul district (15 boxes) and in Jawzjan, Darzaab district (2 boxes).

Presidential Candidate Withdrawal: Of the 18 presidential candidates, four candidates ([1] Dr. Shida Mohammad Abdali, [2] Noor ul-Haq Ulumi, [3] Dr. Zalmi Rassol, and [4] Haji Ibrahim Mohammad Alokozay) formally withdrew from running, submitting their notification to the IEC¹. Given the printing of ballot papers had gone ahead, votes cast for the withdrawn candidates will be considered invalid per the legal provision.

Polling Centres: Following security assessments, the week prior to the election and following security assessment, the IEC anticipated that 5,373 PCs and 29,586 PSs would be open of polling day, while 445 PCs may be closed due to insecurity. On 3 October, the IEC announced preliminary turnout from polling day, indicating 4,864 PCs were open and 689 PCs were closed on 28 September. As data from the field is validated, these numbers are expected to change, with final numbers pending confirmation, anticipated for mid-October.

Presidential Election Polling Day: On 28 September at 7 a.m., polling opened across the country. Originally planned to close at 3 p.m., at 2:55 p.m., the IEC held a press conference to announce the extension of polling open hours until 5 p.m.

Preliminary Voter Turnout: On 3 October, the IEC held a press conference at which they shared a preliminary sub-total of voter turnout, standing at 2,695,890². Reacting to the low figures, presidential candidate and spokesperson of the Council of Presidential Candidates (CPC), Shahab Hakimi, stated that the low turnout (27.9% of nearly 10 million voters) could bring the legitimacy of the upcoming government to question.

Former Commissioners tried by the Anti-Corruption and Justice Centre (ACJC): On 3 September 2019, 10 former Commissioners of the IEC [7] and the ECC [3] were tried and convicted by the ACJC for 'altering or changing documents to increase votes' involving a parliamentary seat in Kunar province. The former commissioners were handed the maximum sentence of five years imprisonment. With the exception of the former Deputy Chair, Wasima Badghisi, who did not appear in person, all were taken into custody to serve their sentence. 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 ACJC. The indictment reflects charges related to the conduct of parliamentary elections in Badakhshan.

Key Challenges: The quarter required enormous logistical coordination efforts to facilitate dispatch and retrievals of VR and election day sensitive and non-sensitive materials. The operating environment required strategic coordination with Afghan and NATO security forces to facilitate security escorts to accompany the movements. The project engaged logistics and field operation advisors to work with national counterparts to advise on the required movement plans across the country and within provinces. The efforts of all parties saw the successful delivery of required materials to 5,373 PCs and retrieval of materials to HQs following the election day in record time.

Looking Ahead: In the next quarter, the project will continue to provide technical advice to the IEC and ECC regarding the operational activities pertaining to completing the electoral cycle. In accordance with the IEC presidential timeline, key activities the project will support include:

| Date | Activity |
|-----------------|--|
| 15 October 2019 | Deadline for ECC's submission of the final decision regarding adjudication of complaints pertaining to election day. |

¹ Analysis Note: (i) These candidates still need to submit the Final Report as they were Presidential candidates. (ii) In the given context, these candidates will still face penalty per the legal provisions as they withdrew beyond the official timeline. (iii) Votes related to them will not be counted during the counting of votes (Article 75 of Election Law).

² All data pertaining to the 28 September presidential election is subject to change as data is verified in the coming period.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 19 October 2019 | Date for IEC announcement of preliminary results |
| 19-21 October 2019 | Challenge period on the preliminary results |
| 6 November 2019 | Deadline for ECC's submission of decision regarding the preliminary results |
| 7 November 2019 | Date for IEC announcement of final results |
| 23 November 2019 | Possible presidential run-off election ³ |

Table 1: Timeline of key electoral activities for October to December 2019

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During Q3, a total of US\$17,759,848 was spent on UNESP activities. 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.

The project continued to provide advisory and operational support to the IEC targeting communications systems, strategic and operational planning, IEC structures, and procedures and systems, including the electoral environment in which the commission operates.

IEC Recruitment

To assist the EMB to become fully functional, UNESP provided technical assistance to the IEC in the development of Terms of References (ToRs), in the induction of staff and development and in the delivery of specialized training modules, as detailed below and under [IEC Training](#). Coupled with support to the recruitment push in the IEC, UNESP assistance helped increase filled Tashkeel positions almost 10 percent over the quarter, to 87 percent.

| # | Category | Quarter 2, 2019 | | | Quarter 3, 2019 | | |
|---|---|-----------------|--------|----------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| | | | No. | % | | No. | % |
| 1 | Filled Tashkeel positions | | 360 | 77.4 | | 404 | 87 |
| 2 | Vacant Tashkeel positions | | 105 | 22.6 | | 61 | 13 |
| 3 | Tashkeel positions in approved organogram | | 465 | | | 465 | |
| 4 | Gender breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions | Male | Female | % Female | Male | Female | % Female |
| | | 340 | 20 | 5.6 | 376 | 28 | 7 |
| 5 | Seniority breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions | Senior | Other | % Senior | Senior | Other | % Senior |
| | | 69 | 291 | 19.2 | 76 | 328 | 19 |
| 6 | Gender breakdown of Senior positions [Grades 1-3] | Male | Female | % Female | Male | Female | % Female |
| | | 65 | 4 | 5.8 | 71 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | Gender breakdown of other positions [Grades 4+] | Male | Female | % Female | Male | Female | % Female |
| | | 275 | 16 | 5.5 | 328 | 23 | 7 |

Table 2: IEC Tashkeel comparison from last quarter

³ While 23 November is the current earmarked date of the potential Presidential Run-Off, should it be required, the IEC will publish a separate timeline.

Permanent Staff: The IEC holds 465 Tashkeel positions, 280 positions for HQ staff and 185 positions in the provinces. In the period under review, and with the assistance of the project, the IEC filled Tashkeel positions increased by almost 10 percent, accumulative bringing staff numbers to 404 out of 465 positions in the organogram (up from 360 at the end of quarter 2 2019). This newly recruited staff includes eight women (1 senior and 7 other positions), bringing the number of women in Tashkeel positions up to 28, or 7 percent of filled Tashkeel positions. Table 2 provides an analysis of the permanent staffing in the period under review.

Temporary Staff: Concurrently, the IEC undertook a wide scale recruitment of temporary staff, including [8] Call Centre Operators, [100] Data Entry Operators, [3] Translators, [1] Accreditation Senior Officer, [3] Accreditation Officers, [13] Accreditation Assistants, [3] Programmers, [1] Executive Officer in Secretariat, [1] HR Officer, [1] LAN Officer, [50] Data Entry Operators, [1] IT Data Centre Officer, and [1] Programmer. Significantly, the IEC contracted 897 Civic Educators [240 women], 2,661 District Elections Officers (DEOs) and Deputy District Election Officers (DDEOs), 188,262 Polling Staff, and 111 Provincial Public Outreach Officers and Trainers [27 women].

Gender Unit: Within the Gender Unit, the IEC recruited a National Gender Advisor and Acting Gender Manager for the Gender Unit. In addition, a Provincial Gender Officer for Kabul and 64 Gender Coordinators (33 women) were recruited for all provinces [excluding Laghman and Nimruz].

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

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

Approved MoU: Memorandum of Understanding Between the IEC and ECC was signed on 22 September 2019.

Approved Regulations: [1] Regulation on Polling for the 2019 Presidential elections, [2] Regulation on Audit, Recount & Invalidation of votes of 2019 presidential election, [3] Regulation on Tallying of Results of Presidential Elections, and [4] Regulation on Implementing Decisions of ECC/Joint Committee/Special Court and Announcement of Final Results of Elections.

Approved Procedures: [1] Political Campaign (Election) Finance Internal Procedure, [2] Special Voting (for Military, Kuchi, Polling Staff and voters whose registration data was destroyed in 2018), [3] Polling and Counting Procedures, [4] Tally Procedures, [5] Packing Procedures, [6] Procedures on the Hiring of Polling Staff, [7] Provincial Intake Procedures, [8] Procedures for National Tally Centre Operations, [9] Audit and Recount Procedures, and [10] Digital Audit Verification Support System Procedure.

Approved Guidelines: [1] Guidelines for District Electoral Officers

Approved Plans: [1] FOP Operational Timeline and FOP Action Plan, and [2] Ballot Allocation Plan

Approved Strategies: [1] Gender Strategy

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During the quarter, a total of US\$ 2,056,768 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its annual targets after quarter three.

Output 1 performance indicator table

| ProDoc Indicators | Baseline | Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1.1: A comprehensive Strategic Plan is designed and adopted by the IEC, including an M&E plan. | No | Yes | No | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 1.2: Number of reviews/assessments of the comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan in line with the IEC's Strategic Plan. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 1.3.1: Percentage (%) of recruited Tashkeel staff in relation to the approved IEC organigram (disaggregated M/F). | T: 77% M: 94% F: 6% | T: 100% M: 80% F: 20% | T: 90% M: 80% F: 20% | T: 87% M: 93% F: 7% | On track |
| 1.3.2: Percentage of IEC Tashkeel staff who have received induction and technical training and are therefore able to effectively fulfil their functions (disaggregated F/M). | M: 42% F: 18% | M: 80% F: 80% | 60% | T: 35% M: 37% F: 14% | Off track Priority focus was on recruitment and training of temporary staff |
| 1.4: Availability of an Institutional Cooperation Framework. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Completed in 2018. |
| 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 | Fully compliant | On track |
| 1.6: Comprehensive asset management, logistics and transport procedures are updated, approved and implemented by the IEC. | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | On track |
| 1.7: Number (or %) of IEC operational plans and procedures that incorporate specific needs of women (Target: 100%) | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | On track |

| ProDoc Indicators | Baseline | Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|---|----------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1.8: Availability of a comprehensive and credible list of polling locations for elections approved and published by the IEC. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | On track |
| 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 nomination, (3) polling procedures and (4) results management are adopted and implemented by the IEC. (Score: 1-4) | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | On track |
| 1.11: Availability of approved budgeted operational plan for the next elections incorporating (1) voter registration, (2) candidate nomination, (3) polling operations, (4) counting operations, results management & announcement, (5) comprehensive electoral budget (Score: 1-5) | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | On track |
| 1.12: A functional elections security coordination mechanism in place (including IEC, ANDSF and RS Mission and other stakeholders) including availability of Security assessment of polling centre locations. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | On track |

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

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

ECC Recruitment

To assist the EMB in becoming fully self-sustaining and to help ensure a governance structure for the elections, UNESP provided advisory support to the recruitment push around the PECC Commissioners in the ECC. UNESP also provided technical assistance to the ECC in the development of Terms of Reference (ToR), and in the induction of staff and development and delivery of specialized training modules.

Throughout the reporting period, the ECC submitted a proposal to the President's Office to expand the Tashkeel staffing structure to 620 permanent staff at central and provincial levels, an increase of 210 staff [June 2019 structure had 410 Tashkeel staff]. While approved by the President's Office, the ECC Secretariat is yet to finalize the organizational structure, owing to technical and legal issues regarding a lack of proper regulation from recruitment of staff and disagreement among Commissioners over the Tashkeel and combination of staff in the organogram. In the interim, over the quarter, the ECC faced a slight decrease in filled Tashkeel positions, with three staff, one senior and two junior (all male), resigning from the ECC Central Office [1] and the Provincial ECC (PECC) offices of Bamyān [1] and Baghlan [1]. The table summarises permanent staffing in the period under review.

| # | Category | Quarter 2, 2019 | | | Quarter 3, 2019 | | |
|---|---|-----------------|--------|----------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| | | | No. | % | | No. | % |
| 1 | Filled Tashkeel positions | | 379 | 92.8 | | 376 | 91.7 |
| 2 | Vacant Tashkeel positions | | 31 | 7.6 | | 34 | 8.3 |
| 3 | Tashkeel positions in approved organogram | | 410 | | | 410 | |
| 4 | Gender breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions | Male | Female | % Female | Male | Female | % Female |
| | | 346 | 33 | 8.7 | 343 | 33 | 8.8 |
| 5 | Seniority breakdown of recruited Tashkeel positions | Senior | Other | % Senior | Senior | Other | % Senior |
| | | 73 | 293 | 19.9 | 72 | 304 | 19.1 |
| 6 | Gender breakdown of Senior positions [Grades 1-3] | Male | Female | % Female | Male | Female | % Female |
| | | 68 | 5 | 6.8 | 67 | 5 | 6.9 |
| 7 | Gender breakdown of other positions [Grades 4+] | Male | Female | % Female | Male | Female | % Female |
| | | 261 | 32 | 10.9 | 276 | 28 | 9.2 |

Table 3: ECC Tashkeel comparison from last quarter

To prepare for the election, the ECC undertook a large-scale recruitment of the following temporary staff:

PECC Commissioners: On 28 July, the Presidential office approved the final list of 102 (19 women) PECC Commissioners, with an additional 10 reserve PECC Commissioners.

Advisors to the Board of Commissioners: The ECC recruited 10 National Advisors for the BoC and deployed them in two committees [Technical and Legal] in the ECC Central Office.

ECC Call Centre Staff: The BoC introduced 20 staff (7 women) to the IPOD Department as temporary staff for the Call Centre in two shifts.

Deputy Spokespersons: The ECC recruited two temporary staff (1 woman) as Deputy Spokespersons to work in the ECC Spokesperson Office.

Temporary Intake Officers: The ECC, with technical inputs from the project, finalized a proposal for the recruitment of 5,500 Temporary Intake Officers to register and consolidate election day complaints at PCs. This was submitted to the President's Office on 24 August for review and approval, with the consolidated report verifying accurate numbers of staff present in PCs during election day pending at the end of the quarter.

Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) Data Entry Staff: On 11 September, ECC announced 43 vacancies for EDR Data Entry Staff. From 21 to 22 September; 28 of the 43 staff (2 women) underwent training, while recruitment for the remaining 15 staff is ongoing. At the end of the quarter, the ECC Deputy CEO for Administration/Finance reported all EDR Data Entry Staff were recruited and deployed to their duty stations.

District Coordinators: On 11 September, ECC announced 550 vacancies of District Coordinators. At the end of September, the ECC is compiling a provincial based report on staff present in their duty stations on election day, anticipated for completion by end of October 2019.

ECC Capacity Building

Implementation of ECC Training Plan: Following the completion of the Training Needs Assessments (TNA) undertaken by UNESP in early 2019, the ECC, with technical inputs from the project developed the ECC Training Plan. In the period under review, the project coordinated with the ECC and national implementing partner, Civil Service Institute (CSI), to rollout the training plan. Given the high demand on CSI by other government departments, CSI at this time can only accommodate ECC in training programmes with other institutions. In order to enable ECC to receive trainings as identified in their TNA, the project had initiated a procurement process to identify alternate vendors to provide selected training programmes to ECC in the coming weeks/months.

IT Department Networking Training: A two-day capacity building training was facilitated by UNESP for the 5 staff (all men) of the ECC IT Department on networking.

