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**FINAL PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT**

**Period: 2015-2019**

Project Name	<b>Support to the Electoral Process in the Federal Republic of Somalia</b> Award ID 00085370, Project ID(1): 00093037 - Project ID(2): 00097672
Gateway/ MPTF Project ID	<b>00096139</b>
Start date	17 June 2015
Planned end date (as per last approval)	28 February 2019
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Participating UN entities	UNDP and UNSOM (Integrated Electoral Support Group)
NDP Pillar	Inclusive Politics
UNSF Strategic Priority	Strategic Priority 1: Deepening federalism & state-building, supporting conflict resolution & reconciliation, and preparing for universal elections; Strategic Priority 3: Strengthening accountability & supporting institutions that protect
Location	National – Mogadishu
Gender Marker	2

**HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. Following an indirect limited franchise electoral process involving circa 13,000 clan-based voting delegates, a new Federal Parliament was elected in early 2017, comprising 25 per cent women, a significant increase compared to the 14 per cent in the previous Parliament.
2. The 10th Federal Parliament comprises more than 50 per cent new Members of Parliament (MPs), and about 18 per cent of the elected MPs are under 35 years old.
3. The new Federal Government of Somalia committed in May 2017 to national multi-party ‘one person, one vote election’ at the end of the Parliament’s current term in 4 years, the first universal suffrage elections in Somalia since 1969, and the development of the Electoral Law by end of 2018.
4. MOIFA led in the development of the new Electoral Law for universal elections, a process that gained momentum in 2017 as part of the roadmap for one person one vote elections.
5. The National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) developed and presented in 2017 a comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021) to plan and prepare for the country’s first



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universal elections since 1969.

6. The NIEC commenced in 2017 intense consultations with key stakeholders, including at the sub-national level, to inform partners and discuss challenges for universal elections, including on an appropriate voter registration methodology and planning, which need to be defined in 2018.

### SITUATION UPDATE

In 2015, UNDP rolled out the “Joint Programme for Support to the Electoral Process in the Federal Republic of Somalia”. The Joint UNSOM/UNDP Programme was signed on 17 June 2015. It brings together the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) to support Somalia to prepare for and hold credible elections through the provision of support to the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), the development of the legal framework for elections and support to promote better understanding of the electoral process.

The Joint Programme contributes directly to the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goal of Inclusive Politics (PSG 1) to “achieve a stable and peaceful federal Somalia through inclusive political processes”. The Joint Programme is implemented by the United Nations Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG), jointly consisting of UNSOM and UNDP personnel and resources, and working in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MoIFA) and NIEC. The Programme builds on the work of its precursor, the electoral Project Initiation Plan (PIP) which set the ground work in 2014 and early 2015 for establishing the Joint Programme.

Funding for the Joint Programme is channelled through the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) with contributions received in this quarter from the Department for International Development (DFID)/United Kingdom, Italy, Norway and Sweden and finalization of an agreement with the European Union anticipated in the next quarter. In addition to contributions received through the MPTF the Joint Programme also benefits from in-kind contributions and funding support from UNSOM through the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) and from UNDP core resources. The IESG comprises both UNSOM and UNDP staff who work together to implement and deliver the Joint Programme. UNSOM provides half of the IESG’s staff, the IESG office and much of the IESG office equipment and security convoys.

Further to an earlier electoral needs assessment mission (NAM) undertaken in late 2013, the United Nations Department of Political Affairs deployed a pre-assessment team from 6-12 July 2015 to take stock of the situation in Somalia with regard to preparation for elections in 2016. The team noted that its interlocutors identified major challenges to conducting “one person one vote” elections in the originally envisaged timeline of 2016. The primary factor cited by those whom the team met was that overall progress in “Vision 2016” has come more slowly than originally expected.

At the second High-Level Partnership Forum (HLPF), held in Mogadishu on 29 and 30 July 2015, Somali leaders and constitutional institutions both at the federal and state levels were commended for their determination to deliver an electoral process in 2016. The HLPF agreed to a consultative process that would identify electoral options and endorsed guiding principles for the electoral process in 2016. Subsequently, in the last quarter of 2015, federal and regional leaders held a series of national and regional consultative forums to discuss the most appropriate electoral model to ensure a transparent political transition in 2016.



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The second Programme Board meeting took place on 10 September 2015 at which donor partners agreed to expand the scope of project to include a separate output to support the Consultative Process and the 2016 electoral process. As a result of this decision the Joint Programme will adopt a twin-track approach: (i) support to the consultative process and implementation of the 2016 electoral process; and (ii) support to prepare and develop capacity to conduct universal elections and referendum in due course.

The Joint Programme provided technical and logistical support to the preparations and conduct of the first National Consultative Forum in October; the Regional Consultative Forums in Kismayo, Garowe, Cadaado, Baidoa, and in Mogadishu for the Somalilander community, Banadir, Hiraan and Middle Shabelle in November; the diaspora consultation in Nairobi and the second National Consultative Forum in December. The Joint Programme continues to support the consultative process to reach agreement on the most appropriate electoral model to ensure a transparent political transition in 2016.

### **Long-term electoral capacity building**

Another key component of the Joint Programme comprises the provision of long-term institutional capacity development support to the NIEC in order for Somalia's Federal Electoral Management Body to fulfill its electoral mandate. On 6 July 2015, the NIEC commissioners were endorsed by Federal Parliament and took their oath before Parliament on 21 July 2015. The selection and appointment of the Commissioners took place in line with procedures specified in the NIEC Law, adopted in February 2015. Subsequently, the nine-member commission, which includes two women, chose its chairperson, Ms. Halima Ismail Ibrahim, and deputy chairperson, Mr. Sayid Ali Sh. Mohamed.

The appointment of the commissioners in July 2015 was a key milestone in the electoral process and enabled capacity development support to the NIEC to commence. Different workshops were held with the commissioners and study tours to witness first-hand the electoral processes in Tanzania and Turkey were conducted to build the NIEC's institutional and electoral management capacity. As a direct result of these workshops the NIEC held its first press conference in Mogadishu on 10 August 2015, its 2nd press conference in Nairobi on 2 October 2015 and developed and shared its Vision and Mission statement. The Joint Programme also enabled the NIEC to move into its interim office in August 2015 which was constructed, furnished and equipped through the Joint Programme.

The Joint Programme further supports MOIFA in its electoral related democratization role. With the assistance of the Joint Programme, MOIFA organized in November 2015 a three-day consultation to discuss the draft Political Party Law with representatives from the federal state and the regions, as well as civil society. The JP also supports a full-time senior electoral advisor to MOIFA.

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On 27 December 2016, Somalia saw the inauguration of its tenth national Parliament after the conduct of a unique process where approximately 13,000 appointed clan delegates elected in the State Capitals and Mogadishu their (sub-)clan representatives for the Federal House of the People. It is the first time in 47 years that a parliament in Somalia, which had completed its legal term, handed over in a democratic and dignified manner the responsibility of its constitutional mandate to the new assembly.

The 10th Parliament comprises a renewed House of the People as well as a new Upper House. The House of the People, the so-called Lower House, contains 275 'clan based' seats, while the 54-member Upper House consists of Senators elected by Somalia's different State Assemblies. In total, the new Federal Parliament includes almost 25% women, a significant increase compared to the 14% women in the previous House of the People. Overall, over 50% of the people elected in the House of the People are new MPs. About 16% of the elected MPs are under 35 years old. The new



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Parliament elects in 2017 the new Federal President of Somalia.

The 2016 indirect 'electoral process' was managed by different ad hoc bodies at Federal and State level: the Federal Indirect Electoral Implementation Team (FIEIT), seven State Indirect Electoral Implementation Teams (SIEITs), and the Independent Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism (IEDRM); which were all temporarily established in the second half of 2016 as part of an agreement between Somalia's federal and state leaders - concluded during different subsequent meetings of the National Leadership Forum (NLF). All bodies were extensively supported by the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme for Support to the Electoral Process in Somalia through electoral advisory assistance as well as logistical and budgetary support.

On 6 September 2016, the President of Somalia signed the Political Parties Law, which is one of the legal requirements in preparation for future universal elections, and which foresees a key role to the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) in registering political parties. The Joint Programme has further been working with the NIEC and MOIFA on how to initiate the first conceptual steps towards the development of the Electoral Law in an inclusive and consultative manner.

In February 2017, the electoral process for a new bicameral Federal Parliament and President came to a conclusion with the election of Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmaajo" as the new President of the Federal Republic of Somalia. As a sign of success, both the outgoing Parliament and President handed over in a democratic and dignified manner the responsibility of their constitutional mandate. Despite imperfections including undisputed instances and reports of intimidation, harassment, corruption and vote rigging, most electoral contests were conducted peacefully with intensive media coverage and the results accepted as legitimate.

After the past electoral process, Somalia has in the current inter-elections period a genuine opportunity to stabilize further the country and to advance on its peacebuilding and state-formation agenda which are part of the new government priorities including the commitment of holding universal elections at the end of the Parliament's term in 2020, the first nationwide multi-party elections in Somalia since 1969. This was expressed publicly in May 2017 during the London Conference, where in addition the commitment was made to have the Electoral Law by the end of 2018. This commitment was renewed in the Mogadishu Agreement on 5 November 2017 by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member States (FMS).

The commitment from the Federal Government to universal elections was welcomed in the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 2358) on 14 June 2017, where the Security Council underscored the importance of UNSOM to support the FGS with the preparation of "inclusive, credible and transparent elections by 2020", and to take the lead in coordinating international electoral support to Somalia. To lay importance on progress made, on 24 August 2017, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, visited the Somali National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) as part of a high-level visit to the country. The Under-Secretary-General welcomed the development of the NIEC's strategic plan for 2017-2021 as a roadmap in preparation of Somalia's universal elections.

In line with the UN Electoral Needs Assessment Mission conducted in April 2017, and informed by the NIEC's Strategic Plan (2017-2021), the focus of the renewed Joint Programme for Electoral Support is on establishing the electoral 'building blocks' for universal suffrage. These include in 2018: the development of the Electoral Law, including the system of representation; defining voter registration methodology; registration of political parties; establishing NIEC with the necessary capacity, also at sub-national level; NIEC engagement with stakeholders, including Federal Member States (FMS). While the challenges are enormous, preparations for the Somalia's universal suffrage elections are gaining certain



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momentum, which will need to be sustained in 2018. It is critical that the focus remains on the adoption of the electoral law, and related constitutional adjustments, to allow for a clear legal framework to be put in place in time, as elections cannot be prepared in a legal vacuum.

