

Support to Elections



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PROJECT SUMMARY

The Project Initiation Plan (PIP) for electoral support commenced in June 2014 and was developed in line with recommendations of the electoral UN Needs Assessment Mission (NAM). The NAM which visited Somalia in November 2013 recommended three phases of electoral support:

- Phase 1: Period leading to the establishment of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC)
- Phase 2: Strengthening the capacity of NIEC and supporting the establishment of the legal framework for elections
- Phase 3: Operational phase (direct support to the referendum and elections)

The PIP is aligned with the strategic objective set out in the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goal 1 (PSG 1) in the Somali Compact to achieve a stable and peaceful federal Somalia through inclusive political processes. The PIP supports the PSG 1 priority to prepare for and hold credible elections by 2016. It was established to support the period leading to, and including, the establishment of the NIEC (Phase 1 as described by the NAM) with the main objectives of supporting Somali national authorities in taking informed decisions in developing the NIEC and other electoral laws and providing support to establish the NIEC.

It has four outputs:

- 1.Support the establishment of the NIEC
- 2.Support to the inclusiveness and transparency of the electoral process
- 3.Support to the coordination of electoral assistance providers
- 4.Project management

In keeping with UN policy on electoral assistance and the recommendations of the NAM, support is provided through an Integrated Electoral Support Group comprising UNSOM and UNDP staff members. The Group is co-located within UNSOM and led by the UNSOM Chief Electoral Adviser.

Support provided through the PIP in 2014 resulted in the following:

- The provision of advice to UNSOM and UNDP leadership on electoral-related matters in Somalia including advice on electoral processes and procedures, priority objectives in the given time-frames and UN support in relation to the electoral calendar.
- The provision of technical advice to Somali national authorities (the Prime Minister's office, Ministry of Interior, Speaker of the House and the Ad hoc Parliamentary Elections Committee) including the provision of substantial inputs and comments to the NIEC law.
- Information sharing and participation in the PSG 1 working group, PSG 1 sub-working group on elections, and bilateral meetings with the African Union (AU)/AMISOM and NGOs involved in providing electoral assistance.
- Initial project management.

The duration of the PIP was for seven months from 1 June to 31 December 2014 anticipating that the NIEC would be established within this period and that full project development would be undertaken upon the establishment of the NIEC. However, given the political context, the NIEC had not yet been established by the end of 2014 and the PIP will be extended until 30 June 2015 to enable electoral support to continue.



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PROJECT:
Support to Elections

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PROGRAMME:
Governance and Rule of Law

REPORT PERIOD:
1 January to 31 December 2014

DATE SUBMITTED:
2/10/2015 12:07:59 PM

STATUS:
Final

DONORS:
UNDP TRAC
Norway

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

FEDERAL LEVEL

Security Council resolution 2102 (2013) mandates UNSOM to support the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and AMISOM by providing strategic policy advice on peace building and state building that includes the referendum on the Constitution and preparations for elections in 2016. UNDP is working jointly with UNSOM to provide this support. The FGS has committed to conducting the referendum in March 2016 followed by Parliamentary elections by September 2016 in line with constitutional provisions and Vision 2016. Meeting this timeline will require the NIEC to be established and capacitated in a very compressed time-frame. There were expectations that the law establishing the NIEC would have been adopted in 2014 but to date it is still pending. The NIEC bill was submitted to Parliament in December 2014 and is currently undergoing parliamentary review. The process of drafting of key legislation defining the electoral system itself, and the conduct of the referendum, has not yet commenced.

PUNTLAND

Electoral support is provided at the federal level and no activities were implemented in Puntland.

SOMALILAND

Electoral support is provided at the federal level and no activities were implemented in Somaliland.