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

The following regulatory documents were developed with support from the project:

Approved: [1] Regulation on the Joint Committee and the Special Court ; [2] Procedure on Utilization of EDR System; [3] Procedure on the Recruitment of ECC Permanent Staff; and [4] 2019 Election Strategy and Action Plan.

Electoral Complaints

Moving through the electoral calendar, the project provided legal advice to the ECC on the registration and adjudication of complaints and objections through the electoral periods of voter registration, campaigning and election day. Per article 90(3) of Election Law, PECCs are responsible to finalize and publish the results of their investigation within 15 days after the registration of complaints and objections.

| Electoral Period | Complaints Received | Complaints Adjudicated | Percentage Adjudicated |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Voter Registration | 18 | 18 | 100 |
| Early Campaigning | 5 | 5 | 100 |
| Campaign Period | 124 | 79 | 63.7 |
| Election Day | 4,505 ⁴ | 0 | 0 |

Table 4: Breakdown of complaints and objections registered by the ECC as of 30 October 2019 by electoral period

Voter Registration: The ECC received 18 complaints regarding the VR Process from Kabul [13], Parwan [1], Ghazni [3], and Samangan [1]. With technical support from the project, 100% of these complaints were adjudicated.

Early Campaigning: The ECC, with technical support from the project adjudicated five complaints regarding early campaigning in Kabul [4] and Balkh [1] provinces. The provincial ECC offices were notified about the decisions, with no appeals registered against the decisions.

Campaign Period: At the end of the period, with advice from UNESP, the ECC continues to adjudicate the 124 complaints registered during the campaign period. Of the 79 complaints adjudicated to date, the ECC has received 6 appeals. Five from Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah contesting the decisions from PECC Kabul and 1 from an unknown person. Dr. Ashraf Ghani's Campaign has received 12 fines from PECC Kabul [7], Bamyan [1], Takhar [3] and Kandahar [1].

Election Day: The complaints and objections pertaining to election day fall under the following categories: [1] Malfunctioning of BVV machines, [2] late show up of IEC polling staff, [3] challenges in VR List, [4] interference of power brokers in the election process, [5] IEC staff supporting a candidate, [6] late opening of PCs, [7] challenges in voting for armed force, [8] absence of ECC staff in PCs, [9] challenges in voting for Kuchis, [10] media access restricted in some PCs, and [11] closure of some PCs due to security concerns. However, no breakdown of number of complaints within each category is currently available. Of note, at a provincial level, Kabul [1,578] and Herat [490] stand out as provinces with the highest complaint registration.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During the quarter, a total of US\$374,352 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

⁴ Complaints lodged - 3,846 in PECCs and 658 in ECC HQ.

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its annual targets after quarter three.

Outpandindicator table

| ProDoc Indicators | Baseline | Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 2.1: A comprehensive Strategic Plan is designed and adopted by the EEC, including organigram and TORs. | No | Yes | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 2.2: Availability of an Institutional Cooperation Framework for the ECC. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | On track. |
| 2.3.1: Percentage of recruited Tashkeel staff in relation to the approved ECC organigram (M/F). | T: 89% F: 19% M: 81% | T: 100% F: 20% M: 80% | 100% | T: 91.7% F: 8.8% M: 91.2% | On track |
| 2.3.2: Percentage of ECC Tashkeel staff who have received induction and technical training and are therefore able to effectively fulfil their functions (disaggregated F/M). | F: 50% M: 50% | F: 80% M: 80% | 30% | 0% | Off track. No new Tashkeel staff recruited. Training focus on temporary staff. |
| 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 adopted and published on time. | 14 | 10 | 2 | 4 | On track |
| 2.6: Number (or %) of ECC operational plans and procedures that integrate/programme specific needs of women. | 30% | 100% | 90% | 70% | On track |
| 2.7: EDR Case Management System in place. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Completed. |
| 2.8: Availability of budgeted operational plan for the adjudication of electoral complaints for the upcoming elections, approved by the ECC. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | On track. |
| 2.9: Percentage of electoral complaints, which are timely adjudicated by the ECC per the national electoral legal framework. | 85% | 100% | 100% | 100% | On track |

C. OUTPUT 3: Public outreach, along with support to civil society, encourages citizen engagement in the electoral process.

The project continued to provide technical and operational guidance to the ECC and IEC Information and Public Outreach Departments (IPOD) on strategic communications and public outreach. The project provided guidance on stakeholder engagement including increasing the footprint of social media in communicating on electoral processes. This support included planning and implementing electoral awareness campaigns, as well as proactive electoral stakeholder engagement, specifically with political stakeholders, media, civil society and observer groups.

IEC Strategic Communications and Outreach

Public Outreach Campaign Plan for Presidential election: Throughout July, UNESP supported IEC IPOD with the development of a plan for the Presidential election information campaign, including PSAs, billboards, posters, print material and a social media plan.

PSAs: In line with the Presidential election Public Outreach Plan, and in accordance with the electoral calendar, the project supported the development of key messages, procurement and production of the following TV and radio PSAs, each in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek:

PSA 1: Announcing the start of the Presidential elections campaign, date of election and importance of public participation. Broadcast 23 July – 6 August.

PSA 2: Providing information on the political campaign, conditions and duration for campaigning, and campaign financing. Broadcast 24 July-25 September.

PSA 3: Motivational message for youth. Broadcast 24 August – 25 September.

PSA 4: Motivational message for women. Broadcast 28 August – 25 September.

PSA 5: Promotional for IEC Call Centre accessed on 190 toll free number. Broadcast 31 August – 28 September.

PSA 6: Anti-fraud measures. Broadcast 12 -28 September.

PSA 7: National Day. Broadcast 25- 28 September.

PSA 8: Polling procedures. Broadcast 11 – 28 September.

PSA 9: Countdown to election broadcast from 16.- 28 September.

Three companies (Long Term Agreement holders) were initially contracted to broadcast messages on 53 national and local TV channels and 80 radio stations. As part of the project’s monitoring plan, the companies provided daily broadcast reports to UNESP and IEC. The spots were also shared and promoted through IEC social media and its website. In mid-September, due to radio stations becoming inactive or LTAs expiring; the PSAs were broadcast on 39 national and local TV channels and 64 radio stations.

Billboards: The project worked closely with IPOD in developing key messages and finalizing the design of billboards for the upcoming election. In late July, the IEC approved the following key messages:

- General motivational: “Your vote, your right, your destiny; a step for a better tomorrow”
- Encouraging youth participation: “Youth vote, youth will; changing your future is in your hands.”
- Encouraging women participation: “Women vote, women power: Your participation makes the difference.”



Image 4: IEC Billboard

In total, 727 billboards, were installed across all provinces. UNESP compiled a billboard monitoring report, comparing the IEC billboards distribution list with installation verification reports, which included GPS locations and photos, provided by the installation companies.

Print Materials: The IEC requested UNESP support in the procurement of print materials, inclusive of 400,000 factsheets [12 types], 2,000,000 leaflets, 2,000,000 sample ballots, 1,000,000 posters, and 400,000 brochures. The project also provided advice on the content and artwork of the materials prior to submission for printing. The print materials were successfully obtained and delivered to all provinces for civic education.



Image 5: Civic Education in Nangarhar province

Press Publications: With procurement support from UNESP, from 19 to 26 September, public outreach material was published in 11 printed media to maximize the dissemination of IEC message leading into election day.

Factsheets, Infographics and Flowchart: UNESP worked in collaboration with the IEC Graphic Designer to develop Dari and English factsheets on [1] the VR process and [2] BVV functions and logistic operations. A flowchart on the intake process for communications and public information purposes was prepared, along with a flowchart on the production and printing process of the Voter List (VL). Infographics capturing [1] results transmission, intake and data entry, and [2] figures and data on the 2019 Presidential elections (i.e. number of registered voters with gender breakdown, number of PCs and PSs, accreditation, etc) were prepared by the project and shared with the IEC for their consideration.

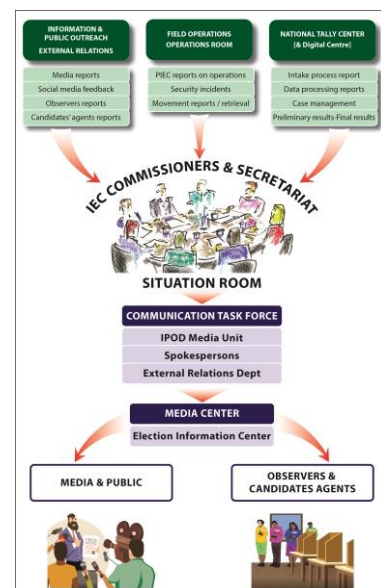


Image 6: Communication Flowchart

FAQs: UNESP developed and shared IEC FAQs with IEC IPOD. The FAQs covered a range of topics including legal mandates, IEC departments, stakeholder engagement, and gender. UNESP advised IPOD to include the FAQs in the training material kits for the PPOOs and Trainers for their use in the ToT of Civic Educators.

Bulletin: With technical guidance of the project, during the reporting period, the IEC produced three bulletins in Dari, Pashto and English, [1] IEC Bulletin 13, [2] IEC Bulletin 14, and [3] IEC Bulletin 15, while preparations for IEC Bulletin 16 was commenced. Bulletins cover electoral phases and events as they unfold and are regularly circulated with stakeholders and on IEC social media platforms. Additionally, on election day, two daily bulletins were developed by the project for IEC consideration.

Wall Painting / Graffiti: At the request of the IEC, UNESP provided advice and procurement support for 145 wall paintings with electoral messages on Kabul T-Walls. In mid-September, the IEC decided to drop this activity because of time restraints.

Grassroots Activities: Following the launch of the Grassroots Activities on 20 August; up until 27 September, a total of 48,126 face-to-face meetings were held with 1,244,716 participants (395,566 women and 849,150 men). The final figures are pending provincial reports from a number of provinces not yet having shared their data.

Photo Gallery Animation: UNESP Advisors provided technical advice on the production of a photo gallery animation of female Civic Educators conducting their activities in the field. The gallery,

uploaded on the [IEC website](#) and Facebook pages in [Dari](#) and [English](#), was an alternative method for awareness raising to citizens through social media.

Election Reporting and Communication Plan: UNESP presented to the IEC a reporting and communication plan for e-day and post-election to the IEC. The plan included a concept, a flowchart and communications schedule for e-day and post-election period, outlining a schedule for press conferences, media tours, key information to report and dissemination channels. UNESP developed key messages for election day and post-elections, addressing specific topics and issues to assist IEC in communicating strategically and through one voice. The plan's first level outlined the reporting process from the provincial offices, the collection of feedback and reports from observers, media and candidates' agents, retrieval operations and results entry and tabulation. The reporting stream aimed to ensure comprehensive, accurate and timely information was conveyed to the IEC Board and management. This, in turn, enabled correct responses to issues and deviations and controlled and proper communication to stakeholders and the public. UNESP also drafted talking points for the IEC 'readiness' press conference, designed to inform the public about preparations for polling day. On election day, UNESP advised the IEC Board throughout the day to structure and plan communications on ongoing operations and initial figures.

Press Conferences: During the reporting period, the project worked with the IEC media spokesperson on messaging for the following press conferences:

[1] On 1 July 2019: regarding the VR process and announced the extension of the VR operation in Ghazni province.

[2] On 20 July 2019: on the VR process and the VL. IEC provided an update on VR operations and announced the delay in the finalization of the VL due to the extension of the process in Ghazni province and the late retrieval of VR material due to security situation.

[3] On 30 August 2019: update to stakeholders on the movement of the electoral material, the security assessment and role and support of security forces, ongoing implementation of the national movement plan, and the importance of observers throughout the process.

IEC Pre Election Day Press Conference: On 27 September, the IEC held a press conference to reinforce that: [1] all measures have been taken by the IEC in accordance with the Electoral Law and that the elections would proceed, despite challenges, on 28 September, [2] the IEC encouraged all eligible Afghans to participate and use their right to vote, [3] the IEC raised the use of BVV technology and indicated the BVV devices will take i) pictures of voters ii) fingerprints iii) pictures of Tazkira. Additionally, [4] the IEC called upon A) candidates, to encourage their supporters to vote and take active part in the process, B) for observers and monitors organizations to play their role with impartiality, C) for IEC colleagues to maintain their impartiality and not be influenced by pressures. PEOs have an important role in preserving and ensuring neutrality of their staff. D) to security forces to maintain security of the process, voters, candidates, monitors and observers. E) to international community to continue its support.

Election Day Press Conferences: The IEC held five press conferences throughout the day: (1) the launch of polling [07:00], (2) to inform the public about the progress [12:30]; (3) to inform the public about the decision to extend polling time [14:55]; (4) to announce closing of the polling [17:15], and (5) to announce the closure of polling day.

Post-Election Day Press Conference: On 29 September, the IEC held a press conference to announce preliminary voter turnout and open/closed PCs. See [Output 4](#) for more information.

IEC Call Centre: Over the three-month period of 1 July to 30 September 2019, cumulative, the IEC Call Centre received 92,469 calls (77,400 men and 15,079 women callers), with a breakdown provided in the table below. In the fortnight leading up to the election, IEC requested the Call Centre contract be amended to modify the system from a tollfree service to a paid service. In addition, 16 new lines were added, cumulatively increasing the number to 30 activated lines.

| Description | July | August | September | Total |
|-------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Women | 3,170 | 4,225 | 7,684 | 15,079 |
| Men | 13,852 | 18,733 | 44,815 | 77,400 |
| Total | 17,022 | 22,958 | 52,499 | 92,479 |

Table 5: Distribution of calls to the IEC Call Centre from 1 July to 30 September 2019

Examples of questions directed to the IEC Call Centre

- Why are Provincial and District Council elections not being conducted on the same day of Presidential election?
- Are there any female candidates among the Presidential candidates?
- In total, how many eligible voters are registered?
- When will the voters list be published?
- What are the corrective measures for candidates campaigning before the beginning of the campaign?
- Could you please provide information on the terms and conditions of election campaigns?
- How much money can presidential candidates spend during their campaigns?
- Is it mandatory for women to take a photo with the BVV device on election day?
- How many polling centres are there in XXXX province?
- What are the requirements for selection of election observers?
- If people vote for candidates who withdrew from their candidacy, will it be invalid?
- How many votes should a Presidential candidate should receive to be elected?
- When will the results be announced?
- When will it be clear if a run-off election will be held?

Press Web and Social Media: The project has provided detailed support to the IEC since the beginning of 2019 to ensure a clear social media strategy for the 2019 elections. In February 2019, UNESP provided the IEC with a web and social media improvement plan to enhance IEC's web and social media activities. In May 2019, UNESP organized a one-day training for 18 IEC IPOD staff to upskill them in social media engagement. For the presidential election, UNESP supported IEC in drafting a social media plan and calendar, which was adopted and implemented by IEC. Based on the plan and content calendar, IEC IPOD developed the social media messages and posters to share during the pre-election, election and post-election period. UNESP provided on the job training to IEC IPOD on various technical aspects of social media and continuous monitoring, mentoring and analytical support to the IEC IPOD social media team. Based on UNESP's advice, the IEC expanded its social media team from two to six people, with UNESP drafting the ToRs for the IEC Social Media Officers. In the week leading prior to the election, UNESP drafted an additional social media plan for the election day period. The plan incorporated the overall concepts and structure for IEC social media activities and a means for analysis to review the IEC social media activity. At the end of September, the social media analysis indicated a sharp growth in the number of posts, reach and engagement, including:

IEC Facebook analysis of organic growth, September 2019

- Page views increased by 394% (29,975)
- Page likes increased by 369% (5,432)
- Post reach increased by 93% (265,863)
- Post engagement increased by 133% (147,078)
- Videos views increased by 2116% (84,934)
- Page followers increased by 383% (5,755)

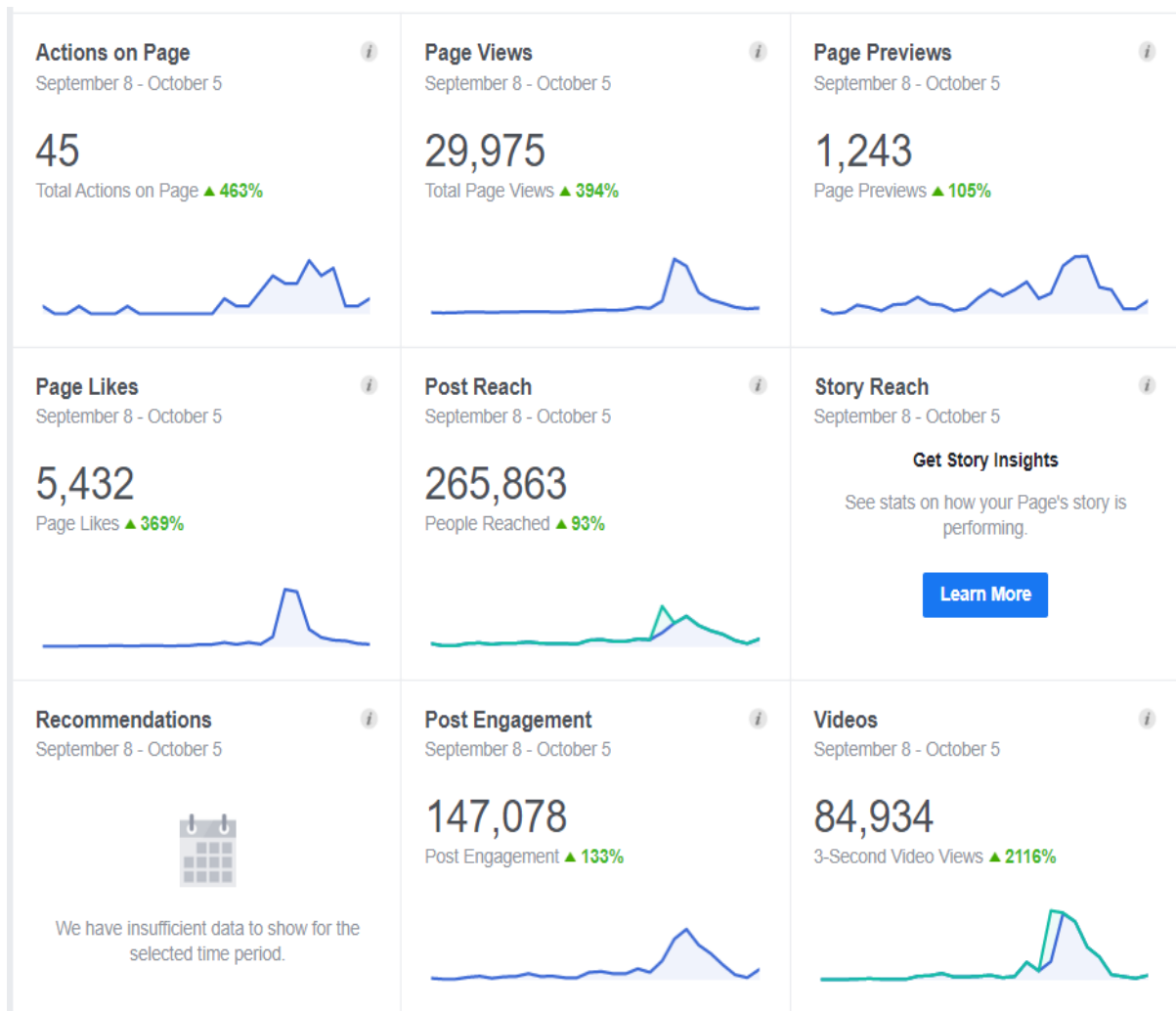


Image 7: IEC Facebook analysis September 2019

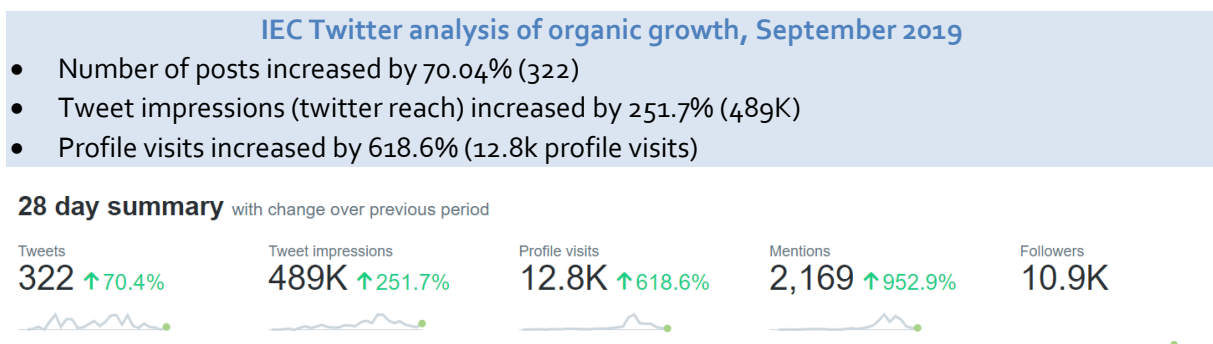


Image 8: IEC Twitter September 2019

Election Day Social Media Monitoring: On election day, UNESP monitored social media, identifying the main hashtags followed: #Afghanistan #Kabul #Kandahar #AfghanElections2019 #Election2019 #AfghanistanElections #AfghanistanIEC #ANDSF. Five (5) social media reports were shared within the project at 9.00 am, at 11.30 am, at 3.15 pm, at 7.00 pm, at 12.00 am (election day +1). The reports provided highlights and trends on Tweets concerning elections. Main points raised throughout the day, beside security incidents: [1] Issues with the voters list, [2] BVV issues, later during the day IEC staff not able to use devise, and [3] Low turnout. At the end of voting operations, some users tweeted congratulations to IEC for the work undertaken. UNESP Advisors did a selection of best Tweets on IEC work and submitted to IPOD for consideration and retweet.

End of Campaign Report: At the end of the quarter, UNESP commenced work on the final report for the IEC Public Outreach Campaign (Presidential Election). The report will include all the materials produced, all activities that were part of the campaign and an evaluation of the campaign and materials. It is anticipated to be completed by 20 October 2019.

IEC Media Commission

UNESP supports the Media Commission in performing its mandate of monitoring the reporting and fair and impartial broadcasting of the electoral campaigns and to address media violations that are in contradiction to the relevant objectives, policies and procedures, as established under Paragraph (1) of Article 27 of Election Law. UNESP provided technical support to the Media Commission throughout the quarter by advising on communication strategies and talking points on the following press conferences:

At the launch of the electoral campaign, the IEC Media Commission held a press conference to call 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 favor or against specific candidate(s). UNESP supported the Media Commission in drafting the talking points and the press release.

On 28 August, the Media Commission Chair spoke at a press conference requesting that the media cover candidate campaigns in an impartial manner, while candidates were also advised to use social media in their campaigns responsibly.

On 25 September, with talking point support from UNESP, the Media Commission held a press conference to announce the electoral silence period. The Media Commissioner also communicated the findings of its observation of the electoral campaign as follows: [1] 18 candidates campaign teams lacked a program-oriented strategy during electoral campaign and instead focused on criticizing and mutual accusations, [2] some mass media have violated professionalism, specialization and scientific principles both as violation of outreach principles, election law, procedures and regulation and conduct of public surveys that have confused the public, [3] the media role in ensuring women's participation in electoral debates were insufficient and unbalanced, [4] mass media should refrain from broadcasting any campaign messages of candidates with any media program or activity that has an electoral campaign component should be stopped during the silence period, [5] the presidential candidates should remove all their posters, banners and other campaign materials from the cities by the beginning of the silence period, and [6] it is the responsibility of mass media to encourage the public to fulfil their national duty and make the election process a national process by participating in the 28 September election process.

Throughout the reporting period, the Media Commission recruited 11 staff, including a Legal Officer and Media Monitors, to increase the capacity of the Media Commission to oversee the campaign coverage and intervene if necessary.

IEC Electoral Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan and Events Calendar: The project supported the External Relations Department (ERD) with the development and approval of the Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan and stakeholder engagement events calendar. The aim of the documents was to enhance public confidence in the limited period leading into elections by ensuring positive engagements with stakeholders. The plan included: [1] bi-weekly meetings with accredited observers, monitors, media and party representatives on the key electoral operational issues, fraud mitigation and peaceful conduct of the electoral process – the meetings should be also conducted in the provinces, [2] ERDs bi-weekly meeting with international partners and observers, [3] National and Provincial Election Forums, and [4] Civil Society Election Coordination Group meeting. The calendar was included in the overall plan of the D/CEO for strategic communication and partially implemented.

Open-Door Policy: UNESP supported the IEC in drafting their Open-Door Policy, to support transparency in process. Under the Policy, UNESP provided technical input into drafting the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Code of Conduct, Election Information Centre guidelines, and a Task Tracker. In addition, UNESP drafted an information sharing matrix in the post-electoral period. At the end of the period, the matrix is currently under review by IEC ERD. Based on the approved Open-Door policy, UNESP supported the IEC in setting up the Election Information Centre for electoral stakeholders in the IEC HQ.

Documentation for IEC Stakeholder Engagement: The IEC ERD, with UNESP support, developed documents for stakeholder information, including [1] Does and Don'ts for candidates, [2] a summary of the campaign procedure, [3] overview of the accreditation process, [4] results terminology, [5] security of the NTC, and [6] NTC flowchart. These documents, together with the public outreach materials were disseminated at various meetings including the project document signing ceremony, IEC meeting with EU Ambassadors, and the Civil Society Election Coordination Group (CECG) meeting. The documents have also been shared through active WhatsApp groups for international partners and observers as well as candidates and are available at the Election Information Centre.

WhatsApp Groups: To provide timely information and facilitate coordination and culture of information sharing, IEC created WhatsApp groups for [1] International partners and observers, [2] Candidates, and [3] National observers and monitors.

Meeting with Candidates' Representatives: On 23 July, the IEC held a meeting with candidates' representatives. UNESP provided technical inputs in the agenda and preparation for the meeting. The candidates expressed the following concerns [1] quality and accuracy of the voter list, notably de-duplication process, [2] abuse of state resources for election campaigning and how the IEC will address the issue, [3] functioning and credibility of the BVV, notably for results transmission, [4] measures to prevent 'ghost' PCs, [5] security of the candidates who do not benefit from government protection, [6] interference of government officials in the electoral process and independence of the IEC, and [7] candidates requirement for better coordination mechanism and space to oversee the electoral process. As a follow up to the meeting, the IEC External Relations with UNESP support, summarized the questions raised by candidates and distributed them to participants. On 21 August, the meeting with Candidate Representatives provided updates on the electoral operations, presentation on BVV devices and encourage accreditation for electoral observation. The IEC ERD, with technical inputs from UNESP, developed written responses to candidate questions, these were presented at the technical meeting.

Civil Society Election Coordination Group (CECG): Two CECG's were held during the reporting period. [1] On 5 August, the IEC made a presentation to the CECG on electoral developments and distributed packages of public outreach and external relations material to 15 civil society representatives (5 women). The CECG members shared concerns regarding the VL, PS list, observer accreditation and public outreach. The IEC ERD, with support from UNESP, presented the IEC Gender Unit structure, staffing, objectives, activities and plans for the 2019 Presidential election. [2] On 24 September, the CECG met again, with low participation of nine attendees (2 women), presumably due to the prevailing security situation. The smaller format, however, allowed a space for informed and constructive discussion about pre-electoral preparations and readiness. The ECC also participated in the event.

National Election Forum: Two National Election Forms were held during the reporting period. [1] On 6 August, the IEC hosted the National Election Forum to discuss ongoing campaign and preparations for the Presidential Election with 70 participants (5 women). With support from the project, the two EMBs developed presentations, information packages with summaries on the Campaign Regulation, accreditation process, observer does and don'ts and a material intake flow chart. The participants raised concerns regarding the voter list, delays with sharing the list of polling stations, abuse of state resources, the transparency of the electoral process and fraud mitigation. [2] On 17 September, approximately 70 people, including five women, attended a National Election Forum where there was

repeated criticism of the [1] VL, [2] PC/PS assessment and locations, [3] security, [4] recruitment and female staff, [5] lack of public outreach, notably to women, [6] BVV functionality on e-day and ballot papers without stickers, [7] that preparations were final in HQ but not in the field, [8] the likelihood that Kuchi voters will have moved by the time a second election round takes place, [9] suggestions of US and international interference in past elections, [10] extension of accreditation period to allow all observers, monitors, agents, media, etc. to become accredited, and [11] non-participation of CEO Nang at the meeting. A few participants suggested the elections be postponed, which the IEC strongly rejected.

Open Session on approval of Polling Centres and Polling Stations: On 18 August 2019, 25 people (3 women) attended the IEC-led open session on the finalization of the PC and PS list. At this session, the IEC presented the numbers of PC/PS and registered voters. The IEC also called upon the observers, monitors and other relevant entities to be accredited and reminded them of the fraud mitigation measures. The three decisions below are published on the IEC website: [1] requesting credible international and national organizations to test the system, [2] capturing biometrics of the polling staff, and [3] observers, monitors and other entities to accredit within the specified timelines.

BVV and electronic results transmission: The IEC facilitated a number of meetings between electoral stakeholders [e.g., key political parties, civil society, media directors and international NGOs] on the BVV devices and results transmission. Representatives from Dermalog⁵ sensitised electoral stakeholders on the biometric devices and technology for the upcoming elections and responded to questions related to secrecy of the vote, security of the data and functioning of the devices.

ECC Strategic Communication and Outreach

Communications and Public Outreach Campaign for VR and VL display ended on 18 July 2019: The ECC communications and public outreach campaign for VR and VL display ended on 18 July 2019. In total, the project assisted in the messaging, design and procurement of 190 billboards, two TV and Radio PSAs in three languages (Dari, Pashto and Uzbek) broadcasted through 12 TVs and 20 radio stations. In addition, a one-page FAQ about VR and VL display was produced and shared through social media.

Communications and Public Outreach activities for campaign period, election day and preliminary results: The ECC IPOD, with technical and advisory inputs from the project, developed a communications and public outreach plan for campaign period, election day and preliminary results. The communication and public outreach campaign launched on 15 August and ran until 28 September. The plan incorporates billboards, print materials, and PSAs to build public awareness and understanding of the ECC and complaints registration, investigation and adjudication processes.

PSAs: The ECC, with messaging, design and procurement support from UNESP, broadcast five PSAs for the campaign period and election day:

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 at PECC and was broadcast between 12 August to 12 September on 12 TV stations and 20 radio stations.

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 [3] Timely registration of complaints at PECC, and was broadcast between 1 to 30 September on 15 TV stations and 25 radio stations

PSA 3: Messaging targeted women, and included [1] the role of women in EDR and electoral justice, [2] For more info call ECC Call Centre 132, and [3] Timely registration of complaints at PECC, and was broadcast on 16 TV stations and 25 radio stations

⁵ Dermalog is a German biometric device provider and supplier of biometric devices used in the 2018 and 2019 Afghanistan elections.

PSA 4: A 2D video which covered electoral phases and timely registration of complaints at PECCs was uploaded on social media from 23 August to 30 September

PSA 5: A 2D video with a message from the ECC Chairperson on election day and beyond was aired on YouTube on 28 September

Billboards: The project provided technical and logistical support in the procurement and installation of 390 billboards (195 big and 195 small) in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek across the 34 provinces, providing information about when, how and where to register complaints and objections, types of violations and crimes, and encouraging citizens to be part of the electoral process by ensuring credible and transparent elections. The week of the election, ECC changed the skin of the billboards to reflect new messaging on the CEE Call Centre and complaint mechanism on election day. As part of the monitoring plan, the ECC has mobilized PECC staff to monitor and verify the installation of billboards across the provinces.

Press Publications: During the reporting period, the ECC placed six newspaper adverts in 10 prominent newspapers, themed around encouraging women and youth to participate in the electoral justice process, promoting the ECC Call Centre, election day messaging, election day crimes, and post-election day information.

Print Materials: The content and design for three posters, created with project support, on [1] electoral dispute resolution process, [2] electoral crime during the campaign period, and [3] electoral violations during the campaign period were printed and distributed to electoral stakeholders and potential voters across the provinces. Four leaflets covering [1] inclusive justice targeting women and people with disabilities, [2] complaints registration and adjudication process, [3] campaign period violations and [4] crimes during campaign period were distributed are through provincial offices. Two brochures, covering [1] information about ECC and its mandates, and [2] violations and punishments during various electoral phases, were created with technical input from the project and circulated nationwide, alongside one factsheet on the complaints period.

Promotional Material: The project supported the ECC in the procurement of 6,000 promotional ECC vests.

Bulletins: With technical guidance of the project, during the reporting period, the ECC produced five bulletins in Dari, Pashto and English, [1] ECC Bulletin 10, [2] ECC Bulletin 11, [3] ECC Bulletin 12, [4] ECC Bulletin 13, and [5] ECC Bulletin 14, while preparations for IEC Bulletin 15 were commenced. Bulletins cover electoral phases and events as they unfold and are regularly circulated with stakeholders and on ECC social media platforms.

Grassroot Activities: The project provided technical inputs for the production of a two-minute 2D animation video explaining the ECC complaints registration and adjudication process; this can be viewed on [Facebook](#) and was screened during stakeholder meetings and public outreach campaigns.

Press Conferences: The project worked with the ECC media spokesperson on the messaging for the following press conference during the reporting period:



Images: ECC Billboards [9] ECC Call Centre, and [10] Election Day

[1] On 21 July 2019, following the two-day ECC and IEC joint retreat, a joint press conference was conducted to enhance the coordination of electoral commissions. The electoral commissions released a press statement highlighting the coordination between two Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs): *"Electoral commissions, in close coordination with each other and other electoral stakeholders, will identify the challenges against this national process and will overcome them using lessons learned from previous elections and will provide the opportunity to people to participate in the Presidential elections."*

[2] On 25 July 2019, ECC organized a press conference to express the ECC's readiness to receive and investigate complaints registered during the campaign period in a professional, timely and credible manner. ECC reminded all candidates, political parties and public that conducting an early campaign is considered a violation of electoral law and they are obliged to follow the behavioural principles during the electoral campaign as stated in the Election Law.

[3] On 27 July 2019, the IEC and ECC issued a joint statement regarding the 60-day presidential elections campaign. Both EMB Commissioners urged stakeholders to organize campaigns in a peaceful manner and within the jurisdiction of law.

[4] 1 August 2019, the ECC announced electoral violations during campaign period, sharing that they had warned two presidential candidates against misusing public resources.

[5] On 8 September 2019, speaking after the inauguration of the ECC Call Centre, the Chairperson expressed ECC's commitment in ensuring electoral justice in the upcoming elections while the ECC CEO thanked the media for their cooperation, highlighted the role of the media in ensuring electoral justice, and encouraged the media to report abuses, violations and electoral crimes.

[6] On 22 September, at a joint press conference, the IEC and ECC informed all about the mutual, signed MoU and Regulations for the Joint Committee.

[7] On 26 September 2019, the ECC informed electoral stakeholders, particularly candidates, not to initiate any campaigns 48 hours before the polling day. It was reiterated that any types of campaigns during the silence period are considered as electoral violations and perpetrators subject to punishment per the election law.

Election Day Press Conferences: The ECC held two press conferences throughout the day: [1] to congratulate the people of Afghanistan, media and IEC for good arrangements and preparations on the E-day. The Chairperson informed about the availability of the ECC representatives in PCs all over the country who are ready to register complaints and objections and mentioned that there are committees established at ECC for monitoring the electoral process and reminded people to call ECC Call Centre 132 for information and queries (7:30 hours), and [2] acknowledging all stakeholders, particularly voters, for their participation in elections and electoral justice process. The media was briefed on the total number and types of complaints registered and told that complaints related to E-day and counting can still be registered within 48 hrs after E-day with evidence (18:00 hours).

Post-Election Day Press Conference: On 30 September 2019, at 15:00 hours, the ECC informed concerned stakeholders and voters that the complaints registration on voting process could be done within 48 hours. ECC also updated the media about the latest complaints registered.

ECC Call Centre: On 8 September 2019, the ECC inaugurated the ECC Call Centre, announcing the ECC Call Centre can be reached using the short code 123. The ECC Call Centre is operational from 8am to 6pm daily and is operated by six staff [3 staff from the ECC Legal Department and 3 staff from ECC IPOD], until Call Centre Operators are recruited. Since the ECC Call Centre was established in partnership with Roshan, initially, callers from other networks were finding it difficult to call the Centre. ECC has approached the Ministry of Telecommunication to address the issue. The project has supported the ECC in developing promotional material through social, print and electronic media. Since its inception, the ECC Call Centre 132 has received 950 calls [40 women]. The majority of

questions have related to the complaint’s registration process, particularly where and when to register complaints

Web and Social Media Engagement: With technical and advisory support from UNESP, ECC opened a Twitter account in line with the project-developed social media plan for the 2019 election. The project supported ECC in developing social media messages for pre-election, election and post-election periods. In July, the ECC launched their social media campaign via Twitter and Facebook. Based on the messages developed by UNESP, ECC launched additional digital posters [10], videos, messages, infographics, animations, etc. [see above] via their three social media platforms [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) in Dari, Pashto, Uzbek and English. A new template for the ECC website was designed with technical support from the project, enabling a mobile friendly website and incorporation of social media accounts embedded on the website. On 27 September, the ECC launched “change your profile picture campaign” with ECC messages on framework and Call Centre information. Hundreds of social media users responded by updating their profiles. Throughout the reporting period, UNESP provided continual on-the-job training support to ECC, IPOD and ERD staff in handling and managing social media accounts. As part of the social media monitoring plan, 60 media monitoring reports were produced alongside two social media analysis reports UNESP shared with ECC management with recommendations. At the end of September, the social media analysis indicated a sharp growth on the number of posts, reach and engagement, including:

- ECC Facebook analysis of organic growth, September 2019**
- Page views increased by 287% (3,336)
 - Page followers increased by 451% (2,030)
 - Post reach increased by 235% (55,281)
 - Post engagement increased by 327% (20,171)
 - Videos views increased by 79% (1,927)

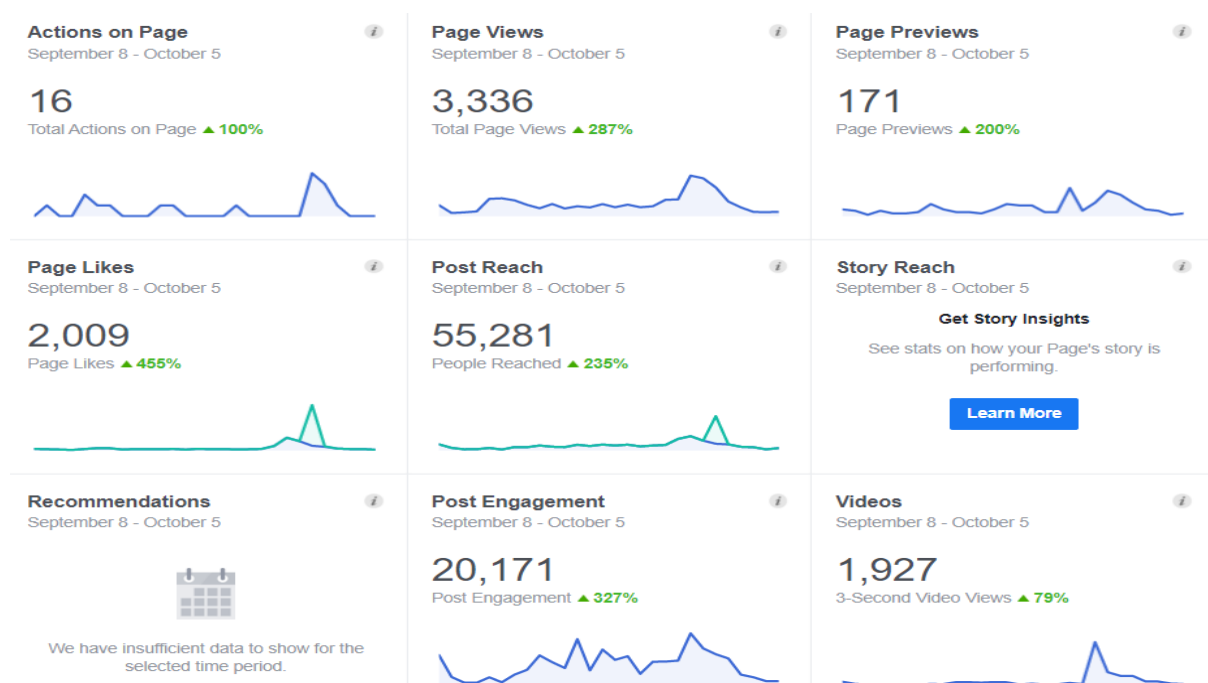


Image 11: ECC Facebook analysis September 2019

- ECC Twitter analysis of organic growth, September 2019**
- Tweet posts increased by 314.7%.
 - Tweet impressions (reach) increased by 298.1%, total impression 166K.
 - Profile visits increased by 265.7%.
 - Mentions/engagements increased by 2.911%

28 day summary with change over previous period



Image 12: ECC Facebook analysis September 2019

ECC Electoral Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement Plan: ECC ERD, in coordination with the IPOD and UNESP, prepared its Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the campaign period and post-election. The plan includes consultation and coordination meetings with electoral stakeholders, which were organized with logistical support from the project.

Consultation with Presidential candidates and their representatives: On 26 July, Presidential candidate Mohammad Hakim Torshan together with representatives of 12 other candidates met with ECC to sensitize candidates and their representatives on respecting the legal provisions related to electoral campaigning and timely registration with evidence of irregularities, violations and crimes at the provincial and central ECC. Key concerns raised by participants included: [1] concerns over possible misuse of government facilities and assets by the government and President Ghani's election team, [2] the current ceiling for the expenditure during the campaign is 441,783,555 (Four hundred forty one million, seven hundred eighty three thousand, five hundred fifty five) Afghani for the campaign expenditure for each presidential candidate in the Regulation on Candidates' Campaign Finance which should be reduced to make it equitable, [3] allegations that some EMB Commissioners are coordinating and working in favour of Ghani's team, [4] transparency of the recruitment process of Provincial Commissioners, and [5] the ECC's requirement to ensure electoral justice during the campaign period and election by adjudicating the complaints in a transparent manner.

Presentation to Presidential Campaign Managers: On 22 August, the ECC, with technical support from UNESP, explained the complaints registration process and shared the ECC PSAs with campaign managers of presidential candidates, and also urged them to play a constructive role in the electoral justice process.

Consultation with Electoral Stakeholders:

To sensitize stakeholders about the mandate of ECC, complaints registration and adjudication process and types of electoral violations and crimes, the ECC held a series of consultations, including: [1] On 12 September, the ECC met with 10 CSOs, [2] On 18 September, ECC met with 12 representatives (4 women) from 10 organizations representing people with disabilities, [3] On 19 September, ECC met with 18 representatives (8 women) from youth and women organizations, [4] On 23 September, the ECC met with 97



Image 13: Consultation Meeting with CSOs

representatives from political parties, civil society, religious scholars and government agencies, and [5] On 26 September, ECC met with 26 participants from Tolo News, Aryana, Samshad, Khurshid, Farda, BBC and Channel 3. ECC emphasized the important role of media in sensitizing the public about their electoral rights, including their right to file complaints and objections if they witness or experience any irregularities, violations or crimes. The ECC also stressed the role media can play in helping enhance the transparency and credibility of the electoral process.

Electoral Observation

Accreditation: During the reporting period, the project provided intensive support to the IEC on the development and functionality of the accreditation database. The barcode readers to facilitate the accreditation process were deployed to the provinces in August with UNESP logistical support. UNESP also supported the IEC in drafting technical instructions for troubleshooting accreditation and in writing guidelines to coordinate the presence of accredited stakeholders in electoral premises.

Training for Observers: On 18 September, the IEC with technical and logistical support from UNESP, trained accredited observers, monitors, media and candidates' agents (5 women) on roles, responsibilities and methodology of observation, accreditation process and polling and counting procedures. While over 85 entities were invited to the training, in total, 26 participants (5 women) attended. The ToT to the IEC staff on methodology of observation was delivered by UNEST on 14 September (14 IEC staff participated).

Accredited Observers, Monitors, Media and Candidates' Agents: On the evening of the 27 September, the night before election day, the accreditation database had accredited the following:

- 227 accredited entities [18 Candidates, 33 Political Parties, 38 Civil Society, 106 Media, and 32 International Observers and Special Guests]
- 170 entities that accredited individual observers: [11 Candidates, 15 Political Parties, 31 Civil Society, 91 Media [national & international], 7 International Observer Organizations, and 15 Special Guests]
- 136,648 accredited individuals [86,058 men (63%) and 50,590 women (37%)]
- 105,575 ID cards were issued and verified
- 3,574 accredited coordinators [2,299 cards issued across 1,814/2,594 Candidates, 234/558 Political Parties, and 251/422 Civil Society]
- 84,348 accredited Candidate Agents [54,669 males (65%) and 29,679 women (35%)], with 64,186 accreditation ID cards issued
- 29,371 Political Party Monitors: [17,128 men (58%) and 12,243 women (42%)], with 23,822 accreditation ID cards issued
- 20,881 Civil Society Observers: [12,513 men (60%) and 8,368 women (40%)], with 15,802 accreditation ID cards issued.
- 1,818 International and National Media: [1,553 men (85%) and 265 women (15%)], with 1,681 accreditation ID cards issued.
- 73 staff accredited by international observer organizations: [55 men and 18 women], including international & national staff, drivers, security and assistants/interpreters.
- 157 Special Guests: [140 men and 17 women], including international & national staff, drivers, security and assistants/interpreters.

It is important to note here that these numbers reflect the data uploaded in the accreditation database. Full accreditation includes also the issuance of the accreditation ID cards (i.e. the organization/candidate must visit PIEC/IEC to have the cards confirmed). The issuance of accreditation cards was also conducted manually due to problems in the database, the lack of time and the fact that many individuals (including internationals) were accrediting the last moment. As such, the final numbers of observers fully accredited with the ID card issued will be consolidated in the coming period.

Election Day Observation: While the observer reports were generally positive on the election day, a number of technical issues affecting the process have been raised in the observers reports: (1) Issues with voters' lists (mixed female/male; missing names on the voter list) – the most critical problem; (2) missing materials (BVV printer, paper validation stamps); (3) telecommunication disruptions; (4) Issues were also reported with BVV devices.

Post-electoral period – Observer & Monitor Management: UNESP is supporting the IEC in establishing the management of observers and monitors wishing to follow up the post-election processes, this includes: [1] background document preparation, [2] observer and monitors space establishment in the National Tally Center and other process centers (Digital Centre and Warehouse 3 – intake), as well as the establishment of the Election Information Centre, [3] design of the accreditation cards for the post-electoral period observation, [4] design of signs for all the Centre and information materials, [5] staff identification and briefing to manage the observers and monitors in the IEC HQ, and [6] briefing and guided tours' schedule for observers. First briefing for observers held on 30 September 2019 and the guided tours kicked-off with the representatives of candidates' the same day.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During the quarter, a total of US\$ 188,087 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its annual targets after quarter three.

Output 3 performance indicator table

| ProDoc Indicators | Baseline | Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 3.1.1. Percentage of people/eligible voters reached through IEC's public TV and Radio information campaigns (disaggregated F/M, region, vulnerable, etc.). | 79.7% ⁶ | 80% | TBC | 1,244,716 citizens F: 395,566 M:849,150 | On track |
| 3.1.2. Percentage of people who declare themselves (a) informed and (b) satisfied with IEC's and ECC's role in the electoral process (F/M, vulnerable/at-risk etc.). | IEC: 43.3% ⁷ | (a) 50% (b) 50% | (a) Not planned (b) Not planned | (a) Not planned (b) Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 3.2. Percentage of people who declare their intention to register for the next election cycle. | 67.87% ⁸ | 68% | (a) Not planned (b) Not planned | (a) Not planned (b) Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 3.4. Number of Afghan civil society organizations delivering common civic and voter education (disaggregated by geography vulnerable groups). | Dropped in May 2018. | Not planned | Not planned | Not planned | Not planned. |
| 3.5. Percentage of women (a) registered, (b) nominated (c) voted. | a. 34.7% b. 16.2% c. 37.4% | a. 40% b. TBD c. 40% | a. 40% b. TBD c. 40% | a. 34.5% b. 0% c. TBC ⁹ | On track |
| 3.5.1 Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Regulations, SOPs and TOR are in place to facilitate IEC stakeholder engagements | 0 | 2 Plans 2 Guidelines 2 Regulations | 2 Plans 2 Guidelines 2 Regulations | 2 plans 2 guidelines 2 regulations ¹⁰ | Completed. |

⁶ According to The Asia Foundation: A Survey of the Afghan People: In 2018, when respondents were asked whether they were aware of the upcoming election, a majority (79.7%) said yes. This is consistent with 2009 (81.9%), when the same question was asked regarding the presidential election. Television (43.9%); radio (25.1%); and friends, family, and neighbours (14.7%) are the main sources of information about the elections.

⁷ According A Survey of the Afghan People: In 2018, for the second consecutive year, Afghans expressed increased confidence in the IEC (43.3%, up from 38.1% in 2017 and a record low of 33.7% in 2016).

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

⁹ Pending final voter turnout count and validation.

¹⁰ Regulations: 1 – Regulation on accreditation updated and approved (Q2); 2 – Regulation on accreditation of special guests updated and approved (Q2), Plans: 1 – Information dissemination plan – approved (Q2); Stakeholder engagement plan drafted, partially implemented (Q3), and Guidelines: (1) Guideline on presence of observers in the electoral premises approved and disseminated; (2) Guideline on Election Information centre approved (Q3)

| ProDoc Indicators | Baseline | Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|--|----------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| with political parties, observers, monitors, media and international actors [new indicator] | | | | | |
| 3.6. Number of political parties, electoral contestants and civil society groups that participate in public consultation/stakeholder engagement events with IEC. | 1,641 | Not targeted in 2019 | Not planned | Not planned | Not planned. |

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

To produce a polling centre specific voter list, the IEC needs to conduct country wide VR followed by data entry of all individual records of those who register. The National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) report provides an estimates population of 32.1 million people with approximately 14.7 million estimated eligible voters.

Voter Registration Top-Up and Ghazni Voter Registration: As reported in the UNESP 2019 Second Quarterly Progress Report, the VRT and Ghazni VR process was launched on 8 June 2019 following the project’s technical inputs into the development of regulations, procedures and operational plans for the VR, training of VR staff, collaborative work with MoIA and NATO RS on the security assessments of the Voter Registration Centres (VRCs) and logistical support in the dispatch/retrieval of sensitive and non-sensitive materials. While the VRT closed on 29 June, following demonstrations in Ghazni, the VR process was extended for one week in the province, closing on 6 July.

Voter Registration Centres (VRCs): Of the 459 VRC for VRT, 428 were open and 31 remained closed due to security issues. In Ghazni, VR was held at 209 of the 252 VRCs, with 43 closed for security concerns. With logistical support from the project, VR materials were retrieved from the provinces and data processing of the VR books was undertaken at the IEC Headquarters (HQ) to develop Polling Centre specific Voter Lists.

Voter Registration Data Entry: Field Operations Department (FOD), with support from Logistics, developed the VR Intake and Reconciliation procedures. In accordance with the procedures VR Books from 34 provinces were received, registered and handed over to the IEC Data Centre, with the exception of 4 unused books which were lost in a Taliban attack in Badghis province and 2 used books, with details of registered people, which were lost due to a Taliban attack during materials retrieval in Kandahar province. The retrieved VR books from all provinces were scanned and processed throughout July, commencing on 8 July and completed by 20 July. The project then worked closely with IEC IT in the cleaning and corrections of the VL.

2019 Voter List: Following database cleaning and corrections, the 2019 Voter List stood at 9,665,745 (3,334,230 women; 6,331,534 men), an increase of 765,804 voters since 2018 WJ elections, of which 32 percent are women.

Polling Centre (PC) List: The week prior to the election and following security assessment, the IEC anticipated, based on MoIA recommendation, that 5,373 PCs and 29,586 PSs would be open of polling day, while 445 PCs may be closed due to insecurity.

Printing of Voter Lists: With technical support from the project, including ITC and logistical arrangements, the VLs for all provinces were printed and displayed on the IEC website at the URL <http://voter.iec.org.af>, where voters could look up their details and respective PC/PS.

Election Day Polling Centres: At the end of the reporting period, election day data from the provinces was still be retrieved and validated. On 3 October 2019, the IEC held a press conference announcing the following preliminary PC/PS and Voter Turnout data, which is subject to change.

| # | PROVINCE | PC OPEN | PS OPEN | PC CLOSE | PS CLOSE | TURNOUT |
|---|------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| 1 | BADAKHSHAN | 236 | 967 | 40 | 126 | 68038 |
| 2 | BAGDRIS | 39 | 165 | 37 | 170 | 9961 |
| 3 | BAGHLAN | 173 | 1023 | 43 | 272 | 187340 |
| 4 | BALKH | 156 | 980 | 126 | 487 | 74701 |
| 5 | BAMYAN | 219 | 647 | 1 | 2 | 84124 |

| # | PROVINCE | PC OPEN | PS OPEN | PC CLOSE | PS CLOSE | TURNOUT |
|----|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| 6 | DAYKUNDI | 252 | 658 | - | - | 117506 |
| 7 | FARAH | 50 | 226 | - | - | 22975 |
| 8 | FARYAB | 58 | 382 | 51 | 273 | 43464 |
| 9 | GHAZNI | 231 | 825 | 2 | 3 | 72705 |
| 10 | GHOR | 108 | 480 | 73 | 318 | 71603 |
| 11 | HELMAND | 97 | 937 | - | - | 115333 |
| 12 | HERAT | 253 | 1582 | 47 | 156 | 129993 |
| 13 | JAWJAN | 53 | 299 | 9 | 23 | 38009 |
| 14 | KABUL | 557 | 4762 | 1 | 15 | 459473 |
| 15 | KANDAHAR | 167 | 1567 | 7 | 17 | 193741 |
| 16 | KAPISA | 77 | 462 | 3 | 19 | 34435 |
| 17 | KHOST | 185 | 834 | 1 | 1 | 94485 |
| 18 | KUNAR | 110 | 586 | - | - | 67383 |
| 19 | KUNDUZ | 61 | 393 | 37 | 188 | 12881 |
| 20 | LAGMAN | 66 | 461 | 13 | 52 | 27537 |
| 21 | LOGAR | 33 | 279 | 1 | 31 | 22939 |
| 22 | NANGAHAR | 394 | 2529 | 1 | 5 | 255052 |
| 23 | NIMROZ | 50 | 284 | - | - | 12739 |
| 24 | NURISTAN | 29 | 169 | 25 | 117 | 23742 |
| 25 | PAKTIA | 159 | 983 | 35 | 211 | 161655 |
| 26 | PAKTIKA | 165 | 766 | 1 | 7 | 48852 |
| 27 | PANSHIR | 96 | 295 | - | - | 19205 |
| 28 | PARWAN | 153 | 703 | 1 | 1 | 42257 |
| 29 | SAMANGAN | 76 | 375 | 23 | 82 | 39255 |
| 30 | SAR E POL | 65 | 373 | 17 | 63 | 35509 |
| 31 | TAKHAR | 167 | 791 | 62 | 235 | 64055 |
| 32 | URUZGAN | 30 | 196 | 2 | 4 | 6005 |
| 33 | WARDAK | 83 | 392 | 23 | 124 | 20560 |
| 34 | ZABUL | 36 | 197 | 7 | 16 | 18378 |
| | Total | 4,684 | 26,568 | 689 | 3,018 | 2,695,890 |

Table 6: Preliminary data announced by IEC on 3 October 2019

Comparative Voter List versus Voter Turnout: At the end of the reporting period, the final numbers of voter turnout were pending, with a comparative assessment of provincial VL and turnout pending. While dependant on IEC numbers, it is anticipated this will be ready for the UNESP October Monthly Electoral Update.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During the quarter, a total of US\$2,022,953 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its annual targets after quarter three.

Output 4 performance indicator table

| ProDoc Indicators | Baseline | Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|--|----------|----------------|------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 4.1. Percentage of materials (items) for voter registration, per the IEC operational plan, procured on time. | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | On track |
| 4.2. A credible polling centre specific voter list for the upcoming elections is finalised by the IEC. | 66% | 100% | 100% | 100% | On track |
| 4.3.1. Number of gender sensitization training sessions. | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 sessions held at IEC HQ level | On track |
| 4.3.2. Number of gender sensitization training beneficiaries (security personnel, IEC personnel, etc.) | 6 | 124 | 62 | 611 ¹¹ | On track |

¹¹ In addition to training held at IEC HQ, Gender Awareness training together with Violence Against Women in Election (VAWE) training was distributed to all Provincial Gender Officers in the 34 provinces to be delivered to IEC staff (P.C Managers, DEOs, Chairpersons, Polling Staff, IEC Provincial Staff, and ECC Provincial Staff. Provincial level reports had not been received at the end of the reporting period, with numbers of both sessions and recipients likely to increase. This will be reported in the UNESP Annual Report.

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

Nil activities were planned under Output 5 for this quarter.

2018 Polling Staff Payments: Following clearance of payrolls for 98,400 polling staff; 33,119 have received their payment. In addition, 65,281 payments have been disbursed by UNDP, payees are yet to receive payments from the contracted vendors.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During the quarter, a total of US\$7,291,095 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its annual targets after quarter three.

Output 5 performance indicator table

| ProDoc Indicators | Baseline | Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|---|----------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 5.1. Percentage of Polling Centres/Polling Stations receiving electoral materials for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections. (Note: As required and requested by the IEC, delivered by the Project per the IEC operational plan.) | 91.78% | 100% | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.1.1. Percentage of procured equipment (US\$ Value), per the IEC operational plan. (Note: As required and requested by the IEC, delivered by the Project per the IEC operational plan.) | 100% | 100% | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.2 Percentage of media complaints adjudicated by the Media Committee in a timely manner. | 100% | 100% | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.2.1 The IEC Media Committee is in place, according to the Electoral Law. | Yes | Yes | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.3 Percentage of candidate nominations for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections vetted by the IEC (breakdown WJ/DC, F/M). | 100% | 100% | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.3.1. Candidate vetting (verification) procedures are in place for the WJ and DC elections as approved by the IEC. | Yes | Yes | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 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 | Yes | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.4 Percentage of Polling Centres and Polling Stations that open for polling on 20 October, per the IEC operational plan. | 94.84% | Not planned | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |

| ProDoc Indicators | Baseline | Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 5.4.1 Number of trainings delivered to the IEC and ECC temporary polling staff, on counting, polling and results processing procedures for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections. | 2,961 excluding Farah | TBD | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.4.2 Number of IEC and ECC temporary polling staff trained in counting, polling and results processing procedures for the WJ and DC elections (M/F) | T: 102,313 F: 30,464 M: 71,849 | TBD | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.5.1 Provisional polling results publicized on time (according to the electoral calendar) by the IEC. | Yes | Yes | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.5.1.1 Procedures for Results Management System and processes are in place, as approved by the IEC. | Yes | Yes | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.5.2 Final polling results publicized on time (according to the electoral calendar) by the IEC. | No | Yes | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 5.5.2.1. Data centre (infrastructure, software and training plan for data centre operators) is in place. | Yes | Yes | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |

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

Following an announcement by the IEC to conduct the Presidential election on 28 September 2019, the project document was revised to incorporate an output for the presidential elections, results framework and other accompanying annexes. The revised project document, which incorporates comments from the donors, was signed. In the period under review, the project provided technical and operational support to the IEC and ECC in preparing for the upcoming Presidential election.

Revised UNESP Project Document Signing Ceremony: On 1 August 2019, the IEC hosted the UNESP revised Project Document signing ceremony at the IEC Media Centre. The ceremony was showcased on the IEC Facebook, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) Facebook and Twitter pages, and shared on the UNDP Afghanistan Facebook page. The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), Mr. Yamamoto, reaffirmed the



Image 14: UN Officials, IEC and ECC Chairpersons sign the revised Project Document

international community's technical, financial, logistical, and advisory support for elections and emphasized the UN's full commitment to an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned electoral process.

Presidential Candidate Withdrawal: Of the 18 presidential candidates, four candidates ([1] Dr. Shida Mohammad Abdali, [2] Noor ul-Haq Ulumi, [3] Dr. Zalmay Rassol, and [4] Haji Ibrahim Mohammad Alokozay) formally withdrew from running, submitting their notification to the IEC. Given the printing of ballot papers had gone ahead, votes cast for the withdrawn candidates will be considered invalid per the legal provision.

Use of Biometric Voter Verification: In November 2018, shortly after the WJ Elections, UNESP undertook a review of the recent deployment of the BVV devices. In consultation with IEC, a detailed report was produced clearly outlining the benefits and notable shortcomings of the existing BVV devices functionality. A number of recommendations were proposed on improving the overall BVV software functionality. The recommendations were sub-divided into two groupings [1] improvements that could be done within the limited time available prior to the Presidential election, and [2] longer-term improvements that could be done after the end of the 2019 electoral cycle in preparation for the next round of elections in 4 to 5-years' time.

The supplier of the devices was contracted by IEC in July 2019²¹⁰⁹. The supplier indicated that they had insufficient time to implement all of the recommended improvements. Instead, the proposed improvements were prioritized. Based on this prioritization, the supplier committed to a subset of improvements that they would be able to do within the given timelines. Although only a subset of the proposed improvements was completed was to the BVV device software and their Central Server functionality, it is clear that many of the implemented recommendations proposed in the expert's report have yielded positive results.

In comparison to the WJ Elections, these improvements in the BVV devices and their respective central system software have provided numerous benefits:

- The textual information of each voter for a given province now exists in every BVV device. With the new software functionality, it is now possible for BVV operators to direct voters turning up at the wrong PC or PS to their correct PC/PS.
- Each voter’s biometric data and photos is now linked back to their respective record on the central voters’ database at IEC HQ. This was not possible under the WJ deployment. Such functionality can further aid the process of maintaining the central voters roll database.
- Furthermore, the newly introduced functionality makes it possible to utilise these BVV devices to – at every PS – capture a photo of the completed results form, as well as, the relevant textual data on that form immediately after the counting process has been completed. This capability is tied into the Digital Audit Verification (DAVE) Support System. DAVE is a software solution developed in-house by UNESP and IEC that supports the Results Audit process. Since a photo of the Results Form is taken immediately after the closing of the polls and before it leaves the PS, any hardcopy Results Forms that at a later stage arrive at the National Tally Centre (NTC) that do not match the information previously transmitted will be flagged for review. This is a strong detections and mitigation measure against any tampering of Results Forms, from the time they leave the PS until the moment they arrive at the NTC for final processing.

Following the IECs 20 May 2019 announcement that BVV will be used on election day, UNESP supported the IEC in the development of BVV training for Polling Staff and the logistical arrangement for dispatch/retrieval of BVV training machines and BVV election day devices. In total, 19,772 BVV devices, 20,200 printers and 17,000 power banks were tested to confirm their functioning status and software updates. Those BVV machine with faults, such as failure to charge or not accepting the key for configuration, were kept separately. The BVV device captured the voter’s sticker number, two fingerprints, photo and picture of the national identity card (Tazkira). On election day, reports from the field indicated some challenges in the operations of the BVV devices, including malfunctioning devices, devices which would not charge and some Biometric Operators not able to properly operate the devices.

Development of relevant legal frameworks: Following the decision to conduct President elections, the project provided technical inputs to the amendment of the regulatory frameworks for accreditation, political campaign financing, political campaigns, accreditation, recruitment of temporary staff, polling, tallying, counting and adjudication of complaints [reported under [IEC Regulations, Guidelines, Procedures, Codes of Conduct, and Plans](#) and [ECC Regulations, Guidelines, Procedures, Codes of Conduct, and Plans](#)].

Procurement and Logistics: The mammoth task of holding elections saw the project provide extensive support in the procurement of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials, including 10,687,570 ballot papers (printed in Dubai, with UNESP staff observing the process), training materials, public outreach materials, and so on. As a cost reduction mechanism, the project supported the IEC to collect and clean existing non-sensitive materials, including 5,988 ballot boxes and 19,269 blue storage boxes. The project supported the procurement and dispatch/retrieval of PC/PS kits containing indelible ink and invisible ink for operations; blue boxes; voting screens; ballot papers and envelopes and vests for ECC staff for use during the Presidential elections. The logistical arrangements

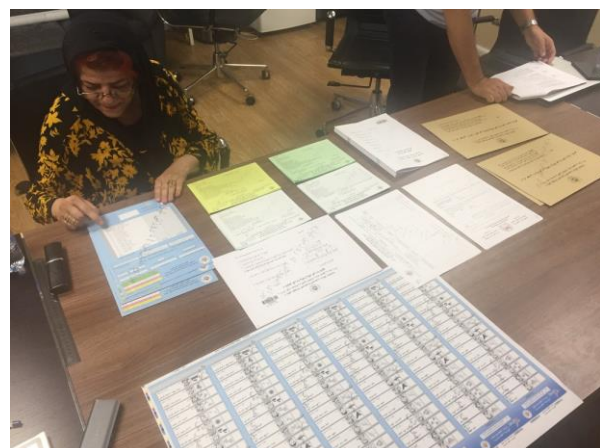


Image 15: Ballot proofreading and final approval

supported by the project included providing advisory support to the IEC and PIECs on the cleaning and preparations of warehouses to securely store materials, in particular a IEC HQ were packing operations required high level coordination to ensure packing and movements of all relevant materials to the provinces, and then onto districts and PCs as required and in accordance with the National Movement Plan (NMP) and Provincial Movement Plans (PMPs). The project also aided the IEC in procuring procurement vehicle transportation in Kabul for Data Centre and Call Centre staff given their hours of operation and security concerns. Additionally, 484 small vehicles were provided in all 34 Provincial Offices for IPOD staff (Civic Educators) and 1,704 for FOD staff (DEOs and Monitoring Teams) to support the activities in preparation and implementation of the elections in all 34 provinces.



Image 16: Printed ballots

Quality control of electoral material: The project provided operational and logistical support for the field visit by staff from the Copenhagen Procurement Services Unit (PSU) [to discuss their support for election-related materials, under process of delivery]. Based on observations, and assessments conducted, IEC and PSU were satisfied with the quality of materials¹² delivered for the elections.

National Movement Plan (NMP): The NMP for delivery of election materials to provinces was finalized with technical support from the project and shared with provincial offices and security forces for coordination. The election materials were delivered to the PIECs in 23 land and 10 air movements (excluding Kabul).

Provincial Movement Plans: The Provincial Movement Plans (PMP) for delivery of election materials to PCs, developed in the provinces in consultation with the project and the Operational Coordination Centre (OCC/P) were submitted to the FOD and Logistics Department for coordination with ANDSF, outlining 89 air and 357 land movements.

Retrieval and Intake: As of 30 September, there were 341 retrieval movements completed, approximately 76 percent completed from 4,189 PCs at the end of the quarter.

Election Day Support System (EDSS): The EDSS, updated with technical inputs from the project, and incorporating lessons from the 2018 election was handed over to the IEC. Cisco phones, UPS and firewalls were moved according to the NMP, together with sensitive election materials. In addition, Secure Digital [SD] card duplication was completed and updated BVV software incorporating features requested by the stakeholders was received and installed to the BVV devices prior to deployment.

Finance: During the third quarter, the UNESP signed an agreement with the Italian Embassy for 3 million Euros for Presidential election activities. The Donor Agreements for US\$20 million USAID funding and US\$5.5 million DfID were also signed and funds received. In the last week of September, the funds request for 7 million Euros was submitted to the Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany.

¹² Materials assessed by IEC and PSU: polling station kits/polling centre kits, blue boxes, voting screens, polling station and polling centre printed materials, UV markers and torches.

United Nations Press Statement: On 25 September 2019, the United Nations in Afghanistan released a press statement urging all stakeholder to play their part in creating conditions for citizens to vote in safety and for the credibility of the electoral process to be safeguarded. Mr Tadamichi Yamamoto, the SRSG for Afghanistan stated, *"Free from fear, intimidation and threats of violence, voters must be given every opportunity to exercise their constitutional right to cast a ballot and elect political representatives in a peaceful manner."*

Media complaints: The Media Committee adjudicated 55 media complaints registered on various issues that include misuse of social media; release of false and defamatory information; use of government resources; desecration; not providing equal opportunities for candidates and presence of pictures of candidates near polling centres on the election day. The report from the Media Committee will be released in the next quarter.

IEC Training

The breadth of training required to upskill temporary election staff necessitated detailed project technical, logistical and finance support across content and material development, procurement and printing, deployment to the provinces, and rollout of nation-wide Training of Trainer (ToT) and cascade training plans.

Training of Trainers (ToT) for Provincial Public Outreach Officers (PPOOs) and Trainers: Supported by UNESP, IEC Information and Public Outreach Department (IPOD) conducted a three-day training from 29 to 31 July for 111 PPOOs and Trainers [27 women]. The training aimed to develop the capacity of the attendees in preparation for the Presidential election by familiarising them with the newly approved procedures, regulations and decision. The Officers and Trainers were then responsible for the roll out of a cascade training for Civic Educators at the provincial level in order to launch the grassroots public awareness campaign for the 2019 election.

Cascade Training for Civic Educators: From 6 to 8 August 2019 [30 provinces] and 7 to 9 August [4 provinces], the 111 Trainers and PPOOs [27 women] conducted the three-day cascade training for 897 Civic Educators [240 women]. Training covered public outreach activities for presidential election, election phases, identification of public awareness materials, importance of public outreach in elections, simulation, presentation skills, citizen's rights, reporting formats, and report writing.

ToT Training: From 21 to 25 August, the IEC conducted a ToT for 188 Trainers (54 women). The training covered roles and responsibilities of polling staff, election materials, biometric devices, Polling and Counting Procedures, and packing of sensitive and non-sensitive election materials. The Trainers then took the training to the provinces to train DEOs

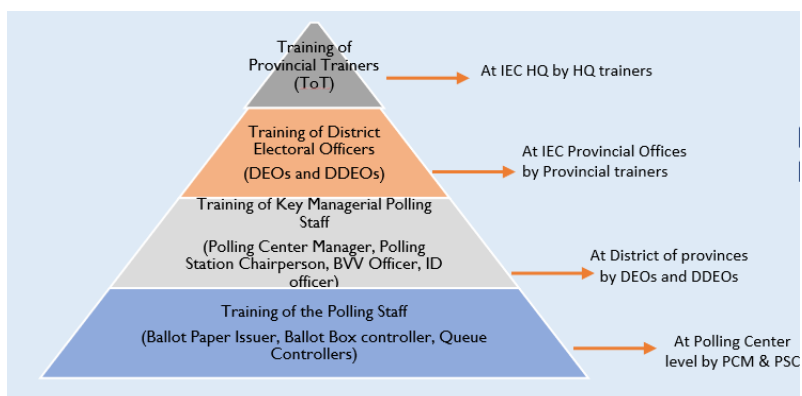


Image 17: Cascade Training Plan and Methodology

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.

Cascade Training for DEOs and DDEOs: From 28 August to 1 September, the project supported the rollout of cascade training for 4,58 [12 women] DEOs and 2,162 [297 women] DDEOs across the IEC Provincial Offices. Despite the training facing some challenges, including an initial delay in training commencement in Badghis, owing to material movement delays, and Kunduz, where security restricted movement of participants to the training location, and the temporary cessation of the training in Baghlan due to armed clashes; it was successful concluded in all 34 provinces. The rollout was monitored by 12 IEC Trainers and UNESP National Electoral Advisors.

Cascade Training for Key Polling Staff: From 2 to 8 September, 92,377 Key Polling Staff [30,191 women] including 5,245 PC Managers [79 women], 29,177 PS Chairpersons [10,022 women], 28,770 ID Officers [10,000 women], and 29,185 Biometric Operators [10,090 women] were trained across the country, in accordance with the Cascade Training Plan and Methodology.

Cascade Training for Polling Staff: Between 26 and 27 September, 89,593 [29,163 women] Polling Staff, including 28,695 [9,921 women] Ballot Paper Issuers, 28,368 [9,724 women] Ballot Box Controllers, 5,072 [114 women] PC Queue Controllers, and 27,458 [9,404 women] PS Queue Controllers completed their training across 34 provinces in accordance with the Cascade Training Plan and Methodology. The polling staff used the skills on polling day, effectiveness will be known in the next quarter after analysis of the results sheets.

Monitoring and Observation of Polling and Counting Training: On 26 September, 43 [7 women] IEC Tashkeel and temporary staff were trained on monitoring and observation of polling and counting procedures. They will use the skills in monitoring and observing polling and counting processes.

Simulation on Polling and Counting: To build capacity within the IEC by increasing understanding of the polling, counting and packing procedures, and to identify areas for system improvement and decision making regarding the use of Biometric Voter Verification (BVV) devices; with input from UNESP, the IEC Training Department conducted two simulations on [1] polling steps, and [2] counting of votes and packing of Polling Station (PS) materials after the poll.

- **Polling steps:** attended by 19 participants (12 men and 7 women) from the Training Department, International Commissioners and select UNESP Advisors.
- **Counting of votes and packing of PS material after the poll:** attended by 28 participants (15 men and 13 women) from the IEC and International Commissioners, UNESP Advisors, and Training Department staff.

The simulation revealed that the sequence of steps required alteration to be operationally effective, with the Commission tasked with taking decisions regarding the BVV devices, including who shall be responsible for inking the voter's finger, mitigation measures in the instance of BVV malfunction, and the use of physical voter list.

Training for financial representative of Presidential Candidates: The project provided technical support in the training of the 18 Presidential Candidate financial representatives, one per candidate. The training focused on the provision of financial affairs information and the use of bank accounts.

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 [all men] from 31 August to 2 September on election operations, status of electoral activities and their roles and responsibilities as PEOs.