The choice of an electoral system will be a profound decision for Somalia, and that decision should be made in a consultative, transparent and accountable manner at all stages of the process, including the during the legislative process in parliament when the legislation will be concluded by late 2018. It is furthermore important that the NIEC arrives at a decision, consulted and accepted by stakeholders, on the appropriate voter registration methodology for Somalia at this time – manual or biometric –, so that preparations can begin for implementation of a voter registration exercise in early 2019. It is also important that political parties continue to register and organize themselves as effective groupings so that the transition from clan-based politics to policy-based politics can proceed. The UNDP/UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group continues to offer sustained technical institutional capacity-building of the NIEC at national level and at state-level in 2018 as well as continued coordination of international electoral support by the UN, and scaling up of support on technical advice and support for electoral security planning and coordination.

**PROGRESS REPORT RESULTS MATRIX**

**OUTCOME STATEMENT**

“Somalia is enabled to conduct an electoral process in 2016 and to prepare for and hold universal (one person one vote) elections in the longer term through the provision of support to the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), the development of the legal framework for elections and support to promote better understanding of the electoral process.”

**Output 1: The institutional capacity of the NIEC is developed to fulfil its mandate to prepare for and conduct electoral operations.**

INDICATOR	TARGET	PROGRESS ON OUTPUT INDICATOR
		CUMULATIVE
The extent to which the NIEC's institutional capacity is developed	The NIEC is operational and initial institutional capacity in place	YES YES

Sources of evidence:

- NIEC 5 year Strategic Plan (2017-2021) developed (including budget), published and shared with national and international partners
- Media coverage NIEC launch of temporary registration process of political parties
- NIEC official quarterly report to the Federal Parliament
- NIEC Operational Plans
- Official NIEC presentations to donor partners and international community; NIEC advisor reports
- Social Media articles: NIEC Website (www.niec.so); NIEC Facebook page; UNSOM Facebook page, UNDP Somalia Facebook page
- Official documents signed between UNDP and the NIEC (Work Plan, Letter of Agreement)
- Training and workshop reports/materials
- NIEC advisor reports to UNDP
- NIEC accreditation of Association of World Electoral Bodies

**Output 2: MoIFAR supported in its electoral related democratization role**



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The extent to which MOIFAR's electoral-support capacity is developed	MOIFAR takes the lead in coordinating the development of the electoral law	YES	YES
Sources of evidence:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Media coverage coordination sessions amongst FGS ministries on electoral law development, led by MOIFAR (OOP, OPM, MOIFAR, MOJ, MOCA) and supported by NIEC</li> <li>○ Working Group reports</li> <li>○ Letter of Agreement between MOIFAR and UNDP</li> <li>○ MOIFAR advisor reports to UNDP</li> <li>○ Workshop reports: Electoral Legal Framework</li> </ul>			
<b>Output 3: Legal framework for elections and referendum developed</b>			
Progress on development of the electoral laws	Review of the Political Party Law. Compendium of Electoral Legislation	YES	YES
Sources of evidence			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compendium of Electoral Legislation of Somalia (1953-1969) comprising 12 laws in English, including 6 translated from Italian into to English. Somali translation.</li> <li>○ Outline of Electoral Law</li> <li>○ Task Force coordination reports</li> <li>○ Roadmap to Electoral Law drafting</li> </ul>			
<b>Output 4: Increased public and stakeholder understanding of electoral processes and electoral legal framework through civic education.</b>			
Development of Somali-English-Arabic lexicon of electoral terminology	Lexicon with electoral terminology in Somali is finalized	YES	YES
Sources of evidence (as per current QPR)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Somali-English-Arabic lexicon of electoral terminology printed (1000 copies)</li> <li>○ UNSOM website coverage</li> <li>○ UNSOM article on Lexicon launch</li> <li>○ UNDP coverage of Lexicon launch</li> <li>○ Media coverage and social media</li> </ul>			
<b>Output 5: Support to the 2016 electoral process</b>			
The extent of support to the 2016 electoral process as supported by the UN	The 2016 electoral process was concluded according to plan and integrity and representation measures as agreed and delivering an accepted result leading to the establishment of a new Federal Parliament	YES	YES



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### Sources of evidence

- Official inauguration of new Parliament and President
- FIEIT 2016 elections website: <http://doorashada2016.so/en/>
- House of the People elections results certification forms
- FIEIT and IEDRM official documents, press conferences and communiqués
- NLF Communiqués
- IESG notes informing UN HQ, UNSOM principles, and donor partners on implementation of the 2016 electoral process

### NARRATIVE

#### **Output 1: The institutional capacity of the NIEC is developed to fulfil its mandate to prepare for and conduct electoral operations.**

A major objective of the Joint Programme for Electoral Support is to develop long-term electoral and institutional capacity of Somalia's National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC). The NIEC was established in July 2015 as the electoral management body to support future universal "one-person one-vote" elections.

After it was decided in 2015 that Somalia would not have yet universal elections when the Federal Parliament and President's term was coming to an end in 2016, it was further agreed that the focus of the NIEC would be on the next electoral cycle in preparation of universal "one-person one-vote" elections, rather than the clan-based political negotiated electoral process in 2016.

After the Joint's Programme predecessor, the Project Initiation Plan (PIP), had provided expert advice during the drafting of the NIEC Law, which was passed in February 2015, the Federal Parliament appointed on 6 July 2015 the nine Commissioners of the NIEC who took their oath before Parliament on 21 July 2015. The selection and appointment of the Commissioners took place in line with procedures specified in the NIEC Law. Two out of the nine Commissioners were women which is partly in keeping with strong recommendations from advisers for a minimum number of women in the Commission during drafting of the NIEC Law.

The NIEC became functional and operational from August 2015 onwards as the Commissioners moved to its temporary office which was constructed, furnished and equipped by the Joint Programme

The Programme enabled the Commissioners to acquire a deeper understanding of the steps and tasks involved in organizing elections and its role and responsibilities. It also supported them in developing an Action Plan as well as the NIEC's Vision and Mission statement.

IESG supported NIEC more focused long term technical and advisory support towards fulfilment of its five year Strategic Plan in achieving the 2020 first universal "one-person one-vote" elections since 1969. The support centers mainly on technical electoral operation with the priority being institutional strengthening and operations management through tailored capacity building initiatives on elections management and management policies of the organization. The IESG also provided budgetary support to NIEC in implementation of its activities and operations.

The four workshops provided by the Joint Programme comprised sessions on: electoral principles (3 August 2015); electoral management and NIEC role and responsibilities (9-10 August 2015); team building and strategic planning (28 September-2 October 2015); and a Communications Workshop (8 October 2015). The strategic planning workshop resulted in an Action Plan and a Vision and Mission statement, which was presented to donor partners and the public in



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a press conference on 2 October 2015. The NIEC's Vision and Mission statement outlines its goal of building trust in the electoral process and safeguarding the aspirations of the Somali people.

The two elections study tours supported by the Joint Programme (Tanzania - 25 October, and Turkey - 1 November), allowed the Commissioners to witness first-hand the conduct of a national election on 25 October. During their study visit, the NIEC focused on getting an awareness of the scale and scope of an operation that was conducted in tens of thousands locations and which required over hundreds of thousands people to operationalize. The NIEC gained a deeper understanding of the electoral operation and learnt insights into methods and systems. The Commissioners were given an overview of the voter registration system, taken through the observation accreditation steps as well as polling, counting and tabulation procedures; and visited warehouses to observe the distribution of electoral materials

Specifically, from 21 to 28 October, the Joint Programme supported the NIEC to visit Tanzania to witness first-hand and for the first time the conduct of a national election on 25 October. The NIEC was accredited with observer status by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to facilitate the conduct of its study tour. The NIEC split into two groups – one staying in Dar es Salaam and the other moving to Zanzibar to visit the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC). The NIEC was given the opportunity to meet the Chairpersons of the NEC and ZEC, the director of the Information Technology department, and several electoral district officers. In addition, the NIEC had a meeting with members of the regional intergovernmental body, the East African Community (EAC). The UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania and former UNDP Country Director of Somalia, Alvaro Rodrigues, encouraged the NIEC members with their important task to prepare for future elections in Somalia. While in Zanzibar, NIEC Chairperson Halima Ismail Ibrahim had the opportunity to meet former Nigerian President, Jonathan Goodluck, who attended the Tanzanian elections in his capacity as Chairman of the Commonwealth Election Observer Mission for the 2015 elections. Chairperson Halima Ismail Ibrahim provided updates of election-related developments in Somalia, including the establishment of the NIEC. Former President, Jonathan Goodluck encouraged the NIEC Commissioners to stay committed to the course of promoting sustainable peace through the ballot box.

From 1 to 10 November 2015, the NIEC Commissioners were invited by the Government of Turkey on an Elections Study Tour to visit the country's General Elections. The Joint Programme facilitated the travel and assisted the Commissioners in their meetings with Turkish electoral officials. The study tour to Turkey allowed the Commissioners to compare electoral operations and challenges in two different countries with different political and electoral dynamics.

The Study Tours were preceded by a pre-mission briefing that the IESG had provided to the Commissioners on 15 October 2015. This briefing focused on the political and electoral background in Tanzania, including the existence of two electoral management bodies, the NEC and ZEC, and gave an overview on the principles of elections observation. In addition, the IESG presented the NIEC with an introduction on electoral public outreach and various models of organizational structures for the NIEC Secretariat. This all helped them in better understanding the complexity of an election, which they were about to observe during the study tours.

In anticipation of a Secretariat established under the Civil Service structure, the Programme has been closely working with the NIEC on its organizational structure and is advising the NIEC on ToRs for key staff including the ToRs of the Secretary-General.

### **Political Party Registration**

The Political Parties Law, signed by the Federal President 6 September 2016, foresees a prominent role to the NIEC in registration. Supported by the Joint Programme, the NIEC held consequently various discussions with stakeholders to



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establish transparent and professional relationships with political parties through various strategies. These discussions led the NIEC to tabling options to explore in order to effectively fulfil their responsibility of registering political parties including a framework of technical tools to operationalize the Political Parties Law. The accreditation of political parties was an important milestone for the preparations towards universal elections, as Somalia does not have seen any national political parties since decades of conflict resulting in a very fragmented country. Following much preparatory work, on 28 September 2017, the NIEC launched the temporary registration process for political parties, an announcement that got high-level attention and was broadcasted publicly. This resulted in the temporary certification on 3 December 2017 of the first seven political parties by the NIEC. Once voter registration is underway, parties will be able to proceed to the official stage of registration. This will require 10,000 registered voters indicating their support through a signature campaign that must be representative of 9 of the 18 regions.