RESULTS

FL	Indicator	2.1.2.1 Level of progress in drafting and reviewing policy/law on electoral system laws that increasingly conform to international standards is "high", "medium", or "low"	Y
	Result	Medium - The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group provided comments to the Ministry of Interior's draft bill to establish the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC). The draft bill is presently being reviewed by the Ad Hoc Parliamentary Elections Committee.	
	Comment	A senior electoral consultant was engaged by UNDP to provide additional technical and legal advice on the NIEC bill.	
FL	Indicator	NIEC established by 31 December 2014	Y
	Result	The NIEC had not been established as of 31 Dec. The draft NIEC bill was submitted to Parliament in Dec and is undergoing parliamentary review. Close consultation and technical advice on the NIEC law was provided to the PM's Office, Mol, Speaker of the House and the parliamentary committee.	
	Comment	The PIP supported the recruitment of the Chief Electoral Adviser, Deputy Chief Electoral Adviser and a senior electoral consultant to provide the required technical expertise. Complementary support from UNSOM was provided by a Senior Electoral/Political Affairs Officer.	
FL	Indicator	Discussion papers prepared and workshops conducted.	Y
	Result	Several papers on electoral-related issues were developed and shared with FGS leadership. A series of meetings and consultations were held with the relevant parliamentary and government interlocutors.	
	Comment	The workshop on electoral risk training did not take place as the NIEC who would be the primary stakeholder had not yet been established.	
FL	Indicator	Coordination mechanism established.	Y
	Result	The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group participated in meetings of the PSG1 working and sub-working groups, initiated informal information sharing meetings with development partners and NGOs and held bilateral meetings with electoral assistance providers such as AU/AMISOM and NGOs.	
	Comment	The coordination and information sharing mechanism will be further strengthened in 2015.	
FL	Indicator	Commencement of project	G
	Result	The PIP management structure was initiated with the recruitment of the Deputy Chief Electoral Adviser in October and the secondment of an Operations Specialist and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	
	Comment	The project structure will be further strengthened in 2016 as recruitment processes have commenced to expand the number of staff as required.	

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ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

FEDERAL LEVEL

Technical and project management expertise have been supported through the PIP. The PIP supported the setting up of the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group through the recruitment in 2014 of the Chief Electoral Adviser, the Deputy Chief Electoral Adviser and the secondment of an Operations Specialist and a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist. A senior electoral consultant was engaged to provide further technical expertise on the NIEC law and the preparation of electoral related papers. Close consultation and technical advice was provided to the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Interior, Speaker of the House and the parliamentary committee.

PUNTLAND

SOMALILAND

PARTNERSHIPS

Currently our key partners are the FGS, UNSOM and the AU/AMISOM. Electoral advice has been provided to the FGS leadership, the Ministry of Interior, the Speaker of the House and the parliamentary committee. The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group comprises UNSOM and UNDP members who work jointly to plan and deliver the electoral support that is required and works in close cooperation with other sections within UNSOM and UNDP such as the UNSOM Political and Mediation Group and the UNDP Parliamentary and Constitutional Support Project. The AU/AMISOM is also a key partner and consultations initiated with them in 2014 will be further developed in 2015.

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PEACE AND CONFLICT

Technical support was provided to the development of a legal framework that will be capable of regulating peaceful political transition.

GENDER

Gender sensitivity is an underlying principle in all technical advice that has been provided to the FGS. In its advice on the NIEC law special emphasis was placed on gender parity, inclusivity and enhanced representation and participation of women.

UPCOMING QUARTER

The NIEC is expected to be established and commissioners and senior secretariat staff appointed by the 2nd quarter of 2015. Supporting the physical establishment of the NIEC headquarters in Mogadishu, planning for capacity development for the NIEC and planning for workshops on comparative electoral systems for stakeholders will be key priorities in the next quarter. Information sharing and coordination with other assistance providers will be strengthened. Further recruitment to expand the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group will take place in preparation to support the NIEC to become functional and operational. Delay in establishing the NIEC and appointing its commissioners and senior secretariat staff is, however, a potential risk in the next quarter.

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REFLECTIONS / LESSONS

The project was able to quickly conduct an inventory of election-related issues in order to effectively advise UNSOM and FGS leadership on priority electoral issues that warranted immediate attention with a view to Vision 2016. In this context, the project was also able to provide strategic and up-streamed advice to FGS interlocutors, building effective working relationships in the process and providing substantial input to relevant legislation.

CUMULATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
APPROVED BUDGET	1,014,530
TOTAL (DISBURSEMENTS + COMMITMENTS)	350,497
BALANCE OF FUNDS	664,033
% DELIVERY (AGAINST APPROVED BUDGET)	35%

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LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

- AU - African Union
- AMISOM - African Union Mission in Somalia
- FGS - Federal Government of Somalia
- Mol - Ministry of Interior
- NAM - Needs Assessment Mission
- NGO - Non-governmental organization
- NIEC - National Independent Electoral Commission
- PIP - Project Initiation Plan
- PSG - Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goal
- UN - United Nations
- UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
- UNSOM - United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

SUPPORT TO ELECTIONS PROJECT - FINANCIAL REPORT

(Based on available resources)

Donor	Norway
2014 Allocation from donor for 2014	342,607
2014 Allocation as % of AWP	34%
2014 Expenditure to date	300,218
Delivery %	88%

Donor	TRAC
2014 Allocation from donor for 2014	150,000
2014 Allocation as % of AWP	15%
2014 Expenditure to date	50,279
Delivery %	34%