Training on Packing: On 25 August, the IEC Training Department, with technical support from the project trained 25 participants (all men) from the Logistics and other departments on roles and

responsibilities of a packing team, material that needs to be packed and the approved Packing Procedures. The trained staff used the knowledge from the training in packing electoral materials, consequently the training materials (including BVV training materials and BVV devices) were successfully dispatched to the provinces.

Joint Retreat for IEC and ECC Commissioners: On September 8, a retreat was held with Commissioners to discuss challenges and plans for pre-election, election day and post-election activities. The UNESP International Commissioners shared their experiences to support IEC and ECC Commissioners' learning. At the request of the ECC Commissioners, the IEC IT Director sensitised ECC Commissioners on the BVV process to improve their knowledge on the BVV process.

IT Officers Training: A two-day training for Provincial IT Officers was conducted from 15 to 16 September in Kabul and attended by IT Officers from 33 provinces (all men). The training focused on the Election Day Support System (EDSS) system, biometric device usage, new network devices, CISCO devices configuration and voice over IP phones installation and configuration.

Training Videos: IEC, with technical and financial support of UNESP, finalized the production of training videos on Polling and Counting. The purpose of preparing the videos was three-fold, to [1] Give more insight on Polling and Counting Procedures to Polling Staff, enabling them to perform their duties on E-day more effectively and efficiently, [2] Enable Polling Staff, who for any reason, could not attend the training organized by IEC, to understand their respective roles and responsibilities and perform their jobs according to the procedures, and [3] Provide opportunity to the electoral stakeholders to better understand the Polling and Counting process. Two videos were prepared, covering [1] [Video 1](#): Receiving materials, setting up the polling station and voting steps, and [2] [Video 2](#): Counting, result preparation, packing of polling material. The videos are prepared in three languages i.e. Dari, Pashto and Uzbek and have been distributed via the IECs website and social media.

IEC staff briefing on E-day observation and monitoring: A half day briefing for 43 (34 men and 9 women) IEC Tashkeel and temporary staff on E-day monitoring and observation was conducted by IEC Training Department. The staff were briefed about their role on E-day, polling and counting procedures and do's and don'ts of observation. All 43 staff observed the election process at Polling Stations on 28 September.

ECC Training

Prevention of Violence Against Women Training: From 21 to 24 July, 152 ECC staff, including 30 women, participated in training facilitated by Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and supported through technical advice of UNESP. Training focused on the prevalence and kinds of violence perpetrated against women and the implementation of strategies and priorities to support the prevention of violence against women.

PECC Commissioners Induction Training: From 2 to 3 August, the 112 newly recruited PECC Commissioners (19 women) completed their induction training with the technical and financial support of the project. The Commissioners, who took oath on the



Image 18: PECC Commissioners undertaking their oath of office

first day, were trained on the regulations and procedures, complaints registration and adjudication, communications and public outreach, and gender.

EDR Training for Legal Officers: From 7 to 8 September, the ECC with technical and operational support from UNESP trained 34 PECC Legal Officers (all men). Participants were trained on guidelines on registration, statistics, analysis of electoral complaints, and electronic EDR system with practical training.

EDR Training for PECC Commissioners: From 21 to 22 September, the ECC with support from UNESP, trained 98 PECC Commissioners (18 women) on EDR, complaints adjudication, polling and counting and BVV device use on election day.

EDR Training for Data Entry Clerks: From 21 to 22 September, 28 ECC Data Entry Clerks (3 women) were trained on the use of the EDR application in the field.

Electoral Security

Rehearsal of Concepts (RoC): Between 23 to 25 July, a drill exercise was held and included a presentation on electoral security for the IEC Field Operations Security Cell. Key ANDSF operational requirements in alignment with the electoral calendar included:

Before Election Day:

- Participation in Election Operations Centre
- Operational planning for Military Voting
- Coordination of campaign rallies
- Security coordination meetings and support to the NMP and PMPs
- Definition and support to "Rules of engagement between IEC/ANDSF personnel"
- Necessary ANDSF planning and preparations in case of run-off

Election Day:

- Adherence to the Security Concept of Operations and reinforcement of security in HQs and provincial offices of the IEC and ECC
- Liaison Officers participation in the Joint Operations Centre / Security Cell
- Flexibility in case polling time is extended
- Strict adherence to IEC/ANDSF rules of engagement by security personnel

After Election Day:

- Support to any investigations needed to be undertaken on malpractices
- Keep high level of security to institutions (IEC/ECC) until closure of all operations - recounts, audits included.

Security Coordination Meetings: Throughout the reporting period, weekly security coordination meetings were held at MoIA 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 9,884 female searchers, NMP and PMPs, and finalizing the Security Concept of Operations which was unveiled on 24 July by the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) and the NATO RS.

PC Security Assessments: Security assessments of PC/PS in provinces were completed, with technical support of the project and detailed involvement from NATO RS.

Election Security Incidents: According to the preliminary IEC Election Day Security Report, overall election day security situation was good with provinces reporting a total of 65 election day related incidents, including 39 armed conflicts, 4 mine explosions, and 8 rocket attacks. The report cites: 0 death casualties of IEC Staff, 11 injured staff of IEC, 28 death casualties of ANSF, 2 death casualties of civilians, and 64 injured civilians.

The aforementioned figures are preliminary and under verification.

EXPENSES FOR THE QUARTER

During the quarter, a total of US\$5,826,593 was spent for this output, please see [Annex 2](#).

Below is a snapshot of where UNESP is in relation to its annual targets after quarter three.

Output 6 performance indicator table

| ProDoc Indicators | Baseline | Annual Targets | Q3 Planned | Q3 Actual | Comments |
|---|----------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6.1. Percentage of candidate nominations for the Presidential elections vetted by the IEC (disaggregated F/M). | 0% | 100% | Not planned | Not planned | On track |
| 6.2 Percentage of Polling Centres/Polling Stations receiving electoral materials for election day. | 0% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 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 | 133,909 | T: 184,737 M: 125,056 F: 59,681 | On track |
| 6.2.2 Percentage of Polling Centres/Polling Stations that open for polling on election day, per the IEC operational plan. | 0 | 100% | 100% | 87.18 ¹³ | On track |
| 6.2.3 Percentage of media complaints adjudicated by the Media Committee in a timely manner, according to the adjudication schedule. | 0% | 100% | 50% | 100% | Completed. |
| 6.2.4 Number of people accredited for electoral observation (disaggregated domestic observer/political party monitor/ media/ candidate's agents; F/M). | 0 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 140,000 | Completed |
| 6.3.1 Provisional polling results publicized on time, according to the electoral calendar by the IEC. | No | Yes | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 6.3.2 Final polling results publicized on time, according to the electoral calendar by the IEC. | No | Yes | Not planned | Not planned | Not applicable for this Quarter. |
| 6.3.3 Data Centre with infrastructure, software and training plan for Data Centre Operators is in place. | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Completed |
| 6.4 Percentage of electoral complaints, which are timely adjudicated by the ECC per the national electoral legal framework. | 0 | 100% | 100% | 100% | On track |

¹³ Pending IEC confirmation at time of report

III. GENDER-SPECIFIC RESULTS

Gender Inclusive Recruitment: The project continued to provide recommendations on human resources intended to attract women to apply to work at the EMBs and retain women already employed. 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. While there was no overall change in the number of women employed in Tashkeel positions in the ECC; the IEC saw an increase of 8 women, bringing the total number of women employed in Tashkeel positions to 28, an increase from 5.6 percent to 7 percent overall.

Provincial Gender Officers: Throughout the reporting period, the IEC recruited a Provincial Gender Officer (PGO) for all provinces to support gender focused work in the field. On 31 August 2019, the IEC Gender Unit, with support from UNESP, trained 30 PGOs (all women) [excluding Badghis, Paktika, Farah and Nimruz who could not attend for security reasons]. The PGOs, who were trained on the electoral cycle, the electoral cycle with gender intervention, concept of gender, difference between sex and gender, gender terminology, violence against women in election [VAWE], public outreach, coordination with stakeholders expressed satisfaction with the training and stated they will use the knowledge in gender mainstreaming in the electoral cycle.

Gender Coordinators: UNESP supported the Gender Unit to draft an official request to be submitted to the IEC CEO for the recruitment of 68 Gender Coordinators (34 women). The rationale for their employment was to address women’s concerns as identified in the 2018 Wolesi Jirga elections when the low turnout of women voters was reportedly due to [1] insecurity, [2] lack of women’s knowledge about their political rights, elections in general and the electoral process, and [3] fear of BVVs and a lack of trust in the system regarding confidentiality and data protection. By the end of the quarter, all 68 Gender Coordinators (34 men and 34 women) had been recruited.

IEC Trainers: The heavy focus on ToTs, cascade training programs and public outreach during quarter three, saw the UNESP undertake a review of the gender breakdown of Trainers at IEC HQ to ensure suitability of gender division. Overall, 59 percent of Trainers were women, as seen in the table below:

| Trainers at HQ | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Women | Men | Total | % women |
| Permanent | 2 | 1 | 3 | 66 |
| Temporary | 7 | 5 | 12 | 58 |
| Training Assistants | 1 | 1 | 2 | 50 |
| Total | 10 | 7 | 17 | 59 |

Table 7: Gender disaggregated data on number of Trainers in IEC HQ.

Gender Proofing of Regulatory Documents: The UNESP Gender Advisor was engaged in the drafting and review of all regulations and procedures adopted by both EMBs, ensuring a gender inclusive perspective is incorporated in 100 percent of IEC regulatory documents, and 70 percent of ECC regulatory documents.

Gender Proofing of Presentations: UNESP was heavily involved in increasing gender parity through the active drafting and contribution to a range of PowerPoint presentations for use at stakeholder meetings, presentations on Gender Awareness for the IEC Provincial Public Outreach Officers, Public Outreach Trainers, Civic Educators, Provincial Trainers, Provincial Electoral Officers and Provincial ECC Commissioners. In addition, UNESP supported the Gender Unit in drafting talking points for the IEC

Chairperson and attending various meetings (e.g. MoWA) and workshops (e.g. “Women’s participation in 2019 Presidential Elections” organized by the European Centre for Election and MoWA) to discuss awareness raising campaigns and increasing women’s participation in the upcoming elections.

Gender Coordination Meetings: Throughout the reporting period, gender coordination meetings were conducted with technical support from the project, across all provinces with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) (Women and Women Elites) and national institutions on promoting women’s participation in the Presidential election. On 23 September, the IEC Gender Unit held their final coordination meeting prior to the election in Kabul, with 22 (20 women) out of 50 Gender Officers of Government Ministries, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance and two representatives from IFES (1 woman).



Image 19: Gender and Election Coordination Meeting, Herat

Common themes that have risen from these consultations include:

Individual challenges: lack of required skills, illiteracy, lack of awareness of civil and political rights, lack of self-confidence, lack of financial independence, monopolized political parties, administrative corruption.

Social and cultural challenges: traditional issues (patriarchal context), threats, electoral violence, family voting, character assassination of female candidates on social media.

General challenges: insecurity, lack of awareness, women’s lack of trust in the transparency of electoral process, in the EMBs and in nominated candidates, polling, lack of enough number of women to work as Polling and VR staff, lack of impartiality by polling staff, interference of warlords in the electoral process, too many observers present in the PS, lack of support by religious leaders in awareness raising and encouraging women’s participation in the electoral process.

In response, UNESP has provided the IEC with the following recommendations: [1] improve supervision of the electoral process at the provincial level; [2] recruit women in key posts; [3] recruit qualified and competent staff at both EMBs; [4] provide opportunities for women to be recruited in both EMBs as electoral administrators and PEOs; [5] recommend the NSIA to assign mobile teams to issue Tazkira; [6] educate women on voting independently and secrecy of vote through outreach campaigns; [7] conduct outreach campaigns specifically through village councils and local media; [8] improve coordination with MoIA and strengthen the relationship with other stakeholders; [9] improve adjudication of complaints; [10] monitor social media from a Gender Based Violence perspective; and [11] report perpetrators of electoral fraud and get them punished accordingly.

Religious Leader Consultation: In September, meetings with Religious Leaders on the importance of women’s participation in election were held across all provinces. UNESP provided support and assistance to the IEC GU staff in drafting the agenda for the consultation meeting with Religious Leaders on the importance of women’s participation in 2019 Presidential election, sensitizing religious leader on the mandatory requirement for taking pictures of women, the reason for use of BVV technology, and confidentiality of collected data.

Targeted public outreach campaigns: The project worked with both IEC and ECC IPOD in the development of targeted messaging for women’s engagement in the electoral process and dispute resolution. This work focused on TV and radio PSA, face to face outreach campaigns, stakeholder engagements and working the respective ERDs and various ministries in order to facilitate the uploading of outreach materials produced by

the IPOD on the webpages of ministries especially outreach materials targeting women. In cooperation with IPOD, an animated photo gallery on Gender Coordinators and Civic Educators outreach campaigns for women and youth in the field was developed and shared with stakeholders.

Gender Awareness Training: The project worked closely with the IEC Gender Unit to deliver gender specific training at the HQ level. In total, nine specific gender focused trainings were held at HQ level, reaching 611 participants, nearly 10 times the quarterly target. This figure, however, is an underestimate given the incorporation of gender modules in all provincial training sessions held in the quarter. With provincial training reports pending at the end of the reporting period, participant data is not yet available and will be reported in future updates.

Female Body Searchers (FBSs): The IEC Gender Unit, FOD, MoWA and MoIA worked closely in the recruitment of FBS. As of 24 September, the number of FBSs recruited stood at 9,183. While the MoWA reported that further FBS were recruited up to election day, with sufficient numbers assigned; the final numbers report from MoWA is still pending, reportedly delayed due to telecommunication issues.

Voter Turnout: Following database cleaning and corrections, the 2019 Voter List stood at 9,665,745 (3,334,230 women; 6,331,534 men), an increase of 765,804 voters since 2018 WJ elections, of which 32 percent are women. Given results transmission from BVV devices, verification and data entry is ongoing; a gendered breakdown of votes cast in the 2019 election is still pending; anticipated by end of October 2019.

Initial Provincial Gender Reports: While the UNESP Gender Advisor is consolidating an electoral gender report from all provinces (due mid-October), initial reports from the PGOs highlight that 32 PGOs confirmed they were able to visit various female PSs across their respective provinces, and shared photographs and preliminary feedback from their observations, including:

Post-Election Preliminary Gender Reports

[1] Registered female voters' names didn't exist in the VL nor in BVV devices. Some names existed in VL but not in the BVV devices and vice versa.

[2] Women's names were found in male's VL and therefore most of women didn't feel comfortable to vote in male PSs. However, in Panjshir IEC female staff managed to convince some female voters to vote in male PSs in some centres, see image 20.

[3] Female voters' names were appearing in Male BVV devices and vice versa.

[4] In some provinces, women were against taking pictures. Reportedly, IEC female staff were unable to convince all female voters about the confidentiality of the personal data collected and therefore some women were leaving PSs without having voted.