### **Voter Registration feasibility study**

The Joint Programme for Electoral Support initiated conceptual discussions with the NIEC as well as other partners on a feasibility study for civil and voter registration in Somalia. Some of the major questions and issues surrounding ID/voter registration systems in Somalia have been brought up, including the legal framework, conflicting registration concept with initiatives at the State Level, citizenship criteria, competing mandates, data and process ownership, security, sustainability and funding. On 10 September 2017, the NIEC with the technical support from IESG, initiated a Voter Registration Feasibility Study to examine all aspects related to the introduction of a voter registration system for Somalia in preparation of universal elections. The study assessed the feasibility of different voter registration options and methodologies in the specific context of Somalia that has not had any nation-wide registration system of people in decades. The team comprising international experts on subject matter under the NIEC, IESG, and the US-funded BUILD project engaged key government partners of the FGS and FMS, as well as different stakeholders including civil society. The report currently provides direction to the FGS on the actual voter registration planned to commence in 2019 according to the NIEC strategic plan. Challenges on such undertaking are known in terms of accessibility, security, legal framework and political agreement on constitutional issues which NIEC has been addressing over the last few months. In addition, the definition of eligibility to vote as informed by the citizenship law will be an important piece of legislation to include IDP, nomadic population and population size.

### **Institutional capacity development**

The Joint Programme provided the technical and administrative capacity building and support of the NIEC Secretariat. The Joint Programme facilitated the deployment of national advisors embedded in the NIEC to provide direct technical support to the Commissioners. Different electoral and operational trainings, workshops and study-tours were provided throughout the year to strengthen the Commissioners and staff's capacity. A series of institutional capacity development programs were implemented during the course of the year such as electoral capacity development, operational management support, and organizational development through direct technical engagement with NIEC, on-the-job trainings, and specifically designed workshops. The most significant capacity development trainings and workshops by IESG include:

- In January and February 2017, intensive workshops were held with the entire Commission and Secretariat to develop the NIEC's Strategic Plan, assisted by expert advice from the Kenyan Electoral Commission, and jointly supported by IESG and by USAID bilaterally. It led to a very comprehensive Strategic Plan widely welcomed by national and international partners which serves as the NIEC's roadmap for universal elections in 2020.



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- In July 2017, the NIEC hosted a three-day workshop on political party registration with representatives of other African and Arab electoral management bodies sharing their expertise and experiences.
- In August 2017, with technical support from IESG, the Registrar of Political Parties convened a working session for NIEC staff reviewing all draft forms to facilitate the submission of applications by political associations to register as political parties. The outcome of the session contributed to building the capacity of the Registrar's office and support staff assigned to this process to fulfill its functions of registering of political associations.
- In late September 2017 and early October 2017, together with the (USAID-funded) BUILD project, IESG supported a ten-days internal NIEC management implementation workshop, aiming to streamline the NIEC's organizational structure in line with its strategic objectives. This would also facilitate the NIEC participating in the HACT assessment in 2018 of its internal functions, regulations and segregation of duties.
- In November 2017, IESG supported the NIEC with the conduct of a polling and counting training session to prepare and train the secretariat staff and enhance their knowledge and understanding of polling and counting procedures, to be able to conduct by-elections and in preparation of general elections.

### **Outreach**

The launch of the NIEC website ([www.niec.so](http://www.niec.so)) in June 2016 symbolizes the development of the NIEC's institutional capacity one year after its establishment. The website explains the organization's mandate to prepare for one-person one-vote elections in 2020, and features its main activities to inform both national and international audiences. In addition to information about the various activities undertaken, the website also includes the NIEC's Code of Conduct and individual bios of the Commissioners. At a ceremony attended by the Prime Minister and MOIFA, the NIEC launched its official website on 27 July at its office in Mogadishu.

### **NIEC Strategic Plan (2017-2021)**

On 20 September 2017, with support from IESG, the NIEC convened a coordination meeting with donor partners and international electoral assistance providers to present the details and budget of its five-year strategic plan. This plan serves as the institution's roadmap to prepare for universal elections in Somalia, with key focus on: institutional capacity development; electoral legislation and procedures; informing the electorate; voter registration; a level playing field for candidates, parties, media and observers; the conduct of credible, free and fair elections; and a post-election evaluation before initiating the next cycle. The NIEC Strategic Plan has been developed after extensive work by the Commission and Secretariat, assisted by other regional electoral experts, and supported by the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme for Electoral Support.

### **NIEC stakeholder engagements with sub-national actors**

Supported by the Joint Programme for Electoral Support, the NIEC conducted in 2017 its first field missions to different Federal Member States to strengthen its domestic stakeholder relations. After the visit to Garowe, Puntland in May, the NIEC sent a delegation to Kismayo, Jubaland (July), Baidoa, South-West (August) and Jowhar, Hirshabelle (September). The NIEC engaged with State leaders and civil society networks to clarify its mandate, presenting its five-year strategic plan for nation-wide universal elections and discussing specific preparations for 'one person, one vote' elections. The outcome of the missions were State Authorities confirming their expressed support for NIEC and cooperation in ensuring pre-elections activities are coordinated and successfully carried out.

As one of the conclusions of the Mogadishu Agreement on 5 November 2017 between the FGS, the FMS and the



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Benadir administration, the NIEC was tasked to conduct state-level consultations within 90 days discussing with a wide range of national and subnational stakeholders - from state-level leaders to local administration officials, traditional elders, religious leaders, civil society groups, women, youth - issues and challenges pertaining the preparation of universal elections. In this respect, after detailed planning and with technical and logistical support provided by IESG, the NIEC commenced these regional consultations on 17 December 2017 with visits to South-West and Jubaland, followed by multiple locations in the other FMS in January and February 2018. The consultations were intended to facilitate political agreements on electoral challenges.

The NIEC's regional consultations have been welcomed by local stakeholders and received wide media coverage (Somali radio, TV, social media). The consultations in the different regions are being followed on the NIEC website <http://niec.so/en>, facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NIECSomalia>, and the NIEC twitter account [@NIECsomalia](https://twitter.com/NIECsomalia).

### **South-South cooperation**

By participating in different South-South activities, the NIEC benefited from the knowledge of other electoral management bodies (EMBs) within Africa, Arab states and rest of the world. After already becoming a member of the Association of Arab EMBS in 2016, the NIEC also became on 31 August 2017 a formal member of the Association of the World Election Bodies (A-WEB). Membership of these associations provides the NIEC useful technical support and advisory and allows Commissioners to tap into the extensive knowledge and experience from peer members across the world.

In particular in preparation for the registration of political parties, those partnerships provided very useful support to NIEC. From 10 to 12 July 2017, in partnership with the association of Arab EMBS<sup>1</sup>, and supported by IESG and UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States, the NIEC hosted a three-day international workshop, in Nairobi, Kenya, on political party registration with representatives of different African and Arab EMBS. As a result of this international workshop which covered areas of policy, decision making and administrative issues, the NIEC was able to prepare successfully to commence the temporary political party registration process, with seven political parties already registered by the end of 2017. In addition, on 4 August and 8 August 2017, respectively, members of the NIEC observed the elections in Rwanda and Kenya as part of accredited International Observers which was supported by the Joint Programme whereby the NIEC Commissioners and their Rwandese and Kenyan counterparts held dialogue on the challenges faced in conducting the on-going elections in the respective countries. At last, the former Chair of the Kenyan Independent Electoral and Boundary Commission (IEBC), provided strategic insights and support to the NIEC during the development of its 5-year Strategic Plan (early 2017) and later again during the management implementation workshops in September 2017.

### **Output 2: MoIFAR supported in its electoral related democratization role**

The Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MOIFA) played a central role in supporting Somalia's democratic transition, with a lead role in developing the legal framework for universal elections; and contributions to raising public awareness and civic education on the democratization process.

The Joint Programme assisted MOIFA in bringing the draft Law on Political Parties one step further to submission to Parliament by supporting MOIFA's workshop with representatives from the federal state and the regions, as well as civil



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society to discuss the draft Law in a consultative manner (21-23 November 2015).

Following 14 public consultations conducted by a parliamentary ad-hoc committee in the months before, MoIFA held a national consultation from the 21-23 November 2015, to consolidate further comments on the draft of the Political Party Law. MoIFA invited intergovernmental organizations and representatives from all regions and other relevant stakeholders for their input on the law. The outcomes of the consultation are feeding into the overall finalization of the draft political parties law before being submitted to the Council of Ministers and then on to the Federal Parliament.

Over 200 delegates which included 40 females participated in the consultation. Different federal and state ministers and other dignitaries were present, as well as delegates from Jubbaland, Galmudug, South West, Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions. Participants from Puntland were invited but were unable to attend the consultation. Civil Society Organization participants included representatives from Banadir Women, Somali National Women and Somali South Central Civil Society Organization (SOSCENSA). Participants also included traditional and religious leaders and representatives from youth organizations.

Discussions focused on the following three main issues pertaining to the regulation of political parties:

1. Registration procedures and requirements of political parties;
2. The scope of the draft law: should Political Parties register at regional level only or only federal level? Should their office be at local or regional or federal level? Should there be a distinction between parties that predominately work or are based in one federal member state and a party with offices in more than one state (therefore more nationwide application)?
3. The regulation space given to Political Parties according to this law: Should the state regulate the internal affairs of a political party or should political self-regulate? What aspects of a political party should the state regulate and what aspects should be left to political parties themselves to regulate?

Subsequent discussion in the course of next two days focused on the finance and funding of Political Parties, the dispute resolution mechanism in Somali Draft Law and who should be responsible for registering political parties.

Overall, the participants of the consultations played a key role in contributing to the objectives of the consultations on the draft political parties' law. They highlighted the need to harmonize the draft legislation with the other important electoral related legislations and legal frameworks to enhance Somalia's overall democratization and political process. The participants also highlighted the need for the finalization of the draft law to take into account the on-going constitutional review process.

In a separate activity the Joint Programme completed the translation of six electoral-related historic Somali laws from Italian into English as a step towards producing a compilation of Somalia's historical election laws.

From 4 to 6 August 2015, the Joint Programme organized a three day introductory BRIDGE workshop on Strengthening Democratic Processes for 22 members of the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MOIFA). As a result of this training the Ministry was better positioned to develop and implement a work plan to support Somalia's democratic transition.

