



Somalia was expected to conduct direct elections in 2020/2021. Following a political agreement, an indirect electoral process was agreed between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States Leaders. Elections for the 54 seat Upper House concluded on 13 November 2021. Elections for the 275 member House of the People were still ongoing by the end of 2021.

A woman delegate voting during SWS HoP election in Baidoa on 29 November 2021.



Photo credit: SWS SEIT Facebook page

Key achievements during the reporting period

- IESG provided support and technical advice to the ad hoc electoral committees established to manage the indirect electoral process.
- Support and advice provided by IESG to NIEC to develop a new 5-year strategic plan (2022-2026) and an electoral roadmap for direct elections in 2026.

Project data

MPTF Gateway ID	00108826
Geographical coverage	Somalia – National Programme
Project duration	52 months, from January 2018 to April 2022
Total approved budget	US\$ 28,065,055
Programme funding level	US\$ 19,615,340
Estimated delivery rate	69%
Participating UN entities	UNDP and UNSOM
Implementing partners	National Independent Electoral Commission
Project beneficiaries	National population
NDP pillar	1
UNCF Strategic Priority	1

SDG	 
Gender Marker	2
Related UN projects within/outside the SJF portfolio	
Focal person	Mary Cummins, UNDP, mary.cummins@undp.org +252 617522210

Report submitted by:

	PUNO	Report approved by:	Position/Title	Signature
1	UNDP	Jacqueline Olweya	Deputy Resident Representative	
2	UNSOM	Deryck Fritz	Director, Integrated Electoral Support Team	

Section 1: Executive summary

Brief introduction to the project

Since its inception in 2015, the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) has been providing the NIEC with capacity development support, including electoral technical advice and budgetary assistance to help build a solid and credible Independent Electoral Institution, capable of planning and managing electoral processes according to its mandate and its five-year strategic plan. Following a political agreement between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member States (FMS) in September 2020, an indirect electoral model was agreed for the federal parliamentary elections which excluded the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) and the political parties from the indirect process. With IESG technical support to the indirect electoral committees, elections for the 54 seats of the Upper House (UH) concluded in November 2021 and elections for the House of the People (HoP) began. Women's representation increased from 24% to 26% in the Upper House. Support and advice were provided by IESG to the NIEC to develop a new 5-year strategic plan (2022-2026) and an electoral roadmap for universal suffrage elections in 2026.

Situation update / Context of the reporting period

Following the political agreement in September 2020 between the FGS and FMS leadership to hold an indirect election for the federal parliament, challenges arose over issues on how electoral management bodies should be appointed and delegates selected among others. As political disagreements continued between the FGS and FMS during 2021, intensive efforts were made by the international community including the UN to bring all parties to the table to resolve their differences, resulting in political agreements in May, June and August 2021 to try and keep the indirect electoral process on track. Elections to the 54-member Upper House took four months to complete (29 July – 13 November). By the end of 2021, only 34 of the 275 House of the People seats (12%) had been elected.

IESG's support to the indirect electoral process includes the management of the donor basket fund, mobilization of resources, advocacy, technical advice to the good offices of the Mission Senior Leadership and overall coordination of technical assistance to the process with other technical assistance partners. IESG provided technical advice and support the ad hoc electoral committees including the Federal Electoral Implementation Team (FEIT), the State-Level Elections Implementation Teams (SEITs), Elections Dispute Resolution Committee (EDRC) and the National Election Security Committee (NESC). As a result of the political agreement to hold indirect elections, the Annual Work Plan (AWP) was updated in July with donor's support to include a new output for provision of resources to the 2021 Indirect Electoral Process to ensure the credibility and acceptance of the election and results by all stakeholders and the Somali population. The AWP was further revised in November 2021 following donor agreement to provide additional support to the delayed elections.

IESG encouraged the NIEC to use the time available to focus on streamlining the organization's internal processes, develop and complete a new 5-year Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, ensure policies related to institutional governance are reviewed, adopted and implemented and actions taken to improve overall organizational management. As a result, the NIEC put in place a detailed outline, with IESG support, on drafting the new strategic plan, which will guide preparations for universal suffrage elections to be held in 2026. The plan will be consulted with stakeholders once the federal indirect elections are completed.

IESG thanks donors for their generous support to the work of the NIEC and IESG over the past years and notes the importance of continuing support to lay the foundation to enable the NIEC to conduct universal suffrage elections in Somalia in 2026.

Highlights of the project during the reporting period

1. IESG provided support and technical advice to the ad hoc electoral committees established to manage the indirect electoral process. Elections to the 54 member Upper House concluded with all seats elected including 14 women's seats; elections to the 275 member House of the People was underway with 34 seats, including 9 women's seats elected by 31 December 2021.
2. IESG managed the donor funds used to support the indirect electoral committees allowances and operational costs from July 2021 and developed a paper on "Consolidated measures to increase the credibility of HoP elections" which FEIT used to prepare a paper on "Measures to Enhance Election Credibility".
3. IESG support and advice resulted in NIEC developing a new 5 year strategic plan (2022-2026) and an electoral roadmap for universal suffrage elections in 2026.
4. IESG provided support to the NIEC to conduct an all staff retreat in January 2021 that resulted in a lessons learned report including identification of strategies to improve the organization's effectiveness to deliver on its mandate.
5. IESG provided technical support to the NIEC's Office of Political Parties Registrar to develop software for a political party registration database.

1. IESG provided support and technical advice to the ad hoc electoral committees established to manage the indirect electoral process.

Since the establishment of the ad hoc electoral committees, IESG has held meetings, consultations and detailed discussions with senior officials of the committees including their sub-committees to review documents and contributed to drafting integrity measures aimed at improving the credibility of the electoral process. These measures included establishing a dedicated admin/finance team to draft presentations and conduct training for the electoral committees on all administrative and financial aspects of managing the elections operations budget to minimize delays in payments due to lack of inadequate documentation. This team includes representatives of the Office of the Prime Minister, the FEIT, SEIT and the EDRC and meets every week to review financial documentation for processing and payment.



Mogadishu, May 2021, IESG, UN and Office of Prime Minister staff meet to discuss election planning

IESG provided advice on the publication of election timelines, seats reserved for women, delegates, candidate and delegate selection committee list publication, expanding media access to the process and accreditation of the election observers. IESG contributed to the drafting of documents for use in the induction training of the ad-hoc electoral bodies. Extensive support and input were provided to the development of FEIT's operational plan for elections. An infographic and fact sheets were produced in collaboration with the electoral committees to explain the electoral process. IESG Field Offices established contact with the SEITs, and the civil society organizations involved with election

observation in the respective FMSs. Support was provided on developing a database to track assets to ensure consolidation of data and tracking of electoral materials provided either in kind or procured through donor funds. IESG advised the UN's Gender Electoral Task Team on advocacy issues and support to the Goodwill Ambassadors Group (GwA) which was established by the Prime Minister to ensure the 30% quota for women's representation in parliament would be achieved. Part of IESG's work included promoting the reduction of candidate fees for women which was achieved when the National Consultative Council (NCC) agreed to the proposal. Electoral materials including polling kits were deployed with the assistance of IESG staff to all polling sites around the country. The electoral committees were

encouraged to increase the interaction between FEIT, SEIT and EDRC and for EDRC to raise awareness of their role and complaint process. IESG developed a paper on “Consolidated measures to increase the credibility of HoP elections” which was shared with FEIT, which in turn drafted a paper on “Measures to Enhance Election Credibility” that drew extensively on the IESG paper. FEIT planned to share their paper with the National Consultative Council (NCC) in advance of their last meeting which was due to start in late December 2021 but was delayed until the first week of January 2022. IESG supported the Joint Operation Centers (JOCs) which coordinates security for the elections and in particular promoted the inclusion of Women Situation Desks as an integral part of the JOCs to help contribute to a peaceful and inclusive election by responding to and reporting cases of Violence against Women in Elections and empower women both in the political arena and as members of the security forces.

2. The Project Board met twice to approve amendments to the Annual Work Plan to support the indirect electoral process including funding of US\$ 12.26 million.

A Project Board meeting was held in July where the FGS, international partners and the UN agreed on a revised electoral budget of \$18.7 million. The FGS agreed to provide \$11.2 million in direct budget support drawn from candidate registration fees which, together with the international partners’ commitment of \$7.7 million, was considered sufficient to fully resource the election budget based on a four-month plan to complete elections between July and October 2021. A second Project Board meeting was held on 16 November, following a request by the OPM and FEIT to donors to increase their contribution to the revised electoral budget to cover the additional costs for the electoral committees for accommodation, transport, allowances and travel as the HoP election end date slipped from October to December 2021.



Mogadishu 16 Nov 2021, Project Board Meeting co-chaired by Halima Ismail Ibrahim, NIEC Chairperson and Jocelyn Mason, UNDP Resident Representative; and attended by Deryck Fritz, IESG Director.

Three donors consisting of the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), Norway and USAID and the UN Peacebuilding Fund agreed to provide respectively an additional \$4.49 million and \$115K to support the indirect elections. These additional funds brought the overall donor financial support from the FCDO, Germany, Norway, Sweden, USAID and the UN Peacebuilding Fund to approximately \$12.26 million.

However, donors imposed conditionalities on the release of the additional funds which would be made available in two tranches, if specific milestones were met including elections moving forward in a meaningful and credible way in at least three states and transparency the management of candidate fees. As none of the milestones were met by the end of December, no funds were released to pay the ad hoc electoral committee allowances for November and December.

3. Support and advice provided by IESG to NIEC to develop a new 5-year strategic plan (2022-2026) and an electoral roadmap for direct elections in 2026.

Following its all-staff retreat held in January 2021 and in preparation for developing a new five-year strategic plan for 2022-2026, the NIEC, with the support of IESG, conducted a series of orientation workshops for all staff on the conceptual framework and planning cycle for preparing a strategic plan. The new strategic plan was finalized in September 2021 and provides the NIEC with a clear roadmap for the next five years to achieve its mandate to conduct direct elections in Somalia for the federal parliament in 2026. The plan is based on the achievement of key electoral cycle milestones while acknowledging that events in the external environment can significantly impact the implementation of this strategic plan. A key assumption is that the implementation of the strategic plan is heavily dependent on the federal government committing itself to direct elections and providing the necessary budget as well as the FMS leaders providing all necessary

political support and commitment. Consequently, political, economic and social factors remain a concern for the NIEC, coupled with the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, extremism and political conflict among stakeholders.



The Strategic Plan sets out the key objectives that are responsive to a dynamic and ever-changing external environment; Installing a fit-for-purpose and adaptive organizational structure with ability to carry all the functions of the NIEC and to facilitate the implementation of its programme; Implementing a comprehensive governance framework, including standard operating procedures, that regulates institutional and departmental performance and is clearly understood and implemented by all staff; Establishing clearly defined reporting/supervisory lines across departments and teams; Developing an efficient human resource management system that encompasses a performance management system and which attracts, retains and motivates employees; Establishing an effective monitoring and evaluation system to inform improved planning and periodic reporting; Ensuring timely communication and structured engagement with key external partners and stakeholders.

4. IESG provided support to the NIEC to conduct an all staff retreat in January 2021 to review progress, lessons learned and way forward to enable the organization to deliver its mandate.

From 24 to 26 January 2021, the NIEC, supported by IESG, held an all-staff retreat to reflect on its performance since it was established in 2015, the first electoral management body formed in Somalia in over fifty years. The objective was to reflect on the NIEC's performance to date and to identify strategies to improve the organization's effectiveness to deliver on its mandate. The outcome of the retreat helped the NIEC to consider ways to enhance its institutional capacity and develop a five-year strategic plan (2022-2026), as it prepares to conduct universal suffrage elections in 2026. The retreat noted that the initial phase of its existence was to focus on building the institution and its internal capacity. This necessitated recruiting staff, establishing operational systems, acquiring offices for a Headquarters and establishing a field presence in each of the FMSs. The second phase focused on key electoral preparatory activities to lead the country to universal suffrage elections which were due to be held by the end of 2020. 2020 was a challenging year for the NIEC as there was a national expectation that the Commission would conduct elections, but the plan had to be put on hold following the decision of the Somali leaders to hold indirect elections and negating the efforts made by the Commission during its first term. The NIEC also had to adapt to the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Noting that many of the challenges persisted, and new ones emerging: a dynamic political environment; the scarcity of international resources; the terrorist threat and a vast array of economic, social and cultural challenges. The NIEC must have the ability to navigate these, while at the same time enhancing its institutional capacity as it prepares to conduct universal suffrage elections in four years' time as committed to by the NCC leaders in their communique in May 2021. Meanwhile, the NIEC emphasized their readiness to provide technical support, if required, to the Ad Hoc Electoral Implementation Teams established to manage the indirect electoral process.

5. IESG provided technical support to the NIEC's Office of Political Parties Registrar to develop software for a political party registration database.

At the request of the NIEC's Office of Political Parties Registrar (OPPR), IESG assisted with the development of political party registration software for the registration and certification of political parties. The IESG IT Section worked closely with the OPPR staff in developing a software tool to register political parties. Information such as party name, abbreviation and other membership details will be captured and the software will record the parties' logos, manage registration fee payments and registration status. The political party registration database will be deployed at the NIEC headquarters. Each political party is required to have 10,000 members to obtain official registration. The software will either record each party member's key details in bulk from an electronic file adhering to a specific template designed by the NIEC through the OPPR or will be used to enter party member information from paper forms. Information about every party member will be vetted to identify potential duplicates. All party executive members details will be registered in the system and their attributes compared to those of other parties to flag potential duplicates. The IESG IT Section has also helped the OPPR design drafts of different forms that will be used by the political parties to record registration

information. Following the finalization of the manual forms for political party registration (including general party information, executive committee, and membership forms), the software was developed, and the database architecture was discussed in detail with the OPPr staff for their review. The IESG Information Technology Unit organized a number of demonstrations and training on the software for OPPr staff who will manage the system and following recommendations by staff, further enhancements were made to the software. The IESG Information Technology Unit will further assist the NIEC in the hardware specifications and procurement process of materials necessary to run the software. Once this step is completed, practical training will be provided to the NIEC personnel that will be involved in the actual political party registration.

Summary of key achievements during the reporting period

Section 2: Progress Report Results Matrix

OUTCOME STATEMENT			
Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance.			
SUB-OUTCOME 1 STATEMENT			
Output 1: The institutional capacity of the NIEC is strengthened			
Output 1.1: Strengthening NIEC’s capacity in areas of organizational and operational management			
INDICATOR	TARGET	PROGRESS ON OUTPUT INDICATOR	
		REPORTING PERIOD (2021)	CUMULATIVE
1.1.1. NIEC Institutional, governance and strategic capacity development - trainings, workshops, conferences, strategic and operational plans, reviews, etc.	Series of trainings to strengthen the institutional capacity of the NIEC at technical and administrative levels.	12	12
1.1.2. Review 2017-2021 institutional performance.	Consultations with stakeholders to review the NIEC 5-year Strategic Plan and lessons learned.	Yes	Yes
1.1.3 Development of NIEC Strategic Plan for next 5 years (2022-2026) that will enable the Electoral Commission to deliver on its mandate to conduct one person-one vote in 2024/2025.	Consultations with all relevant stakeholders on developing the Strategic Plan 2022-2026.	Yes	Yes
1.1.4 Refine/realign organizational structure to implement new 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.	Consultations with NIEC Secretariat and Board to implement Strategic Plan recommendations	Yes	Yes
1.1.5 Develop a comprehensive capacity building programme to implement the Strategic Plan.	Implement training plans to build staff capacity to implement activities according to the Strategic Plan.	2	2
1.1.6 Enhance NIEC internal governance framework to comply with laws and regulations to achieve strategic objectives.	Consultations with NIEC Board and Secretariat to revise governance framework	Yes	Yes
1.1.7 Review recruitment strategies to increase the number of women employed at the NIEC Secretariat.	Consultations with NIEC Board and senior Secretariat staff to close the gender gap and that they are employed in all sections of the NIEC.	Yes	Yes
Output 1.2: Support to the organizational infrastructure and operationalization of the NIEC			

1.2.1.Support to NIEC HQ day-to-day operations (staff transport, website, internet, office printing, meeting support, etc.)	Support to NIEC day-to-day operation: provision of internet, website maintenance, rental vehicles, office supplies, equipment and furniture workshops and printing.	Yes	Yes
Output 1.3: Support to the organizational infrastructure and operationalization of the NIEC at FMSs-level			
1.3.1. Support to NIEC offices in the FMSs (office support, refurbishment, furniture, rent, etc.) and day-to-day operations in the NIEC Field Offices.	Establishment of NIEC offices in the FMS (office support, refurbishment, furniture, rent, etc.) and day-to-day operations in the NIEC Field Offices.	Yes	Yes
Output 1.4: Support to the NIEC's organizational capacity through national advisers embedded within the institution			
1.4.1. Embedded advisory and support positions (national) to strengthen NIEC Secretariat.	Salaries of the national advisers embedded in NIEC to provide support and strengthen NIEC secretariat.	Yes	Yes
Output 1.5: Development of the institutional capacity of the NIEC through the provision of UN technical expertise and advisory support			
1.5.1.Technical Advisory Support	IESG/UNDP International Staff, National Staff, International consultants	Yes	Yes
Sources of Evidence:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIEC Quarterly progress reports • NIEC 5-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021) • NIEC 5-year Strategic Plan (2022-2026) • NIEC quarterly reports to the Federal Parliament • Social Media articles: NIEC Website (www.niec.so); NIEC Facebook page; NIEC twitter; NIEC Newsletter • Official documents signed between UNDP and the NIEC (Work Plan, Letters of Agreement) • Internal governance documents • Training and workshop reports/materials • NIEC advisor monthly reports • IESG staff back to office reports • IESG Newsletters 			
SUB-OUTCOME 2 STATEMENT			
Output 2: NIEC supported to enhance public awareness of electoral processes, including promotion of women's participation			
Output 2.1: Support NIEC's outreach to and engagement with national and sub-national stakeholders, including Political Parties, federal parliament, CSOs, media.			
2.1.1. Support to NIEC meetings and consultations with stakeholders, including political parties, pol. associations, federal parliament, CSOs, women's groups, media and other partners, including at FMS level (meetings, consultations, workshops, travel, printing, etc.). Conduct meetings and consultations with stakeholders, political parties, federal parliament, pol. associations, CSOs, women's groups, media and other partners, including FMS level meetings,	Provide technical assistance to the NIEC in designing and managing public awareness programs adapted for Somali citizens and stakeholders, to increase their understanding of the electoral process at the national and regional level and encourage their participation in the electoral process.	Yes (Ongoing)	Yes (Ongoing)

consultations, workshops and travel.			
Output 2.2: Support the development and dissemination of public information and awareness campaigns and materials with regards to general Civic Education, as well as political party registration, voter registration and the conduct of electoral operations.			
2.2.1. Support to NIEC to develop a civic education curriculum, develop manual on public awareness (consultations with stakeholders, development of VE materials (graphic design, illustrations, printing, consultations, workshops, travel, etc.). Public Outreach concepts, meeting and consultation with stakeholders including women's groups and printing of civic education materials.	Assist NIEC in organizing electoral stakeholders' workshops and meetings. Support NIEC in developing programs to enhance understanding of the technical electoral preparation process and providing equal access to citizens at the national and regional level including traditionally marginalized groups (women, youth, IDPs, minorities, rural and nomadic population). Encourage participation of vulnerable population in electoral process enhancing understanding and equal access to information in the electoral context of Somalia.	Yes (Ongoing)	Yes (Ongoing)
Output 2.3: Strengthening of NIEC Public Outreach institutional capacity at the HQ and NIEC FMS field office levels			
2.3.1. Technical Advisory Support on development and revisions of NIEC Public Outreach Terms of References of all units at the NIEC Public Outreach Department and NIEC FMS field office levels that will enable the Public Outreach department to deliver as stipulated in the NIEC's strategic plan.	IESG/UNDP International Staff, National Staff, International consultants, National advisor embedded in NIEC to strengthen NIEC Public Outreach Department. Hands-on training is provided to strengthen the institutional capacity of NIEC's Public Outreach department at technical and managerial levels across all phases of the electoral cycle in preparation for the next election.	Yes (Ongoing)	Yes (Ongoing)
Sources of Evidence:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media articles • NIEC advisor monthly reports • NIEC Website (www.niec.so) • NIEC Facebook page • NIEC twitter; NIEC Newsletter • Training and workshop reports/materials 			
SUB-OUTCOME 3 STATEMENT			
Output 3: Support to the NIEC's operational planning & management functions			
Output 3.1: Technical assessment for a pilot project for voter registration and subsequent assessment			
3.1.1. Technical assessment report for voter registration issued. NIEC takes informed decision on VR methodology and agreed by key stakeholders.	NIEC will conduct assessments of different types of VR support prototype es and tests tentative VR procedures.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Output 3.2: Draft concept note on consolidation of voter register including technical measures to enhance women and under-represented groups (marginalized, IDPs, people with disabilities etc.) registration.			
3.2.1. VR concepts drafted completed and includes specific measures to enhance women and marginalized groups registration.	NIEC will consolidate data to form a voters register for the 2024/25 elections	N/A	N/A
Output 3.3: Development of assets tracking & management system.			

3.3.1. NIEC has an established assets management system including a functioning central warehouse.	Assets management system fully functional and central warehouse operational	Yes	Yes
Output 3.4: Support to the NIEC's electoral operations through the provision of UN technical expertise and advisory support (IESG direct staffing and consultancy cost)			
3.4.1. IESG-Technical Advisory Support	IESG/UNDP International Staff, National Staff, International consultants	Yes	Yes
Sources of Evidence:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIEC quarterly reports • Workshop reports/materials • NIEC advisor reports • Construction reports/photos • NIEC newsletter 			
SUB-OUTCOME 4 STATEMENT			
Output 4: Establishment of permanent NIEC office facilities			
Output 4.1: Establish independent and sustainable NIEC HQ infrastructure in Mogadishu			
4.1.1 Completion of NIEC office infrastructure and security enhancements	Security upgrade of NIEC new HQ ICT infrastructure (including EDRM building, warehouse and NIEC offices) Furniture and other equipment	Ongoing	Ongoing
Sources of Evidence:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIEC quarterly reports • NIEC presentations to donor partners and international community • Construction reports • Photographic evidence 			
SUB-OUTCOME 5 STATEMENT			
Output 5: Development of an enabling electoral legal framework supported			
Output 5.1: Support for the review of the Electoral law			
5.1.1. Technical support to NIEC with the review of the electoral law and technical support to FGS/Parliament, if required with the drafting, review, finalization, and interpretation of the Electoral Law, and possibly other electoral legislation (provision of legal expertise to FGS and Parliament).	Technical support to FGS/Parliament with the drafting, review, finalization and interpretation of the Electoral Law. This is to enable the NIEC to advise decision makers (e.g. MP's, Parliamentary committees) on technical challenges and inconsistencies within the Electoral law and on potential contradictions with the constitution and other laws, with the aim of achieving an enabling and complementary electoral legal framework for the implementation of a universal suffrage election. Based on the review of the electoral legal framework the NIEC will be supported to draft regulations and procedures to implement the legal framework.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Output 5.2: Support for the review of the Political parties' law			

5.2.1. Support to NIEC to review political parties' law	Workshops and consultation meeting with Political parties. This is to enable the NIEC to advise decision makers (e.g. MP's, Parliamentary committees) on technical challenges and inconsistencies within the Political Parties Law (and the draft amendment) and on potential contradictions with the constitution and other laws with the aim of achieving an enabling and complementary electoral legal framework for the implementation of a universal suffrage election including the timely registration of political parties.	1	1
5.2.2. Support to NIEC process to register and regulate political parties	Based on the review of the Political Parties Law the NIEC will be supported to draft regulations and procedures.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Output 5.3: Support for the review of the NIEC Establishment Law			
5.3.1. Support to NIEC to review of the NIEC Establishment Law	Consultation meetings. This is to enable the NIEC to advise decision makers (e.g. MP's, Parliamentary committees) on technical challenges and inconsistencies within the NIEC Establishment Law and on contradictions with the constitution and other laws with the aim of achieving an enabling and complementary electoral legal framework for the implementation of a universal suffrage election. Based on the review of the legal framework the NIEC will be supported to draft regulations and procedures.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Sources of Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIEC Reports • Workshop reports and materials • Parliamentary laws • NIEC Social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, NIEC website, NIEC Newsletters) • IESG Newsletters 			
SUB-OUTCOME 6 STATEMENT			
Output 6: Project Management Support			
Output 6.1: Staffing: Project effectively managed and successful support provided in planning, implementation, coordination, operations management, administration, budget and financial management, reporting, M&E, audit, spot checks etc.			
Project Management Support provided	Project management staffing costs. Project operational support (travel, equipment, communication, office supplies, learning costs, audit, bank charges, office premises etc.)	Yes	Yes
Sources of Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit reports • Third Party Monitoring and Spot check reports • HACT audit reports • Project document • Meetings with donors • NIEC reports • Project Board Meeting Minutes • Project evaluation reports • Annual Workplans 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of Agreements • Concept Notes • Minutes from the meetings 			
SUB-OUTCOME 7 STATEMENT			
Output 7: Support to the 2021 Indirect Electoral Process			
Output 7.0: Support to Training Election Implementing Teams			
7.0: Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) conduct induction training for the Federal Election Implementing Team (FEIT), the State Election Implementing Teams (SEITs) the Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee (EDRC) and the National Electoral Security Committee (NESC). Training provided by the Technical Electoral Support Team (TEST) of the OPM.	TEST conducts induction training to strengthen the Election Implementing Teams capacity to implement the indirect elections. 132 participants comprising of FEIT 25, SEITs 77, EDRC 21 and NESC (9) + TEST team and facilitators.	Yes	Yes
Output 7.1: Committees official travel costs			
7.1.1 Vehicles rent for SEITs		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.1.2 Vehicles rent for FEIT		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.1.3 Vehicles rent for EDRC		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.1.4 Armored vehicle rents		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.1.5 Travel Costs for FEIT, FMSEMC & EDRC		Ongoing	Ongoing
Output 7.2: Allowances & Accommodation for Committee members			
7.2.1 Accommodation in Mogadishu for FEIT, EDRC, Banaadiri & Somaliland Committees		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.2.2. Accommodation costs for SEITs		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.2.3 Allowances for FEIT Members		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.2.4 Allowances for SEITs Members		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.2.5 Allowances for EDRC Members		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.2.6 Accommodation in FMS for FEIT (15 members) and EDRC (15 members)		Ongoing	Ongoing
Output 7.3: Allowances for staff, secretariat & experts/consultants			
7.3.1 Allowances for support staff of FEIT & EDRC		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.2 Allowances for support staff of SEITs		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.3 Allowances for support staff for delegates registration		Ongoing	Ongoing

7.3.4 Allowances for support staff for Candidate registrations		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.5 Allowances 14 Polling Managers at 14 Polling Stations		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.6 Allowances for 14 Identification officers at 14 Polling Stations		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.7 Allowances for 14 Queue controllers for 14 Polling Stations		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.8 Allowances for 14 Ballot Paper Issuer at 14 Polling Stations		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.9 Allowances for 14 Ballot Box Controller at 14 Polling Stations		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.10 FEIT Consultants allowances including two for the EDRC (Legal & Operations)		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.11 Consultants allowances (Outreach and media)		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.12 Allowances for consultants (Reporting Officers)		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.13 Allowances for staff for outreach and media		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.14 Allowances for consultants of SEITs		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.15 Allowances for Joint Operation Office		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.16 Joint Operation Office rent and refreshment		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.17 Allowances for accommodation (5 Technical staff)		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.18 Allowance for OPM monitoring and oversight of the LOA deliverables		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.19 Allowances for personal assistant for FEIT Chairman and FEIT Deputy Chairman		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.20 Allowances for personal assistant for EDRC Chairman and Deputy Chairman		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.21 Allowances for personal assistants for SEITs Chairmen		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.22 Allowance for 2 experts		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.3.23 Allowance for 2 experts		Ongoing	Ongoing
Output 7.4: Support to three electoral committees with equipment, office rental and trainings			
7.4.1 Procurement of office equipment for FEIT, SEITs & EDRC		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.4.2. Office Rental for three committees (FEIT, SEITs & EDRC		Ongoing	Ongoing

7.4.3. Training, workshops and meetings		Ongoing	Ongoing
Output 7.5: Elders and Electoral Delegates			
7.5.1 Training of Master Trainers		N/A	N/A
Output 7.6: ID cards for stakeholders			
7.6.1 ID cards for delegates		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.6.2 ID cards for Selection Committee Members		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.6.3 ID cards for Candidates		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.6.4 ID cards for observers & media representatives		Ongoing	Ongoing
Output 7.7: Media and Public Outreach			
7.7.1 Electoral program preparations to explain electoral process and different stages		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.7.2 Developing website & social media sites for the different electoral committees		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.7.3 Broadcasting and public awareness on elections		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.7.4 Media equipment		Ongoing	Ongoing
Output 7.8: Polling & counting materials			
7.8.1 Ballot boxes		N/A	N/A
7.8.2 Ballot papers		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.8.3 Voting booths		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.8.4 Polling Kits		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.8.5 Chairs at polling stations		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.8.6 Tables at polling stations		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.8.7 Microphones		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.8.8 Large banners		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.8.9 Transportation of material delivery and retrieval by air/ road.		Ongoing	Ongoing
7.8.10 Personal Protection Equipment- COVID-19		Ongoing	Ongoing
Sources of Evidence:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop reports and materials • FEIT Social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, website, Newsletters) 			

Section 3: Narrative reporting on results

Progress towards outcomes

OUTCOME STATEMENT: Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance.

The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) has supported the NIEC since its inception with technical advice and budgetary assistance to help build a credible, strong and independent electoral institution capable of planning and managing electoral processes according to its constitutional mandate.

However, following a political agreement between the FGS and FMS leaders in September 2020 to hold indirect elections for the Federal Parliament by December 2020 and which excluded the NIEC and political parties from the process, IESG's main focus during this reporting period has been on providing technical advice and support to the ad hoc indirect electoral committees established to manage the indirect electoral process and try to ensure a credible and peaceful outcome that is acceptable to the Somali people.

The Joint Programme is focused on building the capacity of the NIEC over the longer term and provided ongoing support to the NIEC during the year through the provision of capacity development, the review of the electoral legal framework and institutional governance documentation including the gender policy and the development of a new 5-year strategic plan (2022-2026) which will provide the necessary guidance to the NIEC as it prepares the country for universal suffrage elections in 2026.

OUTCOME 1: THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE NIEC IS STRENGTHENED

IESG conducted a series of institutional capacity building workshops on operational management support, electoral development and core organizational functions of an EMB through online trainings and specifically designed workshops. A total of 112 trainings were conducted during the year with 1,083 participants (cumulative) taking part including 833 men and 250 women. In May and June, the NIEC Commissioners, directors and senior advisors held virtual sessions to discuss the formulation of NIEC's Five-year Strategic plan 2022-2026. The discussions reviewed the NIEC's performance on the strategic objectives of the first five-year plan including achievements and challenges since its inception. This process assisted the NIEC to identify areas for improvement while preparing the new plan which was finalized in the third quarter of 2021.

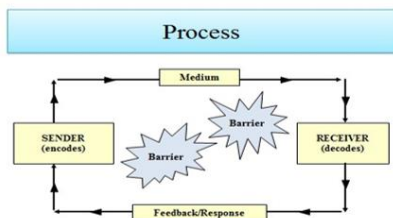
As part of strengthening the NIEC's administrative and finance systems, NIEC implements certain aspects of its work through a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with IESG. The LOA support included payment of rent for 3 NIEC field offices, transport for staff at headquarters level, internet for the NIEC headquarters, workshops, conferences and internal and external meetings. Notable impact is the capacity of the NIEC to develop electoral operation plans which the NIEC prepared as requested by the Office of the Prime Minister to provide backstopping support to the Federal Electoral Implementation Team in its inception stage. An important result was the Board's decision to delegate responsibilities to the Secretariat through the offices of the Secretary General to lead and play a major role as the responsible officer to organize, coordinate, plan events, develop and implement policies adopted by the board of commissioners. Some policies such as the social media policy and the social inclusion policy are still under development and efforts continue to finalize these for the board's review.

Output 1.1 Strengthening NIEC's capacity in areas of organizational and operational management

NIEC, with IESG support, developed the new five-year Strategic Plan (2022-2026) which was approved by the Board of Commissioners in September. The plan will provide guidance to the NIEC and stakeholders to implement the first universal suffrage elections in Somalia in over fifty years. With guidance provided by IESG, a roadmap outlining key milestones to be achieved for universal suffrage elections by 2026 was drafted by the NIEC board and shared with the FGS. Further discussions on the roadmap will be held when a new government and parliament is in place.

To strengthen capacity in organizational and operational management, IESG provided trainings for NIEC staff on a number of topics ranging from MS teams, supervisory and management skills, effective communication skills and report writing. IESG provided weekly trainings to the NIEC’s Information Technology Unit on database design and management using the Microsoft SQL Server software over six months to develop the skills of the IT staff. IESG, in collaboration with UNSOS Training Unit, organized training sessions on Effective Communication Skills from 16-19 August and 6-9

COMMUNICATION PROCESS



December. Participants noted the importance of communication in an organization to help improve productivity and avoid unnecessary misunderstandings and delays in implementing decisions. Staff shared ideas on how they can be agents of change to improve the organizational culture and performance through excellence in leadership and professionalism. The trainings were facilitated by experts from IESG and UNSOS. A number of trainings were held for the Directorate of Administration and Finance to ensure the effective management of the LoA including ensuring HR and procurement related activities follow all the necessary regulations and procedures to meet the requirements of the LoA as well as following the FGS rules and regulations. Workshops were

also provided for the Commissioners, Directors and Heads of Field Offices on using MS Teams to familiarize the senior management with the versatility of the platform. Senior management are using the platform to conduct meetings and workshops including using breakout groups during meetings.

Output 1.2: Support to the organizational infrastructure and operationalization of the NIEC



The NIEC lacks permanent infrastructure to lead and manage electoral processes and are currently based at Villa Somalia on a temporary basis where the main government offices are located. The NIEC plans to relocate to its new headquarters during 2022. The Joint Programme has supported the NIEC in constructing and establishing a permanent headquarters and electoral assets management center located outside of any government complex. Construction of NIEC offices is completed but some remaining security infrastructure work

including the provision of safety measures to enhance security is ongoing with funds provided by UNSOM. The construction of the offices and warehouse and other related infrastructure work was supported by UNSOM, UNDP, the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the Government of Japan.

Output 1.3: Support to the organizational infrastructure and operationalization of the NIEC at FMSs level

To ensure the effective operations of the NIEC field offices in each of the Federal Member States, support was provided through the LoA for the purchase of equipment, furniture and office supplies. The NIEC field offices in Garowe, Kismayo and Dhusamareb were financially supported through the payment of office rents. IESG Field coordination teams worked on improving the effectiveness of the capacity building modules delivered to NIEC staff. Consultative meetings were held with all six NIEC Field Offices to determine needs and six topics were selected to be developed and delivered in 2021. This structured approach to capacity building and transfer of knowledge was integrated in line with NIEC priorities, the strategic plan, and the IESG 2021 training plan. Workshops were held for NIEC field offices on violence against women during elections. IESG also conducted a working session for the NIEC on focusing on procedures for the indirect elections and composition of electoral management bodies and delegate selection committees.

Output 1.4: Support to the NIEC’s organizational capacity through national advisers embedded within the institution

There are 5 NIEC advisors hired on a temporary basis to provide technical advice and support to the NIEC Secretariat and Board. Their salaries are supported through the LoA. The advisors are as follows: Governance & Strategy; Senior Policy

Advisor; Legal Advisor; Legal Officer; Executive Advisor to the NIEC Chairperson. The NIEC benefited from the presence of national advisors who work within the institution on a regular basis. Their presence allows the programme to provide the day-to-day technical assistance and interaction. The national advisors play key roles in developing NIEC staff skills by supporting them in implementing operational and administrative work to deliver on the mandate of the organization. While the national advisors are in advisory capacity positions, it is evident they still undertake institutional work which could be performed by NIEC staff. However, the advisors' ways of working should allow space for NIEC staff to take a lead and apply knowledge gained over the years.

Output 1.5: Development of the institutional capacity of the NIEC through the provision of UN technical expertise and advisory support

The UN Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) provides the NIEC with capacity development support, including electoral technical advice and budgetary assistance to help build a credible Independent Electoral institution, capable of planning and managing electoral processes according to its mandate. The main focus of IESG's work during this reporting period has been on supporting the NIEC Secretariat and Board of Commissioners to develop their new five-year strategic plan for 2022-2026. This plan is crucial to enabling the NIEC hold universal suffrage elections in 2026. The plan is dependent on the FGS and FMS leaders providing the necessary political support to ensure that all the necessary constitutional and electoral legislation are in place in a timely manner which is critical to the holding of successful elections.



Other work undertaken during the year included support for a three-day all staff internal reflection retreat in Mogadishu in January to assess the organization's performance, achievements and challenges since the NIEC's establishment in 2015. The review provided information for the NIEC to identify areas for improvement as they developed their new strategic plan. 112 capacity building workshops for 1083 (cumulative) participants comprising 833 men and 250

women were held by IESG staff to develop the skills and knowledge of the NIEC Secretariat staff in both headquarters and in all of the field offices. The NIEC has started planning preparations for a national stakeholders' engagement with IESG support. The conference aims to guide the way forward for elections in 2025/2026. This event will help the NIEC, and stakeholders agree to prepare a roadmap map on the requirements for technical cooperation and coordination amongst the different institutions and players to achieve the goal of universal suffrage elections.

OUTCOME 2: NIEC SUPPORTED TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Mogadishu, 24 January 2021, NIEC all staff retreat

NIEC with IESG and other partners supports women's political participation across the electoral cycle particularly as women are often among the vulnerable and marginalized. The NIEC Public Outreach department reviewed its Public Outreach strategy in preparation for the next phase of NIEC's work as soon as the current indirect electoral process is concluded. The strategy includes guidance on sensitization of the public on the importance of universal suffrage elections for Somalia and targeting election awareness campaigns with a particular focus on women, youth and under-represented groups.

IESG supports NIEC's institutionalization of the culture of gender mainstreaming and gender equality by enhancing the NIEC's administrative capacity and knowledge on the role of gender in elections through training workshops and technical assistance on drafting policies and guidelines. The NIEC estimates that together women and youth constitute almost 80% of the voting population; both groups are key targets for the NIEC's voter education campaigns. To ensure gender balance



Mogadishu, 26 Jan 2021, NIEC women members of staff with Chairperson and NIEC Board members at the NIEC all staff retreat

at the NIEC workplace, the organization employs a number of women staff both at headquarters and in the FMS Field Offices.

The NIEC gender unit formed a committee for the promotion of a gender equality strategy both internally within the organization as well as to ensure that all NIEC products are gender sensitive. Of the over one hundred staff employed by the NIEC, there is one woman Director (Admin and Finance), one woman head of a field office (Banadir) and three women are members of the nine-member Board of Commissioners including the Chairperson.

The NIEC, with support of partners including IESG, developed a Gender Equality Strategy as part of the NIEC's leadership and staff commitment to promote gender equality within the Commission and in the implementation of its constitutional mandate to be inclusive and representative, impartial and neutral.

Output 2.1: Support NIEC's outreach to and engagement with national and sub-national stakeholders, including Political Parties, federal parliament, CSOs, media.

Due to the 17 September 2020 political agreement between the FGS and FMS leaders which excluded the NIEC from the indirect electoral process, it was difficult for the NIEC to engage with stakeholders on universal suffrage elections as stakeholders (government, parliamentarians, political parties, media, civil society etc.) remained focused on the indirect electoral process. Because the process has faced numerous delays during the year due to political friction, the NIEC, with IESG support, used this time to focus on improving the organization's internal processes and reviewing and revising outreach policies rather than conducting outreach activities with stakeholders who were otherwise absorbed by the electoral spectacle. The NIEC did, however, remain engaged with political parties and all stakeholders in the interest of the electoral process. While not involved in the implementation of the indirect elections, the NIEC planned on conducting a study and assessment of these elections in the FMS, and in the Banadir Region where Banaadiri and the Northern Regions of Somaliland elections are to be held. This study was to cover November - December 2021 and aimed at preparing a report on the implementation of the 2021 Indirect Electoral Process – to use as lesson learned for the future universal suffrage elections. The report will also feed into the agenda of the upcoming NIEC consultative meetings with the election stakeholders. NIEC staff in the field offices and in the Banadir region were tasked with preparing preliminary information on how the Upper House and House of the People elections was conducted in their states. These staff were to liaise with the State-level Electoral Implementation Teams, Civil Society, Elders Delegate Selection Committees and Candidates. NIEC staff has had access to the electoral process in some locations. (Puntland state authorities refused NIEC access to observe the pilot district level elections in October 2021). IESG provided briefings to NIEC staff on the indirect election operations plan when requested.

Output 2.2: Support the development and dissemination of public information and awareness campaigns and materials with regards to general Civic Education, as well as political party registration, voter registration and the conduct of electoral operations.



Mogadishu: October 2021, IESG advisor training OPPr staff

With the focus of stakeholders on the indirect electoral process throughout the year, the IESG IT advisors in conjunction with the NIEC ICT team assisted the NIEC Office of the Political Party Registrar (OPPr) in developing a software tool to register political parties. NIEC OPPr and IT staff were closely involved in the process, consultations, demonstrations and trainings were held regularly between IESG and OPPr to review and test the product to ensure it would deliver what was required for official political party registration when there is clarity on the political party law. Different forms were designed to capture information and all-party executive members details will be registered in the system and their attributes compared to those of other parties to flag potential duplicates.



Mogadishu, 6 Feb 2021, NIEC Political Party Registrar awarded certificates of temporary registration to two Political Parties during 2021.

During the year, the Office of Political Party Registrar (OPPr) awarded temporary registration to two political parties, bringing the total number of political parties registered since 2017 to 110.

IESG organized a specialized Graphic Design training on 21 and 22 March for the NIEC’s Public Outreach Department and Information Technology Unit staff involved in the production of printed materials. The training offered an opportunity for participants to learn theoretical and practical exercises on how to prepare the digital files for mass-production printing process. Three Public Outreach staff, four Information Technology Unit staff and one staff member from the Operations Department attended the training.

Outcome 2.3: Strengthening of NIEC Public Outreach institutional capacity at the HQ and NIEC FMS field office levels

To strengthen Internal Communications, the Commission published a monthly online E-bulletin to share information with all staff and stakeholders on events and happenings on different aspects of election management Telegram application and the E-bulletin were used in relaying internal communication within the Commission.

The Commission’s website www.niec.so continues to be the main external communication platform. It receives a number of unique visitors daily. By the end of 2021, the Commission’s Facebook page had over 30,000 likes while its Twitter handle had over 2,000 followers. NIEC updates content on both its website and social media platforms regularly and publishes an e-newsletter in both Somali and English available on the website. As part of enhancing NIEC’s Public Outreach institutional capacity at the HQ and FMS field offices,

OUTCOME 3: SUPPORT TO THE NIEC’S OPERATIONAL PLANNING & MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS

NIEC developed a number of optional concepts of operations with regard to the voter registration and electoral process. These options papers are aimed at providing alternative approaches to the implementation of the electoral process to meet constitutional benchmarks. Each concept of operation was associated with a relevant budget and timelines.

Output 3.1: Technical assessment for a pilot project for voter registration and subsequent assessment

The change in the electoral model made voter registration irrelevant to the indirect process, however, the work and planning accomplished previously will be relevant for preparing the voter registration exercise in 2024/2025. The NIEC, with IESG technical support, will prepare to conduct a pilot project for voter registration including a technical assessment of its implementation during the course of 2022, assuming the indirect electoral process is concluded during the first quarter of 2022. The IESG IT Unit has prepared a concept note that details the different steps of that pilot project

including all the parameters that will have to be measured in order to validate the registration kits and the registration process itself.

Output 3.2: Draft concept note on consolidation of voter register including technical measures to enhance women and under-represented groups (marginalized, IDPs, people with disabilities etc.) registration.

No work was undertaken on this Output during the year due to the ongoing indirect electoral process which excludes the NIEC. IESG proposes to focus on this work during 2022 with NIEC counterparts.

Output 3.3: Development of assets tracking & management system.

The NIEC are revising and updating their asset management database to make it more user friendly and keep track of all their assets, such as vehicles, equipment, and other inventory. Keeping track on the assets helps streamline operations. The process should help to minimize the chance of recording ghost assets since all the available assets are accounted for and will seek to reduce total costs of acquiring, operating, maintaining, and renewing assets.

Output 3.4: Support to the NIEC's electoral operations through the provision of UN technical expertise and advisory support (IESG direct staffing and consultancy cost)

IESG provided ongoing support to the NIEC during the year. IESG IT team provided 20 virtual weekly trainings to the NIEC's Information Technology Unit on database design and management using the Microsoft SQL Server software over six months to develop the skills of eight IT staff. The trainees were introduced to the main features of the Microsoft SQL Server database management software: database design, data definition language, tables, data manipulation language, stored procedures, indexes and constraints. Because of the COVID-19 and security situation prevailing in Mogadishu, trainees attended the training from their homes where the conditions were not always ideal for virtual training due to challenges with internet connectivity.

OUTCOME 4: ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT NIEC OFFICE FACILITIES

The NIEC lacks permanent infrastructure and has been located inside of the FGS government compound since its establishment. Having its own facilities will enable the NIEC to plan and organize the conduct of all aspects of the electoral process and operations in a safe facility. NIEC's new headquarters facilities will provide a safe and secure location to enable NIEC staff, Somali stakeholders and international visitors including UN staff to work and meet in safety. NIEC must provide a secure environment to ensure the safety and security of all stakeholders who work or visit the compound. It is expected that NIEC will conduct a variety of activities including trainings, meetings and consultations with all stakeholders such as the training of judges and other staff on managing electoral disputes, conducting information meetings with



Mogadishu, October 2021, aerial view of new NIEC compound

political parties, candidates, party workers, media, observers, international community and government officials. Providing a secured compound will enable access to the NIEC at a protected location and increase transparency in the electoral process in a secure venue for such activities.

The NIEC plans to relocate to its new headquarters during 2022. The Joint Programme has supported the NIEC in constructing and establishing a permanent headquarters and electoral assets management center located outside of any government complex. Construction of NIEC offices is completed but some remaining security infrastructure work including the provision of safety measures to enhance security is ongoing with funds provided by UNSOM. The construction of the offices and warehouse and other related infrastructure work was supported by UNSOM, UNDP, the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the Government of Japan

Output 4.1: Establish independent and sustainable NIEC HQ infrastructure in Mogadishu

IESG facilitated and coordinated ongoing support for the construction of a permanent headquarters and electoral assets management center. The offices, data base center and electoral dispute resolution center were completed in 2021. Work

continues on strengthening access and exit points to the compound, drainage and roadworks. Other infrastructural upgrades were required to bring the NIEC compound up to the required minimum operating security standards (MOSS) to ensure the facilities are safe and secure for NIEC staff and electoral stakeholders to conduct their work safely and effectively. The security upgrades are funded by UNSOM through UNSOS.

OUTCOME 5: DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENABLING ELECTORAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK SUPPORTED

With support from IESG, the NIEC legal department continues to prepare itself for the conduct of universal suffrage elections. IESG legal and procedures team supported, advised and mentored on a regular basis the NIEC legal team throughout the year on legal and procedural matters. Technical support was also provided to the ad hoc indirect electoral teams including the Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee on developing procedures and key documents, developing sample checklists for SEITs on key processes, advice on possible integrity measure to enhance the credibility and integrity of the indirect process. PowerPoint presentations were provided on indirect polling processes in Upper House and in the House of the People to facilitate training of SEITs, elders and delegates.

Output 5.1: Support for the review of the Electoral law

Workshops were provided on guidance on Voter Registration (VR) basic principles, structure and content of a VR Legal Framework, including the drafting of NIEC VR related secondary legislation in line with the Electoral Law, in order to facilitate VR processes and a VR pilot exercise. These workshops are part of IESG Legal/Procedures regular mentoring sessions with the NIEC Legal Department. Sessions are preceded by planning and needs assessment meetings held with NIEC Legal Department. The legal department also assisting in translation of the new strategic plan from English to Somali language. IESG Legal/Procedures Team advised on the drafting of an NIEC Voter Registration Regulation by exchanging information to prepare a joint document for further detailed discussions. In addition, the IESG advised on the content of a draft concept note on Election Dispute Resolution (EDR) processes as envisaged by the NIEC. Four training sessions were conducted on EDR for the NIEC legal team. The legal teams discussed the process of initiating, drafting, discussing and adopting NIEC secondary legislation, including regulations and procedures and the need for drafting NIEC secondary legislation to facilitate this process.

OUTCOME 6: PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The UNSOM/UNDP 'Joint Programme for Support to Universal Suffrage Elections in the Federal Republic of Somalia' (2018-2022) is funded by the EU, UK (FCDO), Germany, Norway, Sweden, USA (USAID) and UNDP. The project was extended by four months, from January – April 2022 by approval of a Project Board Meeting on 16 November 2021 following the request by the OPM and FEIT to donors to increase their contribution to the revised electoral budget to cover the additional costs for the electoral bodies (FEIT, SEITs, EDRC) for accommodation, transport, allowances and travel. The overall project budget increased from \$23.5 million to \$28.07 million and the extension of the project to 30 April 2022 to enable project completion and closure.

UNDP hired an independent consultant to undertake an evaluation of the project which was conducted between June and August 2021. The main conclusions were that the project was highly relevant and strategically located within the context of the post-2016 electoral process. It provided a trusted and effective platform for international support to the NIEC and enabling legal framework and played a valuable advisory and coordination role for the broader community. It was able to effectively implement its phased activities despite the extremely difficult security context and political challenges. The project managed to keep the issue of universal suffrage elections in the forefront of discussions and policy makers through its continued focus on advancing technical preparations, consultations and advocacy. This was reinforced at the political levels by UNSOM and the international community. This was not enough in the end, but so far has kept the indirect process to being the deviation, and not the norm. The main recommendation is to maintain the technical and institutional progress made towards developing the electoral building blocks for universal elections while the political situation is addressed.

Output 6.1: Staffing: Project effectively managed and successful support provided in planning, implementation, coordination, operations management, administration, budget and financial management, reporting, M&E, audit, spot checks etc.

During 2021, two Third Party Monitoring assessments of the NIEC were conducted to monitor the implementation of activities, progress towards annual targets and effectiveness of the support provided by the project. One HACT assessment was conducted of the NIEC during the year. As a result, the main findings on financial management of the

funds received under the LoA have been discussed with the national counterpart, specifically related to the procurement procedures according to the Somali government regulations. Moreover, the NIEC has committed to improve the procurement and financial management processes with the support of IESG. Specific attention was given to the M&E aspects which are also reflected in the new NIEC Strategic Plan.

OUTCOME 7: SUPPORT TO THE 2021 INDIRECT ELECTORAL PROCESS

IESG worked closely with the FEIT and EDRC between January and June to review documents and provide advice on technical and operational issues. Since July 2021, with donor support, IESG provided technical advisory and material support to the electoral committees (FEIT, EDRC and the SEITs) and worked closely with the OPM to manage donor funds of \$7.2 million plus another \$500K provided by the Peacebuilding Fund supporting the Election Dispute Resolution project.



Mogadishu, 30 August 2021, OPM, FEIT and IESG discuss management of financial documentation.

Donors provided additional support of \$4.49.7M along with \$115K from the Peacebuilding Fund project on Election Dispute resolution in November 2021. The release of this additional support is subject to certain conditionalities being met before funds are released. The conditions for the release of the funds included that all election fees from candidates be deposited into the treasury single account, in addition to meaningful and credible progress on election implementation. None of the conditions had been met resulting in no extra funds released by the end of December 2021.

IESG prepositioned essential electoral materials for the Upper House elections in July and supported FEIT to deploy polling kits for the HoP elections to all FMSs in October and November. Support was provided to the FEIT on procurement, material inventory, operational planning and procedures development, including with regard to dispute resolution. IESG staff with OPM and FEIT colleagues worked closely together to review all financial documentation submitted by the electoral committees to ensure the procedures were followed to enable payments to be made in a timely manner. Electoral committees have received their allowances, accommodation costs and other expenses for July-October 2021 with \$5.5 million dispersed by 31 December 2021 (and another \$150K in pending payments). IESG will continue to support the indirect electoral committees to ensure that the necessary technical support is provided in a timely manner.

Output 7.0: Support to Training Election Implementing Teams

The OPM requested support for a training package for the new electoral committees (FEIT, SEITs and EDRC) who were reappointed in June 2021. Donors agreed to provide support for a four-day training including all related costs such as transport and accommodation at the end of June. The NIEC was requested by the OPM to provide technical advisory support on the agenda and supporting documentation. IESG provided documentation on the concept of operations, integrity measures required, the women's quota, electoral dispute resolution mechanisms among other resource papers and a draft training programme. IESG provided support to the indirect electoral committees (FEIT, SEITs, EDRC) during the year, developing operational plans, timelines for both the Upper House and the House of the People elections, procedures and fact sheets on the process.



Mogadishu, 30 June 2021, Prime Minister Roble addresses the Induction training for the indirect electoral committees workshop

IESG also provided technical and logistical support for the committees including polling kits, deployment and retrieval plans of essential electoral equipment. Training was conducted for the FEIT on the indirect election procedures including a simulation of the indirect electoral process. Trainings on financial and procurement requirements, rules and regulations were conducted in person for the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and election committee staffs.

IESG developed and shared a series of training manuals on standard operating procedures and provided templates for ease of administration for the OPM and FEIT staff. Trainings included delegate selection process, delegate registration, candidate registration, polling and counting processes. These trainings were cascaded by the FEIT to the SEIT committees to ensure staff were adequately prepared for the HoP elections.

HESHISIYADA SIYAASADEED EE MUQDISHO
17 SEPTEMBER 2020
27 MAY 2021

Y Dowladada Federaalka ee Soomaaliya
iyo Dawladda Goboleedka ee ah Federaalka ee
Duuwa Musqalada Muqdisho iyo
Guddoomiyaha Gobolka Banaadir

**XILDHIBAANNADA LABADA GOLE EE BAARLAMAANKA KOW IYO
TORNADAAD EE SOOMAALIYA WAKA LOO DOORAN DOONAA SI AAN
TOOS AHAYN, OO LA MID AH HANNAANKA DOORASHADA 2016.**

AQALKA SARE

- Si faa'iid ah oo loo adeegsado, Aqalka Sare waxaa doortaa guddiyo xubnaha baarlamaanka kala duwan ee dawlad-goboleedyada xubnaha ka ah Dawladda Federaalka, kuwaas oo si waajibo ah uga kooban 470 xubnaha.
- Mid kasta oo ka mid ah Madaxweynayaasha iyo guddiyada dawlad-goboleedyada waxaa loo qaybsaday laba qayb: qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 275 goob-goboleed iyo qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 200 goob-goboleed.
- 275-ka xubnood ee Gobolka Shacabka waxaa doortaa doornaa 275 goob-goboleed, oo mid walba ka kooban doornaa 101 ergo.
- 200-ka ergo ee Gobolka Shacabka waxaa doortaa doornaa 200 goob-goboleed, oo mid walba ka kooban doornaa 101 ergo.
- Waxaa doortaa doornaa laba qayb: qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 275 goob-goboleed iyo qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 200 goob-goboleed.
- Waxaa doortaa doornaa laba qayb: qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 275 goob-goboleed iyo qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 200 goob-goboleed.
- Waxaa doortaa doornaa laba qayb: qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 275 goob-goboleed iyo qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 200 goob-goboleed.

WAKILKA DUMARKA

MUQDISHO HESHISIYADA SIYAASADEED WAXA AY DAMMAANAD GAADHEEN MATAALADA BOOQIIBKA 30 IN AY HAWAANKA KUYEESHAN KURASHA LABADA GOLE EE BAARLAMAANKA KOW IYO TORNADAAD EE SOOMAALIYA IYO SI LA MID AH QAYBTA YESSHANKA GUDDIYADA DOORASHOYINKA HEER FEDERAAL, HEER DOWLAD, GOBOLEED IYO GUDDIYADA XILDHIBAANNADA DOORASHOYINKA.

DOORKA KOOWD/GUDDIGA DOORASHADA

DOORASHOYINKA DABDAN EE 2020-21 WAXAA QABANQABIN DOONA KOOWD HIRGELINTA DOORASHOYINKA EE HEER FEDERAALKA IYO HEER MAAMUL GOBOLEED.

GNDHF

Dhan ee heer Federaalka waxaa ay wadaadda guud ee kojojooyinta gacsi saxiixda oo dhan iyo hufnaanta si isku mid ah oo qaybto. Guddigaas waxaa uu ka kooban yahay 25 xubnood, oo ay magacaabeen Dawladda Federaalka iyo Dawladda Goboleed.

GNDHF

Koowaal Hirgelinta Doorashooyinka Heer Dawlad-goboleed waxaa loo qaybsaday laba qayb: qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 275 goob-goboleed iyo qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 200 goob-goboleed. Waxaa loo qaybsaday laba qayb: qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 275 goob-goboleed iyo qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 200 goob-goboleed.

GNDHF

Guddiga Kooxda iyo Guddiga Doorashooyinka ee Heer Federaalka waxaa loo qaybsaday laba qayb: qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 275 goob-goboleed iyo qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 200 goob-goboleed.

GNDHF

Guddiga Kooxda iyo Guddiga Doorashooyinka ee Heer Federaalka waxaa loo qaybsaday laba qayb: qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 275 goob-goboleed iyo qaybta ay ka kooban yihiin 200 goob-goboleed.

MOGADISHU POLITICAL AGREEMENTS
17 SEPTEMBER 2020
27 MAY 2021

Y Federal Government of Somalia (FGS)
Y Federal Member States (FMS)
Y The Mayor of Mogadishu
Y Governor of Banaadir Region

MEMBERS OF THE TWO HOUSES OF THE ELEVENTH FEDERAL PARLIAMENT OF SOMALIA WILL BE ELECTED INDIRECTLY, IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THE 2016 ELECTORAL PROCESS.

UPPER HOUSE

- The 54 members of the Upper House (UH) will be chosen by members of the various federal member state parliaments, who collectively comprise 470 legislators.
- Each of the FMS Presidents will be asked to nominate at least two candidates for each of the seats in the Upper House that have been allocated to their respective member states.
- State-Level Electoral Implementation Teams (SEIT) will review nomination papers and will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the 30 per cent parliamentary seat quota for women following the 1 October SEIT procedures issued by the National Consultative Council (NCC).
- Somaliland Upper House representatives will be chosen following own procedures.

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

- The 275 members of the House of the People (HoP) will be chosen by 275 electoral colleges, each of which delegates comprise a representative cross-section of all sectors of Somali society.
- The SEITs will ensure compliance with the 30 per cent parliamentary and electoral college quotas for women.
- The actual balloting in the electoral colleges will take place in two cities in each FMS. The balloting for Somaliland and Banaadir representatives will take place in Mogadishu.
- Somaliland HoP representatives will be chosen following own procedures.

WOMEN REPRESENTATION

THE MOGADISHU POLITICAL AGREEMENTS GUARANTEE A 30 PER CENT REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN AMONG THE SEATS IN BOTH HOUSES OF SOMALIA'S ELEVENTH FEDERAL PARLIAMENT AS WELL AS IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE FEIT, THE SEITS AND THE EDCR.

However, ensuring the adherence to the 30 per cent women representation quota is a task of all electoral teams/committees, the Federal and State Level Authorities and the National Consultative Council, supported by the IESG.

ROLE OF ELECTORAL TEAMS/COMMITTEE

THE 2020-21 INDIRECT ELECTIONS WILL BE ORGANIZED BY THE FEIT AND THE SEITS.

FEIT

The Federal Electoral Implementation Team (FEIT) is the overall authority for oversight of the electoral process and for ensuring that it is conducted in a uniform manner. The FEIT comprises 25 members, appointed by the FGS and the FMS.

SEIT

SEITs are responsible for implementation of the electoral process at the federal member state level. Each of these teams consists of 11 members, eight of whom are nominated by the various FMSs, while the remaining three are appointed by the FGS. The Banaadir Electoral Team also has 11 members appointed by the Prime Minister, and oversees the election of the HoP members (no UH representation). The indirect elections for Somaliland will be implemented by the Electoral Management Committee for the Somaliland elections.

EDCR

A 21-member Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee (EDCR) will be responsible for adjudicating and resolving complaints about decisions and actions taken by the FEIT and SEITs. Three members from the EDCR shall be working in each FMS.

TESG

A Technical Election Support Team (TESG), appointed by the Prime Minister on 8 June 2021 and comprising eight members (including two women), provides coordination and support to the National Consultative Council with the implementation of the 2021 national indirect electoral process.

ROLE OF THE MEDIA

THE MOGADISHU POLITICAL AGREEMENT EMPHASIZES FREEDOM OF SPEECH FOR ALL SOMALI CITIZENS AND RECOMMENDS FULL ACCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE NEWS MEDIA TO POLLING STATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

FOLLOWING THE 2020/21 INDIRECT ELECTORAL PROCESS THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT WILL ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA.

