

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: SOMALIA
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL**



United Nations
Peacebuilding

YEAR OF REPORT: 2021

Project Title: Support to NIEC Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanisms - Somalia									
Project Number from MPTEF-O Gateway: please select 00118635									
If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund:	Type and name of recipient organizations: please select UNDP (Convening Agency) please select UNOPS please select please select please select								
Date of first transfer: 20 Nov 2019									
Project end date: 31 August 2021									
Is the current project end date within 6 months? YES									
Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows: <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project									
Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization): <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Recipient Organization</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,600,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNOPS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 900,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="right" colspan="2">Total: \$ 2,500,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Recipient Organization	Amount	UNDP	\$ 1,600,000	UNOPS	\$ 900,000	Total: \$ 2,500,000	
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Total: \$ 2,500,000									
Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 54 % *ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE* Current level of expenditure/ commitment USD 1,268,322.49									
Gender-responsive Budgeting: Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: 30% Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: 0									
Project Gender Marker: GM2 Project Risk Marker: LOW Project PBF focus area: 4.1 Strengthening National State Capacity									

Report preparation:

Project report prepared by: Mary Cummins, UNDP and Mewael Kahsay, UNOPS

Project report approved by:

Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes. Fadumo Mumin, M&E Specialist and Maurits Rade, Conflict Analysis Officer

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
- *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
- *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
- *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*
- *Please include any COVID-19 related considerations, adjustments and results and respond to section IV.*

PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500 character limit):

Output 1: Election Dispute Resolution Mechanism (EDRM) established, resourced, implemented and understood by all electoral stakeholders:

During the reporting period, the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) provided technical support to both the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) and the ad hoc Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee (EDRC) established by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) as part of the management of the indirect electoral process in October 2020. The initial plan was to support the NIEC to develop and establish EDR structures and systems at all levels, to develop regulations and procedures on EDR and to assist the NIEC to develop and implement training programmes for NIEC staff, relevant judges and electoral stakeholders implementing universal suffrage elections planned to be held in December 2020.

In September 2020, the FGS and FMSs leadership agreed on an indirect electoral model. However, soon after this agreement was reached the relationships proceeded to deteriorate as two Federal Member States, Jubbaland and Puntland, refused to take part. They objected to several issues including how electoral management bodies should be appointed and delegates selected and the incumbent's perceived undue interference on managing the indirect electoral process. The agreement excludes both the NIEC and political parties from the indirect electoral process. The EDRC was established in October 2020 with a mandate to resolve electoral complaints from selection of delegates until confirmation of final election results. t

On 27 May, the FGS and the Federal Member State (FMS) leaders reached agreement related to the implementation of the electoral process which will be led by the Office of the prime Minister (OPM). The agreement allows for challenges to current members of the EDRC who may be seen as having links to the FGS or the security institutions. As a result, 3 members have been challenged and replaced on the EDRC.

Output.2: NIEC stakeholder outreach and EDR facilities are developed at NIEC HQ, including security enhancements (Construction):

UNOPS completed construction of the EDRM building. The building handover to NIEC is pending for a short while. NIEC staff is expected to move into this new building by third quarter of 2021. The Constructed EDR building has 19 offices, one big meeting/training room, server room, canteen, etc. and it is solar powered for lights and sockets. The building is currently under Defects Notification Period (DNP) of 12 months whereby the contractor will rectify defects that may have arisen during operationalization of the building.

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000-character limit):

Since November 2020 there has been political disagreement on the way forward to implement the indirect elections. The ad hoc electoral committees stopped all work in April 2021. Following efforts by the international community between January and May 2021 to bring all parties to the table to resolve their political issues, an agreement was reached on May 27, 2021 on the way forward. Further agreement was reached on June 29 on outstanding issues and an electoral schedule was issued. As part of the May 27 agreement, a procedure for resolving grievances related to the membership of the ad hoc Electoral Administrative Committees was agreed. Three members of the EDRC were replaced and women's representation on the committee remains at 24%. It is expected the EDRC will recommence its work in July. IESG will provide technical and financial support to the re-established EDRC for an effective and efficient adjudication of electoral complaints.

To enhance women's participation in the upcoming electoral process, IESG, in coordination with the senior leadership of the United Nations and the international donor partners, will continue to advocate a minimum 30% women's quota for parliament and for a reduction in the candidacy and complaints fees for women candidates which are restrictive for women candidates. There should be no fees to submit complaints related to the electoral process.