BRIDGE (Building Resources In Democracy, Governance and Elections) is an internationally recognized electoral training course. The thematic areas covered in the workshop included democratic principles, the electoral architecture (legislative framework – including international and regional instruments), electoral systems, the electoral cycle, working with stakeholders, public outreach and civic education. In addition, the Joint Programme is supporting the development



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of a lexicon of electoral terminology with MOIFA and NIEC and has so far translated 480 electoral terms and their definitions from English into Somali.

The Joint Programme provided capacity development assistance to MOIFA's conceptual planning to take the lead in the development of the new Electoral Law for universal elections, a process that gained momentum in 2017 as part of the roadmap for one person one vote elections. With the support of the national advisors in the Ministry, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support assisted MoIFA in 2016 with an internal working group to initiate coordination in drafting electoral legislation for universal elections envisaged for 2020. The idea was to ensure that the planning process takes into account the various stages and processes crucial in law-making, including identifying key resource persons and mapping of institutions, groupings of civil society, youth, women to contribute to the process and broadening the scope of participation. The Joint Programme also facilitated specialized electoral joint trainings and workshops to MOIFA, the NIEC and the Boundary and Federation Commission (BFC) on prominent concepts and operations throughout the electoral cycle.

The FGS underscored in 2017 the commitment to have the Electoral Law approved and passed by the end of 2018. Clearly, the process of drafting the law needs to be inclusive to ensure that the various stages and processes crucial in law-making, including key actors from the federal government, the federal member states, NIEC, Parliament, as well as other electoral stakeholders. MoIFAR is the leading entity from the Executive, tasked with the drafting process of the electoral law, before the Bill will be passed on to Parliament by mid-2018.

IESG's support included technical advisory on electoral systems and systems of representation to MOIFAR and other key partners, as well as the deployment of national advisors in MOIFAR to provide the Ministry a core team of experts working on this law and the process of engaging all relevant partners. With the formation of the new Government in April, part of MOIFAR's Electoral Law Working Group (ELWG) was revised. As also recommended by IESG, the ELWG managed to reach out to other key actors from the Federal Government and the NIEC, who jointly established an informal Electoral Task Force (ETF). The ETF met a first time in August in 2017 and includes MOIFAR, the NIEC, representatives from the Office of the President and of the Prime Minister, and of different relevant Ministries such as Constitution, Justice, and Woman Affairs and Human Rights. The ETF worked in the second half of 2017 together to come up with a plan comprising the different electoral systems, including the pros and cons of each system and recommendations for the best options for Somalia. To strengthen coordination amongst key partners in the government it was further agreed that the ETF would also look into other electoral topics that require political decision-making and buy-in from the government, such as the budget for the NIEC. The participants underscored that women's rights and roles must be clearly stated in the laws and their rights have to be protected.

From 20 to 22 November 2017, the ETF held a three-day retreat workshop in Kenya, facilitated by Interpeace with direct participation by IESG. The retreat enabled all key partners to have open discussions on the different models in the context of Somalia whereby a roadmap to draft and complete the Electoral Law in an inclusive and consultative manner was produced for 2018. In addition, on 27 November, IESG expert on international electoral systems and NIEC held a meeting with technical advisors of the Ministry of Interior, Federalism and Reconciliation (MoIFAR), as well as other members from the federal-level Electoral Task Force (ETF) for further discussion on the electoral systems and constituencies. The outcome of the consultations allowed the ETF to make an informed decision regarding the different options of electoral systems, including pros and cons of some models, such as a majority system (first-past-the-post), proportional representation (PR), and mixed systems. At the same time, the contribution of IESG enhanced the technical understanding of government counterparts on specific electoral-legal issues and build capacity before formal



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recommendations. On 24 December, based on the conclusion taken by the ETF, MoIFAR briefed on 24 December the Cabinet's "subcommittee on inclusive politics" on the drafting process for the electoral law and the different options of electoral systems under discussion. The ETF has determined that the electoral system of 'Party List Proportional Representation – Closed List' should be recommended as the future system of representation for Somalia.

### **Output 3: Legal framework for elections and referendum developed**

On 6 September 2016, the Federal President of Somalia had signed the Political Parties Law, which was earlier already approved by the Federal Parliament on 6 June. The Political Parties Law foresees a registration role for the NIEC as part of the process towards "one person - one vote" elections by 2020. As part of the 2020 Roadmap regarding the preparation of universal elections, the Joint Programme has been discussing MOIFA and the NIEC and how to initiate the first conceptual steps towards the development of the Electoral Law in an inclusive and consultative manner.

To facilitate research that will inform the development of a draft Electoral Law, the Joint Programme supported in 2016 the compilation of a "Compendium of Electoral Legislation of Somalia (1953-1969)" comprising 12 laws in English, including 6 translated from Italian into English and Somali.

The legal framework for elections comprises a wide range of legislative initiatives and reviews that have to be undertaken and completed in the upcoming years: most notably the development of an Electoral Law (see above), yet also the possible review of electoral-related articles of the Constitution; the development of the Citizens Law which includes aspects that are significant for the conduct of the elections; amendments to the political party law; and other legal documents.

To facilitate research that will inform the development of the different electoral related legislations, IESG supported the compilation of a "Compendium of Electoral Legislation of Somalia (1953-1969)" comprising 12 laws in English, including 6 translated from Italian into English and Somali. The library of these historical documents is used as reference by the MoIFAR Electoral Working Group and Intergovernmental ETF and other stakeholders involved in drafting of the Electoral Law.

In addition, the NIEC, assisted by IESG, has been outlining comments for technical amendments to the Political Parties Law that was approved in 2016. The Political Parties Law foresees a registration of Political Parties role for the NIEC. The NIEC has also provided comments on Parliamentary draft regarding the organization of the by-elections for vacant seats from 2016 process.

### **Output 4: Increased public and stakeholder understanding of electoral processes and electoral legal framework through civic education**

As the last multi-party elections in Somalia were held in 1969, many Somalis have limited experience of universal multi-party elections, which makes it even more important to increase public and stakeholder understanding of electoral processes and electoral legal framework. In terms of direct stakeholder engagement, the Joint Programme participated in briefings for civil society organizations on the electoral model and women representation, including by the FIEIT with various Civil Society organizations (CSOs). Background and an overview of implementation modalities were provided, outlining key differences compared to the process in 2012, and noting the challenges in terms of implementing the reserved quota for women representatives in both Houses of Parliament.

Supported by UNSOM Public Information Office (PIO), public messages were developed on the different aspects of the 2016 electoral process, and distributed on traditional and social media in Somalia. UNSOM PIO also offered support to



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develop and maintain the FIEIT's website (<http://doorashada2016.so/>).

The last multi-party elections in Somalia were held in 1969, a long time with many Somalis having limited experience of universal multi-party elections. Paramount to address this challenge, is to increase public and stakeholder understanding of electoral processes and the electoral legal framework.

### **Electoral Lexicon**

The electoral process contains many electoral terminologies which are unknown in Somali language and if not translated or adopted well, may lead to confusion amongst stakeholders and the public. As Somalia begins its preparations for a "one-person, one-vote" election in the future, it is important that the Somali people understand what elections will mean for them. To this end, the NIEC with technical support by IESG has been working on a Lexicon booklet which provides a consistent and harmonized electoral vocabulary in Somali of 481 specific electoral terms. The publication of the lexicon booklet will acquaint eligible voters with language that clearly explains their rights and responsibilities. This is vital in a country that has not held an election under universal suffrage since 1969. A Lexicon also provides government officials, electoral bodies, members of parliament and other stakeholders with a glossary of terms to help them develop the legal framework that such an election will require. A total of 2,000 copies in Somali language were printed and distributed to Ministries, Parliament and CSOs representing Women and Youth groups as well as 1,000 copies of English version distributed to International Development partners (more copies to be printed once the Electoral Law in 2018 is finalized for wider circulation). The document is also available on NIEC website: <http://niec.so/en>.

The launch on 11 December 2017 the first electoral lexicon in Somali, English and Arabic, together with the official presentation of the NIEC's five-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021), brought back to the attention of the Somali general public and the international community the challenge for universal elections to be conducted in 2020. The event was attended by representatives of the newly registered political parties, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, international partners, and government officials. The Deputy SRSG and the UNDP Country Director reiterated the UN's commitment to 'stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the people and leaders of Somalia as they seek to advance the country's democratic transition through realizing universal suffrage elections'. The launch was covered by various national and local media agencies and on social media. The preparation of both documents was intensively supported by the UNSOM / UNDP IESG during 2017. Once the Electoral Law is finalized, IESG intends to engage NIEC on public outreach and awareness campaign towards enriching public understanding of the Electoral law and the importance of universal elections in 2020. A total of 1,000 copies in Somali language were printed and distributed to Ministries, Parliament and CSOs representing Women and Youth Groups as well as 400 copies of English version distributed to International Development partners. The document is available on NIEC website: <http://niec.so/en>.

### **NIEC consultations with regional stakeholders**

On 5 November 2017, the FGS, the FMS and the Benadir administration issued a joint Communique addressing a series of issues that require nation-wide attention and action of all Somali state actors. The Communique also tasked the NIEC to conduct state-level consultations within 90 days. In this respect, the NIEC prepared in late 2017 a plan accordingly to hold inclusive consultations at sub-national level with a wide range of stakeholders, from state-level leaders to local administration officials, traditional elders, religious leaders, civil society groups, women, youth, with a view to the 2020 universal elections. This is intended to facilitate political agreements on electoral challenges, with technical and logistical support provided by IESG. In December 2017, the NIEC went to Baidoa and Hudur (South-West) as well as Kismayo, Garbaharey, and Dollow (Jubaland); while the following locations are planned for January: Barawe and Walaweyn



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(South-West); Beledweyne, Jowhar, Buloburde and Bal'ad (Hirshabelle), Adado, Guricel, Abudwaq and Galkayo (Galmudug); Bosaso, Qardo, Garowe and Galkayo (Puntland), and Doble (South-West).

The NIEC's regional consultations were welcomed by local stakeholders and received wide media coverage (Somali radio, TV, social media). The consultations in the different regions followed on the NIEC website <http://niec.so/en>, facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NIECSomalia>, and the NIEC twitter account <https://twitter.com/NIECsomalia>.

The IESG assisted the NIEC with the development of a facilitation guide and provides logistical and budgetary support to the field missions.

### **Output 5: Support to the '2016 electoral process'**

Support provided by the Joint Programme enabled the FGS, state and regional administrations to organize national and regional consultations that were critical steps towards the goal of achieving agreement on the most appropriate electoral option for Somalia. This technical and logistical support enabled an inclusive consultative process to take place facilitating over 3,000 people across Somalia to participate in consultations and have their views heard on possible electoral options to be adopted in 2016. Specifically this support included the provision of technical advice as well as logistical support for the organization of two national and six regional consultative forums.

Support for the Consultative Process commenced with the provision of logistical support for the high-level meeting of federal and regional leaders in Mogadishu from 19-21 September 2015, which culminated in the launch of the National Consultative Forum (NCF) and its first plenary session on 20 October 2015. This was followed by a series of regional consultations (RCF) in November and early December in Garowe (Puntland), Kisamyo (Jubbaland), Baidoa (ISWA), Cadaado (Galmuduug), Mogadishu (Hiraan and Middle Shabelle, Benadir, and the Somalilander community) and Nairobi (diaspora).

For the second plenary session of the NCF on 15 December 2015, Somali representatives gathered in Mogadishu, including senior leadership of the Federal Republic and from Puntland, the Interim South-West Administration, Jubbaland, Galmuduug, Benadir, Hiraan and Middle Shabelle, and of Somali civil society, including women and youth. The NCF reviewed the conclusions from the public consultations held across Somalia on 15, 16 and 22 November 2015 and with Somalis in the diaspora on 5 December 2015. It welcomed the consultative process as a major exercise of participatory politics, manifesting the principal values of democracy. The NCF welcomed the free expression of many different and often divergent views in the course of the public consultations.

The Joint Programme provided senior advisors and extensive logistical support to the Task Force and Technical Support Team who conducted the Consultative Process.

The first meeting of the NIEC Commissioners with partners and electoral assistance providers took place on 2 October 2015 in Nairobi organized by the Joint Programme. This meeting facilitated the Commissioners (eight out of the nine commissioners were present) to engage with donor partners and assistance providers including the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) and Interpeace. The NIEC shared its action plan, answered questions on its role and priorities and Commissioners were informed about the work of other assistance providers. The meeting was a first step for those participating to gain a better understanding of the priorities of the NIEC, donor partners and the work of other assistance providers.

The Joint Programme participated in the coordination meetings of the PSG1 Working and Sub-Working group meetings



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as well as the PSG Action Plan workshop to review electoral targets (15-17 December 2015). These meetings strengthened the coordination amongst all partners in better understanding the electoral challenges for 2016, as well as the foundation being built towards future universal elections.

Coordination has been also undertaken with EISA for its support to the NIEC to hold briefings with civil society and with Strengthening Somali Governance (SSG) on its support to the consultative process on electoral options.

After a protracted political process in the first half of the year 2016 to define the modality of a franchised electoral process for a new Federal Parliament and President of Somalia, a clan model was eventually adopted that contained a combination of a politically negotiated process with electoral features respecting a 4.5 clan formula, with equal representation for the four major clans plus space for minorities. Around 13,000 voting delegates, selected on a sub-clan basis by Traditional Elders, would form 275 electoral colleges to vote for the new members of the Federal House of the People (Lower House).

After the establishment of the different ad hoc electoral management bodies, the Federal Indirect Electoral Implementation Teams (FIEIT), the seven State Indirect Electoral Implementation Teams (SIEITs), and the Independent Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism (IEDRM) voting delegates gathered in the different State Capitals and Mogadishu to elect in November and December in a rolling manner their clan representatives for the Federal House of the People (Lower House). By the end of December 2016, apart from Benadir and the Somaliland community, all States had completed their elections. After having reviewed all electoral adjudication cases submitted by the Independent Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism (IEDRM), the NLF decided that rerun elections were needed for five seats in January 2017.

At the same time, a new 54-member Upper House consists of Senators elected by Somalia's different State Assemblies. On 27 December 2016, 283 newly elected Members of Parliament took their oaths of office.

As part of the UN's facilitation role to the 2016 electoral process, the 'Joint Programme for Electoral Support' worked directly and very closely with the different ad hoc electoral management bodies by providing intense technical, logistical and financial support to FIEIT, SIEITs and IEDRM. In doing so, the UNSOM/UNDP Electoral Support Group (IESG) underscored norms for future electoral processes, including the concept of provisional results pending dispute resolution, and final results certification. Provisional and certified results have been uploaded by the FIEIT on its website supported by the Joint Programme: <http://doorashada2016.so/en/>

FIEIT and all SIEITs were provided the required operational and logistical support for the polling process for the Lower House, including the delivery of all polling and counting material and the hiring and training polling staff. The Joint Programme, in close coordination and collaboration with the EU and the other donors, also engaged with the IEDRM to assist the members with their mandate.

Support for advocacy on women's participation and implementation of the women's quota was provided in collaboration with UNDP's Gender Unit, UN Women and UNSOM's Gender Team, for various Civil Society organizations (CSOs). Members of the UN and the FIEIT urged CSOs to play an important role in the 2016 electoral process.

The uniquely created electoral management structure with a two-tier level comprising nine temporary electoral bodies (one FIEIT, seven SIEITs and one IEDRM team) required significant financial management support. The Joint Programme managed a donor-funded budget and provided the FIEIT, as custodian of the overall 2016 elections budget, procedural and procurement/logistical assistance, budget planning support, and payment of vendors for the necessary goods and services to execute their mandate. Furthermore, the Joint Programme was intensively involved in coordinating and



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disbursing the payment process for delegates. As a significant portion of the electoral budget came from candidate fees, which was managed by the UN at the explicit request of the country's national leaders and the FIEIT, UNDP has reached out to International Organization for Migration (IOM) to manage the latter funds. UNDP and IOM assisted the FIEIT with the disbursement formulas and gave each SIEIT an authorized spending limit based on their respective number of delegates. Operational guidelines for a due diligent procurement and payment process were developed. Third-party UN monitors did operational spot-checks in the field and verified all substantial contracts with vendors to ensure services were delivered accordingly. Furthermore, the Joint Programme was intensively involved in coordinating and disbursing the payment process of a one-time allowance from donor funds for delegates once they have been voted. Third-party UN monitors followed-up per telephone with delegates on the proper receipt of their legitimate allowance.

In terms of security, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support advised in close coordination with AMISOM the government's Electoral Security Task Force and assisted Somali counterparts with the development and implementation of the national plan for electoral

In the beginning of 2017, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support concluded its support to the '2016 indirect federal electoral process'. In January, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support had provided intense technical, logistical and financial support to FIEIT, SIEITs and the Independent Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism (IEDRM) to finalize all remaining electoral activities, in particular last electoral contests for Benadir and the Somalilanders, as well as the rerun elections for five seats in the days prior to the presidential election on 8 February. In so doing, the Joint Programme for Electoral Support continued to underscore norms for future electoral processes. All results are accessible on the FIEIT's website <http://doorashada2016.so/en/>. An important outcome of the 2016 process is that the new Parliament comprises a gender balance of 25% women, a significant increase compared to the 14 per cent in the previous Parliament. Overall, over 50 per cent of the MPs are new. About 18 per cent of the elected MPs are under 35 years old.

Security continued to be a challenge in the past electoral process and clearly coordination amongst security agencies across the nation-wide and at state-levels is paramount towards successful conduct of election in Somalia. A number of lessons learned workshops on security matters were held in 2017 with support and direct involvement of IESG bringing about useful lessons with international, national and state level security forces and actors. The key message from these sessions is that security must be given importance in ensuring peaceful and universal election take place in Somalia.

**Other Key Achievements:** NA

### **Challenges (incl: Delays or Deviations) and Lessons Learnt:**

While the 2016 parliamentary electoral process can be said to have been more democratic when compared to that of 2012, it also drew the attention to the many challenges the country is facing: perceived manipulation of the electoral process, corruption and vote buying of delegates, limited inputs by most Somalis, and the ongoing struggle of women to be included in political and societal spheres. Many of the challenges faced in the electoral process were systemic and reflected the lack of institutional capacity in the country, levels of distrust among and between important stakeholder groups, and the absence of effective means to ensure financial transparency. These systemic problems are to be addressed in the long-term electoral capacity develop support to Somalia in preparations of future 'one person one vote' elections.

Furthermore, ensuring full completion of the 2016 electoral process within a reasonable timeline remained a main concern throughout, as slippage had started already to occur at the early beginning. This significantly affected proper



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planning, and changes had to be constantly made during preparation and implementation of the process. Key issues that affected the different projected timelines included the pending agreement on the electoral model, the establishment of the ad hoc electoral management bodies, intra-clan issues of appointing voting delegates, allocation of specific seats reserved for women candidates to ensure the committed 30% minimum quota in Parliament, security concerns, logistical challenges, and specific state-related issues: such as the formation of the new Hirshabelle State or the specific voting arrangements for the Somalilanders.

Funding for the electoral process came from three sources: the government of Somalia, candidate fees, and donor partners. From donor partners, over USD 8.0 Million was spent through UNDP in direct electoral costs such as support for the operations of the ad-hoc electoral bodies and delegate allowances. An additional challenge rose when the Somali leaders and the FIEIT explicitly requested the UN to take the lead role in managing the disbursement of the collected candidate fees to support the process. To avoid unclear funding channels for the electoral process and accountability issues, UNDP reached out to International Organization for Migration (IOM) to participate in the Joint Programme and take on the management aspect of the disbursement mechanism in support of the SIEITs.

One of the persistent challenges was estimating what framework would be needed to implement the electoral process, and how much this would cost; e.g. the two-tier electoral management structure of ad hoc entities from the federal and the States' level, as well as the time necessary for elders to identify the electoral colleges and for delegates to gather to debate and vote. From the outset, there were varying opinions about the cost of the electoral process with a much higher budget proposed by the Office of the Prime Minister, versus skepticism from some quarters that the FIEIT's proposed budget was too high for a limited franchise electoral process.

The roles of the FIEIT and SIEITs were key in deciding what services were needed, selecting vendors and preparing required documentation. Given the compressed timeline in which the electoral process was held, there was very little time for the ad hoc electoral management bodies to prepare for their financial responsibilities. UNDP and IOM developed together with the FIEIT operational guidelines and procurement procedures, while verification through spot checks by third-party monitors gave assurances that services were provided.

These difficulties all characterized the challenges the Joint Programme for Electoral Support was facing, from a strategic perspective to electoral technical issues and budgetary constraints. From a programmatic perspective, a key lesson learnt is to constantly incorporate flexibility in work plans, in order to succeed in delivering support and respond to changing priorities, while keeping donor partners abreast of each development. All pending uncertainties to the overall framework affected significantly electoral planning and preparation for the implementation of the different key aspects of the process.