[5] Names of voters with newly issued Tazkiras were not found in the V.L nor in the BVV devices although they had registered. (This issue disenfranchised both men and women voters who had been issued E- Tazkiras).

[6] Insecurity as well as threats were reported to be other challenges for women's participation in the election.



Image 20: Women voting in male PS in Panjshir



Image 21: Female voters sitting in the queue in Baghlan

IV. PARTNERSHIPS

In this reporting period, the project maintained the following partnerships:

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA): UNAMA continued to dedicate human resources in support to the 2019 Presidential elections. UNAMA continued to actively convene and participate in consultations on electoral issues of political bearing beyond the scope of UNESP. UNAMA led the development of key messages and joint statements for the Electoral Support Group and also facilitated the conducting of the weekly technical, working level and ambassadorial meetings. Weekly briefings to the Core Group and Political Officers were provided as were ad hoc briefings to Ambassadors, Heads of Agencies and other international community coordination mechanisms.

Electoral Support Group (ESG): 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, UNAMA, working with ESG Ambassadors held numerous meetings to bring the EMBs, senior political party leaders, and presidential candidates together with a focus on greater communications, broader consultations, and informed decision making.

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: The project continued to work with the IEC and the ECC as their key national partners. The project also collaborated with the Ministry of Finance on budget related discussions for the 2019 Presidential elections.

Civil Society Sector: The project continued to support the EMBs in engagement of the electoral civil society organizations (CSOs) in the country. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan aimed at creating a space in the IEC where CSOs and other stakeholders can openly discuss electoral issues is developed and rolled out on 30 September. The EMBs engaged national and international CSOs in consultation meetings, while the IEC regularly holds the CECG meetings co-facilitated by the project.

Security Coordination mechanism: The project continued working-level partnerships with security coordination partners [Ministry of Interior Affairs, NATO Resolute Support and Ministry of Defense], collaborating on security assessments and related movement of electoral materials.

Consultative meetings on participation of women in electoral processes: Working with the IEC Gender Unit, the project continued close collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Department of Women's Affairs at the provincial level, participating in consultative meetings on the participation of women in electoral processes, including recruitment of female searchers for election day.

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:

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 candidate nomination processes that had been running in anticipation of Ghazni WJ and Provincial Council elections.

Response: The project directed its technical and operational support to the Ghazni VR and Presidential elections.

Security environment: The security environment affected voter registration processes in some provinces and has been attributed as one of the reasons for low voter turnout on election day. While originally 5,373 PCs were assessed to be open on election day (445 PCs would be closed due to insecurity), preliminary reports from the IEC indicated that 4,684 PCs opened, while 689 were closed throughout the polling day.

Response: The role of the project continued to be provision of technical inputs to the security coordination mechanism and feedback from operations 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 voter registration, voting and results transmission; following a number of consultations with political parties, civil society, the Government and the ESG, the IEC back-tracked and 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 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 the work of the EMBs.

Response: The project, in concordance with the international community in Afghanistan, supported the IEC in preserving their autonomy from political interference.

Logistical Risks: Logistical breakdowns affect electoral operations.

Response: UNESP and the IEC continued to coordinate with ANDSF and NATO representatives for all items regarding security of people, goods, and operations.

VII. FUTURE PLANS

In the next quarter (October to December 2019), the project will provide operational, financial, technical, and advisory assistance to the EMBs to finalize the operational requirements of the 2019 Presidential elections. In accordance with the IEC presidential timeline, key activities the project will support include:

| Date | Activity |
|--------------------|--|
| 15 October 2019 | Deadline for ECC's submission of the final decision regarding adjudication of complaints pertaining to election day. |
| 19 October 2019 | Date for IEC announcement of preliminary results |
| 19-21 October 2019 | Challenge period on the preliminary results |
| 6 November 2019 | Deadline for ECC's submission of decision regarding the preliminary results |
| 7 November 2019 | Date for IEC announcement of final results |

| |
|-------------------------|
| 23 November 2019 |
|-------------------------|

| |
|--|
| Possible presidential run-off election ¹⁴ |
|--|

Table 8: Timeline of key electoral activities for October to December 2019

¹⁴ While 23 November is the current earmarked date of the potential Presidential Run-Off, should it be required, the IEC will publish a separate timeline.

VIII. ANNEXES

ANNEX I: FINANCIAL TABLE

The Donor Interim Report for the period January - September 2019 for UN Electoral Support Project (00105005)

Annex 1. Financial Table

All Figures in US\$

| 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 | 1,432,323 | 1,432,323 | 1,462,232 | 39,174 | 9,265 | - | - | - | 9,265 | 2,020 | - | - | - | 7,245 |
| DFID | 14,579,911 | 4,823,814 | 4,519,704 | | 304,109 | 4,878,049 | | 108,879 | 5,073,280 | 3,512,005 | - | 4,878,049 | | 1,561,274 |
| EU | 27,309,727 | 15,299,341 | 6,501,567 | | 8,797,774 | 36,550 | | 3,444,255 | 5,390,069 | 1,068,116 | - | 11,973,837 | | 4,321,953 |
| Germany | 8,376,836 | 8,376,836 | 6,478,203 | | 1,898,633 | (1,783,729) | | 114,904 | 0 | - | - | - | | 0 |
| Italy | 3,296,703 | - | - | | - | 14,428 | | | 14,428 | | | | | |
| SIDA | 4,442,963 | 4,442,963 | 1,202,796 | | 3,240,167 | - | | 1,268,820 | 1,971,347 | 733,342 | - | - | | 1,238,004 |
| DFAT | 5,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 1,431,124 | | 568,876 | 3,000,000 | | 254,064 | 3,314,812 | 2,698,383 | - | - | | 616,429 |
| Norway | 4,737,302 | 2,368,651 | - | | 2,368,651 | - | | 2,414,157 | (45,506) | - | - | 2,368,651 | | (45,506) |
| Japan | 13,739,390 | 13,739,390 | 6,488,723 | | 7,250,667 | - | | 2,243,353 | 5,007,314 | 1,208,810 | 50,595 | - | | 3,747,909 |
| USAID | 68,539,601 | 29,500,000 | 17,227,053 | | 12,272,947 | 20,000,000 | - | 16,407,507 | 15,865,440 | 10,027,068 | 340,214 | 19,039,601 | | 5,498,158 |
| CCF | 84,444 | - | - | | - | 84,444 | - | - | 84,444 | - | - | - | | 84,444 |
| Grand Total | 151,539,200 | 81,983,317 | 45,311,402 | 39,174 | 36,711,088 | 26,229,741 | - | 26,255,939 | 36,684,890 | 19,249,745 | 390,809 | 38,260,137 | - | 17,029,909 |

Note:

- i) Data contained in this report is an extract of UNDP financial records. The accounting period for the report is an open period and data from some accounting processes may not have been processed. Financial data provided above may not be complete, and it is provisional
- ii) Income received in currency other than US\$ is approximated to US\$ based on UN- Operational Rate of Exch.

ANNEX II: EXPENSES BY OUTPUT

Annex 2. Expenses by Output

All Figures in US\$

| Project Output ID and Description | 2019 Budget (AWP) | Expenses (Jan - Mar 2019) | Expenses (Apr - Jun 2019) | Expenses (Jul - Sep 2019) | Accumulated Expenses (Jan - Sep 2019) | Delivery Rate |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Output 1 (00106325): Administration of credible election is facilitated by the meeting of key IEC structural and planning milestones. | 11,951,538 | 1,356,714 | 2,577,707 | 2,056,768 | 5,991,189 | 50% |
| Sub-total Output 1 | 11,951,538 | 1,356,714 | 2,577,707 | 2,056,768 | 5,991,189 | 50% |
| Output 2 (00106326): Credible electoral dispute resolution (EDR) is provided by the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC). | 1,916,780 | 191,765 | 540,814 | 374,352 | 1,106,931 | 58% |
| Sub-total Output 2 | 1,916,780 | 191,765 | 540,814 | 374,352 | 1,106,931 | 58% |
| 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 | 224,812 | 212,968 | 188,087 | 625,867 | 68% |
| Sub-total Output 3 | 920,840 | 224,812 | 212,968 | 188,087 | 625,867 | 68% |
| Output 4 (00108499): A polling centre specific voter list for the Wolesi Jirga, district council and provincial council elections is produced by the IEC. | 3,849,339 | (14,090) | 1,288,437 | 2,022,953 | 3,297,299 | 86% |
| Sub-total Output 4 | 3,849,339 | (14,090) | 1,288,437 | 2,022,953 | 3,297,299 | 86% |
| Output 5 (00111484): The IEC and ECC provide credible administration of and electoral dispute resolution for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections, respectively | 19,678,976 | 1,083,130 | 1,033,834 | 7,291,095 | 9,408,059 | 48% |
| Sub-total Output 5 | 19,678,976 | 1,083,130 | 1,033,834 | 7,291,095 | 9,408,059 | 48% |
| Output 6 (00117164): The IEC and ECC provide credible administration of and electoral dispute resolution for the Presidential and provincial council election. | 50,859,223 | - | - | 5,826,593 | 5,826,593 | 11% |
| Sub-total Output 6 | 50,859,223 | - | - | 5,826,593 | 5,826,593 | 11% |
| Grand Total | 89,176,697 | 2,842,330 | 5,653,760 | 17,759,848 | 26,255,939 | 29% |

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

ANNEX III: ISSUE LOG

| # | Description | Date Identified | Impact/ Priority | Countermeasure | Owner | Status |
|----|---|-----------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Changing GoIRA and EMBs focus and priorities. Uncertain political will and conflicting agendas among major political stakeholders regarding the implementation of the long overdue 2018 Election. | October 2017 | Impact 4 Priority 2 | UNESP has remained flexible in the changing political environment, while supporting a timely implementation of all electoral phases. | NUG | No change |
| 2 | Lack of clarification regarding constituency delimitation, continued past deadlines for consequent electoral changes. | October 2017 | Impact 3 Priority 2 | UNESP will support the IEC to take measures when the new constituency delimitation will be officially announced. | IDLG and NUG | No change |
| 3 | Political Turmoil. A number of political parties are jointly demanding change of the electoral system threaten with boycotting elections, even at the risk of postponing elections beyond 2018 | March 2018 | Impact 4 Priority 1 | The Election Support Group 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. | IEC | No change |
| 6. | DC election postponement has affected UNESP support to the electoral processes. | Sept. 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 | Sept. 2018 | Impact 5 Priority 1 | Increased UNESP support to the IEC regarding procurement, training and movement plans. | IEC | Increasing |

ANNEX IV: RISK LOG

| # | Description | Date Identified | Type | Impact & Probability | Countermeasures / Management response | Owner | Submitted by | Last Update | Status |
|---|---|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | Important decisions are delayed, delaying in turn electoral preparations. (1) Slow recruitment, especially of senior level positions within the IEC decreases the efficacy of the body. (2) Delays in planning, last minute changes in planning, and over-reliance on UNESP advisors' technical decisions affects procurement and logistical operations. (3) ACCRA's slow pace of Tazkira issuance in remote and inaccessible areas prevents people to register to vote. | Nov. 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 | 6 Oct. 2019 | 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. | Nov. 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 | 6 Oct. 2019 | No change |
| 3 | Electoral stakeholders refuse to recognize results or respond to allegations of fraud through noninstitutional means, including the threats 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. | Oct. 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. | EMBs, UNESP & Donors | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | No change |

| # | Description | Date Identified | Type | Impact & Probability | Countermeasures / Management response | Owner | Submitted by | Last Update | Status |
|---|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 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. | Nov. 2017 | Political | Impact: 5 Probability: 1 | UN will strengthen its engagement with the government institutions through its good offices to ensure the government is aware of UN's added value. | UNAM A and UNDP | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | Reducing |
| 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. | Oct. 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 | 6 Oct. 2019 | No change |
| 6 | Security. Increasing threats, number of incidents, and casualties affect the VR and CN numbers, and will affect the voter turnout. At least 11 "black" districts won't have elections, according to the IEC. | Nov. 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 | 6 Oct. 2019 | Increasing |

| # | Description | Date Identified | Type | Impact & Probability | Countermeasures / Management response | Owner | Submitted by | Last Update | Status |
|----|--|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| 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. | Nov. 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 | 6 Oct. 2019 | No change |
| 8 | Logistical breakdowns. Minor logistical challenges encountered due to terrain, distance and security risks. | Oct. 2017 | Operational | Impact: 3 Probability: 3 | Air support provided for movement of electoral materials in inaccessible or high-risk areas. | Multiple | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | No change |
| 9 | Electoral fraud. Allegations of all types of electoral fraud received from all parts of the country. IEC and ACCRA staff implicated. | Oct. 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. The project will recruit Anti-corruption consultants to assist IEC in this regard. | Multiple | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | No change |
| 10 | Constituency Delimitation decision delayed past the deadline. Zero impact on 2018 elections. Risk to be revisited for 2019 elections. | Oct. 2017 | Regulatory | Impact: 0 Probability: 0 | No response required at this time. | NUG and IDLG | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | No change |

| # | Description | Date Identified | Type | Impact & Probability | Countermeasures / Management response | Owner | Submitted by | Last Update | Status |
|----|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| 11 | Polling Results. The 25 political parties threatening to boycott the elections unless the electoral system is changed may lead to their refusal to recognize the polling results. | March 2018 | Political | Impact: 3 Probability: 3 | High-level meetings are ongoing to ensure consensus and inclusivity of the 2018 elections, and the opening of the Ghazni IEC office. | Multiple | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | No change |
| 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. | Oct. 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 grassroots-level consultative meetings for effective participation of women in electoral processes. | IEC | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | 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. | Oct. 2017 | Organizational | Impact: 3 Probability: 2 | Appropriate capacity building measures within the EMBs to create internal resilience. Knowledge management systems to be developed. | EMBs, UNESP | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | No change |
| 14 | Gender mainstreaming falls short of targets in the EMBs. The training and other support activities might be insufficient in and of themselves to address the deep-seated cultural prejudices which disadvantage women, the disabled, Kuchis, and other marginalised social groups. | Oct. 2017 | Gender | Impact: 2 Probability: 2 | Integrate the specific needs of women in all EMB policies, plans and procedures. Coordinate the work of the IEC Gender Unit with relevant activities and/or programmes of the MOWA, UN Women, and CSOs, with the support of UN Women as required. | IEC, UNESP | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | No change |

| # | Description | Date Identified | Type | Impact & Probability | Countermeasures / Management response | Owner | Submitted by | Last Update | Status |
|----|--|-----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|-------|--------------|-------------|----------|
| 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. | Oct. 2017 | Strategic | Impact: 3 Probability: 4 | Use a wide range of non-written materials in voter education campaigns | IEC | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | 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. | Oct. 2017 | Strategic | Impact: 3 Probability: 3 | Support and encourage the EMBs to establish formalized coordination mechanisms and external reporting systems. | UNESP | UNESP | 6 Oct. 2019 | Reducing |