

UNDP/UNSOM INTEGRATED ELECTORAL SUPPORT GROUP (IESG) TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

Project board meeting



On 16 November, a project board meeting was co-chaired by Jocelyn Mason, the Resident Representative of UNDP in Somalia, and Halima Ismail, Chairperson of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC). The primary focus was on the request by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Federal Election Implementation Team (FEIT)

to donors to increase their contribution to the revised electoral budget to cover the additional costs for the electoral committees for accommodation, transport, allowances and travel as the HoP election end date slipped from October to December 2021.

Three donors – the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), Norway and USAID – and the UN Peacebuilding Fund agreed to provide respectively an additional \$3.7M and \$115K to support the indirect elections. These additional funds bring the overall donor financial support from the FCDO, Germany, Norway, Sweden, USAID and the UN Peacebuilding Fund to over \$11 million.

1. The additional funds will be made available in two tranches, once the following milestones have been met:
 - Elections have moved forward in a meaningful and credible way in at least three states.
 - In compliance with state and federal Public Financial Management (PFM) Acts, all House of the People (HoP) candidate fees are banked into the Treasury Single Account (TSA), with expenditure tracked on the Financial Management Information System (FMIS).
2. The second allocation will be released once at least two thirds of seats have been completed across all polling sites. It is expected that all HoP fees for these constituencies will be banked in the TSA as well.
3. In addition, clarification to be provided on the process to ensure the commitment to the 30% quota for women is met.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Upper House election for 54 seats concluded – 14 women elected
- 24 House of People seats including 6 women elected as of 30 November
- IESG supports deployment of electoral materials to the Federal Member States
- Project Board Meeting approves extra \$3.7M for elections based on conditionalities

Electoral updates

On 19 October, DSRSG Anita Kiki Gbeho met with the Jubaland SEIT chairperson Siyad Mohamed Mursal and some members of the committee in Kismayo to discuss preparations for the elections. IESG Field Office joined Deputy SRSG Gbeho for a meeting with President Madobe on the same day where the discussion centred around electoral preparations including the women's quota. The DSRSG congratulated the President for reserving two seats for women in the Upper House (UH) and bringing the total number of women elected to 14 out of 54 seats (26%).



On 13 November, elections for the two remaining UH seats allocated to Galmudug were held in Dhusamareb. This concluded the election of 54 UH seats which commenced on 29 July 2021. The EDRC confirmed that they had received no official complaints related to the UH elections.

Electoral updates (cont'd)

On 11 November, FEIT issued a press release calling on all the FMSs to formally launch the HoP elections on 16 November and conclude the process by 24 December. By 30 November, a total of 24 out of 275 HoP seats were elected including six women.

- South West State: 11 men including 4 women;
- Galmudug: 5 men
- Somaliland: 8 men including 2 women.

The Elections Dispute Resolution Committee (EDRC) recorded two complaints for HoP seats, #067 in Galmudug and Seat #239 Somaliland, which were contested in November. The Council of Presidential Candidates (CPC) raised their concerns about the overall electoral process claiming that the election irregularities must be corrected to ensure the elections remain transparent and credible.



Polling for HoP seat #104 underway in Galmudug, 24 November 2021

IESG support for electoral committees



13 November, Mogadishu: FEIT checking dispatch of electoral materials to the FMS

Logistics

The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) Logistics team supported FEIT to complete the delivery of polling materials for the HoP elections for all locations except Bossaso and Garbahaary. Additionally, IESG is developing a tracking matrix for FEIT to ensure that all assets procured with donor support for the indirect electoral process are allocated a barcode so that equipment and furniture can be retrieved when the electoral process is completed. All assets are required to be handed over by the ad hoc electoral committees to the NIEC when the indirect elections are concluded.

Operations

IESG provided technical assistance on the content, drafting and review of the FEIT operations plan. FEIT convened a meeting of the SEITs from 13 to 18 October to discuss and reach agreements on the FEIT HoP Operational Plan.

IESG advisers attended the workshop and provided advice and assistance. The discussion led to consensual inputs, which were then incorporated to the draft FEIT HoP Operational Plan.



13 October - IESG participating in the conference with FEIT and SEITs

Support for the election dispute resolution committee (EDRC)

During October and November, IESG met with the EDRC sub-committees and provided advice on EDRC procedures, training, public awareness products and the drafting of the EDRC operational plan. IESG and the Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Group (SCPAG) met with the EDRC Head of the Gender Sub-committee to discuss and advise on women-specific messaging to create awareness on the indirect process and EDRC procedures.

On 2 November, EDRC received its first complaint related to seat HoP # 239 won by the Deputy Prime Minister. The complainant and former holder of the same seat claimed that he was refused to register for that seat by SEIT Somaliland. He also pleaded that the seat is exclusively allocated to the Bah-deksi sub-clan, and that candidates running for this seat must belong to that sub-clan.

Support for the election dispute resolution committee (EDRC) (cont'd)

The EDRC decision issued on 8 November states that based on the 1 October 2020 EDRC procedures issued by the National Consultative Council (NCC), the agreement of traditional elders, the evidence submitted, the investigations and hearings of the relevant parties conducted between 2 and 7 November, it concluded that the HoP seat # 239 election management process was correct and in line with 2020/2021 procedures for the indirect elections. Therefore, the EDRC notified the FEIT that it can officially announce the result of HoP seat # 239 as of 8 November.