While donor partners were concerned about the cost of the electoral process particularly when there appeared to be a lack of progress at times with protracted delays, the gender milestone of a significant minimum representation of women in the new Parliament was an additional funding conditionality for a key donor partner. To keep donors informed of the latest updates and expenses as well as to formulate jointly the next steps forward for the international community, the Joint Programme organized weekly meetings with partners, in addition to scheduled board and PSG1 meetings.

After the completion of 2016 electoral process with the inauguration of the new Federal Parliament and President earlier in 2017, the scope of the UN electoral support programme was revised, focusing on the new electoral cycle and assisting Somalia with the preparation of its first universal elections since 1969. The transition from a clan-based system



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(as in 2016) to 'one person, one vote' elections poses big challenges for the country with many uncertainties at this stage.

Besides core electoral challenges, also a wider range of problems are affecting the conduct of elections in Somalia, such as security concerns, limited capacity and funding, logistical and operational difficulties, the question of the type of federalism the country is moving towards to, and an incomplete legal framework which needs inclusive political decision-making on crucial electoral elements. These factors were not fully part of the scope of the Electoral Support Joint Programme nor within the direct control of electoral counterparts such as NIEC and MoIFAR. An inclusive politics strategy for the next four years was formalized to coordinate the higher-level policy issues such as constitutional review process, electoral systems, state building, and rule of law. The establishment of PW1 co-chaired by EU and Switzerland was achieved in 2017 with its first meeting taking place in September 2017.

Electoral security, including access to all areas, will also be a prominent critical factor in the road path for universal 'one person, one vote' elections. Informed by the NAM, and in consultation with national counterparts, the new UN Electoral Support Joint Programme for 2018 is aligned with the NIEC's Strategic Plan. The revised programme document envisages a multiple-year horizon eyeing towards universal elections, yet, with a first set of building blocks and milestones built-in for 2018 as to measure progress, and revised for a period beyond 2018.

### **Peacebuilding impact**

### **Catalytic effects**

### **Gender**

The 2016 electoral process which was concluded in February 2017 established a new norm for women's inclusion, increased representation and participation at all stages of the process. The establishment of a Committee of Goodwill Ambassadors was a good demonstration of the will of the federal government to support enhanced political representation for women. Although the new Parliament that was inaugurated late 2016 / early 2017 did not meet the envisaged target quota of 30%, the result of 25% female MPs is significantly higher than the 2012 outcome of 14% superseding the global and regional average of women in Parliament. A new norm for women's inclusion increased representation and participation at all stages of the process, including as members in the implementing bodies, as candidates, and as voting delegates, it marks a major victory for Somali women, and will hopefully serve as a stepping stone for further positive changes advancing women's political equality and empowerment. It is further envisaged that a glass-ceiling has been broken and a new reality has been created for strengthening women's role in decision-making and political positions, to inspire many more, particularly young women, to join politics and usher in a path to even greater representation and participation in the universal elections in Somalia in 2020 and beyond.

IESG supported NIEC in furthering gender and women empowerment through engagement with UNDP's Gender and Women Empowerment Project (GEWE) and the strengthening of the NIEC Gender unit. The IESG convened a workshop on political party registration with participation of the UN partners with the objective to cascade the information to Women's groups in mobilizing the interest for women participation in the democratic process and in establishment of the political parties. In collaboration with GEWE, in September 2017 IESG also convened a lessons learned workshop with participation from development partners, donors, the UN Gender Theme Group and regional/ international CSOs. The aim was to share findings from a 2017 assessment on women's participation in the 2016 electoral process in Somalia, strengthen the knowledge-base on the experience of women in the 2016 Somali elections and the region more



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broadly, analyse lessons learned and best practices for future election programming and share the same with partners and provide concrete conclusions and recommendations to guide UNDP’s (and other partners’) support to strengthen Somali women’s full participation in democratic governance. The outcome of the workshop highlighted the importance of coordination and harnessing efforts towards the goal of promoting women participation in the context of resilient society towards women playing any crucial role in governance and leadership.

In addition, during the consultations in December 2017, the NIEC engaged women groups in e.g. in Kismayo, Jubaland on preparations for 2020 elections. More information can be found at this website: <http://niec.so/en/meeting-with-the-women-of-jubaland-about-2020-elections/>. The New 2018 Joint Programme includes a Gender Specialist post for the NIEC to pick up on the progress made and provide useful technical input to the commission in mainstreaming gender and provide guidance towards promoting women engagement and participation.

Proportion of gender specific outputs in Joint Programme <sup>2</sup>	<b>Total no. of Outputs</b>	<b>Total no. of gender specific Outputs</b>
	5	<i>Each output includes a specific gender target</i>
Proportion of Joint Programme staff (UNMISOM+UNDP+LOA NIEC/MOIFAR) with responsibility for gender issues <sup>3</sup>	<b>Total no. of Staff</b>	<b>Total no. of staff with responsibility for gender issues</b>
	30	4

**Human Rights**

In 2017, the NIEC developed its Strategic Plan for the new electoral cycle and ‘one person, one vote elections’, with electoral principles derived from Somalia’s international and national obligations, including international electoral standards from article 21 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. An important element in the path towards universal elections is ensuring inclusiveness and shifting away from the existing “4.5 power sharing formula” between the main clans. The tenth Parliament, inaugurated on 27 December 2016, comprises a gender balance of almost 25% women.

Overall, over 50 % of the MPs are new and about 18 per cent of the elected MPs are under 35 years old. Project activities are designed in a way that all human rights, gender considerations are taken into account. They also ensure that advocacy for women’s representation and partners are recommended to the government.

Has the Joint Programme included a protection risk assessment in its context analysis, including on gender issues, and taken measures to mitigate these risks to ensure they are not exacerbated or new risks created?	<b>Result (Yes/No)</b>
	YES
No. of Joint Programme outputs specifically designed to address specific protection concerns.	<b>Result (No.)</b>
	5
No. of Joint Programme outputs designed to build capacity of duty bearers to fulfil their human rights obligations towards rights holders.	<b>Result (No.)</b>
	3

**Other**

<sup>2</sup> Gender Specific Outputs are those that are specifically designed to directly and explicitly contribute to the promotion of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.

<sup>3</sup> Staff members are those contracted to undertaken work for the Joint Programme including full time staff, consultants, advisors, interns, etc. Staff members with responsibility for gender issues are those who have gender related activities included in their Terms of Reference.



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Does the Joint Programmes have a national cost-sharing component (i.e. funds and/or other resources provided by the FGS and/or FMS (including in-kind contributions)? (if ‘Yes’, describe below).	<b>Results (Yes/No)</b>
	<i>No</i>
Have FMS(s) been engaged in one or more of the following: design, planning, implementation, coordination and/or monitoring of the Joint Programme.	<b>Results (Yes/No)</b>
	<i>Yes</i>
<b>Support to Drought Response</b>	
<p>The Joint Programme for Electoral Support handed-over supporting materiel and equipment from 2016 electoral process to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MOHADM) in order to strengthen the capacity of the ministry.</p>	
<b>Communications &amp; Visibility</b>	
<p>In accordance with the new joint Guidelines on Electoral Assistance, signed between UNDP and the EU in April 2016, the Joint Programme provided each month its input to UNDP’s Global Project for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS). These monthly global Updates were shared to the EU as part of the EU-UNDP communications and visibility framework for electoral projects. The project also produced monthly newsletters which are disseminated to all donors, FGS and development partners.</p>	
<p>Banners with donor logos was designed and used by the NIEC, in particular but not limited to when organizing workshops and posts on social media.</p>	
<p>Due to political and security risks, communication and visibility measures portraying UN and donor support to the 2016 electoral process is very limited. It was essential that the 2016 electoral process is seen as a Somali-led process. It was important that the UN and donors’ support in the background is not mistaken for perceived interference in the process. However, despite minimal visibility of the joint programme itself, the extensive messaging, information campaign and awareness raising around each step of the electoral process and the structure of the electoral model were a significant contribution to the 2016 elections.</p>	
<b>Looking ahead</b>	
<p>While the challenges are enormous, preparations for the Somalia’s universal suffrage elections are gaining certain momentum, which will need to be sustained in 2018. It is critical that the focus remains on the adoption of the electoral law, and related constitutional adjustments, to allow for a clear legal framework to be put in place in time, as elections cannot be prepared in a legal vacuum. The choice of an electoral system will of course be a profound decision for Somalia, and that decision should be made in a consultative, transparent and accountable manner at all stages of the process, including the during the legislative process in parliament when the legislation will be concluded by late 2018.</p>	
<p>Further it is important that the NIEC arrives at a decision, consulted and accepted by stakeholders, on the appropriate voter registration methodology for Somalia at this time – manual or biometric –, so that preparations can begin for implementation of a voter registration exercise in early 2019. It is also important that political parties continue to register and organize themselves as effective groupings so that the transition from clan-based politics to policy-based politics can proceed. The UNDP/UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group will continue offering sustained technical institutional capacity-building of the NIEC at national level, and at state-level as the NIEC begins to establish a sub-national presence in 2018, and will continue its coordination of international electoral support.</p>	



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A new Joint Programme for Electoral Support has been formulated and was approved by the Project Board in December 2017, with re-affirmed donor support to the UN electoral support strategy for 2018. In line with the UN Electoral Needs Assessment Mission and informed by the NIEC's Strategic Plan, the focus is on establishing the electoral 'building blocks' required to meet the envisaged electoral timeframe. These include in 2018: the development of the Electoral Law, including the system of representation; defining voter registration methodology; registration of political parties; establishing NIEC with the necessary capacity, also at sub-national level; NIEC engagement with stakeholders, including Federal Member States (FMS).

For the Electoral Law drafting, the MoIFAR ETF with support from IESG has prepared a 'roadmap' for drafting the Electoral Law to ensure the Executive prepares the legislation in a consultative manner, including with the FMS. Further discussion is envisaged on the constituency options, which at present is focused on the option of one national constituency; while consideration has also been given to state-level constituencies (6 currently recognized FMS plus Benadir) and regional-level constituencies (18 historic regions). The 'Roadmap' envisages as a next step in early 2018 initial consultative engagements with state-level authorities, graduating to briefings by the ETF to the Somali FGS and FMS leadership by Spring 2018. Once consensus on the system of representation is reached, this will facilitate conclusion of the drafting of the electoral legislation by the Executive, and should safeguard passage of the law by Parliament in the second-half of 2018.

It is essential that technical and financial support continues to be provided, to allow for critical activities such as voter registration to be delivered. In particular, it is essential for the NIEC to secure donors funding for its electoral operations, including in the form of the "UN Joint Programme for Electoral Support" for 2018. As universal suffrage elections will need to take place in a conducive security environment, technical advice and support for electoral security planning and coordination will also have to scale up in 2018.