IESG supported development of factsheets on the Indirect Elections process

Output 7.1: Committees official travel costs

Costs incurred by FEIT, SEITs and EDRC between July-October and paid \$1,086,520

Output 7.2: Allowances & Accommodation for Committee members

Costs incurred by FEIT, SEITs and EDRC between July-October and paid \$3,831,960

Output 7.3: Allowances for staff, secretariat & experts/consultants

Costs incurred by FEIT, SEITs and EDRC between July-October and paid \$195,648

Output 7.4: Support to three electoral committees with equipment, office rental and trainings

Costs incurred by FEIT, SEITs and EDRC between July-October and paid \$215,548

Output 7.5: Elders and Electoral Delegates

0

Output 7.6: ID cards for stakeholders

Costs incurred between July-October and paid \$0

Output 7.7: Media and Public Outreach

Costs incurred by FEIT, SEITs and EDRC to develop FEIT and EDRC website and support social media content through Facebook, twitter, Whatsapp, between July-October and paid \$19,646.

Output 7.8: Polling & counting materials

Costs incurred and paid between July-October \$28,719. Funds were used to print ballot papers for the HoP elections and provision of polling kits for each polling location.

Number of beneficiaries and feedback from beneficiaries

General feedback from NIEC staff, both anecdotal and through evaluations, indicates that the project benefits from a positive working relationship with the NIEC in order to develop the institution professionally on both technical and administrative streams. Organizational and HR capacity building for the NIEC will be of optimal importance.

112 capacity building events have been implemented during 2021. A cumulative total of 1083 participants disaggregated by gender with 250 women and 833 men. The events are a combination of workshops, meetings and hands-on knowledge transfer. To gauge understanding, assessments on the activities were conducted before and after trainings. Mini projects and case studies have been helpful to apply this knowledge in the workplace with IESG support.

IESEG continued to provide technical and logistical support the indirect electoral committees (FEIT, SEITs, EDRC) during the year. Trainings on financial and procurement requirements, rules and regulations were conducted in person for the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and election committee staffs. IESG developed and shared a series of training manuals on standard operating procedures and provided templates for ease of administration for the OPM and FEIT staff.

Section 4: Project implementation

COVID 19 Response

Since the COVID pandemic, flexible work arrangements for IESG and NIEC staff were made to protect staff and to help combat the spread of the virus. During the first six months of 2021, most IESG staff worked from home and continued to provide daily technical support to NIEC staff on a board spectrum of electoral activities, using virtual meeting platforms and online tools such as WebEx, Zoom and Microsoft Teams go facilitate meetings with all stakeholders. By September 2021, IESG staff resumed normal physical presence in the office. Support to the ad hoc indirect electoral committees appointed to manage the indirect electoral process was also provided, either virtually or, from time to time, in person meetings were held while all COVID protocols were observed.

Key constraints and challenges and associated corrective actions

The September 2020 political agreement by the FGS and FMS leaders to hold indirect elections for the Federal Parliament by December 2020 excluded both the NIEC and political parties from the process. The agreement resulted in a protracted and challenging political dispute between political stakeholders resulting in the electoral timeline being postponed a number of times. IESG’s main focus during the past year has been on providing technical advice and managing donor funds to support the ad hoc indirect electoral committees established to manage the process. Elections for the Upper House were completed in November 2021, a year later than agreed, while the elections for the House of the People started in November with only 34 out of the 275 seats elected by 31 December 2021.

The transition from a clan-based indirect electoral system to universal suffrage elections remains a challenge for the country unless there is firm political will by all stakeholders to allow the people their right to freely choose their elected representatives. Elections are a complex administrative and logistics operation, implemented in a politically charged country unless there is firm political will by all stakeholders to allow the people their right to freely choose their elected representatives. Elections are a complex administrative and logistics operation, implemented in a politically charged atmosphere, where processes are intricately linked to timelines and where slippage of one timeline may have a knock-on effect that can potentially derail the entire process. Is therefore essential to avoid as far as it is possible the potential for delays resulting from conflict and disagreements . Therefore the constitutional review must be completed as soon as possible to provide certainty for the electoral process.; The, where processes are intricately linked to timelines and where slippage of one timeline may have a knock-on effect that can potentially derail the entire process. Is therefore essential to avoid as far as it is possible the potential for delays resulting from conflict and disagreements . Therefore the constitutional review must be completed as soon as possible to provide certainty for the electoral process.; The electoral legal framework requires consolidation of the various components (law and additional regulations which form the electoral legal framework) to make it implementable; the political parties law requires clarification to enable the official registration of political parties; the existence of a strong and independent electoral management body supported by all stakeholders, these are among the key issues that must be resolved in good time to enable universal suffrage elections by 2026.

IESG encouraged the NIEC to use this opportunity to focus on streamlining the organization’s internal processes, develop a strategic plan for 2022-2026, and with IESG guidance, prepared a draft roadmap outlining key milestones to be achieved to enable universal suffrage elections by 2026 which was shared with the FGS.

Risk management

Type of Risk	Description of Risk	Mitigating Measures
Political	Risk that the political stakeholders will preference a 2016 ‘clan-based’ electoral process, and political uncertainties, including on federalism, constitution and political inclusiveness, could draw away focus, willingness and resources from the preparations and capacity development required for universal elections.	2018 & 2019: The FGS-FMS NSC meetings in February & June 2018 and MAF in Oct and Dec 2019 underscored commitment to universal suffrage elections in 2020/2021 and passed electoral law in February 2020.
Political	Risk that limited government capacity and unknown access and effectiveness at the sub-national level affects sound programme implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation.	IESG assisted the NIEC with its engagements with the FMSs and the establishment of sub-national electoral offices and UN good offices used to advocate with those FMS who stopped NIEC operations due to their political differences with the FGS.

Political	Risk that protracted discussion on the electoral legal framework, in particular the implementation of the Electoral Law, would jeopardize the electoral timeline and the affect the preparations for voter registration.	Electoral Law (adopted 20 Feb 2020) is contradictory and insufficient and IESG supported NIEC advocacy to seek clarification from Parliament on the electoral law.
Political	Risk that the electoral regulatory framework would not be sufficiently developed in time affecting progress towards universal elections.	UN good offices used to advocate for timely completion of electoral legislation with regular information exchange through meetings and reports shared by IESG and donors to inform on the progress of the electoral regulatory process.
Political	Risk that political disagreement between key stakeholders, lack of political will and related donor reluctance to commit funding results in delays in/prevents the timely holding of 2021 indirect elections, which are perceived as legitimate by the public (including through the application of the 30 per cent women's quota).	Good offices to engage with Somali authorities promoting recourse to Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, and dialogue to ensuring commitment to the 17 September 2020, 27 May 2021, 22 August 2021 agreements, including the 30 per cent women's quota by political stakeholders and donor support to provide resources.
Security	Risk that political instability, lack of political will, political capacity, and conflicts (including AS) derail the process towards universal suffrage elections.	UN good offices to advocate for dialogue between FMSs and FGS to reach political consensus on implementing the agreed indirect electoral modality and UN good offices used to advocate with Police Commissioner to fully operationalize and prepare electoral security plan.
Security	Security conditions adversely impact the frequency with which UN advisers can work closely with government partners and other stakeholders.	UN using alternative means such as virtual media tools including videoconferencing to work together with government partners and other stakeholders.
Operational	Risk that the complexity of conducting operations in Somalia would affect sound programme implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation.	The Joint Programme (JP) is designed to provide tailored international capacity development to the NIEC, with international advisors in specific electoral roles and has adapted its approach to work with the indirect

		electoral teams.
Environmental	COVID-19 pandemic may affect operational plans for conduct of elections	COVID-19 pandemic has brought forward use of electronic tools which are now widely accepted and used to conduct meetings and trainings with NIEC and the indirect electoral teams and other stakeholders.
Financial	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.	The Joint Programme works together with the NIEC, donor partners and other stakeholders to ensure an adequate budget for the NIEC's operations in the Government's annual budget.
Financial	Lack of funding from the donors may cause substantial risk of not achieving the objectives of full joint Programme.	The FGS presented a number of budgets to support indirect elections; donor resources of USD 12.26 million made available to joint electoral support programme, some conditionalities attached to part of these funds.
Inclusive Politics	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, the project supports consultative forums with the public and works with media to ensure adequate information sharing and transparency on the process to all sections of society.
Inclusive Politics	Risk that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them.	IESG works with other sections of the UN to enhance the capacity of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, to participation and claim their rights.
Inclusive Politics	Risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project.	IESG assists Somali counterparts (NIEC) to provide input in the drafting of the electoral legislation and to enhance MPs knowledge on the electoral law and meet their obligations to the people and provides technical support to the indirect electoral committees to enhance integrity measures on the indirect electoral process.

Inclusive Politics	Risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights.	The UN strategy on universal suffrage elections considers the capacity of rights-holders to claim their rights.
Inclusive Politics	Risk that the Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls.	There is collaboration amongst UN gender experts and focal persons from the Joint Programme for Electoral Support and the Joint Programme on Women's Political Participation and Empowerment (UN Women, UNDP and UNSOM), the UN Resident Coordination Office (RCO) and UNDP CO to support the goal of 30% women's representation in parliament in the indirect electoral process.
COVID 19	Risk that COVID 19 conditions adversely impact the frequency with which UN advisers and NIEC can work closely with government partners and other stakeholders.	IESG provided NIEC with ICT support including available communications applications (such as zoom) to enable the institution conduct meetings with staff, stakeholders and IESG to communicate, coordinate and exchange information with all stakeholders efficiently and quickly through electronic/virtual means that is cost-effective, time-saving and accessible 24/7; a similar approach is in place for the indirect electoral teams.

Learning impact

1. Lessons Learned: Support to ad hoc institutions and processes may help a political transition but it is not a sustainable investment nor a durable development solution.
2. Importance of learning the lessons from 2016 and 2020 and applying them to the next phase of assistance to not repeat and normalize a dysfunctional governance cycle for a third time.
3. Political red flags need addressing and monitoring at the political level, with a unified voice and concerted action by high level UN, international community, and Somali champions, starting on day one and continuing until the process is completed.
4. Technical support projects can only go so far without the basic political building blocks being in place, starting with basic political agreement on the fundamental nature and structures of government. This is a prerequisite for a stable, nonviolent state and for credible election.
5. Ensuring inclusion is more than addressing gender issues. The needs of persons living with disabilities and other marginalized groups in the electoral and political processes need as much attention and inclusion.
6. Value of investing in team building when forming a task force or group working on complex issues in politically sensitive environment so that they are all on the same page and focused on achieving the same goal.
7. Importance of good coordination, information sharing and strong partnerships in a context of uncertainty and flux and limited political will for the objectives of the project.
8. Best Practice: Designing a light, flexible framework focused on the process, that allowed the project to remain flexible and take advantage of opportunities in a difficult and continually changing environment.

Coordination with other UN entities including UNSOM/UNSOS within and outside the SJF portfolio

The Joint Programme is a partnership with UNSOM. IESG is an integrated structure comprising both UNSOM and UNDP elements, with UNDP managing the donor basket fund supporting the electoral process. The UNSOM component of IESG, as per the mandate of the Mission focuses on providing technical and operational support to the NIEC and its' field offices at both central level as well as subnational levels through its field electoral teams, present in all of the FMS. The UNDP component, present at headquarters level, primarily focuses on managing the donor basket fund as well as providing technical and capacity building to the NIEC in the field of finances, procurement, budget, and good governance. UNSOM, through UNSOS supports the construction of security infrastructure at the new NIEC headquarters compound, this work is coordinated by IESG. IESG chairs a weekly electoral task force meeting which includes all UN entities supporting the electoral process. The Peacebuilding Fund supports two projects implemented by IESG which are directly related to sub-outputs of the Joint Programme: "Support Mechanisms to Prevent and Manage Conflict During Elections" and 'Support to NIEC Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanisms'.

Role of the UN Somalia Joint Fund

The MPTF is an effective mechanism to help drive the key priorities and benchmarks of the Mutual Accountability Framework, as agreed by the Federal Government of Somalia and the international community at the Somalia Partnership Forum in December 2020. Although there was disappointment that Somalia did not meet the goal of universal suffrage elections in this cycle, the National Consultative Council did commit to holding universal suffrage elections in 2024/2025. Given the delays in the electoral timeline, it is anticipated that the next federal elections will be held in 2026. In addition, a wider range of concerns affect the conduct of credible elections in Somalia, such as security, 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 are not fully part of the scope of the Joint Programme for Electoral Support nor within the direct control of electoral counterparts such as the NIEC. An inclusive politics strategy for the next electoral cycle is required to coordinate the higher-level policy issues such as the constitutional review process, the choice of electoral systems, state building, and rule of law. The only way forward is through this mechanism which can help bring stability to Somalia.