Under the Procedure for the Implementation of the Agreement Guiding the 2020/2021 Elections at the Federal Level, the NCC agreed to commence working on the direct one-person, one-vote elections for 2024/2025. IESG will continue to provide technical and financial support to the NIEC to ensure it has the technical skills to conduct 2024-2025 universal suffrage elections including ensuring there is an EDRM in place.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500 character limit):

The IESG contributed to strengthening the ad hoc EDRC's functional and technical capacity through conducting a number of working sessions and meetings. The EDRC was advised on performance and professionalism of electoral officers who are key to a functional EDR system, on developing a communications and public outreach strategy, engagement with key partners and required resources. The EDRC considered the proposal submitted by IESG on the EDR procedures and incorporated suggestions into their procedures document.

The IESG also supported NIEC's institutional capacity development by providing training and support for NIEC's Legal department on EDR.

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project's positive effect on the people's lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

NA

PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME

Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.

- *“On track” refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.*
- *“On track with peacebuilding results” refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.*

If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

Outcome 1:

EDR mechanism is effectively strengthened in its capacity to prevent the outbreak of electoral violence by mitigating and resolving electoral complaints through formal and informal dispute resolution mechanisms.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

Progress summary: *(3000 character limit)*

IESG provided technical support to the EDRC in establishing the EDR mechanism and structure including developing procedures and other key EDR documents. IESG provided capacity building sessions to the NIEC's legal department on EDR.

The IESG was committed to support the ad hoc EDRC established by the NCC in the last quarter of 2020. This would include support for organizing workshops and consultations on EDR by EDRC at national and federal member state levels for key electoral stakeholders. However, because of the political deadlock, arrangements to conduct activities related to the indirect electoral process was put on hold and it is anticipated that IESG will provide this support once the reconstituted EDR committee is approved and an electoral timeline is prepared.

On 20 April, the Deputy Prime Minister met with the indirect electoral committees, including the EDRC, to appreciate their efforts over the past six months. And requested the electoral committees to vacate their hotels by 25 April to reduce expenses. Following this request, all meetings of these committees stopped.

Since January 2021, the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) accomplished the following:

IESG conducted 4 training sessions on 11, 15, 23 and 28 March 2021 for the NIEC Legal Department. The modules covered: 1) Electoral cycle and Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR), 2) General classification of EDR Systems, 3) Principles and guarantees of EDR Systems and 4) Basic elements of EDR Systems. These training sessions represent ongoing capacity building to NIEC Legal staff to develop their skills and enhance their capacity to deal with electoral complaints. The knowledge and technical skills acquired will enable the NIEC legal team to review the electoral legal framework, prepare amendments and advise the NIEC Board of Commissioners on an EDR mechanism suited to the Somali context.

The EDRC became functional during the last quarter of 2020 and IESG met with the committee in January 2021. Regular meetings were held with the EDRC between January and April 2021 when the EDRC ceased meetings due to the political conflict between the FGS and FMS and other stakeholders. IESG, provided advice to the EDRC on an EDR structure in compliance with the 1st October 2020 Procedure on Implementation of the political agreement by conducting working sessions and holding meetings. Based on IESG's advice, the EDRC decided to implement a two-tier EDR decision making process for the indirect electoral process. Complaints would be handled at the FMS level and if required, appeals could be made to the central headquarters level (second tier).

IESG drafted a detailed EDR procedure to supplement the EDR's existing draft which was incomplete and which could be easily challenged. IESG held two working sessions with the EDRC sub-committee on Registration of Litigation (the committee tasked to draft procedures) to review the EDRC's Procedures document. IESG provided technical advice and shared a revised draft as a guideline to the EDRC sub-committee for their consideration. IESG assisted the EDRC in developing key documents including the draft budget, EDR forms, communication and public outreach plan to ensure citizens have a clear understanding of the EDR process.

Strategic level meetings were held between IESG Senior management and the EDRC Chairman on a weekly basis during the first quarter of 2021 where IESG contributed to strengthening the functional capacity of the EDRC on managing internal and external communications, ensuring close collaboration with the FEIT and other stakeholders and on staff recruitment. Initially FEIT omitted the EDR process from their draft electoral timelines but following discussions between IESG, FEIT and EDRC, a revised electoral timeline was drafted that included adequate time for the electoral dispute resolution process.

Output 2: NIEC stakeholder outreach and EDR facilities are developed at NIEC HQ, including security enhancements (Construction)

Accessible and gender-supportive facilities constructed at the NIEC Compound for EDR, training and meeting purposes with NIEC. It is expected to hand over the building to NIEC in the third quarter of 2021. The office building will incorporate 19 offices and one meeting hall that can accommodate 100 people. The NIEC has offered the use of its facilities to the FGS for the 2021 electoral process. The EDRM building would therefore be available to the Dispute Resolution Committee should the National Consultative Council wish to avail of it.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

Progress summary: *(3000 character limit)*

Construction of the EDRM building is completed. The handover of the building to NIEC is pending. NIEC staff are expected to move into the new building during the 3rd quarter of 2021.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome: (1000 character limit)

The registration fee for candidates contesting for the Upper House and the House of People indirect elections is respectively \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars) and \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) for each candidate. Payment of complaint registration fee of \$3,000 (three thousand dollars) is mandatory to anyone (delegates and candidates only) filing a complaint to the EDRC. These fees are high and restrictive particularly for women’s participation in the electoral process. IESG will continue, in collaboration with the SRSG’s good offices, to advocate for a 50% reduction in all electoral fees for women.

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

<p><u>Monitoring:</u> Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)</p> <p><i>UNDP has contracted a Third Party Monitoring (TPM) firm to conduct monitoring and evaluation. The TPM exercise for the period from Jan- Jun is on-going.</i></p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? YES Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? NO</p>
<p><u>Evaluation:</u> Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? A Plan has been submitted to UNDP for M&E for Q1 and Q2 of 2021.</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): USD 30,000 (but could be less though the team are working on setting this amount aside for the endline during NCE document revisions).</p>

	<p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (<i>1500 character limit</i>): endline Evaluation will be planned in last phase of the project.</p>
<p>Catalytic effects (financial): Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.</p>	<p>For Joint Electoral Support Programme, funding contributions of USD 27.6 M received from donors including EU, Norway, Sweden, USA, Germany and UK during 2018-21 and UNSOS continued with direct budget support of USD 3M for different construction and security enhancement related works for NIEC’s new HQ and Govt of Japan contribution of USD 252,000 for NIEC warehouse construction.</p>
<p>Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (<i>1500 character limit</i>) <i>The EDRC is a temporary electoral dispute body. Most of EDRC members are not conversant with dispute resolution principles and best practices and have little or no legal background. Therefore, there is need of strong support and capacity building to EDRC members.</i></p>	<p>The delay in passing the necessary electoral legislation affected adherence to the constitutional schedule for direct elections in 2020/2021. The quality of the legal framework is challenging as it is contradictory and insufficient, reflecting the lack of legal drafting experience.</p> <p>The political process introduced on 17 September 2020 to hold an indirect elections suspended the entire planned direct electoral process in line with the legal framework.</p>

PART IV: COVID-19

Please respond to these questions if the project underwent any monetary or non-monetary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1) Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19:

\$ ZERO

2) Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

N/A

3) Please select all categories which describe the adjustments made to the project (*and include details in general sections of this report*):

- Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications
- Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery
- Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management
- Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

- Support the SG's call for a global ceasefire
- Other (please describe):

If relevant, please share a COVID-19 success story of this project (*i.e. how adjustments of this project made a difference and contributed to a positive response to the pandemic/prevented tensions or violence related to the pandemic etc.*)

PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Using the **Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments**- provide an update on the achievement of **key indicators** at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<p>Outcome 1 EDR mechanism is effectively strengthened in its capacity to prevent the outbreak of electoral violence by mitigating and resolving electoral complaints through formal and informal dispute resolution</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1 % of electoral disputes resolved in a correct, timebound and peaceful manner through formal dispute resolution (courts) and NIEC dispute resolution body/staff /or local alternative dispute mediation (NIEC)</p>	NA	80%	Capacity of NIEC is being developed.	<p>IESG conducted 4 training sessions on EDR to NIEC Legal department.</p> <p>IESG provided technical support and advice to the Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee (EDRC).</p>	<p>Reason for variance and delay:</p> <p>FGS and FMS agreed in September 2020 to hold federal parliamentary elections through an indirect process similar to 2016. The NIEC and political parties were excluded from the process. An ad hoc Committee (EDRC) was established to resolve electoral complaints.</p> <p>Since November 2020 there has been political disagreement on the way forward to implement the indirect elections. Following efforts by the international community between January and May 2021 to bring all parties to the table to resolve their political issues, an agreement was reached on May 27 2021 on the way forward. The ad hoc electoral committees stopped all work in April 2021. Some members of the ad hoc electoral committees were replaced including some members of the EDRC. Further agreement was reached on June 29 on outstanding issues and an electoral schedule was issued.</p> <p>The ad hoc electoral committees are expected to resume their activities in July and prepare plans to hold elections according to the revised electoral timeline. IESG will provide support to the EDRC to review and finalise electoral dispute procedures related to all aspects of the electoral process including appointment and vetting of selection committees, delegate vetting, election and announcement of results. A key part of this work will be to ensure both those involved in the indirect electoral process and the public at large understand there is an electoral dispute process in place and how it may be used to resolve disputes peacefully.</p>