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**ANNEX 1. RISK MANAGEMENT**

Type of Risk <sup>4</sup>	Description of Risk	Mitigating Measures
Political / Strategic	There is a risk that the past 2016 electoral process, the political uncertainties in 2017 and 2018, including on federalism, constitution and political inclusiveness, draws away attention and resources from the preparations and capacity development required for universal “one person one vote” elections.	The renewed mandate of UNSOM in UNSCR 2358 underscores the UN’s support to FGS. Based on the recommendations of the NAM, a new Programme has been finalized and approved by the Project Board to support universal elections by 2020, with initial focus on 2018. Preparation for universal elections has been incorporated in the Government’s political strategy on inclusive politics, together with support to the parliaments, the constitutional review and federalism.
Security	Security conditions adversely impact the frequency with which UN advisers can work closely with government partners and other stakeholders.	UN to use alternative means such as videoconferencing and direct engagement with counterparts to carry out the work. The Joint Programme is working with other actors, including agencies, programmes and projects that support the Somali Support to establishment of a security framework and an elections security task force.
Finance	Long-term sustainability of electoral processes in Somalia could become an issue if the national electoral management bodies (NIEC) does not receive sufficient funding through the government budget and is dependent on international funding. In case of a protracted and costly 2016 electoral process, donor funding for a profound electoral capacity development programme towards ‘one-person one-vote’ elections in 2020 might become an issue.	The Joint Programme works together with the NIEC, donor partners and other stakeholders to include an adequate budget for the NIEC in the Government’s annual budget. As a testament, the FGS has allocated USD 2.5 million for 2018 which is almost 2/3 higher than 2017 allocation <sup>5</sup> .
Social and Environmental Screening	Risk that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups	Within the guidance of the Government and federal institutions, project supports consultative forums with the public, and works with media to ensure adequate information sharing and transparency on the process. NIEC has been supported throughout the year to engage with stakeholders such as CSOs, Women groups, Elders, minority and youth groups.
	Risk that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them	as above
	Risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project	Given the contextualized political and electoral debate, the Project has been building capacities of the national electoral entities and teams
	Risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights	The new UN strategy on future universal elections looks into rights-holders and their capacity to claim their rights.

<sup>4</sup> Environmental; Financial; Operational; Organizational; Political; Regulatory; Security; Strategic; Other.

<sup>5</sup> 2017 NIEC budget plan was USD 1.767 million while allocated budget by FGS amounted to around USD 900,000



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	Risk that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls	Project activities have gender components, gender plans and these are considered through all project activities. For example, trainings on “Gender Responsive Elections”. There is collaboration amongst UN gender experts and focal persons from the Joint Programme for Electoral Support, the UNSOM/UNDP Rule of Law & Security Institutions Group (ROLSIG), the UN Resident Coordination Office (RCO) and UNDP CO on gender concerns.
	Have women’s groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	<p>UNDP’s internal Project Appraisal committee reviewed the project document and ensured mainstreaming of gender concerns. Once approved the project was assigned Gender Marker 2. To the extent possible gender concerns are included in policies and laws supported by projects, women’s representation is encouraged in workshops and trainings. In cooperation with UNDP’s gender equality and women’s empowerment Project (GEWE), IESG is supporting the NIEC with the recruitment of a gender advisor, a post included in the 2018 JP.</p> <p>Resulting from the 2016 process, A committee of ‘Goodwill Ambassadors’ was established to champion for a quota of women’s representation in the Federal Parliament while the new Parliament comprises a network of strong Somali women.</p>

**ANNEX 2. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES**

Monitoring Activity	Date	Description & Comments	Key Findings / Recommendations
<b>2015</b>			
Programme Board Meeting	a. 10 September + 10 December 2015	Electoral and programme updates	Expansion of the programme’s scope to include an output for the 2016 electoral process and endorsement of a twin-track approach to support the 2016 electoral process and to prepare for universal elections and the referendum in due course. Approval for Q1 2016 Work Plan
UN Electoral Pre-Assessment Mission	6 to 12 July 2015	To take stock of the situation in Somalia with regard to preparation for elections in 2016.	Interlocutors identified major challenges to conducting “one person one vote” elections in the originally envisaged timeline of 2016.



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Construction site visits	July-August 2015	Construction of a temporary office for the NIEC.	Construction was completed satisfactorily and the office ready for occupancy.
Programme oversight	November 2015	UNDP Programme Spot-check	Checklist
Programme reporting	End of 2015 Quarter Bi-monthly	Programme Q3 and Annual Progress report IESG newsletters	Programmatic and electoral updates according to planning
<b>2016</b>			
Project Board Meetings, PSG 1 meetings, Donor coordination meetings	PBM: March (virtual), April and Aug 2016;  PSG 1 meetings: April, August, Sept, Nov 2016;  Donor coordination meetings: (bi)weekly	3 PBM held and 4 PSG1 meetings. Given overlap in composition, PSG1 meetings substituted often for board meeting presentations and decisions, in particular concerning the 2016 electoral process.  Separate donor coordination meetings were held by the JP, including the FIEIT when important updates were provided and decisions requested. On important issues, donors were in addition kept abreast through official email exchanges, requesting approval when needed on key steps of the process that had a significant financial implication for the JP	March: donor partners approved no-cost extension of JP until 30 April April/May: donor partners / PSG 1 approved project extension until Dec 2016 with increased funding (5 million USD) for long-term electoral support. Aug/Sept: donor partners/PSG 1 approved budget increase of 8.2 million USD specifically for the 2016 electoral process. Dec: donor partners approved total annual 2016 budget of 14 million + project extension until 31 March 2017.
Visit of a delegation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)	19 May 2016	Discussion on the electoral process	Call for swift endorsement of the electoral model jointly agreed by Somali political leaders on 12 April.
Visit of UNDP Administrator Helen Clark to Somalia and the UNDP Somalia Country Team and Programmes	23 Aug 2016	Visit to UNDP Somalia, UN partners, SRSG and the Federal President of Somalia to discuss, amongst other topics the 2016 electoral process and support provided through the UNDP/UNSOM Joint Programme.	The Administrator strongly backs the 30 per cent quota for women's representation in both houses of the country's next Federal Parliament.
Third Party monitoring	Q4 2016	UNDP PPU contracted Third Party monitors conducted telephone calls to voting delegates to verify proper receipt	The telephone verification reports from the Third Party monitoring entity provided



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		of their allowance	extremely useful feedback on the actual payment process by SIEIT and delegates' focal persons to each of the actual voting delegates. It allowed UNDP to follow-up with SIEIT to correct steps in the process before a new clan was being paid.
Third Party monitoring	Q4 2016	UNDP PPU contracted Third Party monitors conducted spot-checks in each of the different voting cities to monitor and verify services of vendors supporting the delegates of the 2016 electoral process with accommodation and catering.	The spot-checks reports provided feedback to UNDP, IOM and the FIEIT on the actual accommodation and catering services that were provided to delegates when gathering in the cities for the voting process. The spot-check reports were an essential part of the approval mechanism of payments made on behalf of the SIEIT to the vendors.
2015 DIM Audit	May-June 2016	Regular audit of the Joint Programme for Electoral Support	Audit report
Programme oversight	May 2016	Monitoring of project undertaken by CO Programme oversight unit	Compliance review
NIEC and MOIFA site visits	2016	Follow-up on implementation of LOAs with MOIFA and NIEC as well as on use of delivered materials	Continuous capacity development support with site visits remains recommended
Project Board Meetings, PSG 1 meetings, Donor coordination meetings	PBM: March (virtual), April and Aug 2016;  PSG 1 meetings: April, August, Sept, Nov 2016;  Donor coordination meetings: (bi)weekly	3 PBM held and 4 PSG1 meetings. Given overlap in composition, PSG1 meetings substituted often for board meeting presentations and decisions, in particular concerning the 2016 electoral process.  Separate donor coordination meetings were held by the JP, including the FIEIT when important updates were provided and decisions requested. On important issues, donors were in addition kept abreast through official email exchanges, requesting approval when needed on key steps of the	March: donor partners approved no-cost extension of JP until 30 April April/May: donor partners / PSG 1 approved project extension until Dec 2016 with increased funding (5 million USD) for long-term electoral support. Aug/Sept: donor partners/PSG 1 approved budget increase of 8.2 million USD specifically for the 2016 electoral process. Dec: donor partners approved total annual 2016 budget of 14 million + project extension



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		process that had a significant financial implication for the JP	until 31 March 2017.
Visit of a delegation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)	19 May 2016	Discussion on the electoral process	Call for swift endorsement of the electoral model jointly agreed by Somali political leaders on 12 April.
Project Board Meetings, PWG 1 meetings, Donor coordination meetings	<u>PWG 1 coordination meeting</u> : 27 September; 18 December <u>Donor coordination meetings</u> : 10 June, 20 September; <u>Project Board meetings</u> : 22 March, 20 June; 4 Oct; 13 Dec	PWG-1 on Inclusive Politics  Coordination meetings with donor partners and international electoral implementation actors conducted by the NIEC, presenting its Strategic Plan and budget.  Quarterly meetings to review progress, approve important initiatives including project extension and budget / funding approvals	PWG-1: Discussion on TOR of the Committee and SWG on elections; Tabling of 2018 Project Document  Donor coordination meeting: enhanced coordination amongst international partners working with NIEC  Enhanced policy and high-level contributions towards program
<b>2017</b>			
NIEC and MOIFAR site visits	Throughout 2017	Follow-up on implementation of LOAs with MOIFAR and NIEC as well as on use of delivered materials	Continuous capacity development support with site visits remains recommended
Needs Assessment Mission (NAM)	March-April 2017	Electoral needs assessment mission to take stock on electoral progress and define the parameters of future electoral support to Somalia	NAM report will feed into the revision of the Joint Programme
2016 Project Audit	May 2017	Regular audit, including the Joint Programme for Electoral Support	Audit report
2016 CO Audit	Feb 2017	Regular audit of CO including the Joint Programme for Electoral Support	Audit report
Third Party monitoring	Q4 2016 / Q1 2017	UNDP PPU contracted Third Party monitors conducted telephone calls to voting delegates to verify proper receipt of their allowance. The telephone verification reports from the Third Party monitoring entity provided extremely	The telephone verification reports from the Third Party monitoring entity provided extremely useful feedback on the actual payment process by SIEIT and delegates' focal