Synergies with other funds (UN and non-UN) working on similar issues

IESG plays a key role in coordinating the technical support to the process with both UN and non-UN technical partners on the ground including Creative Associates/ BUILD (USAID), EISA (Sweden and EU), European Centre of Electoral Support (ECES), Italian Embassy, European Union Electoral Mission, International Media Support (IMS), Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), African Union (AU), NIS Foundation (Norway), Rift Valley Institute (FCDO), UN Peacebuilding Fund, UN Youth Empowerment, UNSOM Gender Office, UNSOM Political Office, UN Human Rights & Protection Group, UN Women, UN Police and UNOPS. Bi-weekly meetings are held with this group to share information and ensure there is no duplication of effort. For example a number of products have been produced by IESG and partners such as the "International Electoral Support 2021 Elections in Somalia Activity Matrix" which outlines the activities being supported by both UN and international assistance partners to the indirect electoral process. Partners also shared presentations outlining their work with national counterparts on the electoral process. These meetings enable a deeper discussion on electoral issues and raise awareness among counterparts of what each organization is doing as well as offering opportunities to partners to emphasize certain messages on best practices on the electoral process. IESG also plays a key role in coordinating the information flow and planning in the fields of security and logistics respectively amongst the NIEC, AMISOM, Somalia security forces as well as between the NIEC and UNSOS.

Partnerships

NA

Monitoring and oversight activities

Monitoring activity	Date	Description	Comments & Recommendations
Independent evaluation	4 June 2021-29 August 2021	Evaluation of the Joint Project for Support to Universal Suffrage Elections	Report and recommendations for new project
Engineering site visit	Jan 2021-Dec 2021	Site Visits to the new NIEC Compound	Regular site visits were conducted during the year to inspect the on-going construction works
Project Board Meetings	26 July 2021 16 Nov 2021	<p>To propose increase in the 2021 annual budget from USD 4 million to USD 12 million to support the current electoral process until October 2021; approval for budget increase from USD 15.5 million as approved in December 2020 to USD 23.5 million; seek guidance on the government's allocations to support the electoral process.</p> <p>The meeting in November followed request by the OPM and FEIT to donors to increase their contribution to the electoral budget by \$3.81 million to cover additional costs for the electoral bodies.</p>	<p>Following the request of the FGS, the donors agreed to increase the 2021 AWP from USD 4 million to USD 12 million. And to increase the overall project budget from the approved USD 15.5 million to USD 23.5 million to support the indirect elections.</p> <p>Cost extension of \$3.7 million to support the indirect electoral process for two months (PBF EDR project will provide \$115K to support the EDRC); overall project budget increase from \$23.5 million to \$27.9 million, extension of project to 30 April 2022 to enable project completion and closure. Conditionalities apply to release of additional funds.</p>
IESG, PAMG and Donor Group Meeting	Fortnightly	Electoral and political updates with Donors	Presentations and discussions related to ongoing electoral process
International Assistance Partners Meeting	Fortnightly	Discuss progress on implementation of electoral assistance to indirect electoral process	Updates shared by partners on support to the indirect electoral process to ensure coordination and avoid duplication of effort.
IESG Field Missions	June 2021	Meetings with NIEC at UNSOM compound, Garowe, Puntland.	Back to office reports
Verification of conduct of activities	Jan-June 2021	Verification of project activities by DFID	No findings

		contracted third party 'LAMPS'	
Verification of conduct of activities	Jan-December 2021	Verification of project activities by UNDP contracted third party monitoring company (TPM)	No findings

Communication activities

The project disseminates bi-monthly newsletters and ensures visibility of donors. The project ensures updates on UNDP Somalia and HQ website including reference to donor support and funding. The project ensures public information material has appropriate donor logos represented, where appropriate. NIEC and the ad hoc electoral committees are requested to provide reports and photographs of events or actions supported by IESG and respective donors and share these with IESG. Banners with donor logos have been designed and used by NEIC when organizing workshops and printing some literature.

UN Deputy Secretary General visits Mogadishu in solidarity with efforts to achieve 30% women's quota

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed poses for a group photo with Somali women leaders after a meeting in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 12 September 2021.

11 women elected to Upper House by end of September

By the end of September, elections for 46 of the 54 seats in the Upper House (UH) were completed including 11 seats for women. By the end of September 2021, Puntland, South West State and Somaliland completed their UH indirect elections while Hirshabelle, Galmudug and Jubaland are yet to complete their UH elections. Of the remaining 8 seats, 6 would need to be reserved for women in order to meet the 30% women's quota in the Upper House.

On 22 August, the National Consultative Council (NCC) issued a 7-point communique following its two-day meeting on 21 and 22 August. The communique clarified many issues related to the House of the People (HoP) election including "the Electoral Delegates composed of the 101 delegates electing the House of the People shall be selected by the traditional elders, peacemaking elders registered in the FMS and the civil society (who all belong to the clan or sub-clans sharing the seat) and shall be verified by the Electoral Committee at FMS level"; the list of delegates for each seat will be verified by FMS security sub-committees, delegates will pay \$30 for verification and candidates will require similar security verification for a fee of \$750 each (50% reduction for women candidates); FMS and State-level Election Implementation Teams (SEITs) will decide which seats are allocated to women only; the voting Quorum will be 2/3 of the delegates (67).

The Federal Elections Implementation Team (FEIT) issued an updated electoral timetable on 4 September which indicated 18 September as the date for the conclusion of the UH elections. The timetable also called for the HoP elections to take place from 1 October to 20 November. It is likely there will be some slippage in the implementation of the electoral calendar, and it will be important to keep the momentum towards concluding these elections as quickly as possible according to the electoral timetable.

As of 30 September, \$2.3 million in expenditures, consisting of allowances and operational costs incurred between July and September by FEIT, EDRC and SEITs, have been financed through international partner contributions.

Project board meeting

On 16 November, a project board meeting was co-chaired by Jocelyn Mason, the Resident Representative of UNDP in Somalia, and Halima Ismail, Chairperson of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC). The primary focus was on the request by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Federal Election Implementation Team (FEIT) to donors to increase their contribution to the revised electoral budget to cover the additional costs for the electoral committees for accommodation, transport, allowances and travel as the HoP election end date slipped from October to December 2021.

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

1. The additional funds will be made available in two tranches, once the following milestones have been met:

- Elections have moved forward in a meaningful and credible way in at least three states.
- In compliance with state and federal Public Financial Management (PFM) Acts, all House of the People (HoP) candidate fees are banked into the Treasury Single Account (TSA), with expenditure tracked on the Financial Management Information System (FMIS).

2. The second allocation will be released once at least two thirds of seats have been completed across all polling sites. It is expected that all HoP fees for these constituencies will be banked in the TSA as well.

3. In addition, clarification to be provided on the process to ensure the commitment to the 30% quota for women is met.

Electoral updates

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

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

In addition, IESG organizes regular coordination meetings either virtually or in person for donors with the ad hoc electoral committees and the NIEC to share updates on their work and to keep donors well informed of progress including a wider range of concerns that affect the conduct of credible elections in Somalia, such as security, limited capacity and funding, logistical and operational issues.

Where appropriate, IESG collaborates with UNSOM Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Group to broadcast information through the UN's extensive social media network and participated in briefings to the media on the indirect electoral process.

Section 5: Project management

Number of project board meetings held	2
Number of UN staff (international/national) funded by the project	6 internationals 3 nationals
Number of government personnel funded by the project. What are their functions and where do they work?	<p>5</p> <p>Governance & Strategy, NIEC HQ, Advisor to the Secretariat and Board of Commissioners. Supports the Commission in identifying and analyzing key policy issues related to governance and democratic participation, and proposes innovative ways to address them in support of the peace and governance agenda; Support the Commission to identify and prioritize strategic and catalytic governance interventions, that help the NIEC record transformational impact and enhance transparency, accountability and integrity in the Secretariat’s administrative processes.</p> <p>Senior Policy Advisor, NIEC HQ, Advisor to the Secretariat and Board of Commissioners. Provides technical advice on identifying areas of the constitution and legal framework components that could affect the NIEC mandate and the implementation of universal suffrage elections; transfer of electoral capacity within the NIEC through capacity building programs for the staff to develop the organizational and institutional capacity on elections.</p> <p>Legal Advisor, NIEC HQ Legal Dept, provides legal input on the development or amendment of the electoral legal framework, drafts regulations, codes of conduct, procedures and other legal documents for the commission; ensures gender dimension is incorporated in legal analyses and internal electoral regulations, procedures and codes of conducts to enhance women's participation in the electoral processes.</p> <p>Legal Officer, NIEC HQ Office of the Political Party Registrar, supports the OPFR on day-to-day legal matters, liaising with the legal department on the drafting of procedures and regulations for OPFR, engaging with political parties on the Political Parties law.</p> <p>Executive Advisor to the NIEC Chairperson, NIEC HQ, Chairperson’s office. Provides high level administrative and technical advice and support to establish a well-functional front and back office of the Chairperson including building the capacity of that office’s permanent staff.</p>
How has the project ensured the visibility of SJF donors during the reporting period?	<p>Bi-monthly newsletters. Updates on UNDP Somalia website includes reference to donor support and funding. Banners with donor logos when organizing workshops, facilitate coordination meetings with NIEC and the ad hoc electoral teams. UNDP Somalia website: https://www.so.undp.org/content/somalia/en/home/projects/un-electoral-support-project.html</p>
Projected funding needs for next year	\$3.2 M

Section 6: Cross-cutting issues

Gender equality and women empowerment

The Joint Programme worked closely with the UNSOM Gender Unit, UNDP’s project on women’s participation in political processes and the UN Women’s support programme to provide advice to enhance participation of women in the indirect electoral process as potential voters and elected representatives. IESG advocated with the Office of the Prime Minister and the ad hoc electoral committees to ensure the achievement of the 30% quota for women’s parliamentary representation, to reduce candidate and complaint fees for women candidates and voters and promoted the establishment of the Women’s Situation Desks in the Joint Operations Centers to coordinate security responses to complaints and reports of violence against women delegates and candidates. Targeted support to the NIEC included capacity building of women staff in electoral administration and field work and advice on developing a Gender Equality Strategy to promote gender equality in the organization.

Proportion of gender specific outputs in the project <i><Outputs designed to directly and explicitly contribute to the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment></i>	Total number of project outputs	Total number of gender specific outputs
	5	All outputs include specific gender components
Proportion of project staff with responsibility for gender issues <i><All Staff members contracted to undertaken work for the Joint Programme who have gender related activities included in their terms of reference></i>	Total number of staff	Total number of staff with responsibility for gender issues
	6	4

Human-rights based approach

The Joint Programme was designed according to the fundamental right that every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections by universal suffrage. The aim was to move the country from a clan-based limited franchise into universal suffrage elections in 2020/2021, although this was not possible following a political agreement to conduct an indirect electoral process for these federal parliamentary elections. Somali women, girls, minorities and IDPs are among the world’s most marginalized persons. The system is predominately patriarchal, and politics and community leadership are considered male domains. Women are systematically excluded from or under-represented in decision making which is dominated by male clan elders. The project’s specific objectives include enhancing the independence of the NIEC, promoting inclusiveness and ensuring a level playing field for all stakeholders in the electoral legislation.

Has the 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?	Result
	Yes
Number of programme outputs specifically designed to address specific protection concerns	Result
	5
Number of programme outputs designed to build capacity of duty bearers to fulfil their human rights obligations towards rights holders.	Result
	All outputs include reference to gender components

Leave no one behind

The design of the project incorporated a human rights perspective of respect for political and civil rights, inclusion of women and under-represented groups, and gender mainstreaming. The end result was a balanced design between long term democratic development objectives and short-term election imperatives. The project intended to enhance gender mainstreaming in electoral processes, along with access of women and unrepresented groups to the electoral processes. This was to be done through support and advisory services to the NIEC on its outreach to women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized communities, advocacy on the 30% quota for women in the electoral process and elected office, and its efforts to support CSOs working on the inclusion of women, youth and other marginalized groups in the electoral process. The project's inclusion focus was predominately on women. Efforts with other marginalized groups including PWD were limited. More attention is required on accessibility and social inclusion issues and should be prioritized in any subsequent project funded activities. The project did ensure a continual focus on the inclusion of women within the legal, institutional and procedural frameworks for direct elections, party registration, NIEC employment, and with others, on the gender quotas within political parties, and verbal commitments for 30% quota in the indirect elections.

Social contract and legitimacy

The design of the project incorporated a human rights perspective of respect for political and civil rights. The end result was a balanced design between long term democratic development objectives and short term election imperatives. The lack of a consensus among the FGS and FMS on the fundamental basis for the state eclipsed the project's efforts and its purpose and requires political resolution. The political building blocks need to catch up to the technical ones already put in place, for technical level projects, such as this one, to succeed. This needs high level attention, unified messaging, and the effective use of good offices. The programme's theory of change was evident in the project document and design: *If key stakeholders are supported to develop institutional, administrative and staff capacities, improve operations and establish sustainable organizational frameworks, then that will facilitate universal elections.* The political decision to revert to an indirect process using ad hoc electoral committees was made despite the technical preparations and the progress made with the NIEC. Once that happened, the NIEC was excluded from the process, and the project's theory of change and purpose was undermined.

Humanitarian-development-peace nexus

The project as designed is aligned with the United Nations (UN) mandate to support universal suffrage elections in Somalia, and the goals of United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF), UNDP Country Programme (CPD), the national development and NIEC strategic plans, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was highly relevant at the time given the political commitments and electoral roadmap agreed to after the 2016 indirect electoral process. The phased nature of the project's design and its electoral cycle approach are best practices, and particularly relevant in a post-conflict and state-building environment still lacking basic agreement on the fundamental nature of the state. However, Somalia's prolonged electoral process highlights challenges in conducting indirect elections based on political agreements in the absence of a well-established legal framework such as the Constitution. The success of the ongoing parliamentary elections will largely depend on the political leaders who have the responsibility to create a conducive environment for credible and transparent elections that can be broadly accepted by Somali people. To try and ensure the achievement of the women's 30 per cent quota in the ongoing parliamentary elections continues to be challenging and IESG has provided technical advice and support to the OPM and the indirect electoral committees as well as to other UN entities on advocating with political leaders for a clear mechanism to ensure the women's quota is met.

Environment and climate security

Conditions in Somalia remain difficult. As noted by the Independent Country Programme Evaluation (ICPE) for UNDP Somalia, the rapidly changing and contested political settlement, with tensions between the federal

government and federal member states, complex regional politics, enduring major insurgency and related military offenses, widespread societal, criminal violence, rock-bottom state capacity, and massive poverty and economic hardship, compounded by severe environmental challenges, including drought, illegal depletion of national resources and vulnerability to climate change. Most of these factors are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing, creating a highly complex environment. Minorities clans make up about 30% of the Somali population. They include ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities. They are marginalized from the socio-economic and political processes and highly vulnerable to rights violations from the majority clans. Many have been displaced and still remain in IDP settlements in mostly urban areas. There are an almost an estimated 3 million IDPs in Somalia, the vast majority (2 million) located in South Central Somalia. The project considered these issues when planning operations for universal suffrage elections but following the political decision to hold an indirect electoral process which has a total voting population of 27,750 people, their significance was reduced.

Prevention of corruption

UNDP implemented the programme with a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM). This is the default modality for electoral assistance projects to ensure a neutral administration of the funds and that donor funds are used for the intended purposes as defined in the project documents. DIM was essential in the political and economic context of Somalia. Among other things, Somalia ranks at a 179 out of 180 countries on Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index. The DIM mechanism also allows for funding to be channeled to partner institutions through the Letters of Agreements (LOAs) to support project implementation. The use of LOAs has become the main implementation modality for UNDP in Somalia given the difficulty of UNDP implementing activities directly in the restricted security context. LOAs were provided to the NIEC and the OPM under this project for their use to implement some of the activities in the project’s annual joint workplans. The LOA funding enabled the NIEC to cover its operating costs and to implement some of its activities directly. The LOA with the OPM is on a DIM basis to support the indirect elections. UNDP undertook due diligence for the LOAs with a micro-assessment of the NIEC in 2018 which was rated as a medium risk and subsequently able to receive cash advances. A similar assessment was conducted with the OPM in 2020. Prior UNDP approvals for field visits, trainings and other activities, among other programmatic conditions are required. Third Party Monitoring is conducted on a regular basis throughout the year on NIEC activities.

Project sustainability

The project’s efforts on building the institutional capacity of the NIEC helped to set up their systems, structures and procedures that are now being used to manage the institution and the limited electoral operations it has undertaken so far. These can be expected to remain in place in the near term. Most of the capacity is likely to be built within the persons who receive training. The project also contributed to ensuring the NIEC has permanent offices that will continue to house them after the end of the project. Funds for maintenance and running costs without the project are uncertain. Although government funds cover its staffing costs now, the NIEC has been dependent on IESG funding including for field office facilities and other activities. Sustainability is a major concern in this context. The IESG has documented its work, so a written record exists for institutional memory. The NIEC also needs to develop a central registry.

#	Target group	Month	Number of participants			Title of the training	Location	Training provider
	Ministry, District or UN staff		M	F	Total			

1	NIEC: Field Offices, IT, Admin, Finance, Commissioners, Secretariat	January	126	44	170	SQL Server, MS Teams, Procurement (Bid Evaluation)	Mogadishu	IESG
2	IT, GIS, Admin & Finance, Office of Political Party Registrar, Legal	February	61	7	68	SQL Server, Introduction to Digital Earth Africa Initiative (Analysis of ready satellite images), Spatial SQL Mastery, Code of conduct for staff in polling sites, MS OneDrive/SharePoint Supplies and Equipment Disposal, Indirect Election Procedures, MS Teams	Mogadishu	IESG
3	Legal, IT, FOs, Admin, Finance, IT	March	69	35	104	Features of 2021 Indirect Election, Inventory Management and Disposal of Assets, Facilitation Skills, MS PowerPoint, Electoral Cycle, Integrity Measures (2021 Indirect Elections) Classification of EDR Systems, SQL Server Maintenance, Graphics Design, , Principles and Guarantees and elements of EDR systems, Procurement procedures and regulations, Development of Political Party Registration Database	Mogadishu and Field Offices	IESG
4	Admin and Finance, HR, Electoral Ops, Training, PO, Legal, Logistics	April	71	21	92	Developing Specifications for Procurement, Assets Control and Inventory Management, Note-taking, MS Teams, 30% Women Quota in	Mogadishu and Field Offices	UNSOS Training, IESG

						Indirect Elections, Management and Supervisory Skills, Service Works Description of Requirements, Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR), Electoral Legal Framework Review, International Support to Indirect Elections and Observer Missions		
5	Legal, Admin and Finance	May	40	10	50	Campaigning for Women Participation in Indirect Elections, Supervisory and Management Skills, Covid-19 Protocols in Elections, Management of LOAs	Mogadishu and Field Offices	UNSOS Training, IESG
6	FOs, Legal,	June	145	40	185	Vehicle/Fleet Transport Management, Election Management in a pandemic, Electoral Legal Procedures, Access and Building Trust through Voter Education, Developing Strategic Objectives, Performance Appraisal System, Political Party Registration,	Mogadishu and Field Offices	IESG
7	FOs, Secretariat	July	31	11	42	Upper House Election Process, Indirect Electoral Operations, House of the People Election Procedures, Gender Awareness Concepts and Terminology, Explosive Hazard Awareness, Media and Elections, Report Writing Skills, Voter Registration Pilot : Secondary Legislation	Mogadishu and Field Offices	IESG

8	FOs, Secretariat, OPR, FEIT Election team	August	40	18	58	Assessment Tools for Capacity Building, Report Writing, MS Word, Effective Communication Skills, Electoral Material Distribution Plan, Knowledge and Record Management, Warehouse and Inventory Management	Mogadishu and Field Offices	IESG
	OPM, FEIT, SEIT, EDRC		20		20	LOA Management (Financial, regulations, procurement)	Mogadishu	IESG
	Office of the Prime Minister		9	3	12	LOA Management		
9	NIEC FOs, NIEC Legal Dept	September	69	20	89	Warehouse Inventory Management, Voter Registration Regulations (secondary legislation) Report Writing, Political Party Registration Database, MS-Word, Polling and Counting (Indirect Elections)	Mogadishu and Field Offices	IESG
	FEIT	September	15	1	16	House of the People indirect election procedures	Mogadishu	IESG
10	NIEC Legal department, OPR Staff, FOs and HQ	October	43	11	54	Public Outreach Process, Office Management, Report Writing Case Studies and Practicals, Drafting Secondary Legislation,	Mogadishu & Field Offices	IESG
11	NIEC Commissioners, NIEC FOs, NIEC Secretariat	November	58	12	70	Voter Registration Regulations Mentoring session, Training on Political Party Registration Software, Violence Against Women in Elections, Public Outreach Process Flow	Mogadishu and Field Offices	IESG

12	NIEC FOs, NIEC Legal Dept	December	80	21	101	Planning Meeting for Stakeholders : Towards 2025 Federal Elections, Briefing Notes for Conference Panelists, Effective Communication Skills, Indirect Elections	Mogadishu and Field Offices	IESG & UNSOS Training
Total number of participants			877	254	1131			

NIEC Participants : 1,083 (833 men, 250 women)

Indirect Electoral Committees : 28 (24 men, 4 women)

Section 7: Looking ahead: Focus on the future

This project will continue to support the NIEC over the next four months to April 2022. A new project document to support the Joint Programme for “Support for More Inclusive, Credible and Democratic Electoral Processes 2022-2026” is under review and will be shared with partners for discussion and support in the near future.

S/RES/2592 (2021) has expanded the electoral mandate of the UN in Somalia [...] in consultation with FGS and FMS authorities, provide good offices, technical and operational support, subject to available resources, to the constitutionally mandated electoral management bodies for the conduct of free, fair, inclusive and transparent one-person, one-vote elections at the federal member state and district levels, in preparation for holding such elections at the federal level in 2025, [...]As part of its expanded mandate geared towards providing technical assistance to local and district elections, IESG’s new project proposes to assess the scope of electoral assistance efforts underway at state levels, the capacity of the existing state-level EMBs, gaps, and levels of coordination and harmonization between the different assistance efforts and institutions at state and national level. It is essential to developing a long-term vision and strategy for how these diverse efforts can contribute to one electoral system harmonized among the FMSs and with the national system. Another key consideration will be adopting a gender equality and social inclusion approach for the design and implementation of the next project phase to strengthen attention on youth, PWD and other under-represented groups such as the marginalized communities and minority clans and IDPs. Support efforts for a more socially inclusive electoral administration, enabling legislation, regulations, outreach and participation.

Section 8: Human interest story: Voices from the field

<You should include a short human-interest story in this last section of the progress report. The story should describe the impact the programme has had for individuals and local communities. It should echo beneficiaries’ voices. People or communities are at the core of the story. **Between 350 and 500 words**

Writing a human-interest story step by step:

1. Think about impactful achievements of the project
2. Identify one person or a community that embodies the successful impact of the project
3. Make an interview.
 1. How was your life before the project?
 2. How have you overcome challenges?
 3. How is your life now?
 4. What has changed in your life/community due to the project?
5. Take a picture or make a short video
6. Don’t forget to ask for permission

7. Show people in action
8. Pay attention to the resolution of the picture (at least 600 x 800 px)
9. Include credit and caption
10. Based on your knowledge of the project combined with the testimony from the beneficiary(ies), think about the key message you want to convey
11. Compile supporting facts and statistics on the project
12. Draft a brief description of the context and of the project: what was the problem? How has it been addressed? (Don't assume your audience has existing knowledge of the environment, country, project)
13. Think about the UN role in achieving results
14. Enquire about further development related to the project.
15. Draft the story with the following elements: context, project description, testimony (quotes), facts and statistics to support the testimony, UN role, follow up
16. Check facts to ensure all information comes from reliable sources
17. Use active verbs
18. Write short sentences
19. Avoid UN jargon and technical language (e.g., do not use "capacity building", "basket fund", "multifunctional platform")
20. If you use an acronym, write the full version first, followed by the acronym in brackets. After you can use the acronym.

Suggested structure for the story:

Challenge faced by your character

UN role

Data/facts

Impact

Transformation

Quote from your character

Follow-up project? Next step?

Background (i.e., "the efforts are part of a US\$120 million recovery project launched by ...")>