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Output 1.1 EDR mechanism is effectively strengthened in its capacity to prevent the outbreak of electoral violence by mitigating and resolving electoral complaints through formal and informal dispute resolution	Indicator 1.1.1 EDRM mechanism and structure designed and established; EDR regulations and procedures drafted and adopted.	NA	100%	EDR structure approved. EDRC Procedure developed. EDRC Procedures adopted.	EDR mechanism and structure for EDRC was designed. EDRC procedure was developed.	Reason for delay: All of the ad hoc electoral committees including the EDRC stopped their work in April 2021. The EDRC was in the process of reviewing the procedures and communications plans at that time. Following the political agreement of 27 May between the FGS and FMS leaders, and a further meeting of the leaders on 28-29 June, a new electoral timeline was issued. Some members of the ad hoc committees were also replaced in June. It is expected that the EDRC will resume their work in July and this will include reviewing the electoral timeline, the procedures related to electoral disputes and outreach activities to ensure all stakeholders understand the EDR process. IESG will provide support and advice to the EDRC..
	Indicator 1.1.2 % of Master Trainers (10-15), Field Trainers (ca. 65) to ensure continued cascade training to thousands of electoral workers in the field	NA	100%, minimum 30% women	Masters and Field trainers are trained for cascade training.	No progress	Reason for delay: The NIEC was excluded from the electoral process. An ad hoc Committee (EDRC) was established to resolve electoral complaints. The committee's work was paused during the second quarter of 2021 due to political disputes on the implementation of the 17 September agreement among the stakeholders. Since November 2020 there has been political disagreement on the way forward to implement the indirect elections. Following efforts by the international community between January and May 2021 to bring all parties to the table to resolve their political issues, an agreement was reached on May 27 2021 on the way forward. The ad hoc electoral committees stopped all work in April 2021. Following the political agreement of 27 May between the FGS and FMS leaders, and a further meeting of the leaders on 28-29 June, a new electoral timeline was issued. It is expected that the EDRC will resume their work in July and this will include reviewing the electoral timeline and the procedures related to electoral disputes. IESG will provide support to the EDRC in conducting training and workshops on EDR for Master Trainers who will, in turn, train the EDRC workers in the field.

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Indicator 1.1.3 % of electoral workers (up to 3,000) in the field that received the required training on electoral dispute resolution mechanisms and complaints management	NA	100%, minimum 30% women		No progress	Reason for delay: The NIEC was excluded from the electoral process. An ad hoc Committee (EDRC) was established to resolve electoral complaints. Holding indirect elections was put on hold following disagreements among the FGS and FMS leaders on the implementation of the 17 September agreement. Following the political agreement of 27 May between the FGS and FMS leaders, and a further meeting of the leaders on 28-29 June, a new electoral timeline was issued. It is expected that the EDRC will resume their work in July and this will include reviewing the electoral timeline and the procedures related to electoral disputes. IESG will provide support to the EDRC in conducting training and workshops on EDR for Master Trainers who will, in turn, train the EDRC workers in the field. The plan is to ensure that all poll workers including women have an understanding of the EDR process.
	Indicator 1.1.4 % of people at FMS and national level that received the required information on electoral dispute resolution mechanisms and complaints management.	NA	100%		No progress	Reason for delay: The NIEC was excluded from the electoral process. An ad hoc Committee (EDRC) was established to resolve electoral complaints. Holding indirect elections was put on hold following divergences among the FGS and FMS leaders on the implementation of the 17 September agreement. Following the political agreement of 27 May between the FGS and FMS leaders, and a further meeting of the leaders on 28-29 June, a new electoral timeline was issued. It is expected that the EDRC will resume their work in July and IESG will provide support to the EDRC in conducting training and workshops on EDR for stakeholders including supporting communication and

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
						public outreach activities so that the public understand the EDR process.
Output 1.2 NIEC stakeholder outreach and EDR facilities are developed at NIEC HQ, including security enhancements	Indicator 1.2.1 Accessible and gender-supportive facilities constructed at the NIEC Compound for EDR, training and meeting purposes with NIEC.	NA	Design and construction of two storey concrete structure building which is accessible and gender supportive with 19 separate office spaces, 1 meeting room that can accommodate 90-100 people. Reception area, server room, kitchen, store, gender segregated toilets on both floors, access for physically challenged, solar energy powered, environmentally friendly building with low energy consumption and low carbon footprint.	Construction of the EDRM building completed.	In progress	The building is ready to be handed over, however the NIEC requested the handover to be done when other construction works at the site are completed by UNSOS. These works are expected to be completed during the third quarter of 2021.