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		useful feedback on the actual payment process by SIEIT and delegates' focal persons to each of the actual voting delegates. It allowed UNDP to follow-up with SIEIT to correct steps in the process before a new clan was being paid.	persons to each of the actual voting delegates. It allowed UNDP to follow-up with SIEIT to correct steps in the process before a new clan was being paid.
Third Party monitoring	Q4 2016 / Q1 2017	UNDP PPU contracted Third Party monitors conducted spot-checks in each of the different voting cities to monitor and verify services of vendors supporting the delegates of the 2016 electoral process with accommodation and catering. The spot-checks reports provided feedback to UNDP, IOM and the FIEIT on the actual accommodation and catering services that were provided to delegates when gathering in the cities for the voting process. The spot-check reports were an essential part of the approval mechanism of payments made on behalf of the SIEIT to the vendors.	The spot-checks reports provided feedback to UNDP, IOM and the FIEIT on the actual accommodation and catering services that were provided to delegates when gathering in the cities for the voting process. The spot-check reports were an essential part of the approval mechanism of payments made on behalf of the SIEIT to the vendors.
Third Party monitor – short perceptions survey	Q1 2017	UNDP launched a Perception survey through its third-party monitors for assessing response of the national public towards the electoral process, A total of 350 persons were contacted).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 97% of the respondents were aware of the recent presidential elections</li> <li>- 93% were better informed about the 2016/17 elections than in 2012</li> <li>- 93% considered the 2016 election to be an improvement from the 2012 process.</li> <li>- 74% felt that the result of the election would have a positive effect on their state</li> <li>- 65% were very optimistic about the future of the country due to the elections</li> </ul>



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**ANNEX 3. TRAINING DATA**

**2015 TRAINING DATA**

#	Target Group		Dates	# of participants		Title of the training	Location of training	Training provider
	Ministry. District or UN staff	Others		M	F			
1.	High-level delegates of MoFA and the NIEC Commissioners		3 August 2015	14	1	Electoral principles	Mogadishu	UN
2.	MOIFA staff		4 to 6 August 2015	20	2	Strengthening Democratic Processes: Introductory BRIDGE course	Mogadishu	UN certified BRIDGE facilitator
3.	NIEC Commissioners		9 and 10 August 2015	7	1	Electoral management	Mogadishu	UN
4.	NIEC Commissioners		29 September to 2 October 2015	7	2	Teambuilding, Strategic Planning and Electoral assistance coordination	Nairobi	UN and teambuilding facilitator
5.	NIEC Commissioners		8 October 2015	7	2	Communications Training	Mogadishu	UN
6.	NIEC Commissioners		20-28 October / 1-10 November	7	2	Elections Study Tour	Dar-es-salaam + Zanzibar // Ankara	UN / EMBs Tanzania + Turkey



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2016 TRAINING DATA

#	Target Group		Dates	# of participants			Title of the training	Location of training	Training provider
	Ministry. District or UN staff	Others		M	F	Total			
7.	N/A	Civil Society, intellectuals	15 January	47	5	52	workshop for civil society and intellectuals on the electoral process	Mogadishu	NIEC
8.	NIEC		7 February	7	2	9	Media and Communication Training	Mogadishu	JP Electoral Support
9.	NIEC		10 to 13 February	1	1	22	Strategic Workshop for Arab EMBs	Jordan	UNDP/GPEC's Arab regional programme
10.	NIEC		18 February	7	2	9	Gender Responsive Elections	Mogadishu	JP Electoral Support, UNSOM, UNWOMEN
11.	NIEC, BFC, MOIFA	State ministers (2) from Kismayo and Gulmaduug	22 to 25 February	18	4	22	Governance and Leadership Workshop	Nairobi	JP Electoral Support and UNDP State Formation Programme
12.	NIEC		2 to 7 March	2	1	3	Voter Registration Study Tour	South Africa	JP Electoral Support
13.	NIEC		13 to 15 March	1	1	2	Human Rights & Elections Workshop	Jordan	UNDP/GPEC's Arab regional programme
14.	NIEC		24 March	4	0	4	Financial management training	Mogadishu	JP Electoral Support
15.	NIEC	-	4-5 April	4	1	5	Stress Management Workshop	Mogadishu	UNDP-UNSOM



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#	Target Group		Dates	# of participants			Title of the training	Location of training	Training provider
	Ministry, District or UN staff	Others		M	F	Total			
			2016						Joint Programme (IESG)
16.	NIEC	-	19-21 April 2016	3	1	4	Gender and Elections	Jordan, Amman	Arab EMBs UNDP RBAS
17.	MOIFA	NIEC, MP	17-18 May 2016	25	7	32	Electoral Framework	Mogadishu	JP Electoral Support
18.	NIEC + MOIFA	Experts, MPs, academics, prominent Somali figures	24 May 2016	23	8	31	Electoral lexicon in Somali	Mogadishu	NIEC-MOIFA
19.	NIEC	MOIFA, MOCA, MWHRD, MP	14-15 June 2016	13	5	18	Systems of representation	Mogadishu	JP Electoral Support
20.	NIEC + BFC	/	15 Aug	8	4	12	Media Training	Mogadishu	NIEC + JP electoral support + UNSOM
21.	NIEC	/	27 Aug	5	4	9	Finance, procurement, assets management	Mogadishu	NIEC + JP electoral support
22.	NIEC	National Stakeholders	30 July + 23 Aug	11	5	16	Workshop on Civil and Voter Registration feasibility study	Mogadishu	NIEC + MOIFA + JP electoral support
23.	NIEC	/	6 Sept + 29 Sept	13	5	18	Round table on Political Party Registration	Mogadishu	NIEC + JP electoral support
24.	FIEIT + SIEITs	/	14-18 Aug	40	10	50	FIEIT – SIEITs information sharing sessions	Mogadishu	FIEIT + JP electoral support



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#	Target Group		Dates	# of participants			Title of the training	Location of training	Training provider
	Ministry, District or UN staff	Others		M	F	Total			
26.	FIEIT + SIEITs	/	4-8 Sept	32	8	40	Financial Management and Logistics and Operations	Mogadishu	FIEIT
27.	NIEC		25 Oct	14	4	18	NIEC stakeholder engagement strategy	Mogadishu	JP electoral support
28.	NIEC, MOIFA	Electoral assistance partners	6-9 Dec	13	5	18	Workshop on electoral systems	Mogadishu	JP electoral support
<b>Totals:</b>				<b>164</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>221</b>			

**2017 TRAINING DATA**

#	Target Group		Dates	# of participants			Title of the training	Location of training	Training provider
	Ministry, District or UN staff	Others		M	F	Total			
30.	NIEC		February / March	14	6	20	Strategic Workshop Planning	Mogadishu	USDAID - JP Electoral Support - NIEC
31.	NIEC		7-8 February	2	1	3	Second Assembly Arab EMBs	Tunis	UNDP/GPEC's Arab regional programme
32.	Mogadishu Joint		15 March	25	2	27	Mogadishu JSC Election Security Lessons Learned Workshop	Mogadishu	UN-IESG



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#	Target Group		Dates	# of participants			Title of the training	Location of training	Training provider
	Ministry, District or UN staff	Others		M	F	Total			
	Security Committee								
33.	SESTF		21 -22 March	30	1	31	SESTF Election Security Lessons Learned Workshop (National)	Mogadishu	UN-IESG
34.	NIEC	MoIFAR and MoF	14-18 May	24	6	30	Operational Management Strengthening and support workshop	Mogadishu	JP Electoral support
35.	NIEC		19 June	11	1	12	Registration, Polling and counting simulation exercise	Mogadishu	JP Electoral Support
36.	NIEC	African and Arab EMBs	10-12 July	21	8	29	International workshop on political party registration	Nairobi	NIEC; Association of Arab EMBs; IESG / UNDP regional office Arab States
37.	NIEC		23-26 July	8	2	10	Registration, Polling and counting simulation exercise	Mogadishu	JP Electoral Support
38.	NIEC		9 August	10	3	13	Political party registration simulation and review of forms and processes	Mogadishu	JP Electoral Support
39.	NIEC		8-12 September	3	2	5	Review of procedures and practices as part of the preparation of the NIEC's micro-capacity assessment in 2018	Mogadishu	JP Electoral Support
40.	Electoral Task Force (NIEC MoIFAR, Presidents office, Prime Minister Office, MOJ, MOC, etc)		20-25 September	14	4	18	Presentation and discussion on electoral systems and systems of representations in Somali context	Mogadishu	USAID BUILD (Creative Assoc.) (attended by IESG)
41.	NIEC		1-10 October	17	8	25	Management Implementation workshop	Mogadishu	USAID BUILD (Creative Assoc.) + JP Electoral Support



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#	Target Group		Dates	# of participants			Title of the training	Location of training	Training provider
	Ministry, District or UN staff	Others		M	F	Total			
42.	NIEC		14 – 15 November	10	4	14	Polling and counting for by-election	Mogadishu	JP Electoral support
43.	Electoral Task Force (MoIFAR, NIEC, Presidents office, Prime Minister Office, MOJ, MOC, BFC)		20-22 November	14	4	18	Presentation and discussion on electoral systems and systems of representations in Somali context	Kenya	Interpeace (attended by IESG)
<b>Totals:</b>				210	54	264			246



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**ANNEX 4. Photos and Illustrations**

*Figure 1: NIEC banner with donor logos and a woman voting*





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*Figure 2: NIEC Operations Management Strengthening and Support workshop organized by IESG in May 2017*





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Figure 3: NIEC consultation sessions with political and religious leaders, youth and traditional leaders in Beledwene, Hudur and Hirshabele between 23 December and 1 January 2018





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Figure 4: NIEC 5 year Strategic Plan and Lexicon launch on 11 December 2017 (supported by IESG Electoral Support).



Figure 5: NIEC accredited associate membership of A-WEB (31 Aug 2017, Bucharest), Photo credit UNSOM.



Figure 6: MolFAR Working Group session (ETF)





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*Figure 7. Under-Secretary-General (USG) Feltman and SRSG Keating meeting NIEC Commissioners, underscoring international support to universal elections (27 August 2017, Mog) – Photo credit UNDP.*



*Figure 8: NIEC temporary political party registration with Speaker of Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister, both Houses of Parliament, civil society, youth, and political organization. (3 December 2017)*





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*Figure 9: NIEC polling and counting training. Mogadishu, 15 November 2017 Photo credit: UNDP*



*Figure 10: NIEC workshop on political party registration with representatives of African and Arab EMBs. Nairobi, 10-12 July 2017. Photo Credit: UNSOM*