On 28 November, EDRC registered its second complaint arising from HoP elections in Galmudug for HoP seat # 67. On the same day, EDRC instructed the FEIT to suspend the announcement of the official result for the same HoP seat # 67 as of 28 November until the complaint against the seat is decided by EDRC within seven days.

IESG-NIEC legal/procedures mentoring sessions and workshops

During October and November, eight mentoring sessions and workshops were held between representatives of the IESG Legal/Procedures team and the NIEC Legal Department. The sessions aimed to provide advice and support on legal and procedural matters. The IESG Legal/Procedures team advised on the drafting of an NIEC Voter Registration regulation and adoption of NIEC Secondary Legislation. The workshop and a follow-up session took place respectively on 25 October and 8 November 2021.

More specifically, the workshop provided guidance on how to regulate the process of initiating, drafting and adoption of NIEC Secondary Legislation in line with the existing electoral legal framework. All five members (four men and one woman) of the NIEC Legal Department participated in the workshop and follow-up session, including the director. Assessing the pre- and post-test questions, the workshop participants answered, they acquired knowledge and technical skills related to the workshop theme.

Assistance to NIEC office of political party registrar

At the request of the NIEC, the IESG has developed political party registration software to assist the NIEC with the certification of political parties. On 8 and 9 November, the IESG Information Technology Unit organized a training session on this software for four NIEC Office of Political Party Registrar (OPPR) staff.

Since then the software was updated according to the recommendations provided by the OPPR staff members who attended this training.



IESG train OPPR staff on political party registration software, 8 November 2021

Capacity building support for NIEC



A team of 40 NIEC staff participated in four separate training sessions on effective communication skills between October and November 2021. The 4-day workshops were organised by IESG in collaboration with UNSOS Training Unit. Key takeaways as articulated by the staff, were to communicate with clarity, communicate with confidence and to communicate with consciousness.

Reflecting on the assigned activities, participants acknowledged that knowing when and how to effectively communicate at work can help reduce miscommunication, increase team happiness, bolster collaboration, and foster trust.

NIEC conference

The NIEC has started planning preparations for a national stakeholders' engagement conference. The conference aims to guide the way forward for elections in 2025/2026. This event will help NIEC and stakeholders consensually prepare a roadmap on the requirements for technical cooperation and coordination amongst the different institutions and players to achieve the goal of universal suffrage elections.

Women's 30% quota for parliamentary seats

On 16 November, the FEIT Head of the Gender Sub-Committee issued a statement outlining a roadmap to achieve the 30% women's parliamentary quota that detailed the minimum number of seats to be allocated to women per each FMS. The Goodwill Ambassadors also published a mapping table with the suggested breakdown of seats per clan and sub-clan.

Election security preparedness



JOC Commanders Course with IESG, AMISOM and FBA representatives 23-25 November 2021

7 Joint Operation Centres (JOCs) are now operational except Baraawe, Baidoa, Garbaharrey, Beletweyne and the National JOC in Mogadishu. All JOC training has been completed and a bespoke JOC Command course was delivered over 23–25 November to enhance JOC Commanders with leadership skills and technical expertise to run their JOC. Overall, considering the political and security challenges experienced over October and November, good progress has been made with implementation of election security, and AMISOM and UN police advisors are supporting and urging the Somali Security Force (SSF) to draw up their operational security plans. Support to Garbahaarrey is paused as all parties navigate the political dispute between FGS and Jubaland while urging that AMISOM and UN support to elections security is a technical matter.

The main focus of UN-AMISOM Joint Elections Security Working Group (JESWG) was on elections security training. UNDP funded courses remain to be delivered in Hirshabelle which were delayed due to climate conditions (floods) and Galmadug where Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a (ASWJ)/SSF fighting caused delays. Delivery of UNSOS



Prime Minister visits the Joint Operations Centre in Dhusamareb, Galmudug, 16 November

Field Defence Stores (FDS) and non-lethal aid packages of under vehicle search mirrors and handheld metal detectors have progressed significantly. With the aid of the IESG network meetings, clarity on the AMISOM & Somali Focal Points have been identified and progress has been made. Currently, Mogadishu, Beletweyne, Jowhar and Kismayo have received all defence stores to support polling locations. With Puntland receiving a customized package to support polling locations due to logistical constraints in providing HESCO barriers.

IESG's provision of the Phase 2 radio system (national JOC-to-JOC network) remains in progress with nine of the 12 JOCs due to be completed by the end of November. The third-party Kenyan trainers completed the Somali Police Force training package and installation in Mogadishu to test compatibility and technical assurance.

Women's 30% quota for parliamentary seats

IESG monitored and collected statistical data on the election of the 54 UH seats and 24 HoP seats.

House of People Elections Status Update Summary – 30 November 2021

HoP Seats	Completed	% Completed	Men Elected	Women Elected	% Women Elected
275	24	9%	18	6	25%

IESG field offices maintained regular contact with the SEITs and reported on electoral developments and were engaged in following up and supporting FEIT distribution of election materials to the SEIT offices.

CONTACT:

Mary Cummins, IESG Deputy Chief Electoral Advisor, mary.cummins@undp.org

Ereny Zarif, IESG Reporting Officer, ereny.zarif@un.org

UNSOM/UNDP Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG)